Bit Bucket x'3B'

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To Serve Man the continuing aftermath...

(Ed Jaffe)

Why Remove z/OS SMB?

- SMB is a Microsoft file sharing protocol that grew from IBM's NetBIOS. The current protocol version is 3.0. It is secure, highly functional, and is the basis for the Common Internet File System.
- Originally Apple didn't support it, but eventually changed their mind.
 MacOS now fully supports current SMB/CIFS protocols.
- Linux fully supports SMB via SAMBA/CIFS.
- The z/OS SMB server was (IMHO) one of IBM's best efforts, but it was never updated to protocol levels beyond SMB 1.0.
- When SMB 1.0 was diagnosed with serious vulnerabilities, it was quickly deprecated by Microsoft.
- The Windows client even unilaterally uninstalls itself if not used for two weeks!

We Reluctantly Became a Sponsor User

- We vehemently expressed our disagreement with IBM's strategy:
 - NFS was originally designed for server-to-server remote mounts only.
 - Individual end-user authentication, etc. is very recent (NFS v4) and requires Kerberos single sign-on technology.
 - NFS v3 is the most popular protocol for NFS and Windows still uses it.
 - (MacOS supports NFS v4 for those that care about such things.)
- SMB/CIFS 3.0 works "out of the box" for Windows 10, MacOS, and Linux clients and so we "politely" suggested IBM's direction *should* be to upgrade its SMB server to support the SMB/CIFS 3.0 protocol like the other vendors.
- Kershaw Mehta promised me IBM would make NFS work "out of the box" for Windows 10 clients so, despite my skepticism, I offered to help out as a "sponsor user" and try to implement NFS in our environment.

Restrictions/Problems Discovered During Migration

Description

NFS does not support cascading mounts

NFS does not turn on MntEntFSModeExport in BPXYMNTE

NFS does not support the use of forward slashes in client pathnames

NFS has no equivalent to the \\MYHOME support in SMB

NFS does not support near-simultaneous updates by multiple clients

NFS does not support v3 client SAF authentication with Kerberos

NFS does not support v3 client SAF authentication without Kerberos

NFS does not support AUTOMNT with SAF enabled

NFS does not support creation of read-only files with SAF enabled

NFS generates many extraneous ICH408I messages on Syslog

NFS does not support running EXEs (executables) with SAF enabled

NFS does not support z/OS UNIX ACLs without SAF enabled

NFS does not support z/OS UNIX ACLs with SAF enabled

NFS locking is "dog" slow

Workaround/Fix

OA57493 (OPEN)

None

None/Microsoft

Scripted mount H:

Adjust Windows registry

OA56224

OA56187

Export individual users

OA57489

None

Mapped file/Microsoft

None (Understandable)

OA57493 (OPEN)

None

OA57493 (OPEN)

```
# The WINPREFIX attribute specifies a z/OS UNIX file system
# prefix to be used by Windows clients. The prefix value must
# begin with a forward slash (/) followed by at least one and no
# more than six additional characters. Mount requests received
# by the Network File System beginning with this prefix value
# are identified as mount requests for z/OS UNIX but with
 additional customizations to enable the Windows native client
 to work smoothly. The prefix value is not part of the path name @LINA
\# on the z/OS system.
# Customizations enabled by this prefix:
# 1. showmount -e will list additional export entries under the
     given prefix: one additional winprefix'ed export for each
     entry in the exports data set prefixed with the hfsprefix.
# 2. File mode reported to client is 777. This forces access
     checking on the server side which has two benefits for
     Windows clients:
     a. ACLs work correctly (Windows clients do not send ACCESS
        RPCs and thus do not attempt access to files where the
        UNIX file mode denies access, but an ACL allows access).
     b. File access is tolerated in environments with mis-matched @LINA
        UIDs/GIDs (Windows client sends request and server
        handles permissions properly based on z/OS UID).
 3. Crossing mount points is enabled.
\# Note: The file system must be mounted locally by z/OS UNIX.
        Otherwise, the client mount fails.
# Note: This prefix is only valid and can only be enabled when
        security is SAFEXP or EXPORTS for HFS data access.
# Note: This prefix is only exposed for NFSv3 accesses.
winprefix(/win)
```

777 permissions are misleading @LIPC and result in many extraneous ICH408I failures on the log

@LINA

@LIPA

@LIPA

@LINA

@LINA

@LINA

@LINA @LINA

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@LINA

@LINA

#EEJ

- At least you can access the files you need and ACLs work
- Cascading mounts works on the @LINA surface, but available space values are always presented from the highest file system in the hierarchy
 - This leads to "out of space" conditions that are not legit
 - Cascading mounts unusable until this is resolved

OA57493 (OPEN)

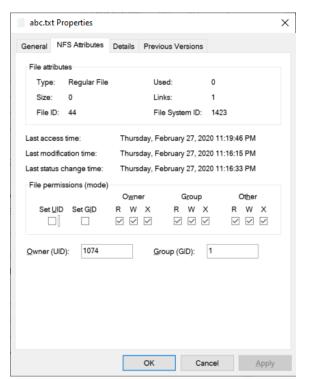
 To unambiguously set permissions, you must check and uncheck every permission box, then set the desired permissions and press Apply.

