

IBM extends software modernization capabilities with IBM i Modernization Engine for Lifecycle Integration (IBM i Merlin)

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At a glance

IBM^(R) i Modernization Engine for Lifecycle Integration (IBM i Merlin) is an application development and modernization framework designed to help clients move IBM i software forward.

IBM i Merlin:

- Contains a set of tools that run in Red Hat^(R) OpenShift^(R) containers that guide and assist software developers in the modernization of IBM i applications
- Enables client applications to realize the value of a hybrid cloud, multiplatform continuous integration continuous delivery (CICD) implementation
- Makes it easy to expose IBM i-based business functions and data as services, using RESTful interface connections and enterprise message technologies to better participate in the hybrid cloud landscape
- Provides an integrated development environment (IDE) running in a container and accessed through a browser
- Gives clients the opportunity to take core Operations for Programs (*PGM) or Operations for Service Programs (*SRVPGM) written in native Integrated Language Environment^(R) (ILE) languages, such as RPG and COBOL, and deploy them to other IBM i virtual machines (VMs)

Overview

In today's IBM i ecosystem, clients are being challenged to use cloud technology, to adopt DevOps and CICD processes, and to incorporate concepts such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI). These challenges have made modernization a mandatory step into the future for IBM i clients.

At the same time, IBM and the industry are touting containers as one of the key technologies for the future of solution development. Additionally, most IBM clients have hybrid cloud as part of their strategy. With the creation of IBM i Merlin, IBM delivers a set of containerized applications that will act as a set of guides, or patterns, to help IBM i software developers more easily take on the task of moving into a DevOps, modular, services-oriented world. The IBM i Merlin tools will make it easier for clients to use a combination of on-premises IT infrastructure and one or more clouds.

IBM i Merlin delivers several benefits:

- Provides a unified, integrated framework from which you can select tools to build up your solutions.
- Offers an easy-to-use graphical user interface (GUI) to help you manage different tools. Though IBM i Merlin tools run in an OpenShift environment, the details of managing containers are transparent to users who have been working on IBM i for years.
- Makes it faster to deploy tools to assist IBM i operation and development work.
- Aims to provide a complete tool set to facilitate IBM i modernization work. You can have one-stop shopping to get software bundles to modernize IBM i. Such modernization covers programming tools, CICD, exposing existing programs as APIs, and more.
- Primarily supports Red Hat OpenShift (OCP) on Power^(R), which protects your investment on Power systems.
- Delivers an enterprise-level solution for IBM i clients that also includes third-party software to provide better experience and functionalities.

IBM i Merlin use cases include:

- Clients who want to respond more quickly to changing business requirements by developing software using DevOps and CICD tools and methods
- Clients who need to manage their source code in a modern source control management ecosystem, such as Git
- Businesses that want a development platform more easily adoptable for recent IT technologists
- Businesses with existing applications that need to participate in a hybrid cloud landscape
- Clients who have critical data and processes implemented in IBM Db2^(R) for i and existing ILE-based applications, who need to expose those assets as REST APIs
- Businesses that are incorporating container-based applications in their IT landscape

Key requirements

- IBM i with Rational^(R) Development Studio (5770-WDS)
- Red Hat OpenShift Platform
- IBM i 7.3, or later

For details, see the [Hardware requirements](#) and [Software requirements](#) sections.

Planned availability date

May 20, 2022, in Passport Advantage^(R)

Availability within a country is subject to local legal requirements.

Program number

Program number	VRM	Program name
5900-AN9	1.0.0	IBM i Modernization Engine for Lifecycle Integration

Offering Information

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

More information is also available on the [Passport Advantage and Passport Advantage Express](#) website.

Publications

None

Services

IBM Systems Lab Services

Systems Lab Services offers infrastructure services to help build hybrid cloud and enterprise IT solutions. From servers to storage systems and software, Systems Lab Services can help deploy the building blocks of a next-generation IT infrastructure to empower a client's business. Systems Lab Services consultants can perform infrastructure services for clients on-line or onsite, offering deep technical expertise, valuable tools, and successful methodologies. Systems Lab Services is designed to help clients solve business challenges, gain new skills, and apply best practices.

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For more information, contact Security Expert Labs at sel@us.ibm.com.

For additional information, see the [IBM Security Expert Labs](#) website.

Technical information

Specified operating environment

Hardware requirements

An IBM Power server

Software requirements

- IBM i 7.3, or later
- IBM i with Rational Development Studio (5770-WDS)
- Red Hat OpenShift Platform

IBM Support

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Planning information

Packaging

This offering is delivered through the internet as an electronic download. There is no physical media.

Ordering information

For ordering information, consult your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or go to the [Passport Advantage](#) website.

This program is available only through Passport Advantage.

Passport Advantage

New part numbers

IBM i Modernization Engine for Lifecycle Integration (5900-AN9) introduces the following part numbers:

Part number description	Part number
IBM i Modernization Engine for Lifecycle Integration Virtual Processor Core License + SW Subscription & Support 12 Months	D091ZZX
IBM i Modernization Engine for Lifecycle Integration Virtual Processor Core Annual SW Subscription & Support Renewal	E091YZX
IBM i Modernization Engine for Lifecycle Integration Virtual Processor Core SW Subscription & Support Reinstatement 12 Months	D0921ZX

Charge metric

The charge metric for this licensed product can be found in the following License Information document:

Program number	License Information document title	License Information document number
5900-AN9	IBM i Modernization Engine for Lifecycle Integration	L-LHIH-CDFL7G

Select your language of choice and scroll down to the Charge Metrics section. Follow-on releases, if any, may have updated terms. See the [License Information documents](#) website for more information.

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The information provided in this announcement letter is for reference and convenience purposes only. The terms and conditions that govern any transaction

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License Information number

The following License Information document applies to the offering in this announcement:

Program identifier	License Information document title	License Information document number
5900-AN9	IBM i Modernization Engine for Lifecycle Integration	L-LHIH-CDFL7G

Follow-on releases, if any, may have updated terms. See the [License Information documents](#) website for more 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.

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Standard support

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Volume orders (IVO)

No

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Software Subscription and Support applies

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Variable charges apply

No

Educational allowance available

Not applicable

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Corrections

(Corrected on July 6, 2022)

Modification made to Key requirements and Software requirements.