

## Release levels and PTFs

People are always asking me how often they should be performing PTF maintenance, and when is the right time to upgrade their operating system. I updated this article from last month with the current levels of PTFs. Let's look at PTFs. First, PTFs are Program Temporary Fixes that are created by IBM to fix a problem that has occurred or to possibly prevent a problem from occurring. In addition, some times PTFs add new functionality, security, or improve performance. Therefore, I am always dumbfounded as to why customers do not perform PTF maintenance on their machine at least quarterly. If IBM has come out with a fix for your disk drives, why do you want to wait for your disk drive to fail with that problem, only to be told that there is a fix for that problem, and if you had applied the PTF beforehand, you would have averted the problem. Therefore, I think a quarterly PTF maintenance strategy is a smart move. Many of our customers are on our quarterly PTF maintenance program, and that provides them with the peace of mind of knowing their system is up to date on PTFs. Below is a table of the major group PTFs for the last few releases. This is what we are installing for our customers on iTech Solutions Quarterly Maintenance program.



### Releases

	7.1	6.1	V5R4	V5R3
Cumul. Pack	11116	11102	11137	8267
Tech. Refresh 2				
Grp Hipers	34	92	157	169
DB Group	9	20	31	24
Java Group	5	15	26	23
Print Group	3	21	44	20
Backup/Recov.	10	23	41	33
Blade/IXA/IXS	6	20	14	-
HTTP	8	20	28	17
TCP/IP	3	11	18	16

The easiest way to check your levels is to issue the command WRKPTFGRP. They should all have a status of installed, and you should be up to the latest for all the above, based upon your release. Now there are more groups than the ones listed above, but these are the general ones that most people require. We can help you know which group PTFs you should be installing on your machine based upon your licensed programs. Here is a nice tidbit. The Cumulative PTF package number is broken down as YDDD, where Y is the year and DDD is the day it was released. Therefore, if we look at the cumulative package for V5R4, the ID is 9104. We can determine that it was created on the 104th day of 2009, which is April 14, 2009. Look at your machine and this will give you a quick indication of just how far out of date in PTFs you may be. I left V5R1 & V5R2 off the list, because if you are on V5R1 or V5R2, you don't need to be worrying about PTFs, you really need to be upgrading your operating system. The same can be said for V5R3, but there are still customers who are on those releases.

If you have an HMC, you should be running V7R7.3M0. If your HMC is a C03, then it should stay at V7R3.5 SP3.

For your Flexible Service Processor (FSP) that is inside your Power 5 or Power5+ (520, 515, 525, 550, 570), the code level of the FSP should be 01\_SF240\_403. Power 6 (940x M15, M25, & M50 machines, and 8203-E4A & 8204-E4A) customers should be running EL350\_107. For Power6 (MMA, 560, and 570 machines) your FSP should be at EM350\_107. If you have a Power6 595 (9119) then you should be on EH350\_107. POWER7 the firmware level is AL730\_035 for 8202-E4B (710, 720, 730, 740), AL730\_035 for 750 (8233-E8B) & 755 (8236-E8C). Use AM730\_035 for 770 (9117-MMB) & 780 (9179-MHB).

If you need help with upgrading your HMC or FSP just give us a call. We will be happy to perform the function for you or assist you in doing it. Contact [Pete Massiello](mailto:pmassiello@itechsol.com) at [pmassiello@itechsol.com](mailto:pmassiello@itechsol.com)

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