:/u/edjx1/sharetest: >ls -l

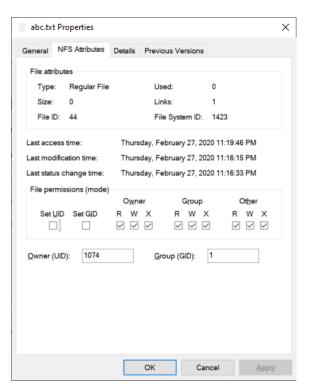
total 0

-rw-r--r-- 1 EDJX1 DEV

0 Feb 27 23:16 abc.txt







- No matter what you do, the result will always appear again as 777
- Inspect using SSH or OMVS prompt Is -I command

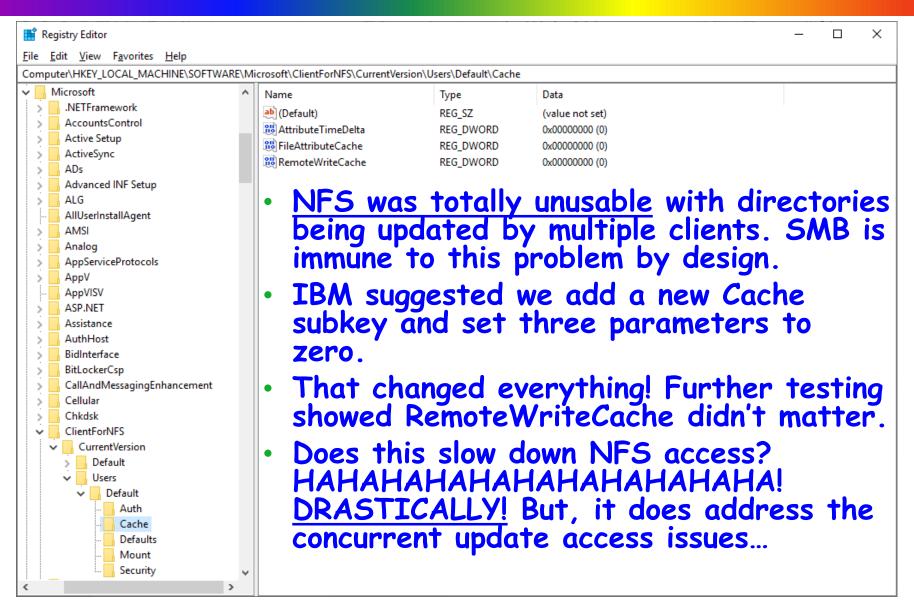
OA57493 (OPEN)

154 154	00000281 00000281 00000281 00000281 00000281	<pre>ICH408I USER(DEAN) GROUP(SUP) NAME(YAMADA, DEAN CL(DIRACC) FID(D3C1D5F0F14000030000000114B114A) INSUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO VREADDIR ACCESS INTENT(R) ACCESS ALLOWED(OTHER) EFFECTIVE UID(0000001300) EFFECTIVE GID(000000007)</pre>		Users are unaware of these failures and unaffected.
	00000281	ICH408I USER(DEAN) GROUP(SUP) NAME(YAMADA, DEAN) 155	unallectea.
	00000281	CL(DIRACC) FID(D3C1D5F0F14000030000000114B114A)		
	00000281	INSUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO VREADDIR ACCESS INTENT(R) ACCESS ALLOWED(OTHER)	•	Auditing of such
	00000281	ACCESS INTENT(R) ACCESS ALLOWED(OTHER)		
	00000281	EFFECTIVE UID(0000001300) EFFECTIVE GID(0000000007)		failures is ineffective
	00000281	ICH408I USER(DEAN) GROUP(SUP) NAME(YAMADA, DEAN) 156	randres is increasing
	00000281	CL(DIRSRCH) FID(D3C1D5F0F14000030000000114B114A)		The how CTN /4his
	00000281	INSUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO VLOOKUP	•	The hex FID (this
	00000281	ACCESS INTENT(X) ACCESS ALLOWED(OTHER)		
	00000281	EFFECTIVE UID(0000001300) EFFECTIVE GID(000000007)	\ 155	one starting with
	00000281	ICH408I USER (DEAN) GROUP (SUP) NAME (YAMADA, DEAN) 157	
	00000281 00000281	CL(DIRACC) FID(D3C1D5F0F14000030000000114B114A) INSUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO VREADDIR		LAN01) seems kinda
	00000281	ACCESS INTENT (R) ACCESS ALLOWED (OTHER)		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	00000281	EFFECTIVE UID(000001300) EFFECTIVE GID(000000007)		useless even for real
	00000281	ICH408I USER(DEAN) GROUP(SUP) NAME(YAMADA, DEAN) 158	
	00000281	CL(DIRACC) FID(D3C1D5F0F1400003000000011D281D27)	, 130	failures
	00000281	INSUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO VREADDIR		
	00000281	ACCESS INTENT(R) ACCESS ALLOWED(OTHER)		
	00000281	EFFECTIVE UID(000001300)		
MVSNFS	00000281	ICH408I USER (DEAN) GROUP (SUP) NAME (YAMADA, DEAN) 159	
159	00000281	CL(DIRACC) FID(D3C1D5F0F140000300000011D281D27)		
159	00000281	INSUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO VREADDIR		
159	00000281	ACCESS INTENT(R) ACCESS ALLOWED(OTHER)		
159	00000281	EFFECTIVE UID(000001300)		

Other APARS

- OA56224 provides NFSv3 client SAF authentication with Kerberos
- OA56187 provides MVSLOGIN, MVSLOGOUT and SHOWATTR commands for use with Windows
 - Network traffic is not encrypted
 - IBM recommends the use of Kerberos
- OA56489 allow file owner read/write despite filemode

Allowing Near-Simultaneous Updates



- This is obviously a Windows solution.
- Mac and Linux allow you to set the cache parameters on the mount itself.
- Recommend you use

 noac and heed the
 following warning from
 the Linux man pages:

Using the noac option provides greater cache coherence among NFS clients accessing the same files, but it extracts a significant performance penalty. As such, judicious use of file locking is encouraged instead. The DATA AND METADATA COHERENCE section contains a detailed discussion of these trade-offs.

