

February Newsletter

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Greetings all,

Just a quick update, sorry, I have been having too much fun playing with some new ESS / GPFS system.

A few updates to share

- While those of us that have been using Power and PowerVM for many years, have grown complacent about how good Power virtualisation is. However, it is refreshing to see others espousing the virtues of Power virtualisation. See Gaurav Kumar's blog "Unlocking the Power of Virtualization with IBM PowerVM VIOS"
[Link](#)

- "Legacy Systems" is a mindset that we need to change, otherwise organisations develop blind spots and would first think about spinning up new environments, rather than putting their new applications on Power. For example – PostgreSQL – one of the most widely used open source relational DBMS – why not run on Power?

Note: Version 11 is out of support and 15 will be available in the AIX toolbox soon ([Link](#))– or alternatively you can download from the PostgreSQL site and install yourself (lots of links, I have also used [this-one](#)).

[Link](#)

- Just another reminder that PowerPath on AIX is rapidly approaching EOL, so one should now start planning for its replacement. Many customers have found that native AIX MPIO is now vastly improved and easier to manage for boot devices, with options for intelligent round_robin(determines % I/O down each path) and shortest queue as options.

Driver		Released	EOL
PowerPath for AIX	7.0.0.3 AIX	31-May-2022	31-May-2025
PowerPath for AIX	7.0.0.4 AIX	15-May-2024	31-Jul-2027

[Link](#)

Quick bites

Useful updates

Thanks to Rob McNelly for putting together a compact summary of recent docs and updates

- New With NIM (Amarjit Banerjee) – concurrent migration option with nimadm.
- A Look at the Virtual Ethernet Software Multi Queue(Srikanth Kondapaneni and Kiran Anumalasetty) - optimised to drive with the new 100 (&200) G adapters with lower latency and greater throughput.
- A New Option for Firmware Updates(Phani Kumar Ayyagari and Rajeev Ranjan) – non-root/non-HMC firmware updates.

- New Time Zone Update Tool (Ravindra Shinde and Suresh Ananth) – details of a new time zone update tool.

[Link](#)

AIX tuning

I have been lucky to preview Earl Jew's latest version of his now famous "Advance Power1011 AIX performance practices", where he gives us a better understanding of how AIX performs on PowerVM – and therefore how to make better informed tuning decisions.

Testing Live Kernel Update

Christian Sonnemans posted a comprehensive update of his testing of AIX 7.3.3 and new features of LKU, with some useful background:

[Chris Gibson's blog](#)

[Mastering AIX Live Update \(AN34G\)](#)

[Chris Gibson's community blog](#)

[Link](#)

In case you missed

- **Power Systems VUG February 2025: PowerSC Update with Stephen Dominguez**
IBM Zero Trust Execution for AIX (ZTEA) is a real time malware defence for AIX that uses a Zero Trust (ZT) approach. ZTEA is designed to detect, and optionally prevent, the execution of all types of software-based malware (including ransomware, zero-day malware, next-generation malware, hacking tools, exploitation software, polymorphic malware, viruses, root kits, worms, and trojans).

[Link](#)

Redbooks and Redpapers

- **IBM Power Security Catalog** , Redbook, published: 20 February 2025
- **Introduction to Deployable Architectures in IBM Power Virtual Server** , Draft Redbook, published: 05 February 2025,
- **Introduction to IBM Power Virtual Server Private Cloud** , Draft Redpaper, published: 04 February 2025

[Link](#)

IBM alerts and notices

AIX alerts:

- **UPDATE TIMEZONE INFORMATION TO THE LATEST TZDATA2024B**
Problem solving information: IJ53489: UPDATE TIMEZONE INFORMATION TO THE LATEST TZDATA2024B

[Link](#)

