OSG Group Busy with New Upgrades

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AIX Upgrade Means Enhanced Features

The final phase of the upgrade to NERSP AIX (IBM's UNIX) version 4.3.3 software is nearly complete in anticipation of another new version, planned for next year. The planning and testing has begun for AIX 5L, the next generation of AIX.

While the change will be transparent for users, it will allow us to run more software because some of the code that was previously Linux-only has been changed to allow use by AIX (hence the "L" designation). Most software that can be compiled on Linux can now be compiled on AIX without modification.

AIX 5L is the successor to AIX 4.3.3 (the current operating system used on almost all of our RS/6000 machines, especially the SP). We've begun testing the software used to provide all of the services tasked to the Open Systems Group. Because of the diligence exercised during the last OS upgrade, this one should be much smoother, much quicker, and have little impact on the end users.

The availability of an improved interface to performance tuning commands and fewer reboots required for configuration set the tone for what AIX is all about-enterprise-class computing. Fortified with open technologies from some of the world’s top providers, AIX 5L builds on a solid heritage of supplying integrated, enterprise-class support for RS/6000 and IBM pSeries systems. Some of the enhancements include:

- An improved print function for DBX that provides more legible output
- Core file enhancements that allow an application to core dump without termination
- 32-bit application scaling enhancements
- Enhancements in malloc provide faster access to free memory for applications

In other Open Systems Group news:

New Code Means Improvement to GatorLink Mail Service

This will be the first upgrade of the GatorLink mail service code in several years, and will include in the coming year some features many have asked for, including a method of sorting incoming messages. This will eventually allow for filtering of spam based on a "score."

We've been working on replacing the GatorLink software for more than two years, and we're finally getting close. We've done operational testing, load testing, and now we're doing repeatable-installation testing, which is a normal part of our disaster recovery planning-there is
a recovery method for each service before it is deployed.

The new software will allow for parallelism across machines, making for faster service, better scalability, and the ability to meet peak demand, as discussed in the November /Update OSG column on "capacity on demand."

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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