Mapped File Updates for EXE Execution

- In NFSATTR add:
 - mapped
- Create file called hlq.NFS.MAPPING with the following:
 - #NFS.MAPPING #NFS.MAPPING.MAPPED .exe binary nosaf
- This will prevent SAF access to EXE files in order to work around a Microsoft bug.

NFS Locking is "Dog" Slow

- We experienced unacceptably-slow performance for programs that perform a lot of locking.
- We wrote a test program that showed just how slow it was
- Unfortunately, this is an issue with NFS in general and not z/OS.
 - Same slowness observed on Linux for Z as well as Linux for Intel and across clients (Windows, Mac, Linux)

```
LittleMac:FileLock etech$ ./FileLock /Volumes/Temp/register.dbf
Testing with locking.
                               Duration: 00:02:25
                                                     2688 loop iterations
                               Duration: 00:00:00
Testing without locking.
                                                     2688 loop iterations
LittleMac:FileLock etech$
LittleMac:FileLock etech$ ./FileLock /Volumes/Temp/register.dbf
Testing with locking.
                              Duration: 00:02:23
                                                     2688 loop iterations
Testing without locking.
                              Duration: 00:00:00
                                                     2688 loop iterations
LittleMac:FileLock etech$
LittleMac:FileLock etech$ mount | fgrep ep.phx
ep16centos7.ep.phx:/Viking on /Volumes/Temp (nfs, read-only)
```

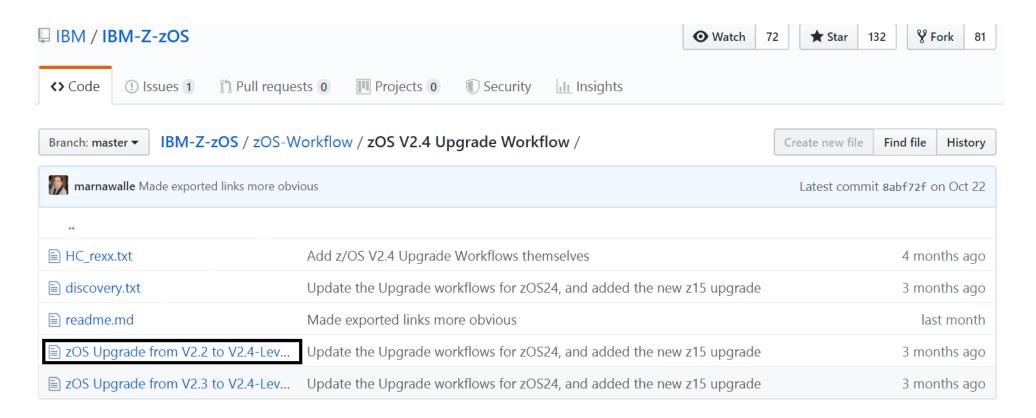
Workload Placement and Future Considerations

- Unfortunately, this debacle has forced us to move some workload off the mainframe.
- That HURTS!
- We might be able to bring it back (in a sense) by leveraging SAMBA/CIFS under zCX once we upgrade to wunna them fancy new z15s (we're at z13s now).
- In the mean-time, we'll keep trying to help IBM improve z/OS NFS for the workload that hasn't yet left...

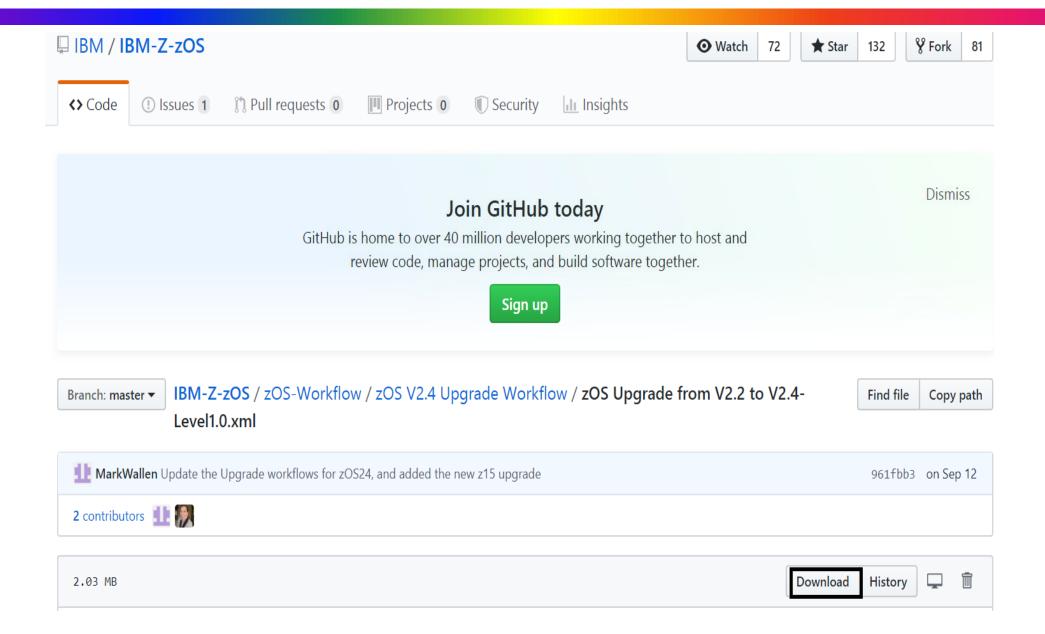
Workflow Woes (Mike Shorkend)

