EPV Technologies

Newsletter
October 2022

THIS MONTH HIGHLIGHTS

- System Z Update 2022
- IBM Mainframe Life Cycle History

System Z Update 2022

System Z continues to evolve introducing new hardware and software technologies.
In this virtual conference we will focus on the performance and security characteristics of the new IBM z16 machines.
We will also discuss some of the most useful metrics which can be used to measure them.

The conference will be held, in cooperation with IBM, on November 29th and repeated on November 30th.

Agenda		
29th and 30th November 2022		
08:55 – 09:00 Welcome and introduction	Danilo Gipponi	EPV Technologies
09:00 – 09:30 IBM z16 Technical Overview	Francesco Bertagnolli	IBM
09:45 – 10:15 Exploiting SMF 113 counters in z16	Fabio Massimo Ottaviani	EPV Technologies
10:30 – 11:00 Transform your IBM z16 in an AI-driven data hub	Francesco Borrello	IBM
11:15 – 11:30 Coffee break		
11:30 – 12:00 Driving Mainframe Security into a new digital age	Luigi Perrone	IBM
12:15 – 12:45 Monitoring connections security with zERT	Matteo Bottazzi	EPV Technologies
13:00 End of conference		

Subscription

The conference is free of charge and reserved to EPV customers, partners and invited guests.
If you are not a customer yet but you are interested in participating, please answer to this e-mail asking for an invitation.

The subscription form is available at: www.epvtech.com

IBM Mainframe Life Cycle History

Each family of the IBM Z mainframe hardware products follows a similar life cycle pattern: product announcement, general availability, marketing withdrawal, and service discontinuance. Historically each mainframe generation has a long life from general availability to service discontinuance, averaging over 11 years. In addition, family-to-family upgrade paths also provides investment protection and extension of the asset life time.
This document provides a graphic summary and details of the mainframe product life cycle since the introduction of CMOS technology in 1994.

Download it at:
IBM Mainframe Life Cycle History

Customer Questions

Can the LPARs in a TFP container be located on different CEC serial numbers?
If yes, does it have to be the same country or can it expand countries?

***EPV Technical Support answer***

The answer to the first question is yes. LPARs in a TFP container can be located on different CECs.

For what concerns the second question, if IBM did not change the rules recently, a TFP container must include LPARs in the same country. In each county there is a different IBM organization and different laws so managing a unique contract would be complex.

In the TFP announcement IBM says:

"For the purposes of the Tailored Fit Pricing for IBM Z solution, an enterprise is defined as any legal entity, and the subsidiaries it owns by more than 50%, within a single country. Clients may have only one Enterprise Consumption Solution or one Enterprise Capacity Solution per country, and these solutions may not span country borders."

Little known SMF parameters
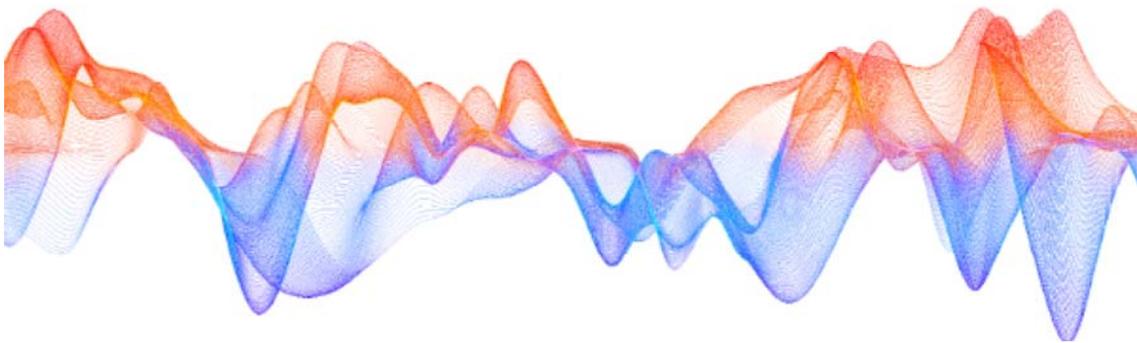
NOSIGVALIDATE/SIGVALIDATE

NOSIGVALIDATE/SIGVALIDATE is a parameter of the IFASMFDP program.
Default is NOSIGVALIDATE.

It specifies whether IFASMFDP must validate the digital signature data in the signature records in the input data sets.

With SIGVALIDATE You must specify a cryptographic public key token name (tokenname) and hash method (hashmethod) that match the signature data to be verified.

SIGVALIDATE(HASH(hashmethod),TOKENNAME(tokenname))

In HASH(hashmethod) you must specify the same hashmethod as was specified on the RECSIGN parameter in the SMFPRMxx parmlib member that was in use at the time the records were generated.
In TOKENNAME(tokenname) you must specify the same token name to be used with the specified hashing technique as was specified on the RECSIGN parameter in the SMFPRMxx parmlib member that was in use at the time the records were generated.

Please note that IFASMFDP will fail with return code 8 if SIGVALIDATE is specified and:
• no signature records are present in the input data sets;
• INDD specifies a VSAM data set;
• the data set being validated contains records from multiple systems and the SID parameter is unspecified or multiple SIDs are specified.

Quotes

"We must go on, because we can't turn back"

Robert Louis Stevenson

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