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Upgrading to IBM OS V6R1 PSGI Plans and Activities to reduce risk for the PRISM User Community

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Summary

IBM recently released OS/400 V6R1 which will require PRISM to go through a conversion or be recompiled. Based on our review of the release and tests on some of our customer's PRISM systems, we believe that PRISM customers will not have any issues with this new version of the O/S and will not require any software patches. PSGI will be offering a service to analyze your entire system for its readiness to upgrade to V6R1. This will take care of not only PRISM but more importantly the modified version of PRISM you are running. We are working with our partner, IBM, to make certain we are not missing anything in our research. Our intent is to minimize any perceived risk to your PRISM system when upgrading your operating system to V6R1 and give you complete peace of mind.

Introduction

Many of you may remember IBM's conversion from CISC to RISC a number of years back. That is the last time IBM made a change significant enough to cause the objects to be recreated before they could run on the new version of the operating system. This is going to happen again with V6R1. The net result is each object on your system will have to go through a conversion process or be recompiled in order for it to run on the new version of the operating system.

The conversion will be successful if one of two things is true:

1. The objects were created on a version of the operating system prior to V5R1 and the objects were compiled retaining "observability."

Observability deals with the issue that with V5R1 IBM changed the way it removed some of the object creation data and still retained the information it would need to work through a conversion like this but at the same time hid that information from any external source.

2. The objects were created on or after V5R1.

Anyone looking at V6R1 should refer to the Redbook that IBM produced for preparing to move to V6R1. Find a downloadable version at [IBM Redbooks | IBM i5/OS Program Conversion: Getting Ready for i5/OS V6R1](#)

So the real question is can the conversion happen for PRISM?

Some facts about the PRISM situation

Programs within PRISM fall into two categories:

1. Those that have source code:

Any program that has source code cannot possibly be a problem in regard to the upgrade to V6R1 since the object can be recreated if need be. Objects created on your system before V5R1 with observability removed can just be recreated. PRISM was shipped with observability intact so the conversion of these programs will not be an issue.

2. Those that do not have source code:

There are a few programs in PRISM that were shipped without source code. The programs are those that control the system level security surrounding the serial, model, performance feature and number of users running on PRISM. We know these programs were created on a version of the OS prior to V5R1 so observability is important. There is a possibility that some PRISM companies have a really old version of the security programs that do not have observability which may be problematic.

To summarize the PRISM situation - most companies should not have an issue with the conversion to V6R1 however, there is a possibility that some of the security programs may have trouble converting. Please understand that we offer this information as a general statement that would apply to the entire base running PRISM. Based on the information provided by IBM and our research on our customers' systems to date, we do not believe our customers will have issues. The following actions are what PSGI is doing to ensure you will not have issues with V6R1.

PSGI Actions

PSGI is intent on making sure you do not have any issues upgrading to V6R1. Here is what we have done so far and what we are planning to do in the near future.

1. We have run the IBM ANZOBJCVN command on several of customer systems to determine if the system will convert properly. Each run of this command has shown zero issues meaning the system will convert without any issues.
2. We have looked manually at customer systems running PRISM 4.3, 5.0 and 7.1 to determine if any of the security programs on those systems did not retain observability. In each case we found that all objects retained all observability so again conversion of these systems should not be a problem.

In summary at this point in time, WE HAVE FOUND NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE VERSIONS OF PRISM OUR CUSTOMERS ARE RUNNING WILL NOT RUN ON V6R1. The PSGI team looking at this have 20 years of experience of supporting PRISM!

Now what do we plan on doing going forward.

1. We will be performing additional analyses on PRISM:
 - We are working with IBM to ensure there are no issues we have missed
 - We will be analyzing more sites to ensure there are no issues at different sites running different versions of PRISM

Should any issues be discovered we will develop an action plan to take care of them.

2. **We are creating a service to analyze your system for its readiness to upgrade to V6R1.** We will run the IBM analysis tools over each library and report back to you any findings we have. This will not only take care of PRISM but more importantly the modified version of PRISM you are running.

- You should order the following PTF from IBM to load the analysis tools:

Product load	Language	V5R3	V5R4
2924	English (upper/lower case)	SI28425	SI28415

- Please contact Dave Kravitt at dave.kravitt@precisionsg.com or (877) 677-5776 if you are interested in this service.

Conclusion

There is quite a bit of information floating around about V6R1 and the necessity of object conversion. IBM has done a nice job to make this conversion as painless as possible. All of our research to date has not turned up any issues. We will continue to do more research in the coming weeks and will let you know the results. We would be happy to have a more detailed conversation about the impact of the new operating system with anyone that is interested.

Finally, we are putting together services that will give you complete peace of mind when it comes time for you to perform this upgrade.

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