Get the XML from github

https://github.com/IBM/IBM-Z-zOS/tree/master/zOS-Workflow/zOS%20V2.4%20Upgrade%20Workflow



Download the XML

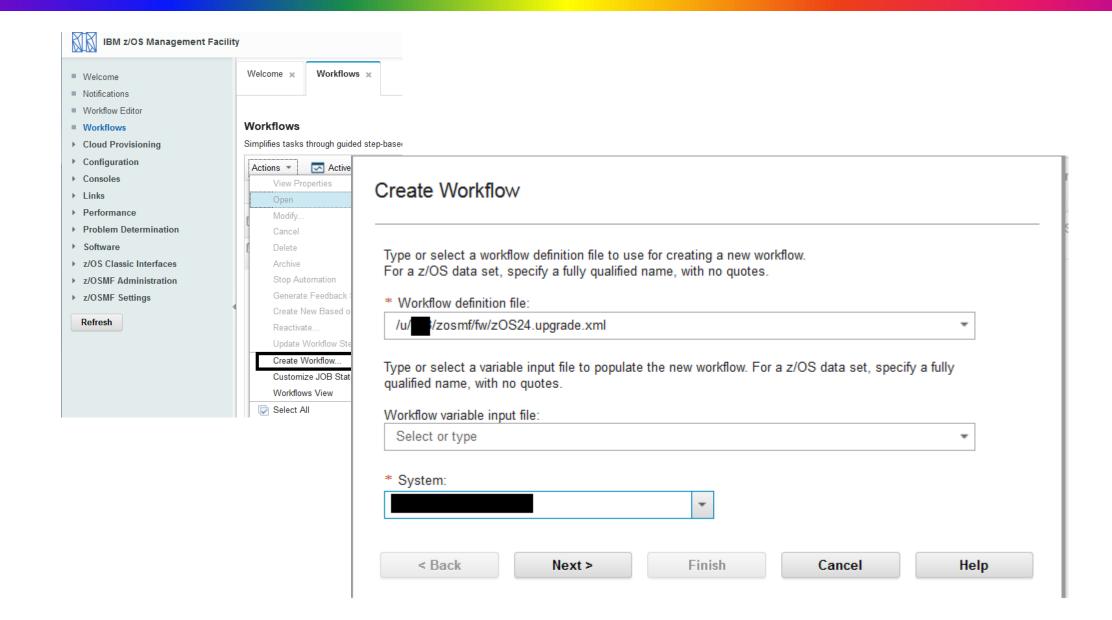


Transfer the XML to z/OS

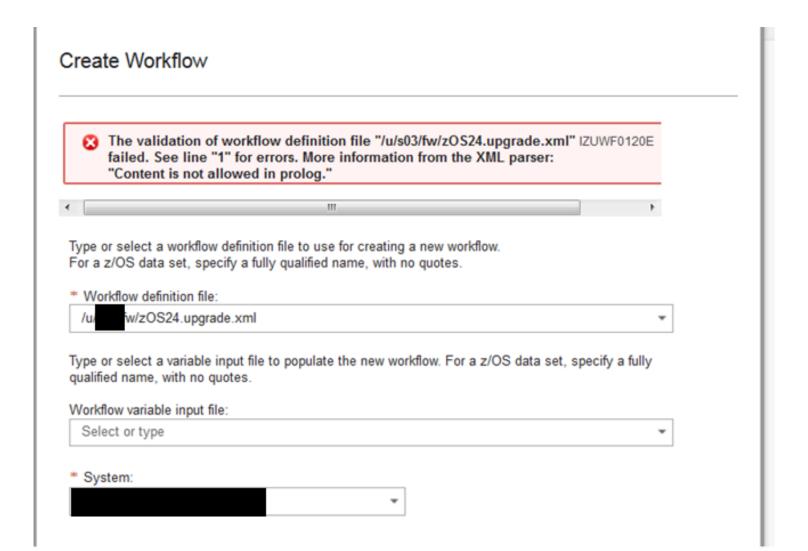
This is a text file(xml) so text transfer(i.e. translate to EBCDIC).

Right?

