

IBM MQ for z/OS, V9.0.4 Continuous Delivery model further extends IBM MQ for z/OS capabilities with innovative new functions and additional enhancements

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At a glance

IBM^(R) MQ for z/OS^(R), V9.0.4 delivers improved capabilities:

- Additional support of REST API for administration
- New REST API for messaging

Overview

The availability of the MQ for z/OS, V9.0.4 Continuous Delivery (CD) release delivers more capabilities and improvements, and also includes fixes in previous CD releases of Versions 9.0.1, 9.0.2, and 9.0.3. These represent optional extensions to the Long Term Support Release of MQ for z/OS, V9.0.0, which was initially available in June 2016, and is only supported through fixpacks from that date.

New features and enhancements for clients with MQ for z/OS entitlement in these areas include:

- Additional support of REST API for administration
- New REST API for messaging

The updates that are described in this announcement, and in the announcements for earlier CD releases, are not available in the MQ for z/OS, V9 Long Term Support Release.

You can choose to follow either:

- CD release for IBM MQ for z/OS, V9 that delivers both fixes and new function
- Long Term Support Release for IBM MQ for z/OS, V9 that provides only fixes and no new function

If you choose the CD release, it is recommended that you regularly apply CD updates of fixes and new function as they become available. It is not recommended that you switch back and forth between the Long Term Support Release and the CD release as capabilities are added to the two offerings on different schedules.

Key prerequisites

MQ for z/OS, V9.0.4 runs on any IBM Z server that supports z/OS V2.01, with enough storage to meet the combined requirements of the programming prerequisites for MQ for z/OS, the access methods, and the application programs.

Planned availability date

- November 6, 2017: IBM MQ for z/OS, V9.0.4 PTF
- November 24, 2017: IBM MQ for z/OS, V9.0.4, downloadable from Shopz

Description

New and enhanced capabilities in the MQ for z/OS, V9.0.4 release include:

- Additional support of REST API for administration
 - Since MQ for z/OS, V9.0.1 was released, a growing amount of administration of MQ is available by using a REST API in addition to existing MQ script commands (MQSC) and programmable command format (PCF) functions. This provides a more modern alternative that is designed to allow for new web-based applications that offer custom tooling to meet the needs of every user. More capabilities were added to the REST API in each CD release. In Version 9.0.4, the REST API function is extended to include some support for channels and subscriptions. This enables yet more of the administrative functions of configuration and management to be performed by the REST API. Users of these REST API functions can work with the channels that are defined on a queue manager, and also display subscriptions.
 - The REST API capability is extended to earlier versions of MQ. You can use a Version 9.0.4 installation of MQ to provide the administrative REST API and route the configuration requests to queue managers that run on some earlier versions of MQ.
 - In addition to the MQ administrative functions, the REST API for specific MQ objects is provided. To ensure that you and your vendors can build comprehensive tools to make use of REST, MQ for z/OS, V9.0.4 adds the ability to run any MQSC command through REST. This allows new tooling to be built by using REST that makes use of a combination of native REST verbs and some calls to MQSC through REST.
- New REST API for messaging
 - As more programming becomes reliant on using RESTful APIs, some developers want to use the same approach for sending and receiving messaging data. In Version 9.0.4, the initial support for using REST API for some PUT and GET style, point-to-point messaging is available.

Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act

IBM MQ for z/OS, V9.0.4 is capable, as of November 6, 2017, when used in accordance with associated IBM documentation, of satisfying the applicable requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, provided that any assistive technology used with the product properly interoperates with it.

Statement of direction

IBM intends to deliver an MQ offering in an IBM-administered cloud environment. IBM MQ in a cloud environment will help remove typical inhibitors to start MQ projects, such as capital expenditures, hardware availability, and the skills for managing an MQ environment. This will allow users to focus on developing solutions rather than installing, configuring, and managing software.

The cloud offering is intended to be compatible with on-premise MQ offerings. Within the constraints of a cloud environment, users would be able to use the same development tooling for both the cloud and on-premise software. The assets that are generated can be deployed to either environment.

