

2026 Australian IMS Regional User Group

IMS Regional User Group Organization

Supported by:    

Melbourne: **Tuesday 14th April 2026 – Wednesday 15th April 2026**
SG28 Design Hall,
IBM Southgate,
Level 28/60 City Road, Southbank VIC 3006

Sydney: **Monday 20th April 2026 – Tuesday 21st April 2026**
IBM Sydney,
259 George Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Speakers & International Attendees include:

From IBM:

- Damyon Thompson – IBM Director of Z Software Support, IBM SVL, USA
- Carlos Alvarado – Senior Technical Staff Member, IBM IMS Development, IBM SVL, USA
- Jitesh Moothoor, Technical Lead, IBM India Software Development Laboratories
- Tracy Dean - Product Manager, IMS Tools, z/VM Tools, DFSMS Cloud Data Manager
- Bhaskar Gupta, IBM IMS Tools Senior Product Manager
- Jonathan Howells: IBM IMS Tools Product Manager
- Ashok Mahay: Senior Product Manager, IBM Z AIOps Monitoring and Observability

From BMC Software:

- Gaurav Tikekar
- Sahil Gupta


Speaker BIOs after the agenda.

2026 Australian IMS Regional User Group

IMS Regional User Group Organization

Supported by:    

Melbourne: Tuesday 14th April Sydney: Monday 20th April	
Time	Session Details
08:45 – 09:00	Arrive and register
09:00 – 09:45 (45 mins)	IMS01: Keynote: How IBM Z Software Support is Transforming: From Reactive to Proactive Resilience & Support Topics to be covered include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IMS Trends/Directions• Z Software Support Overview/Best Practices• Z Software Support Trends/Directions• Z Software Support as Client Zero for AI Implementation Damyon Thompson, Director, IBM Z Software Support
09:45 – 10:45	IMS02: IMS in the era of AI Learn about the IBM offerings powered by AI to help you with IMS tasks and application modernization. The IMS Agent, triggered through an interaction with a watsonx Orchestrate AI chat session, allows you to get help with questions about general IMS information, command syntax, and even real-time system status obtained from a live IMS instance. And the watsonx Code Assistant for Z can help you with tasks like understanding, refactoring, and transforming code to Java. Join me to learn more... Carlos Alvarado, IBM IMS Development
10:45 – 11:15	Morning Break
11:15 – 12:15	IMS03: AI Meets IMS: Chat Assistance That Simplifies Everyday operations This session provides an overview and live demo of AMI Chat Assistance in BMC AMI Command Center for IMS, showing how natural-language chat can help users quickly access product knowledge, understand messages, and navigate common operational tasks more easily. We'll also introduce the broader machine-learning capabilities across BMC IMS solutions, highlighting how AI is designed to support—not replace—IMS practitioners. Gaurav Tikekar, BMC Software
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch

13:15 – 14:15	<p>IMS04: IMS Managed ACBs : Best Practices and DDL in Action</p> <p>This session explores key considerations and best practices for IMS Managed ACBs. It answers common questions about mACB implementation requirements and how to stay up to date with recent service updates. In addition, the session features a walkthrough of IMS DDL and the native z/OS DDL utility, followed by a demonstration of executing DDL statements using the latest IMS Explorer for VS Code plugin.</p> <p>Jitesh Moothoor, IBM India Software Development Laboratories</p>
14:15 – 15:15	<p>IMS05: IMS Analytics and Data Streaming: Turning Transactions into Insights</p> <p>Yes, IMS is almost 60 years young. Come and hear how IBM is keeping up to date by integrating with modern analytics platforms to help your organization more easily visualize how your IMS system is performing. Your company is likely already using operational analytics for other systems and you can be the hero that helps get performance data from your mission-critical IMS systems included.</p> <p>(Melbourne) Tracy Dean, IBM IMS Tools (Sydney) Bhaskar Gupta, IBM IMS Tools</p>
15:15 – 15:30	Afternoon Break
15:30 – 16:30	<p>IMS06: Omegamon Updates</p> <p>tba</p> <p>(Melbourne) Ashok Mahay – IBM Z AIOps Monitoring and Observability (Sydney) tba</p>
16:30 – 17:30	<p>IMS07: Deal with growing cybersecurity risks and do Real-time and after-the-event IMS analytics, all at the same time (DataStream)</p> <p>In this session, I am going to talk about how IMS organizations worldwide can deal with the growing risks posed by cybersecurity issues by bolstering their cross-platform cyber defense capabilities making use of up-to-the-second alerting and compliance auditing capabilities and tracking IMS Database read operations for Full Function and Fast Path databases besides also tracking IMS database update, insert, and delete actions. I am also going to talk about how IMS customers can perform real-time and after-the-event analytics on one of their most valuable assets, their IMS data.</p> <p>Sahil Gupta, BMC Software</p>
17:30 – 19:30	 Network Drinks