Create the Workflow in z/OSMF



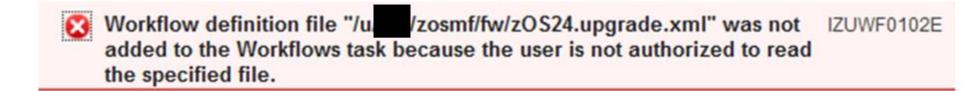
Hmm... Something is Wrong



Doing it Like a Millennial

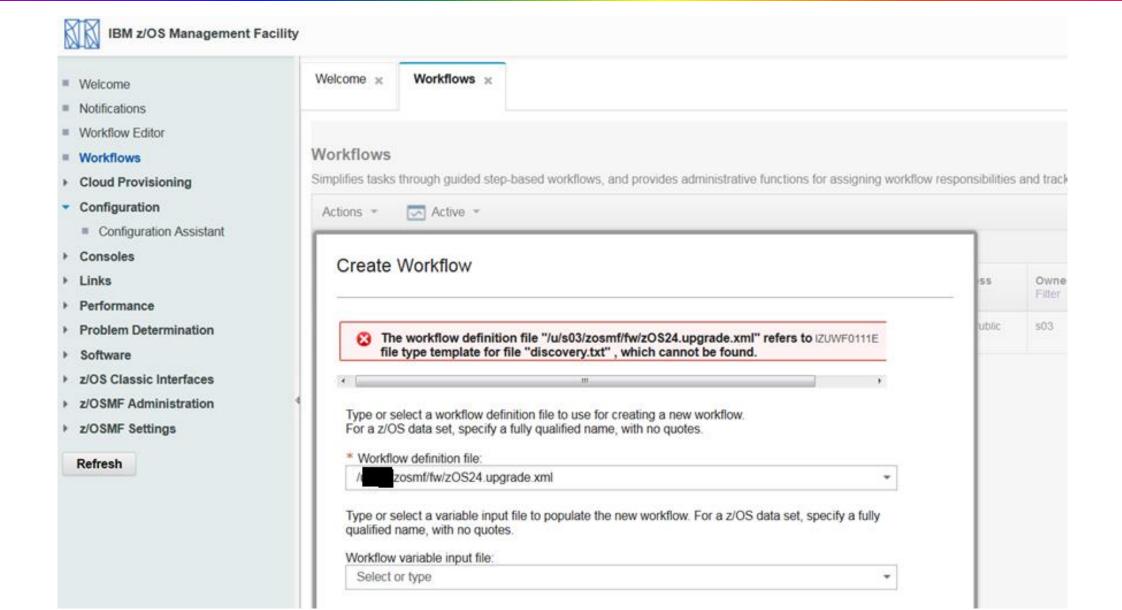
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejQR5Yaxz9M (for 2.1, thanks Marna, for the tweet)
- Downloaded zOS Upgrade from V2.2 to V2.4-Level1.0.xml
- Binary upload to z/OS unix
- Load into z/OSMF

More Problems



- Look at the permission bits 640
- Changed to 755 fixed it
- Kind of strange because I was using the same user for the FTP and z/OSMF

Still More Problems



Downloaded Missing Files

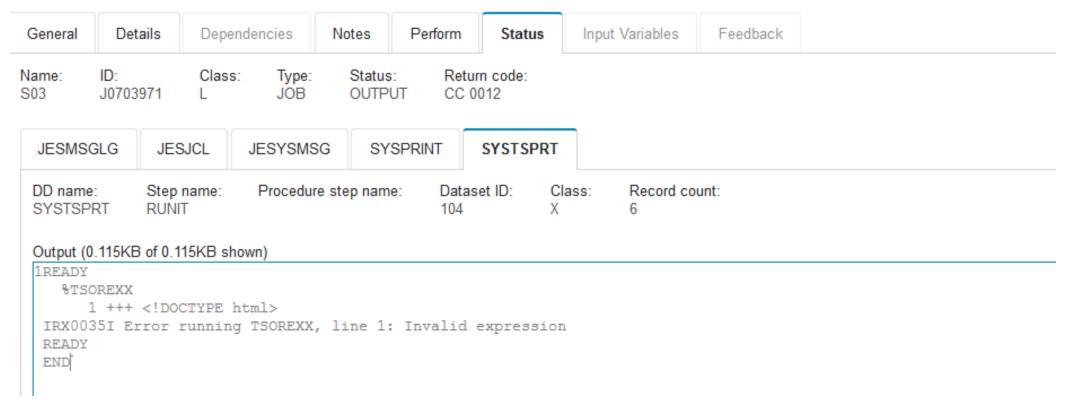
- discovery.txt
- HC_rexx.txt
- Binary upload to z/OS
- Chmod 755
- Try again

What Now?

Turns out that the rexx gets downloaded as html. I had to copy/paste from the website

Workflows ▶ zOS V2R4 Upgrade Workflow from zOS V2R2 - Workflow_0 ▶ 1. Discover z/OS features in use

Properties for Workflow Step 1. Discover z/OS features in use



How To Do It Right

- Read the entire readme file on github!
- Download the xml, HC_rexx.txt, discovery.txt as raw
- Binary upload to USS
- Change permissions
- Load the workflow
- Define z/OSMF workflow

Use UTF-8 to View

Command ===>		z/0S	UNIX Direc	tory List					to 6 of 6
Pathname . : /u. EUID : 1500000 Command Filename		Type Permission	Audit Ext	Fmat Owner	Group	Links	Size	Modified	
		Dir гыхгыхгых	fff			3	8192	2019/12/24	10:31:00
		Dir rwxr-xr-x	fff			11	8192	2020/01/26	15:53:44
discovery t	×t	File rwxr-xr-x	fffs			1	39629	2019/12/24	10:30:44
fω		Dir rwxr-xr-x	fff			2	8192	2020/02/18	09:40:28
zOS Upgrade	fro	File rwxr-xr-x	fffs			1	2132109	2019/12/24	10:30:42
/ HC_rexx.txt		File rwxr-xr-x	fff	- bin		1	23023	2019/12/24	10:30:44



