

VM Workshop 2026 - Session Abstracts

Title	Synopsis	Presenter
Bit Talks with Friends	We're back for another edition of this session where Bill sits and hears from three members of the community: how they got involved in the mainframe world, what influenced them along the way, and some of their favorite moments. This series has proven to be enjoyable and reminds us how our stories connect us. This year joining Bill will be Phill Tully, Rich Smrcina, and James Vincent.	Bill Bitner
User Experience Setting up RedHat Openshift Container Platform Single-Node with Assisted Installation	Several years ago, I presented a session on setting up Openshift Container Platform (RHOC) on z. In new RHOC releases, you have the option of multi-node or single node virtual machine to do all the work. I'll be reviewing the differences in installation process getting this working.	Sam Cohen
Standing up and administering a public-access VM/SP system	Did you know there is a publicly accessible, historically accurate VM/System Product system? Travel back in time to the 1980s with VM/SP! Our incredibly diverse team of volunteer systems programmers has undertaken quite a journey and overcome some incredible hurdles to bring the PUBVM system to life! Join us to hear about how a college student, a young public-sector sysprog, a sysprog from IBM's CIO org, an SME from IBM's Washington Systems Center, and two retired IBM VM top-tier experts all came together to accomplish an incredible mission.	Paul Novak
Modernizing zLinux DASD storage	DASD storage on zLinux has seen improvement over the years. HyperPAV, EAV, ESE - these technologies can make life much easier for administering a large number of guests. I will go over the project we undertook to modernize our zLinux disk implementation - from setting up new disks on the DS8K to the IOCDs and user directory changes and finally the steps to migrate zLinux systems to HyperPAV.	James Nelson
Operational Monitoring and Automation of Multiple z/VM LPARs with Linux Guests	As the Linux on IBM Z and LinuxONE environments continue to grow, the need for software and solutions to manage these environments also grows. This session focuses on operational monitoring and automated operations across multiple z/VM LPARs, with or without SSI: (1) taking actions on other LPARs based on events on one LPAR, (2) automatically take action based on messages on z/VM service machines, on Linux guest consoles, and/or in Linux syslog data (3) view and interact with live consoles, for both monitoring and debugging purposes (4) monitor and manage spool space (5) send alerts to a central alerting system, such as IBM Netcool/OMNIBUS or other systems that accept SNMP traps (6) send e-mails based on console messages, spool usage, etc. (7) automatically archive logging data when a disk approaches full.	Tracy Dean
A high-level view of TCP/IP version 4 networking	In my experiences with network teams, they seem to not understand how IBM z networking (specifically OSA hardware) works. Their reality of having a single physical wire carrying potentially over 100 IP addresses is beyond their "norm". Meanwhile, many IBM z SysProgs do not have much experience with TCP/IP (or VTAM, for that matter), which can impede working with the network team to solve connectivity issues. This presentation is a high-level review of TCP/IP v4 addressing and routing, along with common IBM z debugging tools that can be used to provide the networking team with connectivity data. The concepts and tools are common across all IBM Z operating systems, but I will touch on the implementation differences between z/VM, z/OS, VSEn and common Linux implementations.	Sam Cohen
VCU Student Panel	This session will be a panel of VCU students moderated by their Adjunct Professor Len Santalucia. These students completed the Spring 2026 Semester IBM zXplore Course. They will discuss their experience with learning about IBM Z through the badges they earned with IBM zXplore and other presentations from industry experts they heard throughout the semester. The attendees of this session are welcome to ask students on the panel questions directly and speak with them privately throughout the conference. Please come spend time with the next generation of IBM Z.	Professor Len Santalucia
Solutions for Real Customer Challenges Managing z/VM and Linux	Whether implementing hybrid cloud or supporting server consolidation projects, customers are implementing mission critical applications on Linux on IBM Z and LinuxONE. In this session, the speakers will focus on real customer problems and associated solutions with managing this new infrastructure, including monitoring messages, monitoring spool space, sending alerts, feeding data to analytics platforms, automatically fixing a problem, and backing up and recovering critical data.	Tracy Dean
Monitoring VSE with zVPS	Using zVPS to monitor VSE is quick and easy. This session will go through the process and show the data that can be displayed. CICS and the TCP/IP stacks can also be monitored. In addition, some new features will be discussed.	Rich Smrcina
Visualization is Key	Mainframe operating systems produce A LOT of performance data. It isn't enough to look at screens and reports anymore. Data can be delivered to InfluxDB and Prometheus for use with new visualization tools like Grafana. These tools are becoming more and more important for data display. We will show how these tools can be integrated into your existing performance management landscape. Sending data to Open Telemetry will also be discussed and how it integrates with Prometheus.	Rich Smrcina

