

Need answers about how Continuous Delivery will change the way you get IMS code?

We have them right here.

Is it true that there will no longer be new releases of IMS?

This is not true. Only the delivery model for IMS is changing, and that delivery model shifts from major release cycles (traditionally every two years) to more continuous drops of code. In addition, IBM reserves the right to deliver a major release if, for example, a z/OS or IBM Z hardware requirement mandates that we make widespread changes within IMS. To date, no such mandate has emerged, so we will rely on continuous delivery to deliver new function as it becomes available.

Is it true that there will be no new features or enhancements on IMS in the future?

This is not true. Consistent with other z/OS products, IMS is evolving and moving from a delivery model in which enhancements are delivered on version boundaries (which for IMS was traditionally every 2 years) to a continuous delivery model, in which enhancements are delivered as PTFs as the code becomes ready.

Is IMS moving into service-only mode, where customers only receive fixes for problems?

No. IMS is adopting the continuous delivery model for enhancements. IMS will deliver new function as PTFs as well as SUP tapes at new V.R levels. Service continues to be delivered as PTFs.

Do I need to reinstall IMS to take advantage of enhancements?

No. The intent of the continuous delivery model is to help you avoid the time and costs associated with reinstalling IMS so that you can more readily take advantage of enhancements as they become available. The enhancements are delivered as PTFs, so you apply them as you have applied PTFs previously.

How often will enhancements be delivered?

There is no set delivery cadence for new enhancements. Enhancements will be delivered as the code becomes ready.

Will the frequency of enhancements destabilize my system? How will IBM prevent this?

Enhancements delivered as part of a continuous delivery cycle will ship disabled by default. If you choose to use a particular enhancement, you must take an explicit action (for example, issue a command) to use the new function.

How is the enhancement enabled?

The enhancement can be enabled either by issuing a command or specifying a PARMLIB. Enhancements are disabled in a corresponding manner.

Should I install all enhancements?

Yes. While you are not required to install new functions, we strongly recommend that customers stay current with new features and functions, as well as maintenance. Staying current is the recommended practice to help minimize impact to your systems. In addition, staying current will minimize the impact that PTFs for enhancements will have as prerequisites to future critical maintenance.

When will the enhancements be available in Recommended Service Upgrades (RSUs)?

IBM provides monthly RSUs for critical maintenance; however, new IMS enhancements will be available on quarterly RSUs. You do not have to wait for the RSU if you are interested in any new feature; simply order the PTF and install the new enhancement as you would any other PTF.

Will vendor products tolerate the enhancements when they are made available?

We are working closely with our business partners to include them early in the development of enhancements so that they are better able to provide toleration and, where possible, exploitation.

How will I hear about new enhancements when they come out?

We will use our IMS social media channels ([Twitter](#), [IMS Global on LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Listserv](#)), provide information through the [official IBM IMS web pages](#), the [IMS Knowledge Center](#), and the hold card of the PTF when it is available.

How do I know what is coming in the future so that I can plan?

Become a sponsor user for the feature. Sponsor users are involved in design discussions and feedback sessions. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor user, you can contact us at ibmims@us.ibm.com or through your IBM lab advocate.

Another option to get early information about what enhancements are being planned, and when they will become available, is to [join to IMS GOLD program](#).

Will I be able to apply new enhancement PTFs in a rolling fashion?

Yes. Like new enhancement SPEs today, we make every effort to ensure maintenance is not required to be applied to all systems at one time. There may be cases where a new enhancement can't be enabled until all systems are at a certain maintenance level. With our 15.1 Function Level support, we introduced mechanisms to prevent enabling new function when all systems are not at the required level.

How can I check which release my system is currently on?

You can use the [DFSGVRM API](#) to obtain the installed IMS version, release, and modification level, which you can call from within or outside of IMS. When executed outside of IMS, the

IMS control region does not have to be running.

Do I need to reinstall IMS to “move” to a new release within a version?

No. The intent of the new release is to delineate service levels within the version as well as provide SUP tapes to make it easier for new IMS customers to manage updates. To migrate to a new release within a version, order the new release marker PTF and install the PTF as you would any other PTF, to ‘move’ to the new release.

Do I have to come to current maintenance in order to migrate to a new release within a version?

Yes. The new release PTF will require all prior maintenance be applied before starting on the new release. We strongly recommend that customers stay current with new features and functions, as well as maintenance. Staying current is the recommended practice to help minimize impact to your systems. In addition, staying current will minimize the impact that PTFs for enhancements will have as prerequisites to future critical maintenance.

Has the lifecycle support model for IMS Versions changed with continuous delivery?

The committed support lifecycle you have come to expect with IMS Versions is still the same. IMS Version 15 as a whole will have a minimum of 5 years base support plus an optional 3 years of service extension offered. What is being introduced is the support lifecycle for each individual release within a version. We understand business needs may arise requiring customers to remain on a particular release within the version past its base number of years of support, so we wanted to be able offer service extensions for individual releases within a version.

What is the expected support lifecycle for a release within a version? How will I be notified?

The expected minimum support lifecycle is 2 years base support plus an optional 1 year of service extension offered. The committed support lifecycle for each release within a version will be in an announcement letter for that given release. We will also announce the end of

service date for each release within a version a minimum of 12 months ahead of the effective date.

Do I have to enable enhancements that were delivered on prior releases in order to migrate to a new release within a version?

It depends. A new release within a version may have prerequisites that require specific functions be enabled before IMS can be started on the new release. We strongly recommend that these functions be enabled prior to moving to the new release to ensure it is enable properly before starting IMS on the new release.

How often will a new release within a version be delivered?

There is no set delivery cadence for new releases. A new release will be delivered when there is a technical or business need. New enhancements will continuously be delivered on the current release as PTFs.

Should I move to the next release when it becomes available?

Yes. While you are not required to move to the next release, we strongly recommend that customers stay current with new releases. Staying current is the recommended practice to help minimize impact to your systems. In addition, staying current will minimize the impact that new releases will have as prerequisites to future critical releases. If you wish to remain on an old release the release change PTF can be bypassed in the apply process.

Will I need to apply a coexistence PTF before moving to a new release within the version?

We do not intend to require a release to release coexistence PTFs, however, the new release may require that all systems within the IMSplex have a certain level of maintenance applied for functional coexistence.

Will a new release support coexistence with any prior release within a version?

Since all releases are on the same code base, we do not intend to restrict release to release coexistence.

Do all new enhancements have to be enabled on all IMSs in the plex at the same time?

No. Our intent is to provide proper messages and warnings around new enhancement maintenance and enablement by documenting proper prerequisites and building checks into the code to cover traditional scenarios: 1) enabling of new enhancements in a rolling fashion allowing other IMS to be at any maintenance level. 2) enabling new enhancements in a rolling fashion requiring other IMSs be at a pre-requisite maintenance level. 3) enabling new enhancement that requires enhancement be enabled on all IMSs at the same time.

I'm interested in one or more of the new enhancements but I'm not sure how to get started with them. Can IBM help?

IBM IMS offers a unique program called the IMS Makerspace. It is a no-charge offering during which technical experts from the IMS Development team partner with client teams to provide education, conduct design thinking exercises, and move towards a proof of concept with IMS technical solutions.