HILITE Unavailable - Time for a New Requirement?

```
VIEW
        /u/. //zosmf/HC rexx.txt
                                                                                          HILITE unavailable
Command ===> hi icl
                                                                                          Scroll ===> CSR
000003 //* Copyright 2017 IBM Corp.
000004 //*
000005 //* Licensed under the Apache License, Version 2.0 (the "License");
                                                              * /
000006 //st you may not use this file except in compliance with the License.
000007 //* You may obtain a copy of the License at
                                                              ж /
000009 //* http://www.apache.org/licenses/LICENSE-2.0
000010 //*
000011 //* Unless required by applicable law or agreed to in writing, software*/
000012 //* distributed under the License is distributed on an "AS IS" BASIS, */
000013 //* WITHOUT WARRANTIES OR CONDITIONS OF ANY KIND, either express or implied. */
000014 //* See the License for the specific language governing permissions and */
000015 //* limitations under the License.
000017 //*
000018 //* STEP #1:
                    COPY STEP - IEBGENER -
000020 //GENER
              EXEC PGM=IEBGENER
000021 //SYSPRINT DD SYSOUT=*
000022 //SYSIN
              DD DUMMY
000023 //SYSUT1
              DD DDNAME=TSOREXX
             DD DISP=(NEW, PASS), DSN=&&TMP(TSOREXX),
000024 //SYSUT2
              UNIT=SYSALLDA, SPACE=(1024, (500, 100, 1)),
000025 //
000026 //
              DCB=(RECFM=FB.LRECL=1024.BLKSIZE=0)
000027 //TSOREXX DD *.DLM=$$
000028 /* rexx */
000030 /* CHANGE ACTIVITY:
000031 /* Flag
              Person Reason
000032 /* ----
000033 /* 1506
                        The HILITE command is not available in ascii or utf8 edit sessions.
              DJB
000034 /*
```

HILITE Alternative

```
zOS Upgrade from V2.2 to V2.4-Level1.0.xml 🔀
     <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
    □<workflow xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance" xsi:noNamespaceSchemaLocation="../wor
         <autoTakeOwnership>true</autoTakeOwnership>
         <workflowInfo>
             <workflowID>e0zm100 v2r4</workflowID>
             <workflowDescription>zOS V2R4 Upgrade Workflow from zOS V2R2</workflowDescription>
             <workflowVersion>2.0</workflowVersion>
  8
  9
             <vendor>IBM</vendor>
         </workflowInfo>
10
11
         <variable name="check">
12
             <label>Check name</label>
             <abstract>IBM Health Check name</abstract>
13
14
             <description><![CDATA[ This health check will be invoked in association with this upgrade act</pre>
15
             <category/>
             <string>
16
17
                 <default>IBMZMIG,ZOSMIG HTTP SERVER DOMINO</default>
18
             </string>
         </variable>
19
20
         <variable name="tcpipbase status">
             <label>TCPIPBASE
21
             <abstract>Get Status of TCPIPBASE.</abstract>
23
             <description><![CDATA[ The current status of TCPIPBASE.]]></description>
             <category>started</category>
24
```

RACFROD and RACFADM with a little zigi tossed in (Bill Smith)

"Spare the rod and spoil the admin."

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Farewell ACF2... Welcome, RACF!

- The City & County of San Francisco (CCSF)
 - * z13s, z/OS 2.3 managed by Trident Services, Inc. > 25 years
 - * 3 LPARs: Production, Hall of Justice, and Test Sysprog Sandbox
- 25+ years of CA ACF2
 - * Skill set and ongoing service/support becoming scarce/problematic
 - * Senior sysprog (principal ACF2 caretaker) is retiring March 2020
- Decision point spring 2019: Cut the cord and migrate to RACF
- Early fall 2019: Migration complete, time to begin deployment
 - One shared RACF vs. three discrete ACF2 security data bases

What Do We Do About RACF Reporting?

- ACF2 & RACF provide canned sets of batch reports: What is germane to the needs of the City? Replace 'what' with 'what'?
- Referred to Tom Conley's presentation "RACF Power Tools Using IRRICE and REXX on IRRADU00 and IRRDBU00", June 2015
 - * Wealth of RACF best practices and insightful guidance on the use of IBM's supplied audit and data base unload utilities
- Created GDGs and implemented daily, CA-Scheduler unloads of the RACF database
 - * SYS1.SAMPLIB(IRRICE) built all 43 jobs & successfully executed
 - * <u>FAR</u> too much output to reasonably review on a routine basis

The Open World is the Panacea!

- Third party vendor products: No can do, no budget, pricey
- Check out forums & CBT nothing surfaced
- Scour the internet: B I N G O!
- Moribund website in Italy: rizutto.IT (2000-2001) Nick Rizutto
 - * "ICERACF: Format RACF Database Information Extracted for IRRDBU00"
 - 13 batch DFSort ICETool reports clean and compact
 - * "ERA, Enhanced RACF Administration: ISPF-based facility for RACF administration"
 - Sadly, <u>DOA</u>: TSO session looped. Three evenings later: debugged, fixed
 - In real-time, populate ISPF tables with RACF data base content

RACFROD and RACFADM

- CCSF security admins: non-technical, infrequent TSO and JCL users - often need the watchful eyes of a systems programmer
- Created new ISPF dialog "RACFROD: RACF Reports On-Demand"
 - * One panel using file tailored DFSort ICETool job streams/skeletons
 - * Specify any of 15 generation data sets by relative reference
 - * Can select all reports or any combination thereof: directly into EDIT
 - PF3 submits the generated JCL
- Sec admin extremely pleased, best at 62x160, and each report selectable with SDSF "?" held output queue command
- Sam Golob is adding to CBT; Lionel Dyck has added to GitHub