IBM's statements regarding its plans, directions, and intent are subject to change or withdrawal without notice at IBM's sole discretion. Information regarding potential future products is intended to outline our general product direction and it should not be relied on in making a purchasing decision. The information mentioned regarding potential future products is not a commitment, promise, or legal obligation to deliver any material, code, or functionality. Information about potential future products may not be incorporated into any contract. The development, release, and timing of any future features or functionality described for our products remain at our sole discretion.

Hardware and software support services

SmoothStart/installation services

IBM SmoothStart Services and Installation Services are not provided.

Reference information

For information on MQ for z/OS, V9.0.1, see Software Announcement [216-507](#), dated November 15, 2016.

Availability of national languages

Description	Availability date	Language
IBM MQ for z/OS, V9.0.4	November 6, 2017	English, French, Japanese, Chinese

Translation information, if available, can be found at the [Translation Reports](#) website.

Program number

Program number	VRM	Program name
5655-MQ9	9.0.4	IBM MQ for z/OS

Business Partner information

If you are a Direct Reseller - System Reseller acquiring products from IBM, you may link directly to [BP Attachment for Announcement Letter 217-416](#) for this announcement. A PartnerWorld ID and password are required (use IBMid).

Ordering information

Ordering z/OS through the internet

Shopz provides an easy way to plan and order your z/OS ServerPac or CBPDO. It will analyze your current installation, determine the correct product migration, and present your new configuration based on z/OS. Additional products can also be added to your order (including determination of whether all product requisites are satisfied). Shopz is available in the US, Canada, and several countries in Europe. In countries where Shopz is not available yet, contact your IBM representative (or IBM

Business Partner) to handle your order through the traditional IBM ordering process. For more details and availability, go to the [Shopz](#) website.

New licensees

Orders for new licenses can be placed now. Registered customers can access IBMLink for ordering information and charges. Shipment will not occur before the availability date. Unless a later date is specified, orders entered before the planned availability date will be assigned a schedule date of one week following availability.

Orders entered after the planned availability date will be assigned a schedule date for the week following order entry.

Shipment will begin on the planned availability date.

Orders that ship after the planned availability date will receive MQ for z/OS, V9.0.1. New users of MQ for z/OS, V9.0 should specify:

Type	Model
5655	MQ9

For ordering information on the base program, IBM MQ for z/OS, V9.0, see Software Announcement [216-206](#), dated April 19, 2016.

Unlicensed documentation

IBM MQ, V9.0.4 documentation is published in [IBM Knowledge Center](#), which can be viewed from a web browser with Internet access.

On November 6, 2017, the online version of the IBM MQ V9.0.4 product documentation will be available.

The following softcopy publications are available in .pdf format to download from the [Publications Center](#).

Title	Order number
IBM MQ for z/OS, V9.0.4 Program Directory	GI13-3391
IBM MQ for z/OS, V9.0.4 Licensed Program Specifications	GC34-7464

The Publications Center is a worldwide central repository for IBM product publications and marketing material with a catalog of 70,000 items. Extensive search facilities are provided. A large number of publications are available online in various file formats, and they can all be downloaded by all countries.

To order a previous edition of a publication, use the correct suffix level for the version desired.

Subsequent updates (technical newsletters or revisions between releases) to the publications shipped with the product will be distributed to the user of record for as long as a license for this software remains in effect. A separate publication order or subscription is not needed.

Customized Offerings

Product deliverables are shipped only through CBPDO and ServerPac. These customized offerings are offered for internet delivery from Shopz. Internet delivery reduces software delivery time and allows you to install software without the need to handle tapes. For more details on internet delivery, go to the Help section on the [Shopz](#) website.

You choose the delivery method when you order the software. IBM recommends internet delivery. In addition to internet and DVD, the supported tape delivery options include:

- 3590
- 3592

Most products can be ordered in ServerPac the month following their availability in CBPDO. z/OS can be ordered through CBPDO and ServerPac at general availability. Many products will also be orderable in a Product ServerPac without also having to order the z/OS operating system or subsystem.

Shopz and CFSW will determine the eligibility based on product requisite checking. For more details on the product ServerPac, go to the Help section on the [Shopz](#) website.

For additional information on the Product ServerPac option, see Software Announcement [212-272](#), dated July 31, 2012.

Production of software product orders will begin on the planned general availability date.

- CBPDO shipments will begin one week after general availability.
- ServerPac shipments will begin two weeks after general availability.

Terms and conditions

The terms are unaffected by this announcement.

