

Lessons Learned From Putting Linux on System z in Production





Background: "zLinux Hans from WW will come and answer all your questions " - or "Did you watch up in the air?"





Disclaimer: More Questions than Answers

- Every site is different.
- I'm not omniscient
- I'm going to give you questions to ask back at your company
- I'll also take questions as we go along unless time gets short
- Most of the content is based on what I have seen at customers in Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific and to a small degree in North America
- Other IBMers / clients might experience different challenges





Survey: Who has not worked with Linux on System z before?



Traditional Mainframe

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Data Center







Traditional Mainframe	New Workload	Data Center
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Server Consolidation is like buying a printer







Promotion Price: \$99



Server Consolidation is like buying a printer





Server Consolidation is like buying a printer















Mon dessin ne représentait pas un chapeau. Il représentait un serpent boa qui digérait un éléphant















"This is a mainframe, and can lately also be used to run the Linux Operating System."





This is a high end server using Linux & Virtualization for massive Server Consolidation (IBM Enterprise Linux Server)

> "This is a main and can lately also be used to run the Linux Operating System."



Do we all speak the same language?

Bill Smith 25+ years of Mainframe experience

IPL

4-way Main Storage DASD OSA Alice Jones Grew up with a mobile phone

Multi Core Gigabit Ethernet Memory SAN

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IBM Enterprise Linux Server Offering

Linux + z/VM + z10 BC = ELS

- Standard z10 BC Mainframe
- Two 3.5GHz processors enabled for Linux
- 64 GB of memory
- Fibre and ethernet communications
- IBM Virtualisation z/VM including 3 years S&S
- HW maintenance for 3 years

Starting at a price of 294 k€ (312 k\$)! Incremental IFL starting at 96k€ (99 k\$)!

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Solution Edition for Enterprise Linux Server

The System z Solution Edition for

Enterprise Linux is a set of

- Integrated Facility for Linux (IFL)
- processors,
- memory,
- I/O connectivity
- and z/VM virtualization software
- In flexible configurations to an existing mainframe system

For Incremental new workload

Cannot be applied to existing workload





The Linux Support is not included in these bundles





Enterprise Linux Server – Entry Configuration (real customer!)



Tangible benefits:

	Existing 4 HP Alpha Server ES45 + HP disks 4x3 CPU Alpha 21264C 9x1 core Oracle license	IBM Bladecenter H 2 HS22 w/2 proc. 4-core IBM Storwize V7000 disks 16x0.5 core Oracle license	IBM Bladecenter H 2 IBM P7 PS700 4-core IBM Storage DS5020 8x1 core Oracle DB license	IBM System z10 ELS 1 IFL IBM Storwize V7000 1 Oracle EE license
1st year	164,234	219,998	242,888	234,040
2nd year	164,234	74,234	74,234	8,248
3rd year	164,234	74,234	74,234	8,248
Total (3 years)	€ 492,701	€ 368,465	€ 391,355	€ 250,537

Prices based on actual European market prices (Euro). Local pricing and conditions will vary!

Intangible benefits:

Improved security – no information leak during data copy between servers Improved availability – no network routers or switches Highest reliability and centralized systems management



Linux on IBM System z The momentum continues



Growth 4Q09 to 4Q10:

Shipped IFL volumes increased 34%

Installed IFL MIPS increased 35%

32% of System z customers have IFLs installed

64% of the Top100 System z clients are running Linux on the mainframe



The IBM Enterprise Linux Server Architecture



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Structure of Linux on System z

Many Linux software packages did not require any code changes



-1.81 % platform specific code in Linux Kernel 2.6.25 © 2011 IBM Corporation







How Do Companies Typically Select a Platform for Their Applications?

Their first question is:"Will it run there?"

Their second question is:

"How much does the hardware cost?"

They're done!

But this is just a TCA view... Is that all they should be thinking about?





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A myriad of factors influence platform selection

If we simplify it a little bit....