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Modernizing the Mainframe with the Modern Muscle of z/Cobol	z/COBOL™ is a new COBOL compiler, specifically designed for the future of VSE and VM, that embraces the power of the current IBM® mainframe. IBM has spent over 20 years innovating and enhancing the zSeries platform, and as the desire for more and more computing power arrives, so does the requirement to utilize the facilities that are within the zSeries IBM mainframe. z/COBOL is a cutting-edge COBOL compiler that is unmatched in performance. It is more than just paying for cutting-edge hardware; it is having the tools to maximize that investment. This presentation details how the z/COBOL language can combine the power of the mainframe environment with a wide range of tools that are required for the modern world. How Open AI can be integrated into database updates, credit card transactions can be facilitated and managed, SMS and RCS customer interactions can be delivered, the new SPYRE AI Complex can be fully utilized, JSON-RPC can be provided to completely participate in Block Chain and Crypto Currency interactions, WEB3 can be supported from DAPPs, and many other current and cutting edge tools. All of these important advancements within the data processing world, can now be added to VSE and VM.	John Rankin
Customer Experiences Implementing Databases on IBM Z and LinuxONE	This session will share customer experiences implementing "Data Serving" workloads such as Oracle, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, Kafka and Cockroach DB with Linux on System Z. Performance considerations for CPU, memory, network topologies (OSA, NetH, Hipersockets), and I/O optimizations using various benchmarking tools will be discussed.	David Simpson
CMS Shared File System Administration	This session will describe how to configure and use the CMS Shared File System. Administration, space management, and security will be discussed. A modern approach to managing SFS will also be demonstrated.	Rich Smrcina
Solving Customer Problems with Velocity Software	Velocity Software's zLOV version 610 stack of products, zVPS, zPRO, zTUNE and zVRM is focused on solving IBM Z and LinuxONE customer issues, along with support for IBM's latest z17 and LinuxONE 5 offerings. The goal of this session is to show the concerns brought to Velocity Software, and how this new product release resolves these problems, all while still using less than 1% of a processor. This also continues our effort in making IBM Z the most efficient and easy hybrid cloud platform to host Linux and OpenShift environments from.	Kurt Acker
ZTRUST	The requirement of "code signing" and related cryptographically supported attestations is growing. Some organizations and environments will not run software which is not cryptographically signed. The ZTRUST project provides a trust anchor for the Z community (z/VM, z/Linux, z/VSE, even z/OS) facilitating code signing and related functions. This talk will introduce the need and illustrate the strong methods available to our community for addressing that need.	Rick Troth, Brian Hugenbruch
VFILE coming to a Reader Near You	VFILE provides NJE-like interconnect using open standard UFT protocol to include Linux and Windows in your collection. It mimics spool space on systems which don't have that providing a "delivery dock" so that files arrive safely, isolated from user filespace until received by the user. VFILE is a powerful alternative to services like FTP, more secure, easier to automate. And, yes, messaging works too.	Rick Troth
IBM Stories: Innovation from Passion	Some of the greatest innovation has come from a passion. It might be the desire to right a wrong or to help those in need or whatever else drives our hearts. In this session, you'll hear two stories of IBMers who felt a conviction to pursue something that had an impact much bigger than themselves. The stories involve the embracing of the internet and a machine that would save lives.	Bill Bitner
Building and running Linux and z/VM under z/VM	Does it seem a bit daunting to set up a second-level Linux system or a z/VM guest for testing? This session will give you a primer on setting up Linux and z/VM to run as guests and even making them "gold images" so you can duplicate them to make more as needed.	James Vincent
Introduction to RACF Administration on z/VM	No matter if you have a second-level z/VM test system or a full-on Production z/VM host, you had better have an External Security Manager. The RACF security server gives you a much higher level of security than CP can. But how does it "work" and why is it so scary - or painful - for a lot of z/VM system administrators? In this session, the speaker will cover the basic terminology, RACF commands that should be learned to manage basic resources and pit-falls to avoid and overcome.	James Vincent
Introduction to XEDIT	The XEDIT editor is a sophisticated editor with a large subcommand set. It can be quite easy to use and yet extremely powerful and nearly infinitely tailorable. In this session, the speaker will cover a tiny bit of history, the anatomy of an XEDIT session, how to use the basic edit functions and navigation and even some intermediate topics to show how powerful the XEDIT environment is.	James Vincent
