HyperFRAME
R E S E A R C H

BMC Continues To Innovate - Forty-Four Times in a Row!

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Key Highlights:

- GenAI aims to simplify model selection.

- BMC leverages automation to target operational efficiency gains.

- Enhanced Java reliability is a key focus for the DevX update.

- Proactive issue resolution is being emphasized.

- Hybrid cloud storage gets a further simplification boost.
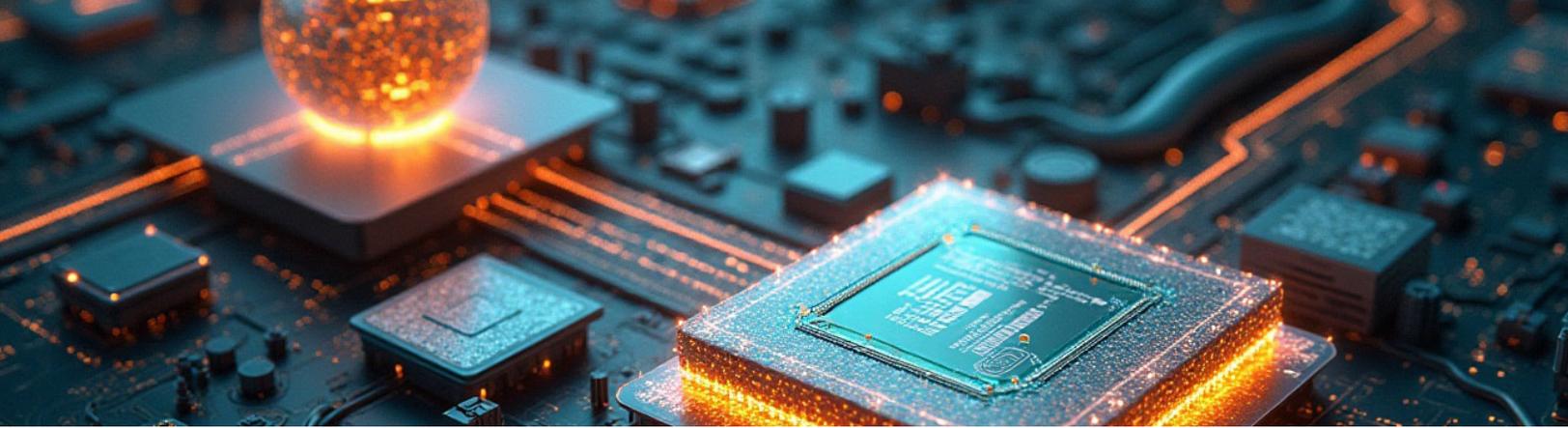
The News

BMC announced the 44th quarter of significant updates to its mainframe software portfolio and detailed advancements focusing on integrating GenAI to streamline model selection and knowledge transfer, enhancing Java application reliability, and optimizing mainframe operations through intelligent deployment of AI with machine learning and rules based logi.. These updates also address proactive issue resolution and aim to simplify hybrid cloud storage and certificate management. Learn more by checking out the BMC announcement page here.

Analyst Take

The mainframe continues to evolve in response to modern enterprise demands, increasingly so with the announcement by IBM of the latest generation of the system, the z17. This announcement by BMC signals a clear intent by the company to inject agility and intelligence into this foundational technology layer. The focus on leveraging GenAI is particularly noteworthy. BMC has been on this thread for a while and based on the announcement seems to be doubling down with more enhancements.

While the mainframe boasts unparalleled reliability and security, for the uninformed, casual observer it can be perceived as complex to manage and modernize. The continued evolution of GenAI powered tools, such as the BMC AMI Assistant designed to simplify model selection and preserve institutional knowledge, directly tackles this perception. This could be a game changer in reducing the learning curve for new personnel and accelerating the adoption of advanced analytics on the mainframe.

Furthermore, the emphasis on intelligent use of AI and rules-based logic within BMC AMI Ops Insight aims to deliver tangible benefits in terms of reduced manual effort and faster issue resolution. In today's fast-paced digital landscape, the ability to proactively identify and resolve potential problems before they impact critical business services is paramount. The promise of seamless data integration alongside this automation further underscores the commitment to making the mainframe a more integrated and responsive component of the overall IT ecosystem. The enhancements targeting Java reliability are also significant. Java remains a widely used language in enterprise applications, and bolstering its performance and stability on the mainframe addresses a key concern for many organizations. This focus on improving the developer experience and ensuring the robustness of Java-based workloads on the platform can encourage further investment and innovation on the mainframe.

What Was Announced

A Strategic Leap Forward for Mainframe Modernization

BMC's latest announcements around the BMC AMI suite signal a calculated evolution in mainframe management, leveraging Generative AI (GenAI) to address long-standing operational challenges while aligning with enterprise modernization imperatives. The BMC AMI Assistant stands out as a linchpin, offering curated or custom AI models that streamline model selection, accelerate issue resolution, and institutionalize critical knowledge—a move that not only simplifies transformation but also mitigates risks inherent in legacy system overhauls. Meanwhile, BMC AMI DevX Abend AID's new Java support underscores BMC's focus on reliability, delivering automated diagnostics and rapid notifications via collaboration tools to bolster mission-critical Java applications, a timely enhancement as enterprises increasingly integrate Java into mainframe workloads. Complementing these, BMC AMI Ops Insight introduces intelligent use of AI, rules based logic and seamless data integration, reducing manual effort and bridging skills gaps, which is critical given the move to a more SRE focused operations mindset within the mainframe space. Collectively, these advancements reflect BMC's nuanced understanding of the delicate balance between innovation and stability, positioning the suite as a catalyst for enterprises seeking to modernize without disrupting core operations. Put simply, What BMC AMI Ops Insight is now doing is a hybrid AI that combines rules-based logic, machine learning, and Generative AI. So, it not only identifies that there is a problem, but is shows the root cause, then the GenAI of AMI Assistant explains the root cause in natural language, and now it provides the Next Best Recommendations, the next step guidance to fix it.