Melbourne: Wednesday 15th April
Sydney: Tuesday 21st April

Time	Session Details
09:00 – 10:00	<p>IMS08: Accessing IMS from JAVA Let's discover how Java can be used to interact with IMS. Learn how to use the IMS Java driver (imsudb.jar) to write programs that can interact with the IMS message queues and IMS databases when executing in IMS dependent regions (MPRs, BMPs, IFPs, JMPs, and JBPs). Also learn how the IMS Java driver can be used to create distributed Java programs that can access IMS databases. We'll also touch on the topic of the IMS Catalog and how the IMS Java driver leverages the metadata stored in it.</p> <p>Carlos Alvarado, IBM IMS Development</p>
10:00 – 10:15	Morning Break
10:15 – 11:15	<p>IMS09: Securing IMS Connect Workloads: Protecting Your Gateway to IMS IMS Connect is a critical component for enabling secure, high-performance access to IMS transactions from modern applications. This session highlights the importance of IMS Connect in today's hybrid and distributed environments and explores multiple approaches to securing IMS Connect workloads, including authentication, IP address rules, access validation, and best-practice security configurations. It concludes with key takeaways and references to help attendees further strengthen their IMS Connect architecture.</p> <p>Tracy Dean, IBM IMS Tools</p>
11:15 – 12:15	<p>IMS10: Modern Reorg for IMS Databases: Online Reorg and Fast Path Restructure Made Simple Keeping IMS databases optimized without impacting availability is a constant challenge. This session introduces BMC Modern Online REORG/Defrag for Full Function databases and Fast Path Restructure for Fast Path databases, highlighting how customers can reorganize and restructure data online, with minimal disruption and predictable performance. Attendees will gain a practical understanding of when and how to use these capabilities to improve database health, reduce outages, and simplify operations in modern IMS environments. We will also talk about recent enhancements in these areas.</p> <p>Sahil Gupta, BMC Software</p>
12:15 – 13:15	Lunch
13:15 – 14:15	<p>IMS11: Improving the IMS DBA and system programmer experience with a web browser interface As a web browser interface for IMS database administrators and system programmers, IBM IMS Administration Foundation can help both new and experienced staff more effectively learn about and interact with their IMS system.</p>

	<p>Enhancements based on customer feedback continue to expand the available functions, some for all IMS customers, others for those with IBM IMS Tools. Learn what IMS Administration Foundation is all about and what we've been delivering recently.</p> <p>Jonathan Howells, IBM IMS Tools</p>
14:15 – 14:45	Afternoon Break
14:45 – 15:45	<p>IMS12: IMS dependent regions - where COBOL and PL/I can play with Java Did you know that COBOL and PL/I programs can interact with Java code and vice versa? Join this session to learn the basics of how COBOL and PL/I code can interact with Java code within the IMS dependent regions. We'll cover the key dependent region configuration options, transaction commit cycle, the ins-and-outs of compiling and link-editing, and some best practices.</p> <p>Carlos Alvarado, IBM IMS Development</p>
16:00 – 17:00	<p>IMS13: From Reactive to Autonomous: IMS Tools in Action This session explains how to proactively monitor IMS database health and exceptions and receive automated notifications before critical issues arise, using capabilities available in IMS Solution Packs such as the Database Solution Pack. Attendees will learn how to move from reactive problem resolution to preventive monitoring.</p> <p>Bhaskar Gupta, IBM IMS Tools</p>

