

Recommended Service Level (RSL) for z/VSE

Introduction

The Recommended Service Level (RSL) is a new preventive service offering for z/VSE, which fills the gap between z/VSE Refresh levels and the 'High impact or pervasive APAR' (HIPER) service provided via 'Preventive Service Planning (PSP) buckets. An RSL consists of a list of ALL APAR/PTF numbers, which are available at specific cut-off dates. RSLs are updated more frequently than refreshes and contain ALL available service, not only the HIPER service.

RSLs are published via special RSL PSP buckets and on the Internet via the z/VSE home page. RSL PSPs are ordered on tape like HIPER PSPs and the Internet RSLs can be ordered electronically.

This new service offering helps customers keep their z/VSE system on a current and reliable service level. An RSL should be installed on top of the latest refresh, followed by the most current HIPER PSP bucket.

RSLs are available for z/VSE releases currently in service. For z/VSE releases which are going out of service, an 'End-of-Service' RSL will be provided.

Definition

A Recommended Service Level (RSL) is defined by all APARs/PTFs, which are available (COR or PER closed) for the base and optional programs of a z/VSE refresh at the cutoff date. RSLs will be published regularly in synchronization with the availability of z/VSE refreshes. It is planned to provide RSLs at least within a 3-month cycle. After the cut-off date, the PTFs within an RSL are monitored for PEs during a period of 6 – 8 weeks before publishing.

When a new z/VSE refresh is available, the integrated service will become the RSL for the previous refresh. RSLs for previous refreshes will no longer be maintained (i.e. RSL's are not cumulative) with the exception of products, which are no longer available with the new refresh, but remain in service.

Publication and Ordering

RSLs are published via PSP on RETAIN and via the z/VSE home page:
<http://www-03.ibm.com/systems/z/os/zvse/support/preventive.html#rsl>

To order PTFs, open the appropriate PTF Order List and copy the PTF numbers over to the Electronic PTF Ordering function in IBM ShopZ:
<http://www.ibm.com/software/shopzseries>

RSL Ordering

As described above, RSLs can be ordered via PSP or via the Internet. In both cases, pre-and co-requisite (if-requisite) checking is not necessary all required PTFs are included in these lists. Known PEs are either removed or solved. Nevertheless, RSLs should be ordered with the PE checking option to detect possible new PEs. Please make sure that “Ship superseding fixes, if available” is turned off, the superseding fix might not fit into the ordered RSL.

Please note that ordering RSLs with PE checking may cause situations where a PE solution has requisites, which are not on the RSL list. In these cases it is recommended to install the RSL without the PE solution, re-order just the PE solution again with requisite checking, and install these PTFs then in addition.

Whenever possible, the latest refresh should be ordered to benefit from the integrated service. When ordering PTFs via RSL, make sure to check the PTF Coverletters for required actions.

PSP buckets and PTF order lists will be available for the latest refresh and the refresh before. Older refresh levels should be upgraded via FSU to the latest refresh level before ordering the latest RSL.

RSL Installation

Regardless whether you ordered an RSL on tape or electronically, you should use the PTF application dialog “**Apply PTFs**”. The “Analyze and Apply PTFs” dialog may fail due to the amount of PTFs contained in an RSL. The shipped service per component is listed in the RSL documentation (PSP text or Internet PDF-file).

RSLs ordered on tape may be shipped on more than one volume. You need to specify the number of tapes to the install process. Please note that MSHP processes multiple tapes in the following order:

- Mount tape 1
- MSHP scans tape 1
- Mount tape 2
- MSHP scans and processes tape 2
- Mount tape 1 again
- MSHP processes tape 1

This means that all tapes except the last one need to be mounted twice.

For a description of installing RSLs ordered via Internet refer to “**Application of z/VSE PTFs from the Internet**”, available from the z/VSE Home page:
<http://www-03.ibm.com/systems/z/os/zvse/documentation/edelivery.html#eptf>

Please ensure that the VSE file(s) are defined big enough to store the PTFs delivered with the RSL order. The required size is documented in the delivery documentation.

PSP Structure

New **VSERSLxxx** PSPs will be created for each z/VSE refresh to contain one subset for the z/VSE Base Products and one subset for each group of z/VSE Optional Products according to the following scheme:

VSERSLxxx contains RSLBASExxx, RSLLANGxxx, RSLAFPxxx, RSLNCPxxx, RSLDBxxx, RSLADxxx, RSLOTHERxxx, and, if required RSLOLDxxx.

<p>RSLBASExxx <u>z/VSE Base Products</u> ACF/VTAM CICS Transaction Server for z/VSE CICS/VSE DITTO/ESA VERSION EREP IBM High Level Assembler ICKDSF LE/VSE TCP/IP FOR VSE VSE Central Functions</p>	<p>RSLDBxxx <u>Database Products</u> IBM QMF/VSE DB2 VSAM TRANSPARENCY IBM DB2 Server IBM DB2 Client Edition Data Restore VSE Control Center VSE DL/I VSE</p>
<p>RSLADxxx <u>Application Development</u> WebSphere MQ FOR VSE SDF II VSE BASE</p>	<p>RSLLANGxxx <u>Language and Compiler Products</u> Rational COBOL RT for z/VSE IBM C for VSE IBM PL/I z/VSE IBM COBOL z/VSE RPG II Compiler CCCA VSE High Level Ass. Toolkit VSE IBM DEBUG-TOOL/VSE</p>
<p>RSLAFPxxx <u>Advanced Function Printing</u> PSF/VSE V2 Compatibility Fonts Base AFP Font Coll. for VSE PPFA/370 OGL/370</p>	<p>RSLNCPxxx <u>Network Control Products</u> ACF/NCP VSE ACF/SSP VSE X.25 NPSI EP V1 for ACF/NCP</p>
<p>RSLOTHERxxx <u>Other Optional Products</u> DFSORT/VSE GDDM/VSE CICSVR/VSE DITTO/ESA for VSE Japanese VSE/ACLR VSE Encryption Facility</p>	<p>RSLOLDxxx <u>Products no longer distributed with z/VSE</u> <u>x.x.x+1</u> Products, which are no longer shipped with the next refresh</p>

Each subset will contain a table listing the applicable APARs, the corresponding PTFs, and the component identifier. To order all the PTFs listed in a RSL, simply order the PSP subset.

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