Sample RACFROD ICETool Report Selection Display

```
RACF IRRDBU00: ICETool Reports On-Demand -----
COMMAND ===>
                                                               Scroll ===> CSR
Type \mathbf{S} or \mathbf{X} to generate all reports or select reports by record number.
Optionally, leave S/X fields blank and press Enter to generate all reports, or
select any RecTyp text field using a mouse double click for one report choice.
RACF Unload Data Set Name ===> SECURITP.RACF.UNLOAD(0)
               IRRDBU00 Record Name / ICETool Report Headings - (SA23-2289)
 S/X
     RecTup
       ALL
               Generate all of the following 13 RACF record type reports.
  100
               Group Basic Data - GPBD
                  Group, Sup Group, Owner, Create Date, Description
               Group Members - GPMEM
       102
                  User, User Authorization, Group
               User Basic Data - USBD
       200
                  User, Name, DefGrp, Create/Logon/Revoke Date, Owner,
                  Spec, Oper, Revoke
```

RACFROD and RACFADM

- ERA renamed: RACFADM
- The Cabal kick starts enhancing RACFADM: a collaborative effort
 - * Significant logic errors resolved; REXX code consolidated
 - * Panels are using more consistent layouts
 - * Many human factors and functional/usability shortfalls addressed
 - * Tutorials added with KC hyperlinks
- Early demonstrations to security admins have been very optimistic with positive feedback.
- Goal: Eliminate altogether use of anachronistic IBM RACF panels.

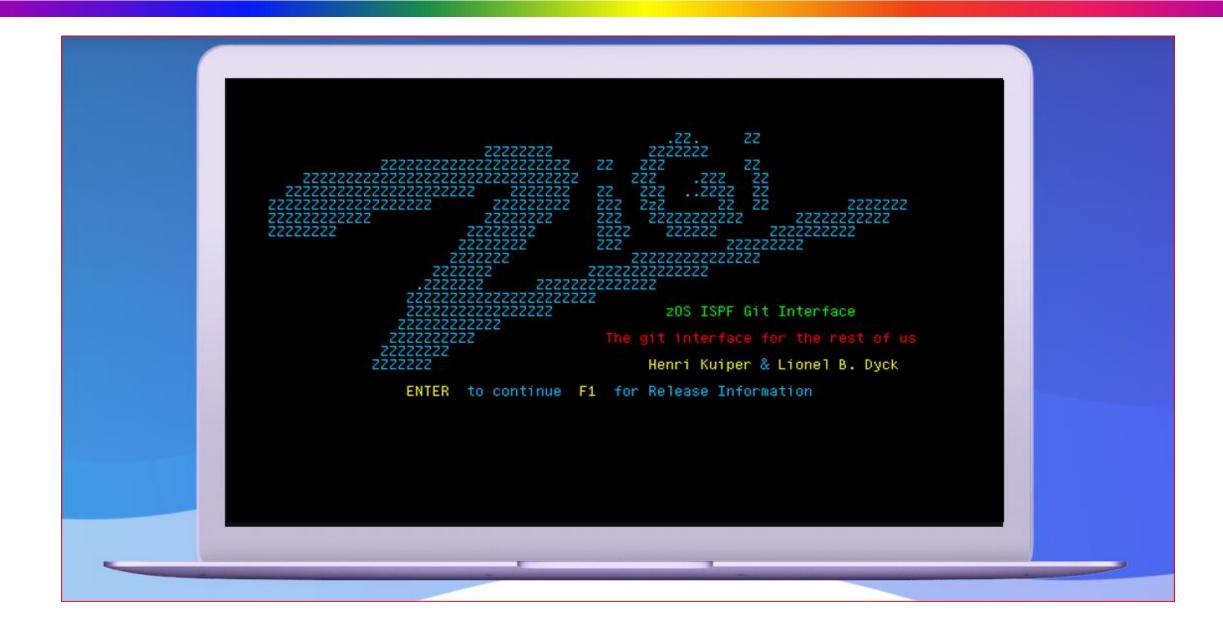
Sample RACFADM User Profile: Tabular Display

```
Command ===> _
                                              Scroll==> CSR
FILTER:
     TS*
SELECT: S Show, SE Search, L List, C Chg, A Add, R Remove, RS Reset, RV Revoke
5
       Userid
              Name
                             Group Logon Owner Rev Att TSO
       TSSMITH SMITH WILLIAM
                                    20/02/21 SYS1 YES YES
                        SYS1
                                    20/02/07 SYS1
              SMITH WILLIAM
                        APLPROG
                                                   YES YES
       TSSMIT1
              SOLEDAD MARIA C
                                    20/02/19 SYS1
       TSSOLED
                             SFTIS
                                                    YES YES
                                    19/10/28 SYS1
              WONG SIU-MEI
       TSSWONG
                             APLPROG
                                                    YES YES
       TSTHOMP
              THOMPSON KIM M
                             APLPROG
                                    UNKNOWN SYS1
                                                    YES YES
       TSTSANG
              SHARON TANG
                             APLPROG
                                    UNKNOWN SYS1
                                                    YES YES
                                    20/02/12 SYS1
       TSWCRA
                             APLPROG
                                                    YES YES
                                    19/10/29 SYS1
                                                    YES YES
        TSWCRB
              ROTH WILLIAM 3
                             SFTIS
        TSWELLI
              WELLING EILEEN
                             SFTIS
                                    UNKNOWN SYS1
                                                    YES YES
        TSWHEAT
              WHEATLEY GEORGE
                             OPSPROG
                                    20/02/20 SYS1
                                                    YES YES
              YBANEZ GLACIER SYSPROG
        TSYBANE
                                    UNKNOWN SYS1
                                                    YES YES
        TSZHAOB
              ZHAO BEN
                     OPSPROG
                                    20/02/20 SYS1
```

