

IBM i 7.2 TR8 offers support for POWER9, programming enhancements, and more

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Overview

Technology Refresh 8 (TR8) for IBM^(R) i 7.2 provides support for POWER9TM hardware, enhanced security, and a variety of new capabilities for programmers.

IBM i

- IBM i Integrated Web Services server and client have been enhanced to give programmers and administrators more flexibility when leveraging web services on IBM i in a safe and secure manner. The server has been updated to support running under the authenticated user profile as well as to ease administration by allowing a web service to be redeployed without having to be first uninstalled.
- IBM i is extending its recently introduced installation method that uses USB Removable Mass Storage technology, making the IBM i installation easier and more convenient. Additional devices and a GUI are now supported.

Licensed Program Products

- Rational^(R) Development Studio has updates for the application developer to improve the RPG language by providing a new operation code, DATA-INTO. This allows programmers to parse structured data (like JSON) in almost any format into an RPG variable.
- IBM i Access Client Solutions (ACS), the strategic interface for users, system managers, and database engineers looking to access the IBM i, continues to be improved to address additional functions and updates requested by the ACS user community.
- IBM Access for Web, the core for our mobile system access and management support, has been updated to now run on the latest versions of WebSphere^(R) Application Server V9.
- Backup, Recovery and Media Services (BRMS) is enhanced with cloud remote system restore.
- ARCAD Observer for IBM i V1.1.0 includes a performance-improving multijob compile process and more.

IBM software products

- IBM Notes^(R)/Domino^(R) 9.0.1 Feature Pack 10 with a number of fixes and enhancements will be delivered to continue to provide the secure, robust support clients expect on IBM i.

Hardware and firmware

- The new POWER9 servers are designed with a highly secure architecture, providing a stable database and middleware platform for efficient deployment of business processing applications. Other benefits include:
 - Ideal offerings for midsized business clients consolidating IBM AIX^(R), IBM i, and Linux^(R) workloads
 - Ability to reduce energy consumption by utilizing advanced energy control
- IBM i 7.2 TR8 provides support for the following configurations:
 - Native and VIOS configurations for new IBM S914 and IBM S924 servers with POWER9 technology
 - Native and VIOS configurations for new IBM H924 server with POWER9 technology
 - VIOS configurations for new IBM S922 server with POWER9 technology
 - VIOS configurations for new IBM H922 server with POWER9 technology
- IBM PowerVM^(R) Enterprise is included with every POWER9 technology-based processor server, making every server cloud enabled.
- The IPL process has been simplified for companies not using a Hardware Management Console (HMC). This is specifically for Disaster Recovery and install IPLs (that is, D-mode IPLs) for servers with POWER9 technology.

Key prerequisites

IBM i 7.2 TR8 is supported on selected IBM Power SystemsTM servers:

- Power Systems servers with IBM POWER9 technology-based processors
- Power Systems servers with IBM POWER8^(R) technology-based processors
- Power Systems servers and blades and IBM Flex systems with IBM POWER7^(R) or IBM POWER7+ processors
- Power Systems servers and blades with IBM POWER6^(R) or IBM POWER6+ processors
- IBM System i^(R) servers with POWER6 processors

For up-to-date information on all types of code levels needed for support of a particular feature, see the [IBM Prerequisite](#) website.

See the [Technical information](#) section for specific hardware and software prerequisites.

Planned availability date

March 16, 2018

Description

Clients choosing to move to the newly announced POWER9 servers (S914, S922, S924, H922, and H924) using IBM i 7.2 will need to install TR8. As with previous TRs, there are many features and functions for IBM i and licensed programs. Highlights of IBM i 7.2 TR8 are listed below.

IBM i

IBM i Integrated Web Services server

Integrated Web Services now includes a number of key updates and enhancements to help both the developer and the system administrator.

- VarChar support - Users are able to define varchar fields in order to determine how much data was passed in or is to be returned. In addition, it eliminates the need to have an additional field when using the detect length fields support in order to determine lengths of fields.
- Authenticated user - The web services can now run under the authenticated user. Previously, the user needed to be specified when the web service was deployed.
- Web service redeploy - The web service can be redeployed without requiring the service to be uninstalled first. This is a great improvement for the administrators when updating the services engine for updates to the service.

To get the updates, load the latest HTTP PTF Group. Details can be found in the [Integrated Web Services Server developerWorks^{\(R\)}](#) page.

IBM i Integrated Web Services client for ILE

The client transport support of the Integrated Web Services client has been enhanced to support the ability to retrieve the SOAP defined error fault specification from your RPG program.