Business Cases

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- Sizing Servers for IFLs
- Value of Linux on System z Presentations

Linux Implementation zVM & Linux Healthcheck

IBM System z HW Loaner Progr

Architecture & Installation

Support,....

PoC

Managing a Linux POC

Value Proposition

- Learning the value of System z
 Linux
- Server Consolidation
- Sizings
- Business Case Development

POC Initiative

- Scoping POC
- POC IFL Sizings
- Real memory sizing
- Scope Document
- Statement of Work

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Managing a Linux POC

Infrastructure Planning

- Hardware
- Software
- Network
- Security
- Disk

IBM Loaner Program

- POR date
- Success Criteria
- Configs
- Sizings
- IBM Contracts
- Backup & Recovery Linux Eval

Software Evals

- Scope Document
- Project Plan

Project Planning

- Systems Assurance
- Statement of Work
- Status Report
- Phone / Email Support

Managing a Linux POC



- Other SW install
- Network
 - Security
 - Disk

Installation &

Set Up

- **DB** loads
- Application set up
- Other Distributed Servers
- **Regular Status Meeting &** Report







Managing a Linux POC











Example: Runtime Performance





Example: Runtime Performance





Choosing the Scope is Critical

... Significant enough ...

3 VM's

400 DB's

overwhelming ...



Planing





Test Plan Testing & Outline tests Something Is is is Better now? different Document performance Keep track of targets when compared Each run's changes to current & results



Learning Curve: Ask for help early

- Leverage IBM and BP resources
- Open problems with software vendors too, i.e. Oracle, RedHat or Novell





Beware of a single Benchmark POC

Stay away from performance benchmark tests that drive the IFL to 100% to determine maximum transactions compared to Intel/Power platforms.

Linux on System z "sweet spot" is as a multi-tasker.

A simple core to core comparison might not be the right approach

I know in the past we had to say this because our CPU was slow – now this is no longer the case



One Box is Enough



The reasons are compelling especially when Software which is licensed by the core is used!



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Installation Planning: First Things First

Get the right groups involved upfront





Installation Planning: First Things First



Doing anything else might get you in trouble



Installation Planning: First Things First

- Installing Linux is not like installing z/OS or z/VM (hopefully you're not surprised)
- For mainframe installs, you will need an installation server
- It's "best" if this is a Linux or UNIX system
- There must be a usable TCP/IP network connection between the installation server and your target system
- This means end-to-end, through whatever firewalls, routers, bridges, WAN links, whatever



Disk Storage Selection

- What kind of disk/DASD devices are you going to be using?
 - Directly attached (FICON or ESCON)
 - SCSI over FCP
 - iSCSI
 - SAN
 - NAS
- SCSI over FCP gives better performance, and the SAN adapters are cheaper, but you might need additional adapters on the mainframe side. (Can be used for FICON or FCP, but not both at the same time.)
- Make sure that your storage hardware is certified/compatible with z/VM & Linux on System z?
- Who do you need to work with to make that work correctly?



Don't turn a PoC into a Production Environment!

A Proof of Concept is designed to demonstrate the feasibility of a solution.





Workload share on utilized IFLs *Primary applications in the past*

60% Application serving for z/OS e.g. WebSphere, SAP, CICS TG, DB2 Connect

30% Data serving e.g. Oracle DB, DB2 UDB

- 5% Workplace serving e.g. Domino, Scalix, other e-mail
- 5% Infrastructure serving e.g. Apache, Samba, NFS, etc.

<1% Linux application development/deployment



Latest Customer Survey: Workloads run on Linux System z (Existing Customers)





Latest Customer Survey: Migrations Reasons





Latest Customer Survey: Previous Platform for Consolidated Workloads



Clients Deploy Dedicated ELS Servers For Workload Consolidation with Linux

"It has really ticked all the boxes. It reduced the dependency on a data centre, it reduced the complexity from over 60 servers down to one box, it enabled us to put a lot more robustness around it in terms of DRP and scalability, and was environmentally friendly as well."