Time to Git It On and Rock With zigi

- zigi: <u>z</u>/OS <u>ISPF</u> <u>G</u>it <u>Interface</u> is pure REXX & ISPF dialog services
- Collaborative, open source, international in scope, development
 - Henri Kuiper and Lionel Dyck, key contributors
 - Download here: https://github.com/wizardofzos/zigi
- Embraces an ardent belief that ISPF is here to stay and thrives among its adherents.
- GitHub: web-based hosting and software version control mgmt. with 40,000,000 users; free registration; developed by Linus Torvalds; managed/owned by Microsoft
- https://zigi.rocks/

Time to Git It On and Rock With zigi



Time to Git It On and Rock With zigi

```
Tutorial -----
                       The z ISPF Git Interface (zigi)
                                                                      Tutorial
Selection ===>
                             Current Repository
Commands available (select for more information or press Enter to see each):
AddDsn
       Add dataset *
                                Find Strings
                                                              Options
                        Grep
                                                     Row
AddAll
       Add all to Git
                        Merge
                                Merge Branches *
                                                     Set
                                                              Set Defaults
       Change Branch *
                        Network Network Report
                                                     SnapShot Escrow
Branch
       Record Changes
                        Pull
                                Pull from origin
                                                              Git Status
Commit
                                                     Status
       Find in table
                                Push to origin
                                                              Git Tag
Find
                         Push
                                                     Tag
GitCmd Git Commands
                                 Replace Datasets *
                                                     TagList
                        Refresh
                                                              List Tags
Githelp Git Help
                                 Add remote
                                                              OMVS Dir
                        Remote
                                                     View
       Show git log
                        Rollback Revert *
Gitlog
* not supported within subdirectories.
Use O to display a popup for commands if the menu has been hidden.
Press the Enter key to continue your zigi tutorial journey.
```

RACFROD and RACFADM are Live on GitHub

- RACFROD and RACFADM are available on GitHub and are updated solely using zigi (CBT is coming soon.)
 - https://github.com/lbdyck/racfrod
 - https://github.com/lbdyck/racfadm
- Git tutorial
 - https://www.atlassian.com/git/tutorials/learn-git-with-bitbucketcloud
- zigi introductory video
 - https://ldrv.ms/v/s!Ahj3V6TiD2BlsUrjAeiU_nZMvaI_

Doo Doo Diligence Snatching defeat from the jaws of victory

(Skip Robinson)

- Y2K was a monumental hurdle in the IT world
- No secret, it was known about forever
- The choice had been widely made to forego storing the two-digit year
- As the 90s wore on, unease morphed into concern into panic
- The ante was upped when liability Beckham-bended toward CxOs
- There was talk of jailing (!) top management in case of big-time failures
- So the game was to test EVERYTHING in sight whether it made sense or not

- At a sewage treatment facility north of LA, a major Y2K test was unleashed
- Wastewater flow was controlled by a series of motorized gates
- · Which were in turn controlled by a cadre of wienie-ware computers
- The test plan was to force the date on each to 1 Jan 2000
- Of course this had never been done at that site before
- So much for the best laid plans

- The gate-controlling computers did not like the sudden date change
- They reacted by powering off!
- No one saw that coming
- Then the computers were all powered back on
- When they came up, all the waste-water gates went to open state
- No one saw that coming up either
- Within minutes gushing wastewater overflowed the treatment site
- Millions of gallons of untreated sewage flooded the adjacent public park
- The ultimate Y2K stink

- http://articles.latimes.com/1999/jun/18/news/mn-47795
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Tale Number 2: Cut the Red Wire or the Blue One

- A certain shop in LA had no mature disaster recovery process
- The general plan was to restore volumes from backup tapes stored offsite
- Meanwhile they were working on a robust DR process
- Volumes would be mirrored to a DR site
- In preparation, they acquired a new DASD subsystem for testing
- Big enough to hold the entire production farm on one side
- Plus a mirror of production on the other side
- The test side of the box was to be initialized on a Saturday night

Tale Number 2: Cut the Red Wire or the Blue One

- I got a call late that night asking if we had a "standalone restore tape"
- With divergent tape technology, you can't really swap tape media these days
- What's up?
- A consultant had been brought in to initialize the unused DASD
- Suddenly all production LPARs rolled over and died
- · Somehow the consultant had initialized the in-use side of the box!
- All production volumes were instantly erased
- Backup tapes were available in Arizona, but no OS was running in LA
- Hence the need for a standalone restore tape

Tale Number 2: Cut the Red Wire or the Blue One

- Some sysprogs jumped in a car and drove to the AZ repository
- They obtained a restore tape and a whole passel of backups
- They drove back to LA and began restoring systems
- After some SA restores, they could IPL
- Then restore the remainder
- Most systems were back up and running by Tuesday
- (I don't know the rest of the story)

What Are the Morals of These Tales?

- We in IT believe fervently in planning, preparation, and testing
- The mantra is "You can't test too much"
- It turns out that testing CAN kill you
- What will YOU do when asked to perform career-threatening tests?

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See You In Boston