Lessons Learned From Being Struck by Lightning - Private Cloud on IBM Z and LinuxONE: How to Create a Stable, Manageable, High-Performance Environment	Learn about the recommended practices based on experience, lab testing, development recommendations, and customer experiences for Making z/VM and Linux Guests "Production Ready". Design and Configuration Planning Considerations, Installation/Configuration Recommendations, Basics for Monitoring, Troubleshooting, Performance, and more!	Paul Novak
IBM z/VM Express System Install	We will cover the IBM z/VM Express System Install project. Covering the details explaining why the ESI deployment bundle for z/VM is becoming so popular and how much time z/VM ESI can save clients with their journey to hybrid cloud. We will also cover what has been added, improved, and enhanced with z/VM 7.4. The session will wrap up with customer discussions regarding potential new features and requirements for future releases of z/VM ESI, including what we have planned for the ESI bundle with z/VM 7.5.	Paul Novak
Rexx Language Primer	In this session you will learn about what the Rexx Programming Language can do, how to use some of the basic instructions and functions to get started with and resources to have on hand for reference.	James Vincent

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CMS Pipelines Basics	CMS Pipelines is a facility included with the z/VM CMS component that includes a set of some 350 programs that can be used to build application to run in CMS. Each programs is known as a stage. In this session, the speaker will provide an overview of the Pipeline concepts, an overview of many of the basic stages, and the how to use CMS Pipelines to enhance programming in CMS. A working knowledge of CMS and REXX is needed to get the most out of the presentation. The presentation will include examples that could be executed on any CMS system.	Rick Barlow
This LinuxONE Security Session was Generated by AI	Brian Hugenbruch is an IBM Z and LinuxONE security expert with more than 20 years in teaching the full security stack for the platform around the world. But what happens when AI generates his slides for him? In a mash-up of technical presenting and PowerPoint karaoke, we're going to find out. This presentation will, in theory at least, cover technical detail regarding the security of our favorite platform, from hardware isolation up to secrets management. (Brian will issue appropriate warnings and corrections if necessary.). At the end, we'll assess how the AI tools (and the associated prompt (s)) performed in creating this deck.	Brian Hugenbruch
Keys to the Kingdom: Managing Cryptographic Resources on z/VM	IBM Z provides cryptographic features to protect your data--and your client's data. Intrigued by the possibilities inherent in IBM Z cryptographic features? Uncertain as to what all these acronyms mean? Confused about which features operate when running under z/VM? Wondering about the basics of guest crypto configuration? Unsure of what to do with all those keys? Scared by the word 'cryptography'? This presentation aims to alleviate fear and uncertainty by explaining the IBM Z cryptographic 'stack': what the features do, how they help, how z/VM virtualizes them, and how a guest can capitalize upon them ... with as few security-related acronyms as possible. New features released in 1Q26 will also be introduced and discussed.	Brian Hugenbruch, Steven Horvath
Saying Hello to z/VM V7.5 Security	z/VM V7.5 has been announced in preview, and while the future isn't here quite yet, changes are coming in the space of security -- not limited to RACF for z/VM, but especially in that space. The goal of this presentation is to start you thinking about what the future may hold for security on your favorite platform, and what you may need to do to prepare.	Brian Hugenbruch
Customer Experiences Implementing Databases on IBM Z and LinuxONE	This session will share customer experiences implementing "Data Serving" workloads such as Oracle, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, Kafka and Cockroach DB with Linux on System Z. Performance considerations for CPU, memory, network topologies (OSA, Neth, Hipersockets), and I/O optimizations using various benchmarking tools will be discussed.	David Simpson
Enabling Workloads under z/VM for AI	Let's talk about the steps needed to enable your IFL-based Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform cluster for AI workloads using the Spyre adapter! In this session we will perform a live walk-through of the steps involved, from attaching the adapters to the cluster compute nodes through to installing required Operators. We'll even deploy a model and try some inferences!	Vic Cross
Express Linux Automation and Networking: Ansible and scripting for z/VM	The z/VM ESI project provides a streamlined installation process for z/VM, along with a Linux system which we call the ELAN -- Express Linux Automation and Networking. Development of the ELAN is moving more Open, and this session talks about the changes to the development process, and what is currently included in the ELAN. We will also preview some exciting enhancements, along with new functions and deployment options!	Vic Cross