– Steven Coles, CIO, Allianz

Smart is: Consolidating from over 60 servers to just one!

kVA power usage down from about 40 to 4

Minimum disruption in cutover to new server

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Oracle

Long-Term Partnership: Oracle & IBM have partnered for over 21 years (JD Edwards over 30 Years)

- More than 19,000 joint customers worldwide
- IBM has on-site resources at Oracle locations dedicated to testing all major Oracle applications

The core factor for z196 does not change

Oracle 11GR2 for z was released In March 2011

... We are happy To assist in Oracle DB Migrations to Linux on System z ...

Collaborate

We also have some nice Databases in our Portfolio

Compete



Oracle

"A growing number of customers are deploying System z virtual Linux servers on the Oracle Grid. Now with IBM's new aggressive pricing for Linux processors IBM has improved the economics of running Oracle solutions with IBM System z servers."

Matt Puccini, Oracle

Managing Director Oracle/IBM Integrated Solutions



Workload Migration Complexity



Strategy: Segment migration costs based on complexity of workload Objective: Minimize risk by segmenting applications into price / variability@segmentson

Migration Complexity



Workload Migration Complexity



Strategy: Segment migration costs based on complexity of workload

62 Objective: Minimize risk by segmenting applications into price / variability® segmentson



Workload Migration Complexity





Migration Cost per Server

Strategy: Segment migration costs based on complexity of workload

⁶³ Objective: Minimize risk by segmenting applications into price / variability® segmentson





Strategy: Segment migration costs based on complexity of workload

64 Objective: Minimize risk by segmenting applications into price / variability segments.

Good fit application workloads

- WebSphere MQ
- DB2 Connect
- CICS Transaction Gateway
- IMS Connect for Java
- SAP
- WebSphere and JAVA applications development
- WebSphere Application Server (WAS), Portal
- Domino

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- Network Infrastructure, FTP, NFS, DNS, …
- Oracle Database

- Applications requiring top end disaster recovery model
- Communications Server and

Communications Controller for

Linux

- Virtualization and Security Services
- InfoSphere
- Cognos
- Communigate Pro (VoIP)

• ...





Application Selection

- What applications are you going to run?
- Not everything that runs on Linux is available for Linux on System z. (Open Source included!)
- Ask your ISVs to be specific; they may need to "get back to you."
- All Open Source, all commercial, or a mixture?
- What are the virtual/real storage requirements for the applications to be run?
- Oracle can be a tremendous storage hog: But the per-processor licensing can give big savings on the software license
- How much disk space is going to be needed?
- This can drive the decision on SCSI versus ECKD
- Aggregating 3390-#'s into multiple Terabyte file systems is a pain

Have a look at the IBM Linux on System z ISV Application Directory: http://www-03.ibm.com/systems/z/solutions/isv/linuxproduct.html







Typical Recommended Solution on Linux on System z



Each blue box is a virtual Linux server.

- All Linux virtual servers draw from a common pool of memory and IFLs.
- Resources from a failed server flow to surviving servers
- Small application clusters (Just enough nodes for failover)
- Smaller cluster reduces failure points
- Two LPARs run production workload.
- Applications run in clusters split between the prod LPARs.



Deciding on a Distribution





Deciding on a Distribution

- IBM is neutral: We usually don't recommend one distribution or the other.
- Compared to the Linux on x86 market you are in the fortunate position that you only have to choose between two distributors ©
- Novell and RedHat are strategic partners of IBM.
- You can also run GNU/Debian Linux but then you can only get support from a limited number of 3rd parties (e.g. System z BP's) -also no ISV application is certified for Debian on z.
- Don't ask us about the market share. Each distributor provides different numbers which add up to more than 100% and we don't track this data on our side



