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August Newsletter

Probably the most interesting announcement this month was…

IBM Announces Power10 chip at Hot Chips

I was very lucky to have the opportunity to hear IBM Lead engineers Bill Starke and Brian Thompto talk about the key features planned for the new Power10 Chip. Together they described a chip that had been redesigned from the ground up to address many of the challenges we are facing. The chip has some truly outstanding features - from advances in the built-in security; an embedded matrix accelerator; to the ability to cluster memory across multiple servers - all in 7nm package with major improvements in energy efficiency.

Sadly we still have to wait until the Power10 Server line is announced and we can see how IBM exploits these advances.
See: http://ibm.biz/BdqAWF

Tech tips

I have been playing with some of the options in the IBM Cloud, I started testing Ansible managing my local lab machines and then added in some power LPARs running in the IBM Cloud (AIX and Linux). In doing so, I found that it wasn't easy to provision Red Hat 7 or 8, so used my NIM Server to build both – worked like a charm. Contact me if you are interested in either Ansible management of Power or building Linux LPARs using NIM Server.

Upcoming events

- Virtual Share is planned to start on 22nd September this year:
  https://event.share.org/register
- IBM Virtual TechU October 26-29:
  https://www.ibm.com/training/events/vtechu2020
- ASEAN Power Virtual Meetup next session "Power Systems Dynamic Capacity and Ansible for Power" is on 28th August. See:
  https://www.meetup.com/Singapore-AIX-IBM-i-Linux-on-Power-Meetup-Group/events/272653380/
  The group's website also includes previous sessions for you to download.

Redbooks and Redpapers

- IBM Power Systems S922, S914, and S924 Technical Overview and Introduction Featuring PCIe Gen 4 Technology – Updated
  http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/redp5595.html?Open
- IBM Power System IC922 Technical Overview and Introduction – Updated
  http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedbookAbstracts/redp5584.html?Open
- Red Hat OpenShift V4.3 on IBM Power Systems Reference Guide (Still in draft)
  http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/Redbooks.nsf/RedpieceAbstracts/redp5599.html?Open

Did you know…?

There is an IBM AIX Community badge open to non-IBMers?
  See: https://www.ibm.com/downloads/cas/ZD7VOGXE
Also see the Acclaim site for the IBM i community badges.

A quick update for Spectrum Scale/ESS fans

If you are interested in exploring how Spectrum Scale (or GPFS) can help your organisation, have a look at my brief summary https://www.belisama.com.sg/gpfs-intro. Another useful source if information is the Spectrum Scale Blog: https://developer.ibm.com/storage/blog/

IBM CHAMPION

IBM Washington Systems Centre (Storage) presented a detailed comparison of Spectrum Scale and ESS. This review of the software and hardware solutions examines their differences, similarities and where they can be used and is well worth a read.
See: https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/1125513

Their next session (IBM Spectrum Scale Webinars: AFM – Deep Dive and Debugging) is in September, to register go to http://ibm.biz/scale-afm-ap?_ga=2.209096274.1344140819.1597625723-774485622.1596701439 (AP Timezone)

The IBM Spectrum Scale version recommendation and preventative service planning document has been updated. See: https://lnkd.in/f7r6H6q

If you haven't already joined the Spectrum Scale User Group go to https://www.spectrumscale.org/ for more information. You will also find a very useful repository of all things GPFSy (the next User Group meeting is the Australian User group meeting on August 27 @ 10:00 - 16:00 AEST)

Fixes

Note:	If you are running Spectrum Scale v4.2 to v5.0 or ESS v4 to 6, there is an issue where undetected data corruption may occur for data being written with small sequential write (non-direct I/O) operations, while a file is being concurrently compressed or decompressed.

For more details see: https://lnkd.in/g2-Pini

Note:	A number of vulnerabilities have been detected in the ESS GUI (5.3.0 – 5.3.5.1; 5.0.0 – 5.2.9; 4.5.0 – 4.6.0; 4.0.0 - 4.0.6)

For more details see:
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6260587?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-_-OCSTHMCM-_-E
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6260593?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-_-OCSTHMCM-_-E
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6260599?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-_-OCSTHMCM-_-E
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6260595?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-_-OCSTHMCM-_-E
https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/node/6192915?myns=s033&mynp=OCSTHMCM&mync=E&cm_sp=s033-_-OCSTHMCM-_-E

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