

February Newsletter

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Greetings all,

I hope you managed to have a good break and time with the family for the Lunar New Year. Sorry that this update is a bit late.. too much fun in Data Centres playing with Power10 and hacking ansible playbooks!

A few updates to share

- Thank you to Libby and the Champion team for recognising my contributions for another year.

Meet all the champions and learn about the program: [Link](#)

Remember that this year, the program has been modified and there are a series of badges you can obtain as a pathway to becoming an IBM champion – rather than “straight to IBM Champion and not passing Go”

Congratulations to all the new and returning Champions (including Marcus from NZ)

- A big thanks to Dino, Tim and the Redbook team for an “off piste” project and to all the experts that helped me refine the Redpaper. - Yes, “Recommendations for Implementing Geographic Logical Volume Manager (GLVM) On-Premises and on the Cloud” has been published!

For those unfamiliar with the joy that is GLVM, it is a feature of the AIX Logical Volume Manager that allows one to mirror AIX LUNs over IP. Great for migration where SAN is not feasible (eg: to the cloud) and for DR solutions without storage networks. GLVM can operate standalone, but is recommended that PowerHA is used to manage it.

This Redpaper builds on the one I worked on a while back and is designed to help readers avoid many of the pitfalls I have seen with other implementations of GLVM. I hope you find it useful.

[Link](#)

- Support has published recommendations for both Power9 and Power10 performance (see below), Alan Fulton also published the Power10 recommendations in tech news.
- Share your thoughts on AIX automation use cases that would be important to you. Development is considering the following candidate items for AIX Ansible collection updates. Please vote for your top 3. Also, if you have a suggestion for an automation use case that AIX administrators would appreciate, please let development know. See: [Link](#)
- While TechXchange 2024 is being advertised to be held in Las Vegas again (Mandalay Bay 21-24/10/24), there is a rumour that a venue elsewhere in the US is possible. Anyway it is the presentations that matter, so hope everyone has started preparing!

Quick bites

Installing and using the AIX toolbox for Open Source Software

A good overview by Glenn Robinson.

[Link](#)

Power10 Performance Best Practices

As mentioned above Alan Fulton has put together a good overview of Power10 performance recommendations.

[Link](#)

[IBM Support version](#)

Power9 Performance Best Practices

As mentioned above IBM Support as updated the Power9 recommendations.

[Link](#)

Both these are good short summaries of the important configuration settings that should be looked at when using Power9/10 hardware. Links are included for more a more in-depth discussion.

Installing centralised user authentication for AIX using Red Hat Identity Management

Andrey Klyachkin (Power DevOps) has published an easy to follow guide.

[Link](#)

Common cloud migration challenges and how to manage them

While many business benefit from the scalability and flexibility offered in the cloud, a cloud migration is no simple task. Teaganne Finn looks helps you set realistic expectations by examining the planning and strategies that should be considered.

[Link](#)

Public cloud vs. private cloud vs. hybrid cloud: What's the difference?

Stephanie Susnjara provides a good overview of the differences, advantages and disadvantages for those new to cloud

[Link](#)

HMC Scanner for POWER Server Config and Performance Stats

The HMC Scanner can be used to quickly extract all the details of the POWER Servers the HMC is connected too and saved in a spreadsheet. The tool can be downloaded (see link).

Note: Java 1.8 or newer is required. There is a good FAQ section.

[Link](#)

In case you missed

- **Power Systems VUG 2024-2-29: ISV Updates: SAP, Oracle, Epic**

The slides and recording for the latest VUG should be uploaded in the next few days: [Link](#)

To subscribe to the VUG series: [Link](#)



- **Reducing your Oracle Unlimited License Agreement costs to improve your business outcomes**

For slides etc: [Link](#)

Redbooks and Redpapers

- **Recommendations for Implementing Geographic Logical Volume Manager (GLVM) On-Premises and on the Cloud**, IBM Redpaper, draft published 24 February 2024
[Link](#)
- **IBM Storage Virtualize, IBM Storage FlashSystem, and IBM SAN Volume Controller Security Feature Checklist - For IBM Storage Virtualize 8.6**, IBM Redpaper, draft published 08 February 2024
[Link](#)