(B.Y.O.D) Hands-on Lab: Managing z/VM and Linux on IBM Z or LinuxONE	This lab lets you choose from several monitoring, automation and backup/recovery scenarios for z/VM and Linux guests. You can choose from separate hands-on labs using IBM Operations Manager for z/VM or IBM Backup and Restore Manager for z/VM. Lab exercises include viewing and interacting with service machine and Linux guest consoles, taking an action based on a console message, monitoring user IDs for logoff, monitoring spool and page space, and backing up and recovering z/VM data.	Tracy Dean
GDPS v4.9 Technical Update: New Capabilities for HA, DR, and Cyber Resilience	IBM GDPS is the premier solution for continuous availability, disaster recovery, and cyber resiliency on IBM Z. It enables automated, end-to-end management of z/OS, z/VM, Linux, and containerized workloads along with their critical data across single or multiple sites. Built on deep integration with IBM Z hardware and software capabilities, GDPS also extends protection beyond the mainframe to heterogeneous platforms, delivering coordinated availability and recovery across the enterprise. In this session, you'll get a comprehensive update on the latest GDPS innovations, including new product offerings and the newest release, GDPS V4R9. Learn how these enhancements help simplify operations, strengthen cyber recovery, and further reduce downtime for mission-critical workloads.	Steven Cook, Megan Hampton
GDPS Cyber Resiliency: Securing, Vaulting, and Recovering Critical Data	Threats to business critical data can originate both outside the enterprise and from within; including privileged users. GDPS Logical Corruption Protection Manager (LCP) enhances your security and recovery posture by helping prevent unauthorized compromise of production systems, critical data, and protected copies. In this session, you'll learn how GDPS LCP enables the regular creation of secure, point-in-time data copies designed for cyber resiliency scenarios. We'll examine how GDPS coordinates storage, operating system, and middleware technologies to deliver integrated protection, forensic analysis, and recovery workflows using vaulted LCP copies. This presentation also includes updates from prior sessions, highlighting new scheduling options, best practices, and verification techniques to help ensure your cyber recovery strategy is resilient, testable, and operationally sound.	Steven Cook

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GDPS Overview: Availability, Disaster Recovery, and Cyber Resiliency for z/OS, z/VM, and Linux on Z	This session provides an overview of GDPS, IBM's multi-site application availability solution, and how it integrates key availability technologies; including z/OS, z/VM, Linux on Z, LinuxONE systems, and remote disk copy with automation to enhance application availability and strengthen disaster recovery across IBM Z environments. Attendees will learn how GDPS delivers state-of-the-art performance in support of continuous availability, while coordinating recovery for z/OS, z/VM, and Linux workloads. The session also explores how GDPS helps organizations meet regulatory and business continuity requirements by providing robust disaster recovery (DR), high availability (HA), and improved continuity of operations (CO) for mission critical applications.	Steven Cook
zVM: Beyond the Horizon	An update and discussion on the current z/VM focus, strategy, planned enhancements and upcoming changes.	Frederik Hartmann
z/VM Platform Update	An overview changes introduced with z/VM 7.4, the most recent release of z/VM as well as a preview of the upcoming z/VM 7.5 release.	Frederik Hartmann
Recommendations for Large-Scale Linux Deployment on LinuxONE	An overview of best practices, recommendations and avoidable mistakes for large scale Linux deployments on IBM Z and LinuxONE.	Frederik Hartmann
Introduction to z17 Channel Performance Management	Channel performance management is rarely as straightforward as it first appears. To further complicate this, the IBM z17 introduces new considerations with the addition of the Network Express Adapter, FICON Express32-4P Adapter, and Data Processing Unit (DPU). This presentation will begin with a brief overview of channels and the z17 channel architecture. It then moves into a deeper exploration of channel performance management , highlighting key components, critical metrics, and important nuances specific to the z17 architecture.	Tyler Rossi
21CS: Then, Now, Next	For over 30 years, 21CS has been at the forefront of mainframe data protection, recovery, and performance planning. Central to their success is the strategic alliance with IBM, which led to 21CS entering into a z/VSE source code agreement in 2021. Discover how 21CS continues to drive innovation in the z/OS and VSE space through its perfect mixture of expertise and new skilled talent and bold vision for what's next.	Clarence Waldrop
What's new with 21CS VSEn?	In this session we will cover the announcements and news that have been happening since last year, things to consider when upgrading to 21CS VSEn 6.3 and 6.4 and the next steps you should take if you care about your VSE workloads.	Gonzalo Muelas Serrano
21CS VSEn 6.4 new installation, upgrade and system license key	In this session, you will learn what to consider when installing and upgrading to 21CS VSEn 6.4, and specially the new System License Key feature. If time allows, there will be a demo, if not, feel free to visit our hands-on-lab!	Michael Ibikunle
