

VM Workshop 2025 - Session Abstracts

Title	Synopsis	Presenter
Bit Talks with Friends	Join us in this session as Bill Bitner sits down with VM Community members Rick Barlow, Richard Lewis, and Rick Troth to hear their stories. Find out how they got into the z/VM space, what surprises they found, and how they grew their knowledge of VM. When we tell our stories and we listen to others tell their stories, we often learn that we're not alone. We're much better together.	Bill Bitner
EMMA: The Creation of a Mainframe Apprenticeship	The Eli Madison Memorial Apprenticeship (EMMA) is a mainframe focused apprenticeship program. It uses the traditional apprenticeship model for technical roles. We feel this is THE solution to the "mainframe skills shortage" and have buy in from industry and the community at large. Currently involved are 3 mainframe ISVs, 185 apprentices, 6 university professors at 5 universities, and 8 full time volunteers. EMMA is ready to do business.	Cameron Seay
An Introduction to z/VM	This is an introductory class to computers before the age of personal computers but when the "cloud" of today was the same as the "cloud" of yesteryear; e.g. somebody else's system. We'll review the virtualization basics, z/VM basics and how the z/VM hypervisor does its thing without being too "in the weeds".	Sam Cohen
z/VM Directory Tricks and Techniques	This session is designed as a follow-on to the z/VM Introduction. The concept and structure of the z/VM Directory is discussed, along some hints and tips to make the Directory easier to manage and more securable. Using these hints and tips can make External Security Manager (ESM) implementation easier to accomplish.	Sam Cohen
Implementing Fibre Channel Protocol-attached Devices	When connecting to SAN-attached storage, you will likely be communicating via Fibre Channel Protocol instead of FICON. This session will discuss all the steps involved in implementing an FCP connection from an IBM zSystem to an "open system" storage device. Knowledge of how traditional z storage attaches to an IBM zSystem is helpful but not required.	Sam Cohen
Workshop Opening Session	Welcome to the workshop. Go over what to expect and who you can talk to you. Introduce the sponsors and enjoy the keynote speaker.	Michael Giglio
Workshop Closing Session	Closing remarks, announce the winner of the Fallen Knight Scholarship.	Michael Giglio
IBM z/VM ESI – What is it, what's new, what's next	If you have not yet heard about the IBM z/VM Express System Install project, this session will cover the concept, how it came to be, and what has been included so far. Speakers from IBM's zAcceleration, WW LinuxONE Client Success, and Washington Systems Center will cover the details explaining why the ESI deployment bundle for z/VM is becoming so popular and how much time it can save you on your journey to hybrid cloud. Discover just how quick and easy deploying z/VM can really be! We will also cover what has been added, improved, or enhanced due to the recent GA of z/VM 7.4. The ESI project team also wants to hear from customers in the session about what you would like to see potentially added to the ESI bundle going forward.	Paul Novak
Who's Afraid of SSI?	I tell the story of migrating a heavily customized z/VM 7.2 in a CSE configuration to z/VM 7.3 SSI, and the challenges experienced. Join me to hear my tales of woe, of sleepless nights and lessons learned. I'll share some new techniques I picked up along the way and hopefully entertain you for about an hour.	Clayton Slaughter
Teaching With zClouds	Join IBM Champions Cameron Seay (East Carolina University), Len Santalucia (Vicom Infinity), Kurt Acker (Velocity Software), along with some admins and students to hear how universities are using Linux on Velocity (zLOV) as a base to manage their hybrid clouds with IBM z and LinuxONE Systems. Much like all businesses today, colleges and universities have compute requirements with budgets that must be managed in a cost controlled fashion. Teaching with zClouds focuses on the collaboration between IBM, IBM Business Partners and universities to help bring zSkills to a younger generation while maintaining their business requirements. Our goal is to provide insight from students, faculty and the collective teams involved that helped to make it all happen.	Kurt Acker
What's New in Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform on IBM Z and LinuxONE	Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform provides the foundation for containerized workloads on IBM Z and LinuxONE . Join us for the latest news, enhancements, and use cases available with Red Hat OpenShift.	Stev Glodowski

