Power VUG Session 104: Networking and Admin Best Practices for Power Virtual Server

Q&A:

Q) IBM i workloads in PowerVS - when/how will IBM (going forward) address serial number dependent keys (in IBM i)? Reasonable to think that virtual Keys will be needed? Likewise how do client address things like Crypo Cards? How to handle these in PowerVS environments?

A) When an IBM i LPAR is created in PowerVS, it will get a real serial number (SN). Outside of required maintenance, which is infrequent, that SN won't change. IBM is working with clients and facilitating the conversation with their ISVs, but this is an area we are also looking for our clients to address with their ISVs.

Q) What about PowerVS available on-prem like IBM Satellite for OpenShift with x86 ?

A) PowerVS is PowerVC/OpenStack, we have PowerVC available for on-prem. We also have OpenShift Container Platform available for on-prem. All Power.

Q) We have some customers already in Softlayer IBM cloud. What is the main difference between SoftLayer IBM Cloud and new IBM Cloud?

A) The Softlayer IBM Cloud (classic) is the x86 infrastructure. The new Co-Lo is Power.

Q) What is the latency difference between VPN, Direct Link and Direct Connectivity to Onprem?

A) This is unfortunately very dependent on each enterprise's connection to the Internet.

Q) What is the typical price for "internet" network components to attach to PowerVS LPARs?

A) The IBM Cloud sales team can help with this.

Q) Can the jump server be an AIX instance?

A) The jump server in this scenario is in IBM classic so has to run on x86.

Q) When would I want to choose a Vyatta, when a vSRX?

A) There is some information about the VRA's here: https://cloud.ibm.com/docs/virtual-router-appliance. While there are technical differences between the two, it does also come down to preference and the skills of the team that will maintain this over time after it is implemented.

Q) Can Scenario 2 be proposed to customer with small PowerVS footprint (4-5 VM) Prod workloads?

A) Yes you can.

Q) Can you use BGP on Direct Link Connect?

A) Yes, those are BGP routes that comprise Direct Link Connect.

Q) Can i attach/link other IBM Cloud offering e.g. X86 , AC922 with GPU etc. to my PowerVS IaaS Ecosystem connected to my private enterprise network like PowerVS ?

A) You can connect IBM cloud to PowerVS using the Direct Link Connect

Q) In the Cloud Services (Object Storage / Data Services, / etc), in GCP (will this connect / appear in my services?)

A) GCP is Google Cloud Platform and this discussion is about PowerVS collocated with IBM Cloud; but in IBM Cloud all services you are using will appear in the dashboard.

Q) Is there any high level cost concept for different scenario

A) The IBM Cloud sales team can help with this.

Q) Can you use Equinix Cloud Exchange to connect to this platform?

A) In general, yes. Local availability varies.

Q) Has anyone tried PowerVS with IBM MultiCloud Manager ?

A) Yes, Cloud Pak for Multicloud Management can be used with both PowerVS and on-prem Power.

Q) To connect two AIX lpars together between two regions for GLVM and PowerHA EE would you need Megaport to provide the replication network?

A) Megaport is one option, but not the only one. Check out all the scenarios here: https://cloud.ibm.com/docs/power-iaas?topic=power-iaas-network-reference-architecture.

Q) How to control ie. the Oracle licences with VSI?

A) Right now capped shared processors are an option; but we don't quite have separate shared processor pools yet.

Q) Is there the concept of vCPU in PowerVS?

A) Yes there is Virtual CPUs and processing units, automatically assigned based on the initial sizing. Details are here: https://cloud.ibm.com/docs/power-iaas?topic=power-iaas-modifying-server . You can dynamically change the size of a VM within the profile limits, as how it's been on any Power system since the beginning.

Q) What is the technology behind storage? Is it NPIV / SSP

A) NPIV

Q) Is there a calculator/estimator for the the different connectivity, like you get for PowerVS configuration?

A) The price estimator is build into ibm.com

Q) Are the Co-Los in the UK Govt. approved for Official Sensitive and maintain data sovereignty?

A) We have one hosted by CrownHosting.

Q) Is Power Virtual Server going to be on a roadmap for IBM Cloud Satellite ?

A) It's something we're investigating.

Q) If we try bring our BYOI for AIX 6.1 to PowerVS, any plans in future - something similar how IBM i 7.1 is now available with service extension?

A) AIX 6.1 is not officially supported and there are no future plans to support it. It will work in PowerVS, but it will not be supported, and you may experience longer maintenance windows.

Q) Could we have (not necessarily in this call) a detailed explanation on IBM i backup options either to COS or to the DSI VTL ?

A) We can schedule a follow-on session.