

September Newsletter

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Greetings all,

Only a few more sleeps till TechXchange in Orlando! I was really looking forward to this event – not only for the chance to stand on my hind feet, but catching up with the Power/AIX/Scale SME's from around the globe. However, I have been advised that now may not be the best time for someone with my political activity, to travel to the “Land of the Free”. I hope that you all have a great time learning and exchanging ideas.

A few updates to share

- TechXchange is coming very soon with a full Agenda covering Power11, PowerVS and AI(x)!
- IBMi virtualising storage?? Working in a system upgrade recently and was presented with an LPAR with no VIO server, but storage and network were virtualised???? Found yet another amazing feature that IBM i offers. I can see why IBM i customers are loyal – just don't understand why IBM is not signing more. [Link](#)

Quick bites

Scaling MariaDB on Power

MariaDB running on Power allows you to resize CPU and memory in real time - without taking your database offline. See the video demonstrating dynamic scaling to allow workloads to grow (or shrink) as required with no disruption.

[Link](#)

Changed a PowerHA IP label or device? I was recently reminded that if you change the IP Label or address associated with a PowerHA network interface after it has been configured, you may run into issues.

[Link](#)

AIX difficult to master? I am reminded of Michal Wiktorek's article from last year..”AIX, one of the most mature and stable Unix systems, is frequently seen as difficult to master”.. Really?? Have a quick look at this article to dispel this misunderstanding.

[Link](#)

Installing a Linux kickstart Server. While not a common task, See Andrey's article about automating the process.

[Link](#)

Preparing for Your POWER 11 Migration. IBM Champion Jaqui Lynch reviews the housekeeping that must be done before you migrate your systems to POWER11

[Link](#)

Minimum Affinity Score? With Power11 you can now control LPM depending on the destination Affinity Score.

[Link](#)

Nigel's "These go to 11" (And our Nigel Griffiths' summary - [Link](#))

I have always found it important to read the caveats on the marketingware. You will have seen:

"Power11 is designed to be the most resilient server in the history of the IBM Power platform, with 99.9999% of uptime," IBM said. "Together with zero planned downtime for system maintenance and less than one-minute guaranteed ransomware threat detection with IBM Power Cyber Vault, Power11 sets a new bar for business continuity, addressing both planned and cyber-incident-related downtime."

There is a lot to unpack here.

- 6 9's of uptime on the face of it is fantastic, but there are some strong caveats around this. Originally the documents I saw, redefined this as if you had 100 1180 servers in your DC, this is what you can expect... not really 6 9's.

Since then this has been given a better definition (see [Link](#)), but in effect:

- Uptime means at least 1 LPAR active with minimum resources
- Downtime is only due to h/w or f/w fault, where system is unavailable until system can be recovered to meet first point
- Downtime includes the time to identify and de-configure the failed component and rebooted the hypervisor
- Downtime does not include any time associated with f/w, OS or code upgrades, replacement of h/w, deferred outages required to restore system to full configuration
- Assumes an average of > 2 CEC drawers and 8 processor sockets and doesn't indicate the downtime of a single server
- Requires servers deployed utilise best availability practices including:
 - Applying the IBM recommended FW patches regularly
 - Use of multiple partitions
 - Use of active memory mirroring of the hypervisor
 - Use of full I/O redundancy for all partitions
 - Creation of one partition that can run with min resources
 - and partitions configured so that at least one
- partition can run with the minimum resources and that minimum set is considered sufficient to consider

NOTE: The estimate does not consider the use of high availability clustering software

- Less than 1 minute detection?

There is also a caveat: "this guarantee covers only the displaying of an alert in less

then one minute" and that "remediation is in the form of drive replacement up to the cost of the Covered Product." and it is up to the customer to act on that alert before the ransomware attack continues.

This highlights the importance of proactive (rather than just reactive) security solutions and it makes sense to simplify the adoption with Power11.

[Link](#)

Oracle software is certified on Power11.

On July 8, 2025 IBM announced that Oracle products currently available on AIX 7.2 and 7.3 are fully certified and supported on Power11. This includes Oracle Database 19c, WebLogic Server, GoldenGate, PeopleSoft, E-Business Suite, JD Edwards, Siebel, Oracle Retail, Flexcube and many others.

[Link](#)

In case you missed

- **Power Systems VUG September 2025: Advanced Power11 Features with Todd Boyd**
Todd Boyd, Principal Product Manager for Power11, discussed Automated IT for Zero Planned Downtime, security enhancements, including <1 Minute Ransomware Detection and Action, as well as Quantum Safe Encryption, plus New Power Tools.

[Details](#)

Coming soon

- **TechXchange Power panel**

Those in Orlando will be able to join the session with

Ross Coniglio, Senior Power Technical Sales Specialist, US National Market, IBM
Steve Wolk, Chief Technology Officer, PC Richard & Son

Deepak Kohli, Vice President - Cloud Managed Services, RICOH USA, INC.

Chris Keebaugh, Lead Systems Engineer, Cincinnati Children's Hospital

There is also a link for remote attendance, please register:

[In person registration](#)

[Virtual Registration](#)

- **TechXchange PowerVC panel**

Those in Orlando will also be able to join the PowerVS panel with Shawn Bodily; Richardo Martins; Jeff Janoviak and David Contreras.

Redbooks and Redpapers

- **IBM Power E1180: Introduction and Overview**, Redbook, published 27 September 2025
- **IBM Storage Scale System Introduction Guide**, draft IBM Redpaper publication, updated on 09 September 2025

[Link](#)

- **Modernisation Techniques for IBM Power**, Redbook, Published on 29 August 2025
[Link](#)
- **Creating Red Hat OpenShift Multiple Architecture Clusters with IBM Power**, Redbook, Published on 14 November 2024, updated 22 August 2025
[Link](#)
- **IBM Power11 E1150 Introduction and Technical Overview**, draft IBM Redbooks , last updated on 15 August 2025
[Link](#)
- **IBM Power11 Scale-Out Servers: Introduction and Overview**, draft Redbook, Last updated on 15 August 2025
[Link](#)
- **IBM Power Virtual Server Guide for IBM AIX and Linux**, Redbook, Published on 18 July 2025, updated 05 August 2025
[Link](#)

Keep safe and I hope you all have a productive (and of course) enjoyable time in Orlando. Make sure you introduce yourself to at least 5 IBM Champions.

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