When a client is using RPG stubs to invoke SOAP web services and a SOAP fault is returned by the server, there was no way to retrieve the SOAP fault data. If an error occurs in a web service, a fault message is returned to the client. The basic structure of the fault message is defined in the SOAP specifications. Each fault message can include XML that describes the specific error condition. These updates are included in the latest HTTP PTF Group. Details can be found in the *Web Services Client for ILE Programming Guide* and the Technology Updates web page, which may be found on the [Integrated Web Services Product](#) page.

For more details on this most recent enhancement, see the [IBM Integrated Web Services for i Technology Updates](#) page.

IBM i Access for Web - Mobile solutions for i

IBM Access for Web (5770-XH2), the core for our mobile system access and management support, has been updated to now run on the latest versions of WebSphere Application Server V9.

Details can easily be obtained from the [Access family product](#) web page.

Enhancements to software installation

IBM i is extending its recently introduced installation method that uses USB Removable Mass Storage technology, making the IBM i installation easier and more convenient. Additional devices are now supported. In addition to use of a USB Flash drive, RDX media is now also supported. Besides downloading to an IBM i partition or a Windows[™] PC, the IBM i images from the Entitled Systems Support (ESS) website can be downloaded to a Mac for copying to a USB removable media. The IBM-provided USB utility program that is used to copy the Licensed Machine Code from the ESS website to a USB media has been enhanced with a GUI.

Licensed Program Products

IBM i Access Client Solutions

IBM i Access Client Solutions (ACS) continues along the path of becoming the IBM i tool of choice for administrators, programmers, and database engineers. This Technology Refresh includes many user-requested functions and features. These are listed below:

- 5250 Emulator:
 - Updated support for the traditional Chinese CCSID 1371 has been added.
- Integrated File System enhancements:
 - In the list of objects and folders, a new action 'Permissions' has been added for all the users to view the authority setting for each object or folder.

- A new action 'View' has been added to the list of objects allowing the user to view the contents for selected objects within the IFS.
- Database-specific enhancements in ACS:
 - Within the SQL Performance Center, the sorting for Show Statements has been improved and enhanced.
 - Support for Properties, Start/End, and Swap Receivers has been added to the Journal section.
 - Within Visual Explain a new legend has been included to help the user better understand what is being viewed.

These and other ACS enhancements can easily be obtained from the [Access family product](#) web page.

Rational Development Studio for i

Rational Development Studio for i is providing enhancements to the key languages, extending developer capabilities and increasing productivity.

RPG

The RPG IV language continues to be enhanced with significant new functions.

New operation code DATA-INTO allows RPG programmers to parse structured data in any format into an RPG variable. The DATA-INTO operation is similar to the XML-INTO operation except that the RPG programmer must specify a program or procedure to parse the data. This enables new data definition objects like JSON to be parsed natively in your RPG program.

For example

```
DATA-INTO myDs %DATA('myfile.json' : 'doc=file') %PARSER('MYLIB/MYJSONPARS');
```

Some sample parsers will be provided (for example, a JSON parser and a parser for a properties file). Users, ISVs, and business partners will be able to write their own data parser to include new data types they deem important. For more information about the features, see the [RPG Cafe wiki](#) page.

Backup, Recovery and Media Services for i

Backup, Recovery and Media Services for i (BRMS, 5770-BR1) 7.2 and later is enhanced with cloud remote system restore, which is the capability to restore virtual backup media from a cloud location to an alternate location on a system other than the originating system. Note that storing data in the cloud requires IBM Cloud Storage Solutions for i (5733-ICC). The BRMS PTF Group will be available March 16, 2018.

ARCAD Observer for IBM i

The ARCAD Observer for IBM i (5733-AO1) new level includes updates and fixes to help the IBM i development community navigate the world of modernization and development on IBM i. Some of the key updates include:

- Multijob compile. The compile process is split into multiple jobs to improve the compile performance.
- Support for RDi 9.6. This latest version of ARCAD Observer for IBM i takes advantage of the latest updates in Eclipse and requires the following versions:
 - Rational Developer for i: RPG and COBOL Tools 9.6, or later
 - Rational Developer for i: RPG and COBOL and Modernization Tools, Java™ Edition 9.6, or later

This new level of ARCAD Observer for IBM i is equivalent to ARCAD Observer 10.08.02. To acquire this new level, the ARCAD Observer for IBM i V1.1 download on the [Entitled System Support \(ESS\)](#) will be replaced on March 16, 2018. Clients

who downloaded ARCAD Observer for IBM i V1.1 from ESS prior to March 16, 2018 should download the product again on or after that date.

