February Newsletter

AIX is 35 years and going strong

Not only is AIX celebrating 35 years of being the bedrock for our mission critical / enterprise applications (and just a joy to manage), but IBM has also announced that AIX 7.3 will be available for us to deploy towards the end of this year.

While there are no concrete details yet, IBM has stated that there are 4 major themes to AIX 7.3
- Continuous Computing
  Enhanced live update capabilities.
  Improved performance for DLPAR operations.
- Scalability
  Support for greater scaling of large SMP workloads.
  Increasing data storage capabilities to meet growing data requirements.
- Security
  Additional options for encrypting data at rest.
  New features for to protect data in flight.
- Hybrid-Cloud
  Growing support for Ansible automation.

With
- Binary Compatibility Guarantee
- Ready to take advantage of Future Power Technology
- Supporting POWER8 and newer

I will be providing details as they are announced.

New logos

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IBM Hybrid-Cloud announcements

IBM had some very interesting announcements around their hybrid cloud offerings.

IBM Power Private Cloud Rack Solution which is a customised, ready to use private cloud solution with Red Hat OpenShift.

IBM Power Systems Private Cloud Solution with:
- Up to 2,000 LPARs per pool
- A single capacity credit order which now be allocated across multiple Power Enterprise Pools
- Linux subscriptions can now be enabled alongside AIX and IBM i as a base and a metered capacity resource.
- A hybrid cloud credit - A prepaid compute resource which can be deployed as metered capacity on premise or in the cloud (PowerVS)

PowerVM 3.1.2

Thanks to Pete Heyrman for a great summary of the changes. Briefly, LPM performance has been improved yet again with the process making better use of the Power Hardware accelerators (compression and encryption) and driving the higher speed network connections while being able to use up to 8 threads on the MSP. The PowerVM hypervisor in 3.1.2 also has changes to reduce the NUMA effect by allocating buffers used by the LPM operations on the same chip as the MSPs where possible. There have also been further improvements to mange larger LPARs.

For more details see https://ibm.biz/BdfHn9

Storage Suite Starter for Containers

In response to a survey of IT decision-makers, in which almost 20% responded that containers would receive most of their data centre modernisation investment in 2021, IBM has developed a flexible software-defined storage solution set called IBM Storage Suite for IBM Cloud Paks. With this IBM Storage recognises the need for persistent, secure and highly functional storage to support and enable containerisation, particularly for the IBM cloud paks.

For details see: https://community.ibm.com/community/user/storage/blogs/sam-werner1/2020/12/17/storage-suite-starter-for-containers

Power9 Energy Scale (new whitepaper)

The energy required to power and cool computers can be a significant cost – as can the cost of creating the infrastructure to do so. To assist companies manage this, IBM has released a white paper to describe the functions provided by EnergyScale on the POWER9 process with useful examples and the requirements. For details see: https://www.ibm.com/downloads/cas/6GZMODN3

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Introduction to IBM Power Virtual Servers

As I have been playing with (sorry working hard testing) IBM Power Virtual Servers (IBM Power Servers in the IBM Cloud) for a while now, I was asked to share my experiences. As well as testing the functionality of PowerVS; I have also tested building OpenShift 3.x and 4.x clusters; installing PowerHA (and its GUI); configuring GPFS (and its GUI); using NIM to install RHEL; installing and running CP4D and MCM; as well as replication using GLVM.

So far I have published an introduction to PowerVS (Welcome to the PowerVS appreciation society - https://youtu.be/EvFFUACHBoU) and am currently working on other sessions (creating LPARs using mksysb/NIM, creating PowerHA and GPFS clusters, replication over IP etc), but please let me know if there is any topic in particular that interests you.

In case you missed ….

TechChannel

Jaqui Lynch outlines the importance of taking a phased approach when looking at performance problems in her article "2021 AIX Performance Tuning Update"

For details see: https://techchannel.com/IT-Strategy/02/2021/2021-aix-performance-tuning?utm_source=Acoustic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=021721_TechBeat_SMB%20(1)%20Live%20Send&utm_content=Article%201%20CTA&spMailingID=18439208&spUserID=NTg4NTkxNTQwMTE5S0&spJobID=2061435227&spReportId=MjA2MTQzNTIyNwS2

Redbooks and Redpapers
- IBM Power Systems Private Cloud with Shared Utility Capacity: Featuring Power Enterprise Pools 2.0 - Redbooks, published 24 Feb 2021
  http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/sg248478.html?Open
- Implementing IBM VM Recovery Manager for IBM Power Systems - Redbooks, published 29 Oct 2019, last updated 24 Feb 2021
  http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/sg248426.html?Open
- IBM Spectrum Scale and IBM Elastic Storage System Network Guide - Redpaper, published 17 Feb 2021
  http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/redp5484.html?Open
- Introduction Guide to the IBM Elastic Storage System - Redpaper, published 16 Feb 2021
  http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/redp5253.html?Open
- IBM Power Systems S922, S914, and S924 Technical Overview and Introduction Featuring PCIe Gen 4 Technology - Redpaper, published 16 Jul 2020, last updated 4 Feb 2021
  http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/redp5595.html?Open

Best wishes for a happy and prosperous year of the Ox (from an Ox-cidental)
Red, Belisama

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