IBM z System
Introduction
October 2016

IBM Cloud Provisioning and Management for z/OS

Frequently Asked Questions

Worldwide

ZSQ03105-USEN-00

IBM Cloud Provisioning and Management for z/OS

Question:

What is being delivered with IBM Cloud Provisioning and Management for z/OS®?

Answer:

IBM Cloud Provisioning and Management for z/OS delivers enhancements to the IBM z/OS platform's cloud capabilities that you can use to begin your transformation from an IT cost center to a value-generating service provider, delivering world-class services internally over your intranet or over the internet. These z/OS cloud capabilities provide added benefits to simplify and improve configuration and deployment of a number of components of the z/OS software landscape, thereby allowing you to improve the agility, efficiency, and economics of your IT infrastructure. It also allows the z/OS Administrator to maintain complete control over the resources and z/OS software subsystem instances.

Question:

What tasks can be performed by IBM Cloud Provisioning and Management for z/OS?

Answer:

With the cloud capabilities provided with this z/OS offering, you can perform tasks such as these:

- Exploit automated and repeatable processes to rapidly provision z/OS software subsytems and release the resources to a shared pool when z/OS software subsystem instances are deprovisioned.
- Enable direct access of z/OS computing resources by end users through your existing self-service portal or by using IBM's sample portal.
- Create service catalogs with customized z/OS software subsystem services that exploit the multi-tenancy and rapid elasticity of z/OS.
- Track provisioned z/OS software subsystem instances and associated resources through service instance registry.
- Invoke these new functions through a web browser-based user interface or through programmable REST interfaces.

Question:

When will IBM Cloud Provisioning and Management for z/OS be generally available?

Answer:

IBM Cloud Provisioning and Management will become generally available December 16, 2016.

Question

What are the implications of delivering this cloud technology on z/OS?

Answer:

Enabling the z/OS platform with these cloud capabilities span innovations not only in certain infrastructure elements and components of the z/OS operating system, but also in selected levels of various z/OS software subsystems such as IBM CICS® Transaction Server for z/OS, IBM IMS™ for z/OS, IBM DB2® for z/OS, IBM MQ® for z/OS, and IBM WebSphere® Application Server for z/OS.

Question:

How does this implementation differ from the approach taken on distributed systems?

Answer:

Today in cloud environments on distributed servers, customers would provision a virtual machine with an instance of an operating system to run a single workload. To deploy another workload would mean another virtual machine with another instance of the operating system

On z/OS, you have the ability to run multiple disparate workloads with different service levels for those hosted workloads with isolation or multitenancy. The approach for cloud on z/OS does not focus on the provisioning of multiple operating system instances, but rather uses the ability of z/OS to provision multiple workloads in a single z/OS instance.

Question:

Does this new function change the role of the systems programmer?

Answer:

System programmers today are in the main line path of allocating system resources for new workload deployment.

With this new z/OS Cloud capability, policies can be pre-defined and resource pools pre-established that will still allow traditional z/OS system programmer to maintain control of system resources, but no longer require their presence during the allocation process.

The ability for customers to change when the decision point is made is a “temporal shift” that no longer requires the system programmer to be in the mainline path, but still provides all the necessary control with added flexibility.

Even with this automated provisioning capability, the system programmer can be responsible for “hardening” the changes.

Integration with customer’s change control mechanism and decision to activate instantly or deferred to a later time will be supported.

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U.S.A.
Produced in the United States of America,
10/2016

ZSQ03105-USEN-00