For more information, see the [IBM i Modernization page in developerWorks](#) page.

ARCAD Converter for IBM i 10.08.02 - New conversion warnings and remediation views

The ARCAD Converter 10.08.02 includes additional features for managing truncation risk. These features specifically address the language changes made between RPG 400 or RPG ILE and RPG Free Form, providing:

- Identification of any truncation risks within code
- Fixes for truncation risk, applied automatically or manually according to user choice

Available from both RDi plug-in and native, new conversion warnings and conversion warning remediation views allow users to override default conversions on global, member, or line basis to deal with possible numeric truncation or indicator differences for CHECK, SCAN, and LOOKUP in converted source.

IBM software announcements

IBM Notes/Domino 9.0.1

IBM Notes/Domino 9.0.1 Feature Pack 10 includes a number of fixes and enhancements. It upgrades Eclipse/OSGI to the 4.6.2 version for both Notes client and Domino server, upgrades the embedded Sametime[®] to 9.0.1.x in the Notes client, upgrades Designer to JVM 1.8 compile time, and provides an add-on installer for CCM.

For more details on the latest updates, see the [Domino wiki](#) page.

Hardware and firmware

Support for POWER9 servers

IBM i 7.2 TR8 provides support for the newly announced POWER9 servers:

- Native and VIOS configurations for new IBM S914 and IBM S924 servers with POWER9 technology
- Native and VIOS configurations for new IBM H924 server with POWER9 technology
- VIOS configurations for new IBM S922 server with POWER9 technology
- VIOS configurations for new IBM H922 server with POWER9 technology

I/O and storage support

In addition, IBM i 7.2 TR8 includes this hardware-related support for:

- VIOS configurations for NIC on the 2-port 10 GbE, and on the 2-port 25/10 GbE IOAs
- Native and VIOS configurations for the 2-port 32 Gb Fibre Channel IOA
- Native and VIOS configurations for the 4-port 16 Gb Fibre Channel IOA
- New 387 GB, 775 GB, and 1.55 TB enterprise SSDs
- The stand-alone USB DVD drive

Also, some configurations that include IBM FlashSystems may get a performance benefit due to changes to make use of the Unmap function on the storage system, particularly for disk initialization.

Simplified D-mode IPL

The IPL process has been simplified for companies not using a Hardware Management Console (HMC). This is specifically for Disaster Recovery and install IPLs (that is, D-mode IPLs) for servers with POWER9 technology. A DVD is no longer required to IPL to DST and then continue with another device. Instead, the load source for a D-mode IPL uses the integrated USB adapter in the POWER9 System Unit. You can use any of the integrated system USB ports and USB IPL hardware types (for example, DVD, RDX, USB Flash drive) for an entire install operation.

PowerVM included

POWER9-based servers have PowerVM built in, so all workloads deployed on them are cloud enabled (fully virtualized and mobile). This allows rapid provisioning, improved recoverability, and simpler platform migrations.

Hardware Management Console

The IBM Power Systems Hardware Management Console now includes functions that may be of interest to IBM i clients, including support for POWER9 systems and support for Multi-Path I/O (MPIO) routes through Virtual I/O Server (VIOS). For more information about these and other new HMC functions, see Software Announcement [218-026](#), dated February 13, 2018.

Additional information

For more information on the hardware-related announcements, see the [Hardware and Firmware](#) section of the Technology Updates wiki.

Product positioning

IBM i 7.2 runs on a Power Systems server and offers a highly scalable and virus-resistant architecture with a proven reputation for exceptional business resiliency. Companies that run applications on i running on a Power^(R) server are able to focus on innovation and delivering new value to their business, not on managing their data center operations.

IBM i delivers a fully integrated and trusted combination of relational database, security, web services, networking, and storage management capabilities that are required to run business applications. For example, IBM installs and integrates the SQL standards-based Db2^(R) database for i with advanced database management utilities, plus additional middleware components such as multiple file system options, directory capability, an HTTP web server that is powered by Apache, a web application server, and a web services environment.

IBM develops, fully tests, and preloads these core middleware components of i together. The preintegration and testing of i is a key factor in enabling companies to realize lower operations costs by deploying applications faster and maintaining them with less staff.

Virtualization and workload management are also built into the IBM i operating environment to enable businesses to consolidate and run multiple applications and components together on the same system, helping to drive up system usage and delivering a better return on IT investments. This broad and highly stable database and middleware foundation is ideal for efficiently deploying business processing applications.