21CS VSEn SCRT: The process...and how to review for correctness	In this session we will review the process of setting up, creating SCRT input files and report and uploading them... and most important how to check that the report is valid and what the different sections in the report mean.	Jonah Hall
21CS Customer Portal	In this session we will show how to use the 21CS Customer Portal as opposed to Box and what features will be available soon. Looking forward for your feedback!	Liz Barnes
21CS VSEn Secured with MFA	Every now and then, we get asked by VSEn customers, how to enable Multifactor Authentication with VSEn? So in this presentation we will show you a possible way, using the VSEn LDAP Client, and an LDAP Server outside of VSEn with connection to an MFA server, resulting on VSEn logging with MFA!	Aleksa Medakovic
21CS VSEn Hints and Tips	In this presentation we will show a mixed collection of experiences from the 21CS team on different areas while working with VSEn customers and upgrading to/using 21CS VSEn 6.3 and 6.4.	21CS VSE Support Team
Securing 21CS SMDMU (DITTO) ...the right way	In this session we will show you how to granularly secure SMDMU, to be able to still leverage some functionality less dangerous for colleagues that might need to use it but without a risk that they will bring the system down ;-)	Aleksa Medakovic
21CS VSEn Connectors and VSCode - Efficient and modern ways of working with VSEn	In this session we will show how to efficiently work with VSEn, both for Sysprogs and Application Programmers, by leveraging the VSEn Connectors tools and VSCode plugging to VSEn that we will release soon.	Edward Jordinson
21CS SDB (DB2) Client supporting up to 60 chars length password	In this session we will show the latest enhancement from 21CS SDB, based on customer/compliance requirements, to support longer than 8 chars passwords when connecting to an IBM DB2 Server outside of VSEn. If there is time, we will be happy to show a demo.	Jake Haggan
21CS VSEn AI ChatBot - on your premises and supervised by you!	In this session we will talk about the VSEn AI ChatBot that we've been working the past months, specifically trained for VSEn users, to run on your premisses and without needing too costly HW resources.	Gonzalo Muelas Serrano
21CS OLTP transaction looping, you can take care of it! (and other enhancements)	Did you ever had a situation where a yield transaction was looping so bad, that you had to shutdown the whole OLTP region in order to stop it? Well, we have come up with a solution, that will make the transaction stop without you having to stop the whole OLTP region. We will also mention, some other enhancements to make your OLTP environment more resilient.	Aleksa Medakovic
21CS VSEn Hands-on-Lab - Part 1	In this session you can use one of our provided laptops to exercise the new installation and/or FSU from IBM z/VSE 6.2 or 21CS VSEn 6.3 to 6.4	Michael Ibikunle
21CS VSEn Hands-on-lab - Part 2	In this session you will be able to use the different VSEn Connectors, including VTAPE, Navigator, Health Checker and VSCode plugin to VSEn.	Edward Jordinson
z/VM Memory Management Update	Several new memory management functions are being developed for z/VM. This presentation will cover the following topics: 1. Active Drain 2. Memory Terminology Changes 3. Memory Overcommitment Control 4. Memory Management Infrastructure	Romney White
Jumpin' Jack, Flash VSE	We finally decided to use Flashcopy and how it helped our backup strategy. - Reducing backup window time - Increasing data integrity in backups	Steve Weifenbach/Tony Thigpen

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The Evolution of z/VM - 25 years of innovation	z/VM was released 25 years ago in 2001. Its existence was sometimes in doubt but the influence of several individuals eventually ensured that it would be delivered. Since the initial release, there has been a continuing stream of enhancements. This presentation will review the background and describe some of the major innovations that have been introduced.	Romney White
What's new with the VSE SSH Client Suite	Our initial release of the SSH Client Suite for VSE was batch-oriented. We've now enabled a 3270 interface to the suite and, experimentally, added a browser-based GUI. In this session I will describe and, if the presentation muses allow, demonstrate both interactive interfaces.	Neale Ferguson
Python, a GUI, openSSH, and an SSH Server for CMS	Over the past couple of years I have worked on providing CMS with a SSH Server capability. I now have a working PoC that enables a full interactive SSH session or a 'one-shot' command mechanism. In addition, I have worked on providing CMS with a Python implementation (3.10+) which necessitated porting OpenSSL (1.1.1k and 3.6.0) in order to use pip3 to install packages from external repositories. Having Python means web-based tools are available including GUIs that enable tooling and applications to be built and run on CMS. Python is able to deal with files encoded in EBCDIC (IBM-1047) and ASCII (ISO8859-1) as I've developed an ASCII layer to multiple OpenExtension APIs. I am also working on a port of Perl 5.42.2 (the OpenSSL test suite uses Perl to automate its tests). This is in its early stages but I hope to have something to share during this session.	Neale Ferguson