- **Java SDK Time Zone Update Utility**
The IBM Time Zone Update Utility for Java (JTZU) applies Daylight Saving Time (DST) changes directly to your Java SDKs and JREs.
[Link](#)
- **IJ53450: ADD SSL.COM TLS ROOT CERTIFICATES TO IBM JAVA'S CACERTS**
Problem solving information: IJ53450: ADD SSL.COM TLS ROOT CERTIFICATES TO IBM JAVA'S CACERTS
[Link](#)
- **AIX 7.3 TL2 PEs Fixed In 7300-02-03-2446**
This is a list of identified PTFs in Error (PEs) for AIX 7.3 Technology Level 7300-02 that are fixed in Service Pack 7300-02-03-2446
[Link](#)
- **AIX is vulnerable to information disclosure (CVE-2024-13176) or arbitrary code execution or a denial of service (CVE-2024-9143) due to OpenSSL**
Vulnerabilities in OpenSSL could allow an attacker to recover a private key (CVE-2024-13176) or execute arbitrary code or cause a denial of service (CVE-2024-9143). OpenSSL is used by AIX as part of AIX's secure network communications.
Vulnerability Details
CVE-2024-13176 - Issue summary: A timing side-channel which could potentially allow recovering the private key exists in the ECDSA signature computation. Impact summary: A timing side-channel in ECDSA signature computations could allow recovering the private key by an attacker. However, measuring the timing would require either local access to the signing application or a very fast network connection with low latency. There is a timing signal of around 300 nanoseconds when the top word of the inverted ECDSA nonce value is zero. This can happen with significant probability only for some of the supported elliptic curves. In particular the NIST P-521 curve is affected. To be able to measure this leak, the attacker process must either be located in the same physical computer or must have a very fast network connection with low latency. For that reason the severity of this vulnerability is Low.
CVE-2024-9143 - OpenSSL could allow a remote attacker to execute arbitrary code on the system, caused by an out-of-bounds memory read or write flaw due to the use of the low-level GF(2^m) elliptic curve APIs with untrusted explicit values for the field polynomial. By sending a specially crafted request, an attacker could exploit this vulnerability to execute arbitrary code or cause the application to crash.
Affected Products and Versions
Affected Product(s) Version(s)

AIX	7.2
AIX	7.3
VIOS	3.1
VIOS	4.1

The following fileset levels are vulnerable:

Fileset	Lower Level	Upper Level
openssl.base	1.1.2.0	1.1.2.2401
openssl.base	3.0.0.0	3.0.15.1000

[Link](#)

PowerVM fixes:

- **VIOS 4.1.0.30**
Virtualisation software, PowerVM Virtual I/O Server (All releases, All platforms), fixpack available.
Fix Pack: VIOS 4.1.0.30
[Link](#)

PowerHA SystemMirror information:

- **PowerHA lifecycle information**
Lists the PowerHA SystemMirror release dates and end of service pack support (EoS) dates.

Release	Release Date	End of Service Pack Support (EoS)
PowerHA 7.2 TL8	December 2023	30 April 2027 (estimated)
PowerHA 7.2 TL7	December 2022	30 April 2026 (estimated)
PowerHA 7.2 TL6	December 2021	30 April 2025 (estimated)
PowerHA 7.2 TL5	December 2020	30 April 2024
PowerHA 7.2 TL4	December 2019	30 April 2023
PowerHA 7.2 TL3	December 2018	13 May 2022
PowerHA 7.2 TL2	December 2017	30 April 2021
PowerHA 7.2 TL1	December 2016	30 May 2020
PowerHA 7.2 TL0	December 2015	30 April 2019
PowerHA 7.1 TL3	December 2013	30 April 2018
PowerHA 7.1 TL2	November 2012	30 June 2016
PowerHA 7.1 TL1	December 2011	30 April 2015
PowerHA 7.1 TL0	August 2010	30 September 2014
PowerHA 6.1	October 2009	20 April 2015

[Link](#)

GPFS/Scale information:

- IBM Storage Scale Software Version Recommendation Preventive Service Planning**

IBM Storage Scale Software Version Recommendation

This generalised recommendation is made available to assist clients in implementing a code update strategy. It is a full field perspective, and as such, a customised recommendation that takes into account specifics such as business upgrade windows, length of time since last update, decommission plans. might require assistance from local support teams. In general, recommendations assume planning updates annually.

Detailed Fixes:

IBM Storage Scale	Minimum Recmdded Level	Latest Level
IBM Storage Scale	5.1.9.x stream ¹ : 5.1.9.7 [Nov 2024]	5.1.9.x stream ¹ : 5.1.9.8 [Feb 2025]
	5.2.x stream: 5.2.1.1 [Sep 2024]	5.2.x stream: 5.2.2.1 [Feb 2025]
IBM Storage Scale System (Power8 ESS) ²	5.1.x stream: ESS 6.1.9.4 [Oct 2024]	5.1.x stream: ESS 6.1.9.4 [Oct 2024]
IBM Storage Scale System 3000, 3200, 3500, 5000, and 6000	5.1.x stream: ESS 6.1.9.4 [Oct 2024]	5.1.x stream: ESS 6.1.9.5 [Dec 2024]
	5.2.x stream: ESS 6.2.1.1 [Oct 2024]	5.2.x stream: ESS 6.2.2.0 [Dec 2024]
IBM Storage Scale Container Native Storage Access (CNSA)	5.1.9 stream: 5.1.9.8 [Feb 2025]	5.2.x stream: 5.2.2.1 [Feb 2025]
IBM Storage Scale Container Storage Interface (CSI) (stand-alone)	2.10.x stream: 2.10.6 [Feb 2025]	2.13.x stream: 2.13.1 [Feb 2025]

¹This stream has Extended Update Support

²Power8 ESS went EOS in December 2024.

[Link](#)

Keep safe and a good end to Q1 '25
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