Deciding on a Distribution: **Some Advice**

- If you are already familiar with one distribution on x86 you might want to run the same flavor on the mainframe
- If you plan to host an ISV application make sure that it is certified for the distribution of your choice (not all products are certified for each distro.
- Also check the release level (e.g. 5.5, 10.2)
- If you are still unsure, invite a representative of each distribution to your side



Enterprise Linux Distributions – Tested & Supported



http://www-03.ibm.com/systems/z/os/linux/resources/testedplatforms.html


Methodology for Installing and Maintaining Linux

- Cloning
- Manual installation nobody wants to install 20 servers manually, no matter if they run on x86 or the mainframe!
- Autoyast (SuSE)
- Kickstart (Red Hat)







The Why, What of Cloning

Why Cloning?

- Standardized configurations
- Facilitates maintenance testing & rollout
- Time savings
- Cost savings

What can be cloned?



z/OS: It takes ~ 2.0-2.5 Hours. Cloned by running ~50 batch jobs) **z/VM:** Takes about 2-3 minutes to clone z/VM But takes 20-30 min if Flash Copy is not available) z/Linux: Virtual Servers are cloned in < 5 minutes.
~15 minutes if Flash
Copy DASD feature not available

Who will be responsible for the virtual Linux environments

Organizational challenges and the question about responsibilities an where to draw the line between various departments





Mainframe Hardware / Storage / Network (no difference with a z/OS shop)

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z/VM: Installation, Configuration, Management -critical for the Linux deployment, cloning,....



Linux: The difference between Linux on x86 and System z is usually smaller than expected

z/VM: Installation, Configuration, Management -critical for the Linux deployment, cloning,....



Middleware: Websphere is Websphere in most Cases no matter on which OS/plattform we run it

Linux: The difference between Linux on x86 and System z is usually smaller than expected

z/VM: Installation, Configuration, Management -critical for the Linux deployment, cloning,....



Application: If possible – adjust your application to the characteristics of a virtualized environment

Middleware: Websphere is Websphere in most Cases no matter on which OS/plattform we run it

Linux: The difference between Linux on x86 and System z is usually smaller than expected

z/VM: Installation, Configuration, Management -critical for the Linux deployment, cloning,....



A typical customer: ACME Inc.

- During the second half of 2010 ACME Inc. purchased an IBM System z mainframe to act as a server consolidation platform.
- Hardware (excerpt)
 - IBM System z10 Enterprise Class
 - Model: 2097-E12
 - 96GB memory
 - 3 Integrated Facility for Linux (IFL) CPU's
 - IBM System Storage DS6800 Disk
 - Model: 1750 522
 - Parallel Access Volume (PAV) license.
- In z10 has been configured with 4 LPARs: Production, Development, Software and one reserved for future use.
- The system is going to be used as a server consolidation platform.
 - Multiple WebSphere servers running on Intel machines will be consolidated to Linux servers running as virtualized guests hosted by the z/VM operating system.
 - Each LPAR will run a z/VM 6.1 operating system.



Architectural Setup: ACME Inc.

System z10 2097 E12



For the initial implementation each LPAR has been given access to 3 shared IFL's i.e. no dedicated IPL's have been configured IFL Weight: 70% Production, 10 % Development, 10 % Test, 10 % Spare LPAR



Customer Example I

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SAP Requirement: Dev, Test & Prod Systems

EFiS Financial Solutions...

Resolves data center Pain Points and further optimizes the IT infrastructure using the IBM Enterprise Linux Server

Business need

The driving business challenge at EFiS was the requirement to reduce cost, risk and resources while increasing the efficiency and ecology at the same time. Security requirements, scalability and the need to process huge amounts of transactions while saving cost for software licenses furthermore lead to the decision to move from various hardware platforms (including x86, p-Series, SPARC/Solaris and HP) to System z running Linux.

