# VM Workshop 2025 - Session Abstracts

| Title | Synopsis | Presenter |
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| Claude3270 - A (Free) AI-assisted 3270 emulator | Claude3270 is a FREE, Open Source TN3270 emulator written in Java. It supports multiple screen sizes, color, highlighting, IND$FILE transfer, TLS and other basics. It also supports integrated AI assist. This was a collaborative effort between the author and several AI models, with Claude.ai performing the bulk of the effort. Come hear the origin story of Claude3270 and perhaps give it a whirl. | Arty Ecock |
| 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 Wilhelm Mild, Rich Smrcina, and James Vincent. | Bill Bitner |
| User Experience Setting Up RedHat Openshift Container Platform Single-Node on z | Several years ago, I presented a session on setting up Openshift Container Platform (RHOCP) on z. In new RHOCP releases, you can now setup a single virtual machine to do all the work (instead of having 5 virtual machines). 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 |
| User Experience setting up RHOCP multiple nodes with Assisted Installation | In 2023, I presented my experience with setting Redhat Openshift Container Platform (RHOCP), including background on terminology and steps needed to install. Over the last few years, Redhat introduced an Assisted Installation process to reduce the steps. It is now easier, but there are some steps still needed that are not intuitively obvious to the typical IBM z SysProg. I'll review the steps I went through to get the cluster rebuilt from scratch using the 4.20 release of RHOCP and a custom-built initial bootup environment. | Sam Cohen |
| 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 mucn 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, Karishma Deole |
| State of the LinuxONE | This session delivers a focused technical update on the IBM LinuxONE platform, highlighting recent advancements in performance, scalability, and security. The session covers footprint and energyá↔efficiency gains enabled by largeá↔scale consolidation, as well as new capabilities in hardware acceleration, cryptographic processing, and highá↔availability design. Attendees will leave with a clear understanding of the current technical landscape of LinuxONE and how recent enhancements can be leveraged to modernize applications, reduce operational complexity, and improve resilience in hybrid cloud environments. | Kenny Stine |
| 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 |
| Practical z/VM Automation with Terraform and Ansible | Ansible is a popular Open Source system management framework that can be used to manage a vast array of different types of equipment, from network switches to storage subsystems to operating systems. Terraform is also popular with sys-admins 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. The session has been updated for 2026 to include some work-in-progress capabilities, and a demo of CI-CD integration! | Vic Cross |
| 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 |
| Network topologies for Linux on IBM Z and z/OS or VSE Co-location and Hybrid Clouds | The capability of IBM Z internal networks and new requirements for shared and secured networks, generate a variety of dependencies and network topologies that will be demystified in this session. The type of workloads and their characteristics and the requirements of the entire environment have a big say how the best network topology can be build. This session will guide through those decisions and their impact. | Wilhelm Mild |
| IBM Z & LinuxONE is the Largest Scalable Server for Data Serving and AI | This session will highlight the capabilities to use Linux on IBM Z or IBM LinuxONE as data serving platform, by integrating data from distributed environments, z/OS or VSE and consolidating data from different sources and Multi-Architectures to a Pool, that can serve as universal database, Data Warehouse, or Hybrid Data cloud, which can be enriched with AI capabilities using Hardware acceleration on the platform, highs flexibility depending on your use case. | Wilhelm Mild |
| How to Build a Secure Central Hub for Automation, Management & Operation on IBM Z / LinuxONE | The session will show how to build a highly secure, Quantum safe Enterprise Hub for a global automation, the secure gateway or management portal to your enterprise or the central operation and observability hub either on a separate IBM LinuxONE machine or on LPAR(s) in your IBM Z landscape. It takes advantage of the security capabilities of the mainframe for the most robust scalable and secure multi-function Hub. | Wilhelm Mild |
| For New to Z attendance: Why You Should Consider a Career with Mainframe | Starting as a programmer for mainframes, I decided for a technical career path for developing new integration functions on the mainframe and interact with customers. Then I evolved to solution design and I got to a certified Thought Leader Architect. After several larger engagements with New to Z teams the repeating question is about arguments to learn and consider a career with the Mainframe. In this session I'd like to empower with the arguments from my career path and a view of various enterprises, I support worldwide. | Wilhelm Mild |
| 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 |
| 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 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 |
| z/VM System Allocation Space Management | Setting up a z/VM system is usually a straight-forward process. But once it is set up and you begin using it for real work, there are things you need to keep an eye on or bad things may happen. In this session, the speaker will explain what the z/VM System Allocation Spaces are and what you need to do to keep things running smoothly on your system, including tips on automation so that you can avoid phone calls in the middle of the night! | James Vincent |

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| Getting around CP/CMS | In this session, the speaker will cover some of the basic terms, concepts commands and utilities in CP and CMS. The intent is to give newer users of the z/VM system the knowledge and tools to logon to z/VM and use it well enough to be productive. The content is for anyone new to z/VM that are planning to use the system as an end-user, system admin or even a development role. | 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 |
| Getting the Most out of the Latest Features in Linux on IBM Z & LinuxONE | Content: IBM z17 & LinuxONE 5; Linux on IBM Z & LinuxONE Distributions; Latest Linux on IBM Z & LinuxONE Features and Packages; Linux Security certificates | Thomas Immel |
| Put the Pedal to the Metal - Maximising Linux on IBM Z and LinuxONE Feature Usage | So you got Linux on IBM Z or LinuxONE up and running, workloads are humming. But are you really taking advantage of all the possibilities...? | Thomas Immel |
| How to connect on conferences fast. | The idea behind this presentation would be: How can i connect to others during a conference fast and convenient. My solution are writable NFC tags. On those chips can several information shared like: Link to your linkedIn Profile; Link to a home page; Address; eMail. As usual there are some pro and cons. After a short presentation i plan a more interactive part where attendees can write NFC tags with their own mobile phone. iPhone and Andrioid Phones (with NFC reader) are needed for full experience. | Thomas Immel |
| 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 |