

Important 30th Z Anniversaries Worth Noting

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As someone who has been regularly lecturing, teaching, and consulting in the field of z/OS computer performance for over 35 years, I am regularly asked by those learning z/OS: what makes IBM's Z platform so special? In fact, this is also a common question put to me by computer professionals of other platforms.

The answer is that the mainframe platform is still relevant, still evolving, and still the best option for enterprise computing. Most of all, it is legendary. Oh, and as a performance guy, I can also say that the Z platform provides so many measurement insights that analysis is always a journey of discovery.

As I said, I am a performance guy. I have worked with enterprises all over the world. In fact, my company's Pivotor® SMF performance reporting software does the performance reporting for companies of all sizes to provide the actual intelligence insights customers want, with an educational dimension that is of interest to so many.

Now, I truly did not intend this article to be all about the greatness of Z. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the announcement and availability of the MVS Workload Manager (WLM), Parallel Sysplex, and Data Sharing. The year also marks the 30th year since IBM made the leap from bipolar technology to CMOS technology.

As I write this, I realize that today, Z professionals are fortunate to be working with a platform that is special in so many ways. Pick a discipline. For me, it is performance. For you, it may be your interest in security, applications, maintenance, databases, system integrity, or the many other disciplines of modern enterprise computing that tickle the fancy of the curious. Behind every one of these disciplines are many years of intellectual thought, exploration, and development.

The significance of this 30th anniversary should not be minimized. One could argue that these now-established technologies breathed new life into the mainframe (which, at the time, was called a dinosaur). While very true, I also believe that these technologies solidified the definition of the qualities of service required for enterprise computing. It is easy to talk the talk, but Z walks the walk.

Pivotor, our 'Actual Intelligence' SMF performance reporting service and software, along with my team of experts, will continue to be there with you as together we continue to walk the walk of Z computer performance analysis.



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