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<p>Practical z/VM Automation using Ansible and Terraform</p>	<p>Ansible is a popular Open Source system management framework that can be used to manage a huge array of different types of equipment, from network switches to storage subsystems to operating systems. Terraform is also popular in system administration circles for providing "infrastructure-as-code", often as part of a development team's CI-CD environment. This session will cover some of the "good, bad, and ugly" of using Ansible and Terraform to manage z/VM systems, the guests that run on them, and the partitions and machines on which they run.</p>	<p>Vic Cross</p>
<p>What's New in IBM's IaaS Platform Solution - Cloud Infrastructure Center</p>	<p>What's New in IBM's IaaS Platform Solution - Cloud Infrastructure Center With the latest release of IBM Cloud Infrastructure Center, we are providing new capabilities for our new and existing customers. Join us for a tour to explore the latest enhancements, use cases and news regarding IBM Cloud Infrastructure Center.</p>	<p>Stev Glodowski</p>
<p>New Virtualization for IBM Z & LinuxONE - Red Hat OpenShift Virtualization</p>	<p>This session will highlight Red Hat OpenShift Virtualization, which enables the capability to run workloads in Virtual Machines, side by side with Containerized workloads, under the control of Red Hat OpenShift tools. It will outline the technology and the business aspects such as licensing for the workloads using Red Hat OpenShift virtualization.</p>	<p>Wilhelm Mild, Stev Glodowski</p>
<p>Linux on IBM Z and LinuxONE: What's New and what for</p>	<p>This session will start with a brief overview of all available Linux distributions on the IBM Z and LinuxONE platforms, adding existing and upcoming features that are currently developed by IBM and the open source community. It will illustrate how to apply them effectively, and what aspects to pay attention to, for maximum benefit. The presentation will address both, IBM Z and LinuxONE-specific features, as well as platform-independent developments, and will end with the latest news on KVM on the platform.</p>	<p>Wilhelm Mild</p>
<p>How to Build a Multi-Architecture solution with Red Hat OpenShift on IBM Z, zCX or LinuxONE</p>	<p>This session will illustrate the requirements and steps for building a Multi-Architecture solution with Red Hat OpenShift, running it on IBM Z, in z/OS zCX or IBM LinuxONE and the Points of Value for such solutions.</p>	<p>Wilhelm Mild</p>
<p>BoF: What is different in a HA/DR architecture with Red Hat Openshift</p>	<p>Let's discuss in this Birth of a Feather where are the challenges and what needs to be considered when building a Hybrid Cloud solution, considering the new capabilities for HA / DR, but also considering and integrating with existing processes for traditional workloads in IBM Z. We will cover new capabilities for applications and the associated storage if they are running containerized in Red Hat OpenShift on IBM Z, zCX and LinuxONE.</p>	<p>Wilhelm Mild</p>
<p>z/VM and Virtualization Hands-on Lab - Choose your own Lab</p>	<p>In this four-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 Installation from 7.3 to 7.4, Implement z/VM 7.3 Centralized Service Managment, clone an existing z/VM 7.3 SSI member to create a new member in slot 8, implement z/VM 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.</p>	<p>Richard Lewis</p>
<p>Linux for IBM Z Installation Hands-on Lab - Choose your own Lab</p>	<p>This three-part 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 container engine and create some basic images and run those images in containers. The choices for installation will be RedHat 9.5, SUSE SLES 15 SP3, and Ubuntu 24.04 LTS. This is a three part lab to provide enough time to work through the lab workbook</p>	<p>Richard Lewis</p>
<p>Dispelling the Myths Around Open Source on the Mainframe</p>	<p>Wondering if Open Source is right for you and your organization? Don't know what you don't know? Is it myth or fact? Let the experts from within the Open Mainframe Project help you weed it all out. Fact or fiction, we will help you understand why Open Source IS right for you and your organization.</p>	<p>Leonard Santalucia</p>

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Help Wanted: Evangelize the Mainframe to the Next Generation	In the United States, approximately 59,000 computer science students graduate college every year while 10,000+ baby boomers retire and leave the work force every day. There just aren't enough students to back-fill the roles that the baby boomer generation continue to leave behind. In 2020, there were more than 84,000 mainframe positions open and not enough practitioners to fill them. Using a presentation I call "IT' Best Kept Secret" I highlight to students an important technology that they are not aware of, and a career path they may want to pursue. This session will highlight the need for the current mainframe community to evangelize mainframe career opportunities to students. In this session I review my easy to use customizable presentation that you can take out to local high school and college students to advocate career opportunities on IBM z Systems and to encourage students to pursue educational opportunities at colleges and universities that teach mainframe topics, to keep those classes running.	Marc Smith
Students: An Introduction to ITs Best Kept Secret	This presentation is intended for our student attendees as a general introduction to the mainframe. I cover what is a mainframe, examples of who uses the IBM Z Systems, and recommendations on how to pursue a career around the mainframe.	Marc Smith
(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.	Karishma Deole
What It Means to Measure IBM Z Security	We know IBM Z is the most securable platform in the world. How do we prove it? By working with worldwide experts and trusted third parties. (Don't take *our* word for it.) This presentation covers the security certification landscape for the IBM Z platform (from metal to cloud) -- what the acronyms are, what it means, what it doesn't mean, and how these evaluations correlate to the industry standards and geo laws to which one must adhere.	Brian Hugenbruch
Saying Goodbye to LDAP on z/VM	IBM issued a Statement of Direction with the release of z/VM V7.4 to warn users that the LDAP/VM server would be going away in a future release. Identity management wasn't easy befoer, and IBM acknowledges that this is a non-trivial move. So let's talk about it. This presentation will provide an overview of where LDAP mattered on z/VM, the ways in which it can be superseded or replaced today, and will cover a few details regarding in-development efforts to seek out and eliminate pain points in the identity management space.	Brian Hugenbruch
z/VM Problem Determination & Data Collection	New to supporting z/VM? This session covers the basics of troubleshooting and data collection when things go wrong to help IBM help you. Learn how to identify common issues, gather the right diagnostics (like dumps and logs), and avoid common pitfalls in paging, storage, and system configuration.	Dan Shekhtman
Keep Calm and Virtualize On: Communication, Coordination, and Recovery During a Crisis	Successful crisis response is about more than fixing a bug—it's about leading through uncertainty. Join this session to learn how to guide clients and teams through major disruptions with empathy, accuracy, and structure. Topics include establishing shared understanding, documenting clearly, managing escalation paths, and driving coordinated recovery.	Dan Shekhtman
z/VM Platform Update	An overview changes introduced with z/VM 7.4, the most recent release of z/VM as well as an overview of recent functional enhancements of z/VM 7.3 and published statement of directions for the next z/VM releases.	Frederik Hartmann
z/VM: Beyond the Horizon	An update and discussion on the current z/VM focus and strategy, planned enhancements and upcoming changes.	Frederik Hartmann
Linear Service for z/VM 7.4 and beyond	Deep dive into the new linear service philosophy and process introduced with z/VM 7.4, including an overview of recommended customer service tracks, implications on test environments and upcoming improvements.	Frederik Hartmann
GDPS v4.8 Update - What's New in HA/DR?	GDPS is IBM's premier continuous availability and disaster recovery solution for managing z/OS, z/VM, and Linux on IBM Z and their data, both within and across sites. In addition to the array of tightly integrated capabilities associated with IBM Z and data, GDPS extends its reach to heterogeneous platforms for end-to-end availability and recovery management. In this session we provide you with an update on the exciting new features and functions added in the latest release of GDPS, Including new products and the brand new V4R8.	Steven Cook

