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z/OS Upgrades from Unsupported Releases BOF

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z/OS Upgrades from Unsupported Releases – Introduction



- **DISCLAIMER and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS!**
- This BOF is for discussion on upgrading from unsupported z/OS releases (prior to z/OS 1.9)
- IBM's supported upgrade path spans only 3 releases (for example, z/OS 1.9 to 1.11). If you need to upgrade across a larger span, the official path involves multiple upgrades (for example, z/OS 1.4 to 1.7, 1.7 to 1.9, and 1.9 to 1.11)
- We just completed an upgrade from z/OS 1.4 (with an older level of JES3), directly to z/OS 1.11. This is not supported, but saved a lot of time and effort. I'll discuss some things that worked and that did not work, as a lead-in to further discussion.

z/OS Upgrades from Unsupported Releases – Our Experience



- We did share (between 1.11 test and 1.4 production):
 - DASD, Catalogs, VTOCs, VVDS's, VOLCAT
- We did NOT share:
 - RACF databases, SMS and RMM control datasets
- Test system is a monoplex with its own JES3 global, NJE-connected to the rest of the complex
- We did not have to roll back after going to production with z/OS 1.11, but I did have backups of these production datasets from before the cutover
- I strongly suggest having the same SMP/E 3.5 level on the driving system as on the new system.

z/OS Upgrades from Unsupported Releases – Some of our Challenges



- ServerPac bits that did not work right under z/OS 1.4:
 - The RACF control card generation step failed
 - Option to combine zones was forced
 - Unmount ZFS scripts didn't work
- Cannot linkedit NFS, some other program objects on 1.4 even with the 1.11-level Binder (due to LE level, I'm sure)
- z/OS 1.11 AMASPZAP gets I/O errors on z/OS 1.4
- Plus the regular upgrade challenges:
 - 1-byte console support; needed to increase default user region; operational changes for RESOLVER, ZFS, TELNET, and for consoles changes; fixes required for back-level IDMS

z/OS Upgrades from Unsupported Releases – DISCUSSION



- Skill levels required!
- What if you are spanning an even larger upgrade jump?
 - ZFS support
 - Tape media support
- What if z/OS 1.xx will not run on your current hardware?
 - Hardware migration to new platform, may not be able to share DASD
 - You may need to order a Driving System to start the install
- What are your challenges?