Statement of good security practices

IT system security involves protecting systems and information through 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 lawful, comprehensive security approach, which will necessarily involve additional operational procedures, and may require other systems, products, or services to be most effective.

Important: IBM does not warrant that any systems, products, or services are immune from, or will make your enterprise immune from, the malicious or illegal conduct of any party.

IBM Electronic Services

Electronic Service Agent™ and the IBM Electronic Support web portal are dedicated to providing fast, exceptional support to IBM Systems customers. The IBM Electronic Service Agent tool is a no-additional-charge tool that proactively monitors and reports hardware events, such as system errors, performance issues, and inventory. The Electronic Service Agent tool can help you stay focused on your company's strategic business initiatives, save time, and spend less effort managing day-to-day IT maintenance issues. Servers enabled with this tool can be monitored remotely around the clock by IBM Support, all at no additional cost to you.

Now integrated into the base operating system of AIX^(R) V5.3, AIX V6.1, and AIX V7.1, Electronic Service Agent is designed to automatically and electronically report system failures and utilization issues to IBM, which can result in faster problem resolution and increased availability. System configuration and inventory information collected by the Electronic Service Agent tool also can be viewed on the secure Electronic Support web portal, and used to improve problem determination

and resolution by you and the IBM support team. To access the tool main menu, simply type `smitty esa_main`, and select Configure Electronic Service Agent. In addition, ESA now includes a powerful web user interface, giving the administrator easy access to status, tool settings, problem information, and filters. For more information and documentation on how to configure and use Electronic Service Agent, go to the [IBM Electronic Support](#) website.

The IBM Electronic Support portal is a single internet entry point that replaces the multiple entry points traditionally used to access IBM internet services and support. This portal enables you to gain easier access to IBM resources for assistance in resolving technical problems. The My Systems and Premium Search functions make it even easier for Electronic Service Agent tool-enabled customers to track system inventory and find pertinent fixes.

Benefits

Increased uptime: The Electronic Service Agent™ tool is designed to enhance the Warranty or Maintenance Agreement by providing faster hardware error reporting and uploading system information to IBM Support. This can translate to less wasted time monitoring the symptoms, diagnosing the error, and manually calling IBM Support to open a problem record. Its 24 x 7 monitoring and reporting mean intervention is not required to report errors.

Security: The Electronic Service Agent tool is designed to be secure in monitoring, reporting, and storing the data at IBM. The Electronic Service Agent tool is designed to securely transmit either through the internet (HTTPS or VPN) or modem to provide customers a single point of exit from their site. Communication is one way. Activating Electronic Service Agent does not enable IBM to call into a customer's system.

For additional information, go to the [IBM Electronic Service Agent](#) website.

More accurate reporting: Because system information and error logs are automatically uploaded to the IBM Support Center in conjunction with the service request, you are not required to find and send system information, decreasing the risk of misreported or misdiagnosed errors. Once inside IBM, problem error data is run through a data knowledge management system and knowledge articles are appended to the problem record.

Customized support: Using the IBMid entered during activation, you can view system and support information in the *My Systems and Premium Search* sections of the [IBM Electronic Support](#) page.

My Systems provides valuable reports of installed hardware and software using information collected from the systems by Electronic Service Agent. Reports are available for any system associated with your IBMid. Premium Search combines the function of search and the value of Electronic Service Agent information, providing advanced search of the technical support knowledgebase. Using Premium search and the Electronic Service Agent information that has been collected from your system, you are able to see search results that apply specifically to your systems.

For more information on how to utilize the power of IBM Electronic Services, contact your IBM Systems Services Representative, or go to the [IBM Electronic Support](#) website.

Order now

To order, contact the IBM Digital Sales Center, your local IBM representative, or your IBM Business Partner. To identify your local IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, call 800-IBM-4YOU (426-4968). For more information, contact the IBM Digital Sales Center.

Phone: 800-IBM-CALL (426-2255)

Fax: 800-2IBM-FAX (242-6329)

For IBM representative: askibm@ca.ibm.com

For IBM Business Partner: pwcs@us.ibm.com

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The IBM Digital Sales Center, our national direct marketing organization, can add your name to the mailing list for catalogs of IBM products.

Note: Shipments will begin after the planned availability date.

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