Git for VMers	A look at git, a source code management tool from a VMer's perspective. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The world according to CNTRL, AUX and update files. - The journey from file cabinets to being scattered across the globe. - Eek! Waiter, there's a bug in my code, I would like to know how it got there. - Oh.. you already fixed it! - Branches are cheap. - Will the real clone please stand up. - Keeping up with main. - Now where did you say my files are 	Cheyenne Wills
From Installation to Impact: Making IBM Operations Manager, Tape Manager, and Backup & Restore Manager for z/VM Work for You	You've installed the tools—now it's time to make them deliver value. This "beyond the basics" session focuses on practical configuration and real-world usage of IBM Operations Manager, Tape Manager, and Backup & Restore Manager for z/VM. Learn how to: - Configure console monitoring and establish automated operations schedules with Operations Manager - Provision and manage tape resources to support reliable, scheduled backups with Tape Manager - Integrate these capabilities to implement fully automated backup procedures with Backup & Restore Manager Walk away with a clear, actionable approach to turning installed components into an operational, resilient system.	Jim Porell
From Setup to Insight: Building a Complete z/VM Performance Monitoring Pipeline	Learn how to rapidly stand up a comprehensive z/VM performance monitoring environment using IBM tools. Beginning with core data collection and the Performance Toolkit, you'll then enable OMEGAMON for deep system and Linux visibility, and finalize your solution with the z/VM Performance Data Pump for data integration and analytics. Walk away with a clear, repeatable blueprint for operational insight.	Jim Porell
Build Your Own Linux	This session will expose the secrets of z/VM for amazing tricks Linux can do nowhere else. z/VM is the original personal computer and more powerful than any other hypervisor. Linux is the one truly open source Unix-like system and more flexible than all else. Together they serve everyone from hobbyist or student to Fortune 100 enterprise. This session will discuss and demonstrate building from source, shared disk, immutable systems, and extreme customization.	Rick Troth
Deploying Encrypted Filesystems in Linux under zVM	The CITI LinuxONE team was asked to provide encrypted Mongo database to meet PCI-DSS global requirements. Using zVM and custom built processes we were able to deploy hundreds of LUKS based filesystems	The CITI team
Networking on IBM z17 with EQDIO and z/VM: What it Means for You	When IBM z17 made its debut last year, new chip hardware was been introduced to offload IO and enable faster CP processing. The transition from QDIO to EQDIO is taking place, and the NETH card introduced alongside z17 consolidates adapter hardware. What does all this even mean for YOU and z/VM?	Montana Lee
Introduction to Virtualization with z/VM	An introductory class that covers some of the key reasons for virtualization technology, its fundamental concepts, and how z/VM fits into the 'big picture'; later relating these fundamental virtualization concepts to how they are actually implemented within z/VM itself.	Montana Lee
z/VM and Virtualization Hands-on Lab - Choose your own Lab	In this multi-part hands-on lab you choose hands-on lab exercises from one of these options: z/VM 7.4 SSI Installation and Configuration z/VM Upgrade In Place from 7.3 to 7.4, Implement z/VM 7.4 Centralized Service Management, Implement RACF on a z/VM 7.4 system using Alan Altmarks "RACF The Right Way" pattern, implement z/VM 7.4 Datapump, DPM and KVM (modify a dpm partition, install Ubuntu 24.04 as a KVM host, install virtual machines) Most of these choices will take the full number of session slots, so it will not be possible to complete multiple labs. Each lab selection comes with a comprehensive lab workbook that provides step by step instructions and will be useful as a reference later. This session is intended for both beginners in z/VM and those who may have familiarity with z/VM but need a refresher.	Richard Lewis

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Linux for IBM Z Installation Hands-on Workshop	This hands-on lab will provide an opportunity to install Linux for IBM Z into a z/VM virtual machine, do some basic system administration and configure commonly used packages such as Apache. There will also be an opportunity to install the docker engine and create some basic images and run those images in containers. The choices for installation will be RedHat 9.7, SUSE SLES 15 SP6, and Ubuntu 24.04 LTS. This is a multi-part lab to provide enough time to work through the lab workbook.	Richard Lewis
VSE's Blueprint for Achieving Formula One Success	Success on the track depends on a finely tuned race car supported by a well-equipped, high-performing team. Similarly, navigating the VSE ecosystem effectively requires the right tools and the expertise to use them. Join us as we take you through the VSE circuit and explore how a comprehensive portfolio of solutions can drive you all the way to victory lane.	Robert Dougherty