IBM alerts and notices

AIX/PowerVM alerts:

- **AIX is vulnerable to privilege escalation and denial of service (CVE-2023-45166, CVE-2023-45174, CVE-2023-45170)**

UPDATED Feb 2 2024 (New iFixes are available. The new iFixes resolve a technical issue with print queue status. Both sets of iFixes (new and original) resolve the security vulnerabilities described in the bulletin. The new iFixes are only needed if you experience the technical issue described here:

<https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/apar/IJ49737>

A vulnerability in the AIX printers system could allow a non-privileged local user to obtain elevated privileges or cause a denial of service (CVE-2023-45166, CVE-2023-45174, CVE-2023-45170).

Vulnerability Details

CVEID: CVE-2023-45166 - IBM AIX could allow a non-privileged local user to exploit a vulnerability in the piodmgrsu command to obtain elevated privileges.

CVEID: CVE-2023-45174 - IBM AIX could allow a privileged local user to exploit a vulnerability in the qdaemon command to escalate privileges or cause a denial of service.

CVE-2023-45170 - IBM AIX could allow a non-privileged local user to exploit a vulnerability in the piobe command to escalate privileges or cause a denial of service.

Affected Products and Versions

Affected Product(s)	Version(s)
AIX	7.2
AIX	7.3
VIOS	3.1

[Link](#)

- **AIX is vulnerable to arbitrary command execution due to Perl (CVE-2024-25021, CVE-2023-47038, CVE-2023-47100)**

UPDATED Feb 2 2024 (New iFixes are available. The new iFixes resolve a technical issue with print q

Vulnerabilities in AIX's Perl could allow an attacker to execute arbitrary commands (CVE-2024-25021, CVE-2023-47038, CVE-2023-47100) AIX uses Perl in various operating system components.

Vulnerability Details

CVE-2024-25021 - IBM AIX's Perl implementation could allow a non-privileged local user to exploit a vulnerability to execute arbitrary commands.

CVE-2023-47038 - Perl is vulnerable to a heap-based buffer overflow, caused by improper bounds checking by the user-defined Unicode property. By persuading a victim to use specially crafted regular expression to compile, a remote attacker could overflow a buffer and execute arbitrary code on the system.

CVE-2023-47100 - Perl could allow a remote attacker to bypass security restrictions, caused by improper handling of property name by the S_parse_uniprop_string function in regcomp.c. By using a specially crafted regular expression input, an attacker could exploit this vulnerability to write to unallocated space.

Affected Products and Versions

Affected Product(s)	Version(s)
AIX	7.3
VIOS	4.1

[Link](#)

AIX Open Source tips

- DNF librpm.so.9 errors after migration to AIX 73

Question

I migrated to AIX 73, and now DNF will not run.

For example:

```
# dnf list installed
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "/opt/freeware/bin/dnf", line 57, in <module>
    from dnf.cli import main
  File "/opt/freeware/lib/python3.9/site-packages/dnf/__init__.py", line 32,
in <module>
    import dnf.base
  File "/opt/freeware/lib/python3.9/site-packages/dnf/base.py", line 29, in
<module>
    import libdnf.transaction
  File "/opt/freeware/lib/python3.9/site-packages/libdnf/__init__.py", line 3,
in <module>
    from . import common_types
  File "/opt/freeware/lib/python3.9/site-packages/libdnf/common_types.py",
line 13, in <module>
    from . import _common_types
ImportError:      0509-022 Cannot load module
/opt/freeware/lib/libdnf.a(libdnf.so.2).
      0509-150  Dependent module librpm.a(librpm.so.9) could not be loaded.
      0509-022 Cannot load module librpm.a(librpm.so.9).
      0509-026 System error: A file or directory in the path name does not
exist.
```

[Link](#)

ESS Planning:

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

Details provided by IBM Support / ESS, see:

[Link](#)

Keep safe and hope you found this update useful (Please let me know if there is anything else you would like covered).

Red, Belisama