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GDPS Cyber Resiliency	Threats to your business data can be external or internal. GDPS Cyber Resiliency increases your security capabilities to prevent even a privileged user from compromising your production data, systems, and protected copies of this data. You will be provided with capabilities to regularly create secure, Point-in-time copies of data to use for Logical Corruption Protection scenarios. You will see how GDPS Cyber Resiliency uses storage, operating systems, and middleware to enable protection, forensic analysis, and recovery use cases for Logical Corruption Protection vaulted copies. Updates to previous presentations include new roles and action verification.	Steven Cook
GDPS & GVA Overview	This session will overview how GDPS, IBM's multi-site application availability solution, integrates key availability technologies such as z/OS, z/VM, Linux, and remote copy technologies with automation to enhance application availability and improve DR for z/OS, VM, and Linux on z. The enhanced GVA, GDPS Virtual Appliance, which runs on LinuxONE systems with z/VM and Linux guests will be highlighted. GDPS offers the state of the art in terms of performance towards continuous availability. Additionally, GDPS offers our clients a way to fulfill their regulatory and business compliance requirements by granting them "insurance" in case of a disaster (i.e., disaster recovery - DR) and providing high availability (HA) as well as ease and continuity of operations (CO).	Steven Cook
Got GetShopz?	This session will cover the purpose, function, and usage of the GetShopz program on CMS. GetShopz simplifies the transfer to a z/VM system for z/VM 7.4 service ordered through IBM Shopz or IBM ServiceLink. In addition, GetShopz can be used to transfer an order for a program product to the z/VM system. Participants will be walked step-by-step through a direct-to-host transfer for Shopz as well as ServiceLink. A workstation upload option is available for z/VM systems that cannot connect to the IBM download site. Additionally, GetShopz enables security features such as Digital Signature Verification to ensure that service packages arrive intact and unaltered. A participant familiar with CMS but unfamiliar with GetShopz can expect to walk away understanding how to get started with the utility and the benefits of doing so. Previous users of GetShopz also gain value from the presentation as new features from the z/VM 7.4 1Q25 feature pack are covered.	Sam Capodici
Introduction to z/VM Installation and Upgrade	This session aims to give the participant an introductory understanding of z/VM traditional installation and upgrade installation. No experience with install/upgrade is required, and students are welcome. Basic concepts and DASD/minidisk layouts are introduced using diagrams to lay a foundation for each process. Then, the steps for the process are covered at a higher level, with references to further reading. Participants come away confident to approach the z/VM Installation Guide. This session is excellent preparation for those wishing to attend the "z/VM and Virtualization Hands-on Lab", where they can choose to perform an upgrade installation themselves. This session does not include a live demo, but uses photos of real output to engage with the process.	Sam Capodici
Gen Z on IBM Z – Same Platform, New Faces	Join Olivia Ecock as she sits down with new IBM z/VM Developers Caroline Hart, Daniel Shekhtman, Montana Lee, and Sam Capodici to hear their stories. Find out what led them to the mainframe, how it's differed from what they learned in school, what pain points and challenges they've faced in learning the ropes, and in what ways they'd like to enhance z/VM and the IBM Z experience.	Olivia Ecock