Speaker BIODs:

Damyon Thompson – IBM Director of IBM Z Software Support

Throughout his 20+ year career with IBM, Damyon Thompson has consistently been a catalyst for positive change, innovation, and leadership of key strategic initiatives. In his current role since 2024, —as Director of IBM Z Software Support, Damyon is leading a global team of Support Engineers supporting mission-critical System Z (mainframe) software technologies for strategic and premier clients in banking, financial services, insurance, and travel. Products within his Z Software Support portfolio include IMS, CICS, Db2 for z/OS, zDevOps & zAIOps. Damyon’s organization works closely with the Z Software Development organization and is tasked with supporting IBM clients so they can continue to run their mission critical operations uninterrupted and remain delighted with the IBM Z platform. A key focus over the past 18 months has been infusing AI & Automation into the Support processes to assist Support Engineers with increasing their productivity and responsiveness. Prior to this role, Damyon held various Development and Ecosystem experiences within IBM’s Business Automation, Z Ecosystems, and Enterprise Storage organizations, and has taken international assignments including a 2-year stint in Pune, India.

A resident of San Jose, California, — Damyon holds a Master of Science Degree in Information Technology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and holds dual undergraduate degrees, a BS in Computer Science, and a BA in Business Information Systems from Tennessee State University.

Carlos Alvarado – IBM IMS Development - USA

Carlos Alvarado is a member of the IMS technical staff. He joined IBM in 2008 and started contributing features to the IMS Connect component. He has since moved around to learn about and contribute to other IMS components. Lately he has been contributing his IMS expertise to the IBM watsonx Code Assistant for Z offering. When he’s done contributing to other IMS internal projects and initiatives, Carlos enjoys building and flying tiny drones via onboard camera and first-person view goggles. According to him, it helps to view things from a different perspective.

Jithesh Moothoor – IBM IMS Development – India

Jithesh Moothoor is a senior member of the IMS Development team in India, specializing in IMS Database Manager (DBM). With nearly two decades of experience at IBM Labs, he has played a key role in the development of multiple z/OS software products and brings extensive expertise in customer support.

Product Manager, IMS Tools, z/VM Tools, DFSMS Cloud Data Manager

Product Manager, IMS Tools, z/VM Tools, DFSMS Cloud Data Manager Tracy Dean is an IBM Product Manager, responsible for IMS Tools, z/VM Tools, and DFSMS Cloud Data Manager. With over 40 years of Z experience, she works with customers worldwide to understand their pain points and drive development teams to address their needs.

Bhaskar Gupta, IBM Senior Product Manager

Bhaskar Gupta is a Senior Product Manager at IBM with 18+ years of experience, driving innovation in IMS Tools and Agentic AI.

Jonathan Howells: IBM IMS Tools Product Manager

Jonathan Howells is working as a Product manager for IMS Tools.

Ash Mahay – IBM Omegamon Product Manager

tba

Gaurav Tikekar - BMC

With 13 years of experience designing and developing user interfaces across platforms like web, mobile, and wearables devices, I've spent the last five years in BMC Software focused on a unique challenge: transforming traditional IMS mainframe screens into modern, AI-powered web interfaces (AUI). I'm a firm believer in the power of storytelling to simplify complex technology, bridging the gap between legacy systems and the next generation of users. When I'm not reimagining the mainframe "state of play," you'll likely find me following the cricket, a sport that, much like software development, relies on great partnerships and a solid strategy to hit boundaries.

Sahil Gupta – BMC

I have approximately 17 years of experience in the mainframe industry, specializing in developing and managing enterprise-level solutions. Currently, I am working as a Lead Product Developer at BMC Software, where I focus on designing, developing, and maintaining IMS (Information Management System) database solutions. My role involves enhancing existing functionalities, implementing new features, and ensuring the reliability and efficiency of IMS database solutions for enterprise clients. Throughout my career, I have gained extensive expertise in mainframe technologies, database management, and software development, contributing to innovative and high-performance solutions in the field.