A Mainframe Update from Germany	From relocating a rack-mounted IBM z16 and DS8910F storage system to experimenting with AI-assisted COBOL documentation, there is currently no shortage of activity in my mainframe environment at SDK. In this session, I provide an update from Germany on current infrastructure and development projects. Topics include the upcoming datacenter relocation, insurance consolidation activities, modernization efforts around VSEn, security improvements, and enhancements for COBOL development using Visual Studio Code. I will also share first experiences using AI technologies to improve COBOL documentation and application understanding. Alongside the technical topics, I will share lessons learned and a few entertaining moments from daily mainframe operations — because enterprise IT projects rarely go exactly as planned.	Michael Tores
z/VM I/O Update for 2026	This presentation provides a closer look at several upcoming z/VM updates for I/O, including new 1-END HYPERPAV HYPERSWAP enablement, FICON RAS support, SCSI recovery improvements, PCIe device pooling, and more IO-related z/VM upgrades.	Steven Horvath
Networking with the z/VM Virtual Switch	The z/VM virtual switch is a powerful option for connecting your virtual machines to an external network. We'll discuss various deployment options, including IEEE VLANs, link aggregation, global VSWITCHes with shared link aggregation port groups, the HiperSocket bridge, and the new support for the Network Express (OSH) adapter. We'll even spend some time talking about how to diagnose problems.	Alan Altmark
ZIP Through Install with GetShopz	You may know GetShopz as a CMS utility that simplifies and secures the transfer of z/VM service from IBM Shopz and IBM ServiceLink to a z/VM system. New in the latest release, GetShopz dramatically speeds up second-level installation and upgrade by accelerating the transfer and decompression of installation media ZIP files. We will step through existing and brand-new workflows to benefit both new and experienced users of GetShopz.	Sam Capodiccio
RACF: The Right Way	In this session we will talk about the right way to deploy RACF on z/VM. The speaker has done many RACF deployments and has strong opinions on what constitutes the right way. (Yes, Virginia, there is a wrong way!) We'll talk not only about policy, but about the mechanics of deploying RACF the right way the first time, including the latest updates to RPDIRCT in z/VM 7.4.	Alan Altmark
A Hardware Primer for System Programmers	What's a PCHID? How is that different from a CHPID? A port? An IODF? What's a cylinder? A track? A minidisk? What's a MIF ID? LSS? If you are new to the platform, some of the IBM Z and LinuxONE hardware terminology can feel a bit daunting at first. In this session we will discuss some of these basic terms. While the commands and outputs are from z/VM, the concepts are cross platform. This is not only a good place for beginners, but it's a great way to refresh those old memories if you've been out of the game for a while!	Alan Altmark
Optimization and Simplification Tips for Deploying z/VM products	Acquisitions, scaling, or hardware upgrades often require product environment updates. In this session, we will share simple techniques and standard practices to save time, reduce effort, and eliminate errors through optimized processes. Learn why copying existing configurations beats starting from scratch. Review best practices for working with primary, alternate, and previous runtime environments, and how flexible service deployments and cloning can streamline z/VM product environment management.	Brian Jagos
A Beginner's Perspective: Q&A With A VCU Student	A Beginner's Perspective: Q&A With A VCU Student (This is your opportunity to interrogate a student with all your questions!) Victoria Castagnola / castagnola.victoria@gmail.com This will be an opportunity for mainframe experts, newbies, and anyone in-between to ask for a beginner mainframer's perspective on things. At the speaker's first SHARE, she noticed that a lot of people wanted to know about what students thought about certain topics, mainframe-specific or technology related in general, especially from someone that didn't have to speak for a certain company or technology. Presentation will follow a loose topic format in which speaker will talk about her computer science journey and how she got interested in mainframe and then open the floor to questions and conversation. There will be some other topics included like the ever-present "modernization" and Victoria's take on what that even means. Any questions welcome.	Victoria Castagnola
Putting the ME in MainfraME	With the constant allure of trendy, new technologies, like AI, ML, and VR, why should you consider a career in mainframes? Join me as I share advice I've learned in the first five years of my career journey working on the mainframe, as well as how you can apply what you've learned in college as you start your role, to inspire your career decisions.	Arielle Goldberg

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EMMA: A New Mainframe Education and Apprenticeship Engagement Model	The current educational and apprenticeship engagement model is failing to fulfill the needs of individuals looking to enter into a mainframe career and the corporations that have specific legacy environment personnel. The model being presented by EMMA, focuses the individual training to meet the desires of individuals by training to a career path. The model focuses and streamlines corporate legacy environment succession plan mitigation by tailoring the course structure to the specific needs.	Jeff Brown
