z/VM Service Critical Issues (2014)

Operating System Software Red Alerts

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WARNING: APAR VM65544 must be applied prior to DS8K R7.4 to avoid outages

USERS AFFECTED:

All users of z/VM planning to move to the DS8K R7.4 level

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION:

Installations using z/VM who are planning to move to the DS8K R7.4 level MUST apply the PTF for z/VM APAR VM65544 prior to upgrading their DS8K. Failure to apply this APAR may result in unplanned z/VM outages when any PPRC operation is initiated, whether new R7.4 PPRC function is exploited or not. PTFs will be available for supported z/VM releases, 5.4, 6.2, and 6.3. DS8K R7.4 contains support for Multi-Target PPRC.

PROBLEM RESOLUTION:

Apply APAR VM65544.

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APAR VM65538 IS IN ERROR

For any guests with storage greater than 4G, using minidisk cache (MDC) or Read Track Data CCWs may result in a guest storage overlay.

USERS AFFECTED:

All users of z/VM 6.3 with APAR VM65538 running Linux guests > 4G (eg. Linux).

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION:

VM65538 incorrectly clears the high half of a register containing an IDAW data address. This causes addresses greater than 4G to become corrupted. The usual result is not being able to boot Linux which uses the Read Track Data CCW with an IDAW address >4G when the guest storage is 4G or greater.

The use of MDC may also result in data being stored at the wrong address for any guest with storage >4G. MDC must remain disabled for the *entire* life of the guest.

PROBLEM RESOLUTION:

There are two options to avoid the problem.

1. Apply APAR VM65619.

2. Restrict guests to less than 4G.

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