



IBM Support for xCAT V2 now covers enhancements to supported offerings

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At a glance

IBM® Support Services for xCAT V2 adds support for new platforms, operating systems, and plug-in features managed by the open source management tool Extreme Cloud Administrative Toolkit (xCAT).

Overview

IBM Support for xCAT delivers the technical support clients need to confidently manage their large systems.

In addition to the previously announced world-class technical support for xCAT V2, the open source cluster management tool available from SourceForge, IBM includes support for additional xCAT management capabilities and additional operating systems.

IBM support covers the following xCAT V2.6 enhancements:

- Microsoft™ Windows™ 2008 and Windows 7
- VMware
- KVM
- Toolkit for Event Analysis and Logging
- IBM HPC Hardware Server
- Energy management plug-in for xCAT on IBM POWER®
- IBM direct Flexible Service Processor (FSP) management plug-in for xCAT

This is an extension of an already existing Support Agreement announced in Software Announcement [208-234](#), dated September 09, 2008.

Key prerequisites

xCAT V2.6 from SourceForge.net

Operating systems supported:

- AIX® 6 and AIX 7
- Fedora 12, 13, 14
- CentOS 5, 6
- Microsoft Windows 7 and Windows 2008
- VMware
- KVM

- Red Hat 5, 6
- SLES 10, 11

Planned availability date

August 26, 2011

Description

Support for the following tools is included with the IBM Support for xCAT offering.

Energy management

The energy management plug-in for xCAT gives the administrator of POWER clusters the ability to query and change the power settings for each server. The actions are invoked using an xCAT command called 'renergy' which can be used in scripts or directly from the command line. The command can be run against multiple POWER servers in one invocation and will fan out the requests as efficiently as possible.

Energy management plug-in can be downloaded from

<http://www-933.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/>

TEAL

The Toolkit for Event Analysis and Logging (TEAL) is used in a cluster of IBM Power® 775 (9125-F2C) servers to analyze and report key hardware and software events - including network events, hardware serviceable events, IBM Tivoli® Workload Scheduler LoadLeveler® events and IBM General Parallel File System™ events. Events and alerts that are generated from significant events or combinations of events are stored in centralized database tables that can be queried. Several methods can be used to inform administrators when an alert has been detected and requires attention. In addition to the default real-time analysis, TEAL provides historic event analysis capability.

TEAL will be available on August 26, 2011, and can be downloaded from

<http://www.SourceForge.net>

IBM HPC Hardware Server

The primary function of IBM High Performance Computing Hardware Server is to manage connections to POWER service processors and provide an API to communicate with these service processors. IBM HPC Hardware Server assigns every service processor connection a unique handle called a virtual port number or vport. This handle is then used to send synchronous commands to the hardware.

Additionally, IBM HPC Hardware Server allows different types of clients to register for additional customized services. These services include asynchronous event delivery and a set of functions that are collectively referred to as 'master list management.' Master list management provides several helper functions that make it easier to implement master/backup fail-over architectures.

IBM HPC Hardware Server will be available on August 26, 2011, and can be downloaded from

<http://www-933.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/>

RMC

For xCAT monitoring capabilities, the Resource Monitoring and Control (RMC) subsystem is the scalable, reliable backbone of Reliable Scalable Cluster Technologies (RSCT). It runs on each node (operating system image) of an

xCAT cluster and provides a common abstraction for monitoring the resources of the cluster of nodes. RMC provides global access to subsystems and resources throughout the cluster, thus providing a single monitoring infrastructure for clusters.

RMC can be downloaded from

<http://www-933.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/>

Direct FSP management

The direct FSP management plug-in enables xCAT to manage the IBM Power 775 server directly instead of using the Hardware Management Console. The HMC is required for other administrative tasks.

Operating systems

xCAT V2.6 runs on a variety of operating systems. Now, IBM Support for xCAT provides service and support for these distributions. Refer to the [Software requirements](#) section for a list.

Charge metric

The annual renewable support offering is priced per server for each server managed by the program.

| Program name | Part number or PID number | Charge metric |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Enhanced Support for xCAT | 5724-V63 | Per server |
| Elite Support for xCAT | 5724-V64 | Per server |

Server

Server is the unit of measure by which this support is entitled. A server is a physical computer that is comprised of processing units, memory, and input/output capabilities and that executes requested procedures, commands, or applications for one or more users or client devices. Where racks, blade enclosures, or other similar equipment is being employed, each separable physical device (for example, a blade or a rack-mounted device) that has the required components is considered itself a separate server. For the purpose of server-based entitlement, customer must obtain entitlements for each server running the program, regardless of the number of processor cores and/or partitions in the server or the number of copies of the program on the server.

In addition to the entitlements required for the program directly, customer must obtain entitlements for support sufficient to cover the servers managed by the program.

Hardware requirements

- IBM Power Systems™
- IBM System x® iDataPlex®
- All IBM BladeCenter® and System x hardware that is part of the IBM Intelligent Cluster™

Software requirements

- AIX 6.1 and 7.1

- SUSE Linux™ Enterprise Server (SLES) 10 and 11
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) 5 and 6
- Community ENTERprise Operating System (CentOS) 5 and 6
- Fedora 12, 13, and 14
- Microsoft Windows 7 and 2008
- KVM
- VMware

Notes:

- Refer to the following xCAT website for additional distributions
https://sourceforge.net/apps/mediawiki/xcat/index.php?title=XCAT_Features#OS_Support
- The supported plug-ins are available on August 26, 2011, from
<http://www-933.ibm.com/support/fixcentral/>
 - a. Select **Power** from the "Product group" drop down menu.
 - b. Select **Cluster software** from the "Product" drop down menu.
 - c. After you have made your selection, another drop down box will appear where you can select the desired plug-in.

Reference information

Refer to Software Announcement [208-234](#), dated September 09, 2008.

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 IBM ID).

<https://www.ibm.com/partnerworld/mem/sla.jsp?num=211-107>

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