



DANCIKINTERNATIONAL

# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## Nine Things You Should Know About V6R1

*By Joe Berentes, IBM Certified Systems Engineer*

I'm sure you're aware, Dancik is requiring that all customers upgrade to IBM's latest release of the operating system - V6R1 - before July 31, 2009. Here are nine things you may not know about the new release.

### **1. The name is changed again.**

In the last few years IBM has changed the name of the server more times than Puff Daddy. Beginning in 2000, it went from AS/400, to eServer iSeries, to i5, to System i. The new Power6 line of servers has been christened simply IBM i. The operating system also gets a new moniker - IBM i 6.1. To make this even more confusing, it's also referred to as i5/OS V6R1. To make it simple, let's just stick with V6R1 for now.

### **2. Improved performance, security, and system integrity.**

IBM has introduced significant enhancements in these three areas. One of the best improvements, particularly to Dancik and you, involves improved performance and debugging in the Java Virtual Machine. Java is a major part of our efforts to modernize the Dancik applications, and these changes will greatly enhance our development efforts. On the security front, several new system values have been added to build upon the server's already excellent fortification. Many of these values enhance the parameters used to eliminate trivial passwords. Also, beginning with V6R1, any system state program that is not part of i5/OS will be prevented from running, thereby maintaining the integrity of the operating system.

### **3. The first release of its type since 1998.**

This is only the third time in the 20-year history of the operating system that the upgrade requires all program objects on the system be converted. Normally, when major changes are introduced into an operating system, programs need to be recompiled to take advantage of those changes. In most instances, this tedious process is not necessary on the IBM i, however, all objects still need to go through a conversion process. The ANZOBJCVN command is a preparatory tool used at the beginning of the upgrade to make sure that the objects on the system can be converted. Objects that do not have this ability will need to be either recompiled or replaced by the developer or vendor who created them. The STROBJCVN command

is run at the end of the upgrade. It actually converts the object into the format necessary for the new release. The objects may be converted on first use, but be warned: converting the objects on the fly can be a time consuming task.

#### **4. Added support for IPv6.**

IPv6 is an internet protocol designed to replace the dotted decimal notation of IPv4. As more and more computers are added to the internet, the current allotment of IPv4 addresses (i.e. nn.nn.nn.nn) could be exhausted, in some estimates, as early as 2011. When that happens, some computer networks will need to adopt a more robust protocol and that's where IPv6 fits in. In reality, you may never have a need to adopt this new protocol; however, if you do, V6R1 makes i5/OS fully compliant.

#### **5. Operation Navigator has been moved to the browser.**

The i5 GUI console environment, Operations Navigator, has been rebranded as Systems Director Navigator for i5/OS, and is accessed from a web page running on your server. System i Navigator for Windows is still available, however, most of its functionality is now available from a browser making the need to load the heavy Windows application obsolete.

#### **6. Setup printers with a Wizard.**

Navigator now features a GUI setup Wizard for configuring a printer on the system. With a few clicks you can get your printer up and running just like in Windows. In most cases, the Wizard can detect what type of printer you are using and determine the best parameters for you to use. Simple and easy to use, the new Wizard makes setting up a new printer easy.

#### **7. Run query reports on the web.**

If you currently use licensed program 5722-QU1, IBM Query for iSeries, you will automatically receive a base copy of product 5761-QU2, DB2 Web Query for System i. This exciting new product allows you to create and run reports from a web browser and add graphics and charts to make reports more usable. According to IBM, the base product will include licenses for a limited number of users based on software tier, however, your current queries will still run on the green screen as it always has for an unlimited number of users. If you'd like to learn more, just visit <http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247214.html> and download the IBM Redbook "Getting Started with DB2 Web Query for System i."

#### **8. Run i5/OS as a virtual machine.**

Customers using V6R1 along with Power6 hardware can run multiple instances of the operating system using PowerVM. This technology, developed by industry virtualization leader VMWare, allows you to run test

and production partitions without the need for dedicated hardware and software. Customers can also run AIX and Linux using the same technology.

**9. Dancik can help.**

Don't forget the deadline to upgrade to V6R1 is July 31, 2009. For some, the V6R1 upgrade may be a daunting task. We are maintaining a site at <http://www3.dancik.com/cheatsheets> with links to information about the upgrade process. Also, Dancik Professional Services is available to help you with all or part of the upgrade process. We can also provide you with assistance in setting up and using any of the new technologies available through V6R1. For more information on our services, give us a call at (919) 379.3800.

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