IBM Cloud Infrastructure Center (ICIC): Core Architecture and Recent Advancements	This presentation is a foundational deep dive into the ICIC architecture, exploring how it simplifies IaaS management for IBM z/VM and other hypervisors. Focus will be given to recent release cycles, specifically highlighting the high-impact enhancements introduced in the recent General Availability (GA) V1.2.5. Attendees will learn about improved scalability, security hardening, and revamped user interfaces.	Sarah Becker
Updates on CSI International Development	<p>This presentation will bring our z/VSE and VSEn customers up to date on new and important progress from CSI International. With the new announcement of the z17, CSI has been working hard to provide new and comprehensive advances. This presentation will highlight CSI International's continued commitment to the z/VSE and VSEn platform.</p> <p>We will explore all the exciting changes and enhancements available for TCP/IP. Addressing stronger support for security, TLS, and dynamic adjustments to deal with internet attacks.</p> <p>Z/Cobol is our newest addition to our catalogue of tools and features available for the VSE. We will go over the progress of the Beta process and provide details of some of the advanced features available in this new language.</p> <p>Data Miner Dash is a fast and easy way to examine data or produce reports with a minimal effort. We will go through what is new with this product and discuss some of the many success stories from the industry.</p> <p>Network Folding has been incorporated into our new Network Appliance, allowing a wider range of implementation. This new produce significantly reduces network congestion in VSE and many other adjacent platforms.</p>	John Rankin
Mainframe Evolution: Securing, Monitoring, and Scaling with Next-Gen Open Source	The open source movement has fundamentally redefined enterprise computing, proving that the traditional mainframe is not only alive but thriving as a modern, agile pillar of business infrastructure. The Open Mainframe Project currently stands as the vendor-neutral home for global community collaboration on the mainframe. This session delivers a comprehensive look into the cutting-edge milestones transforming the enterprise ecosystem today. We will explore the launch of the new Mainframe Infrastructure - a landmark milestone that establishes a clear, governed path to infrastructure access for open source projects worldwide. Attendees will discover how foundational initiatives like Zowe bridge modern DevOps tooling with traditional z/OS environments, and how Open Mainframe Project continues to cultivate the next generation of mainframers through its global mentorships, diversity initiatives, and projects like Mainframe Open Education, Feilong and the Mainframe Software Hub for Linux. Join us to learn how open source collaboration is ensuring long-term sustainability, accelerating delivery, and modernizing the enterprise mainframe for the decade ahead.	Leonard Santalucia
z/VM - KVM - OpenShift Virtualization: Hypervisor choices for IBM Z	Virtualization has always been a strength of the mainframe platform. Today, users can choose between a variety of hypervisor options to run their workloads, including IBM's z/VM, Linux' KVM technology, and Red Hat's OpenShift Virtualization. We will explore the main characteristics and unique capabilities of those solutions, look at our strategy around future development and upcoming enhancements in the virtualization space, and discuss considerations for making an informed choice which hypervisor can best fit your needs.	Ulrich Weigand

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<p>Unlocking VSEn Data for Real Time Operational Use Cases and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Leverage and Acceleration</p>	<p>Your mainframe is your most valuable AI asset. Here's how to unlock it. Imagine an Operational Data Fabric (ODF) that provides real time and non-disruptive access to mainframe sources without requiring the data to be moved. The ODF simply makes the data consumable.</p> <p>This Operational Data Fabric doesn't just move raw data — it assembles it into business entities. For example, the ODF pulls together everything the mainframe knows about a Customer, (accounts, transactions, policies, billing history), alongside data from CRM, digital channels, and other systems, and presents it as a unified, governed, real-time data product. This is the "context" that makes the difference between an AI model that hallucinates and one that reasons accurately. Mainframe data has the transactional depth; this ODF gives it the structure.</p> <p>This structure provides AI-readiness without re-architecture. What AI needs is context-enriched, entity-resolved, temporally consistent data — essentially what a human analyst would assemble before making a decision. The ODF automates this assembly at runtime. Your mainframe transaction history becomes immediately usable as AI training context and real-time retrieval augmentation, without touching your mainframe architecture.</p> <p>Come learn more about how we are enabling others to implement this at Enterprise scale!</p>	<p>Boris Bulanov</p>
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