Architecture for simplicity, stability, and security

Another important advantage for i is the underlying architecture of the operating system, which enables simplicity, stability, and security. These are not add-on features, but inherent aspects of the operating system. Here are a few examples:

Simplicity

The relational database in i is an integrated component that is built on a set of integrated storage management capabilities unique to i and its predecessors. This storage management is based on the single-level storage architecture that treats all of the storage managed by i as one long stream of memory that encompasses the system memory and the storage on disks. This architecture makes it critical for the operating system to decide where to store any given piece of data, which removes the user from having to manage data placement. This method makes management of storage and the database objects contained in that storage significantly simpler.

Stability

IBM i architecturally separates the address spaces of user applications and the operating system, so it is difficult for poorly written or malicious software to intrude upon the underlying operating system support. This is one of several attributes that can help keep i running for days, weeks, and months without unexpected restarting of the operating system.

Several architectural attributes of i have contributed to the stability of the system over the years. First, applications compiled on i are compiled to a set of intermediate code instructions defined as the Technology Independent Machine Interface (TIMI). This enables i to fundamentally change the implementation of underlying hardware, firmware, and virtualization features, without requiring rewriting, changing, or even recompiling the applications written by users. This sort of forward compatibility can be a tremendous business advantage, and it enables the movement of software developed and compiled several years to even decades before to run on later generations of the i operating system.

Security

IBM i and its predecessors have an object-based architecture. Each entity on the system is an object, which has a set of prescribed operations that can be performed on it and connections from the object to those other objects that are allowed to perform various operations. An object that does not have a legal edit operation cannot be edited. It cannot be renamed to another kind of object. If the object does have an edit operation, known as *change* for most objects, it only has a defined set of attributes that can be edited, and then only by users who have authority to do that editing.

Objects can easily be hidden from other users by use of the library list objects, and security enhanced by the object-based security associated with all objects. And users who all have a similar role on the system can be grouped for role-based security, again as part of the base architecture of the system. While the i operating system supports Java, PHP, web services, and other open source programming methods, the underlying architecture offers a level of integration, stability, simplicity, and security that makes it significantly different from comparable operating systems. These aspects can deliver excellent business value to its users.

Reference information

For more information on IBM Power System S914 server (9009-41A), see Hardware Announcement [118-023](#), dated February 13, 2018.

For more information on IBM Power System S922 server (9009-22A), see Hardware Announcement [118-021](#), dated February 13, 2018.

For more information on IBM Power System S924 server (9009-42A), see Hardware Announcement [118-020](#), dated February 13, 2018.

For more information on IBM Power System H922 for SAP HANA (9223-22H), see Hardware Announcement [118-002](#), dated February 13, 2018.

For more information on IBM Power System H924 for SAP HANA (9223-42H), see Hardware Announcement [118-001](#), dated February 13, 2018.

For more information on IBM PowerVM 2.2.6 virtualization cloud enables the next generation of IBM Power servers, see Software Announcement [218-077](#), dated February 13, 2018.

For more information on IBM Power Systems SSD options offer enhanced performance at a lower cost and deliver server enhancements, see Hardware Announcement [117-108](#), dated November 21, 2017.

For more information on IBM Power Systems Hardware Management Console (HMC) Virtual Appliance Version 9, see Software Announcement [218-026](#), dated February 13, 2018.

Program number

Program number	VRM	Program name
5770-SS1	7.2	IBM i 7.2 TR8

Business Partner information

If you are a Direct Reseller - System Reseller acquiring products from IBM, you may link directly to Business Partner information for this announcement. A PartnerWorld ID and password are required (use IBMid).

[BP Attachment for Announcement Letter 218-126](#)

Offering Information

Product information is available on the [IBM Offering Information](#) website.

Publications

None.

Services

Software Services

IBM Software Services has the breadth, depth, and reach to manage your services needs. You can leverage the deep technical skills of our lab-based Software Services team and the business consulting, project management, and infrastructure expertise of our IBM Global Services team. Also, we extend our IBM Software Services reach through IBM Business Partners to provide an extensive portfolio of capabilities. Together, we provide the global reach, intellectual capital, industry insight, and technology leadership to support a wide range of critical business needs.

To learn more about IBM Software Services, contact your Lab Services Sales or Delivery Leader.

Technical information

Specified operating environment

Hardware requirements

A supported Power, Flex, or System i server or blade with a POWER9, POWER8, POWER7+, POWER7, POWER6+, or POWER6 processor is required to run IBM i 7.2 TR8.

