

## IBM Adds Cloud to Mainframe Offering

Written by Marco Attard  
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IBM celebrates the 50th anniversary of the mainframe with the gift of 21st century relevance--the IBM Enterprise Cloud System, a first System z-based Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) offering.



“The mainframe is uniquely positioned to meet the enterprise cloud infrastructure needs of cloud service providers and dynamic private cloud deployments,” Big Blue says. “As the cloud market evolves, to service an ever-larger share and type of IT workloads, clients are increasingly turning to the mainframe to provide the basis of their cloud deployments.”

A single IBM Enterprise Cloud System supports up to 6000 virtual machines within a secure multi-tenant environment. It combines System z hardware with IBM storage and cloud management, and customers can configure it with automated cloud orchestration and monitoring capabilities.

To further celebrate the anniversary IBM also reveals 3 unique mainframe-using research projects. The first helps state and local agencies migrate IT operations to System z-based cloud environments. The second involves two health projects dealing with HIV and rheumatoid arthritis analysis.

The final project is a mother-to-child HIV research partnership with the Ghana government and Yale using data gathered from mobile devices.

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For the curious, the first IBM mainframe is the System 360. It was released on 7 April 1964, and was the first machine allowing processor upgrades to make of code and peripherals from a previous model.

Mainframes still find use in many small yet vital tasks, including airline reservations, cash machine withdrawals, credit card payments and banking transactions. They also have a legacy on modern PCs in the shape of the "escape" key found on most (if not all) keyboards.

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