Solution

Migrating various servers from different vendors to one IBM System z9 BC (Linux only machine), EFiS managed to optimize their data center back in 2008. The fact that fewer server had to be managed, lead to an easier control and operation of the existing environment. With the update of the current production z9 to a z10 based Enterprise Linux Server, EFiS continuous the optimization of their IT-infrastructure to the constantly changing business requirements.

Benefits:

The Continuous optimization of the IT-Infrastructure lead to fewer servers to manage - and to ease the control and operation

Reduced cost, risk and resources

Recovered data center floor space

Strengthened ability to scale with business growth



"We chose an IBM Enterprise Linux Server with a System z Business Class configuration, running SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for System z from Novell for the high reliability, advanced security, extreme scalability and high compute power this solution offers," said Ernst Bauer, Chief Operating Officer at EFiS Financial Solutions AG.

"Another crucial factor for the decision to move to this combined solution was the energy and power savings this offering from IBM and Novell could provide us.

Together with our implementation partner PROFI Engineering Systems AG we were able to integrate Green IT as an important part of our strategy.

SUSE Linux Enterprise Server for System z on an IBM Enterprise Linux Server Business Class provides us with optimal resource utilization, while addressing our critical energy and power costs."









Supports z/VM and Linux



Clients Will Adopt Cloud Computing Based on Workload Affinity



A Step-by-Step Approach for Growing Cloud on zEnterprise

Take Out Cost STEP 1 Consolidate and Virtualize

Simplify



Image Library
Image Image Image

STEP 3

Cross-architecture

Exploit the extreme virtualization capabilities of System z and z/VM Use basic z/VM features and functions to manage virtual Linux servers

Use advanced z/VM features and functions for automated operations and service delivery

Introduce Systems Director for additional image management

Add Tivoli technologies for greater levels of service management

Integrate and Optimize



zEnterprise is the industry's only multi-architecture cloud solution

Use a cloud deployment model to host multi-tier solutions across System z, POWER and System x resources

Use the Unified Resource Manager and Tivoli ISM for optimal workload placement

Cloud Offerings and Products

(z10, z196) Solution Edition for VMControl Solution Edition for Cloud

zManager **Tivoli Integrated Service**



Cloud Service Models



Business Process as a Service

Software as a Sprsingt Analytics Cloud for System z

Platform as a Service

IBM WebSphere CloudBurst Appliance

Infrastructure as a Service

IBM System z Solution Edition for Cloud Computing



Universita di Bari

Innovative Cloud Solutions for Local Businesses

Fish Market

Electronic fish auction for fishermen while on boats

Wine Market

Support for 60 wineries to determine demand and get best market price

MoniCA

Logistics solution tracks and collects data real-time

BENEFITS to Clients

Using cloud computing to allow multiple entities to tap into heavy-duty computing power at minimal cost and lowers the barrier to help local businesses to benefit from this technology.



Solution Edition for Cloud Computing



Universita di Bari, established since 1924, is developing cloud-based solutions for a consortium of companies and universities from five regions of southern Italy.

90 Press release: http://www-03.ibm.com/press/us/en/pressrelease/32051.wss



Closing Thoughts



Key Points

- App to App Migrations are very easy
 - WAS to WAS
 - Oracle to Oracle
 - Domino to Domonio
- Start small
- Use the PoC to learn the new technology
- Make use of hardware and software technologies to increase operational efficiencies and optimize workload performance while reducing Total Cost of Ownership









Competitive Considerations

Are your customers doing these 5 things?

- 1. Virtualization and server management
- 2. Security services for entire enterprise
- 3. Database and warehouse services
- 4.Cloud and cloud management
- **5**.Application development and test
- These projects are not only what you customer is doing, they are projects that are very well suited to zEnterprise



Doing More for Less



Questions?



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How to explain the benefits of running Linux on System z in 2:39? *http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0i7kBnhN3Lg*





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NOTES: Linux penguin image courtesy of Larry Ewing (lewing@isc.tamu.edu) and The GIMP

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