For up-to-date information on all types of code levels needed for support of a particular feature, go to the [IBM Prerequisite](#) website.

Software requirements

To find the supporting technical details for the topics found in this announcement letter for IBM i 7.2, go to the [TR8 enhancements](#) website.

User Group requirements

A strong and passionate worldwide user community focuses on all aspects of i running on Power servers. The community includes online groups and face-to-face community gatherings. The COMMON organization has branches around the world, including COMMON North America, iSUC in Japan, and COMMON Europe. In addition, there are many smaller local user groups located in various regions in North America and other areas of the world.

IBM continues to recognize key community leaders through the IBM Champions program. The current IBM i Champions have been recognized for their work in the betterment of user groups, social media, and the Academic Initiative. To learn about the IBM Champions program, see the [IBM Champions](#) website.

Planning information

IBM i Access Client Solutions 1.1.7.3 supports Java 6 or later. The next available release/modification level of IBM i Access Client Solutions after 1.1.7.3 will require a minimum of Java 8.

Packaging

This offering is delivered through the internet and as physical media.

Security, auditability, and control

This program uses the security and auditability features of the host hardware or software.

The customer is responsible for evaluation, selection, and implementation of security features, administrative procedures, and appropriate controls in application systems and communication facilities.

Ordering information

This software license includes Software Maintenance, previously referred to as Software Subscription and Technical Support.

Terms and conditions

The information provided in this announcement letter is for reference and convenience purposes only. The terms and conditions that govern any transaction with IBM are contained in the applicable contract documents such as the IBM International Program License Agreement, IBM International Passport Advantage^(R) Agreement, and IBM Agreement for Acquisition of Software Maintenance.

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This software license includes Software Subscription and Support (also referred to as Software Maintenance).

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License Information number

See the [License Information documents](#) page on the IBM Software License Agreement website for each Program's License information.

Limited warranty applies

Yes.

Limited warranty

IBM warrants that when the program is used in the specified operating environment, it will conform to its specifications. The warranty applies only to the unmodified portion of the program. IBM does not warrant uninterrupted or error-free operation of the program or that IBM will correct all program defects. You are responsible for the results obtained from the use of the program.

IBM provides you with access to IBM databases containing information on known program defects, defect corrections, restrictions, and bypasses at no additional charge. For further information, see the [IBM Software Support Handbook](#).

IBM will maintain this information for at least one year after the original licensee acquires the program (warranty period).

Money-back guarantee

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with the program and you are the original licensee, you may obtain a refund of the amount you paid for it, if within 30 days of your invoice date you return the program and its PoE to the party from whom you obtained it. If you downloaded the program, you may contact the party from whom you acquired it for instructions on how to obtain the refund.

For clarification, note that for programs acquired under any of IBM's On/Off Capacity on Demand (On/Off CoD) software offerings, this term does not apply since these offerings apply to programs already acquired and in use by you.

Volume orders (IVO)

Yes. Contact your IBM representative.

Passport Advantage applies

No

Usage restrictions

Yes.

See the [License Information documents](#) page on the IBM Software License Agreement website for more information.

Software Subscription and Support applies

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While your Software Subscription and Support is in effect, IBM provides you assistance for your routine, short-duration installation and usage (how-to) questions, and code-related questions. IBM provides assistance by telephone and, if available, electronic access, only to your information systems (IS) technical support personnel during the normal business hours (published prime shift hours) of your IBM support center. (This assistance is not available to your end users.) IBM provides Severity 1 assistance 24 hours a day, every day of the year. For additional details, go to the [IBM Support Handbooks](#) page.

Software Subscription and Support does not include assistance for the design and development of applications, your use of programs in other than their specified operating environment, or failures caused by products for which IBM is not responsible under this agreement.

IBM Operational Support Services - SoftwareXcel

Yes.

System i Software Maintenance applies

Yes.

Variable charges apply

No.

Educational allowance available

Yes. A 15% education allowance applies to qualified education institution customers.

Statement of good security practices

IT system security involves protecting systems and information through intrusion prevention, detection, and response to improper access from within and outside your enterprise. Improper access can result in information being altered, destroyed, or misappropriated or can result in misuse of your systems to attack others. Without a comprehensive approach to security, no IT system or product should be considered completely secure and no single product or security measure can be completely effective in preventing improper access. IBM systems and products are designed to be part of a regulatory compliant, comprehensive security approach, which will necessarily involve additional operational procedures, and may require other systems, products, or services to be most effective.

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Prices

Not applicable.

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