Reduce Toil and Knowledge Gaps: GenAI as a Game-Changer

The BMC AMI Assistant emerges as a pivotal innovation, harnessing GenAI to eliminate operational toil and address knowledge gaps—a pressing concern as mainframe expertise dwindles. By aligning with enterprise policies and offering flexibility through curated language models or bring-your-own-language-model (BYOLM) options, it ensures tailored solutions that resonate with specific organizational needs, a strategic nod to governance-conscious enterprises. The introduction of GenAI-guided capabilities that diagnose root causes and recommend next-best actions is particularly compelling, promising to slash downtime and enhance system performance while reducing reliance on manual knowledge transfer. The beta-stage GenAI agents, delivering context-aware responses, hint at a future where real-time expertise is democratized, potentially reshaping how mainframe challenges are addressed. This blend of adaptability and intelligence positions BMC as a leader in redefining operational efficiency, though the beta status of some features suggests a cautious rollout to ensure robustness.

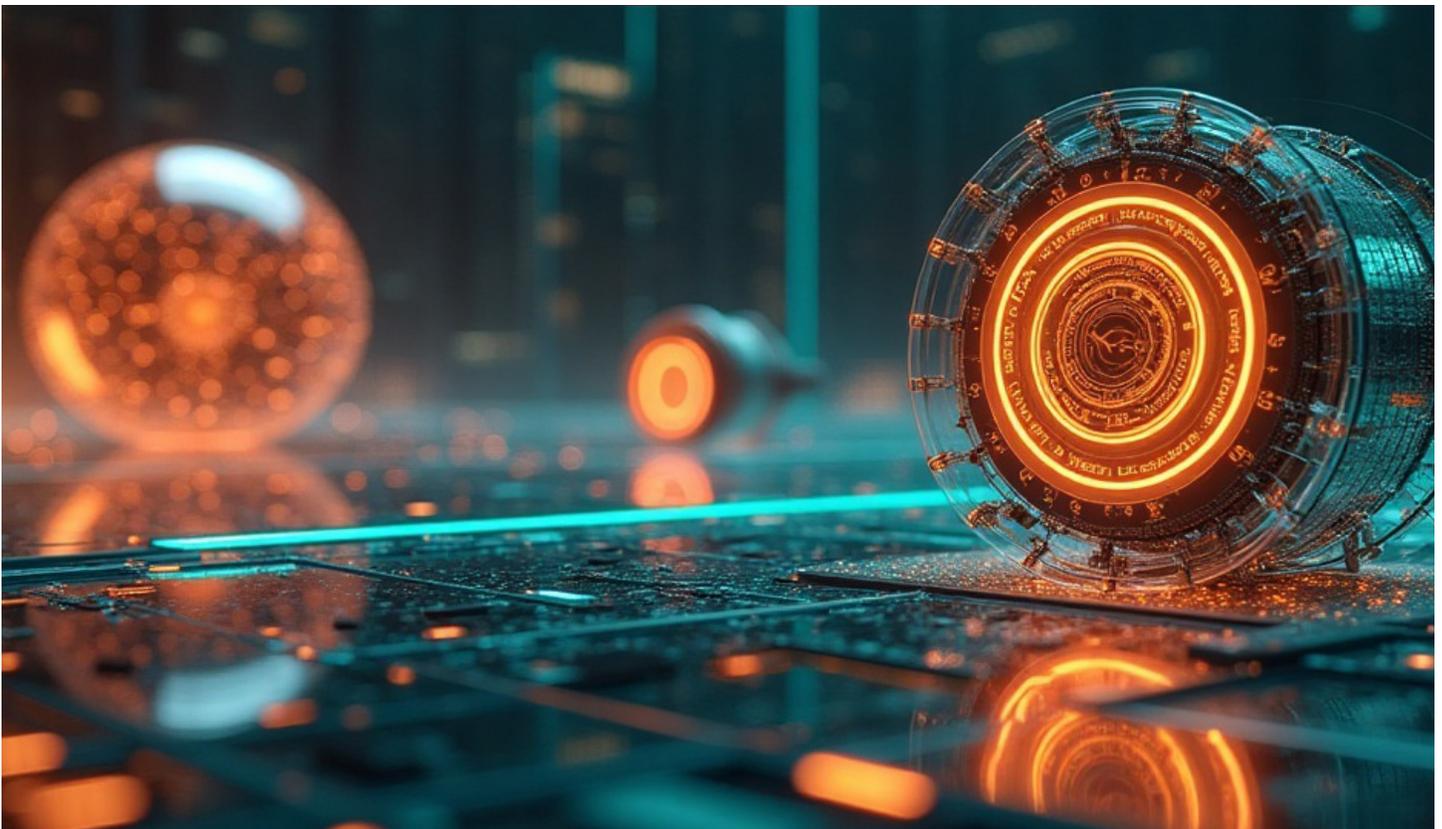### Boost Java Reliability: Precision in a Critical Domain

BMC's enhancements to AMI DevX Abend AID reflect a targeted strategy to fortify Java reliability on mainframes, a domain where errors can cascade disastrously. The introduction of automated exception handling, paired with BMC AMI Strobe's recent performance monitoring capabilities, creates a unified framework for developing, monitoring, and troubleshooting Java applications. This holistic approach is a pragmatic response to the growing prominence of Java in mission-critical workloads, offering enterprises confidence in modernization efforts without compromising stability. By reducing risk through automation, BMC addresses a key pain point, though its success will hinge on seamless integration with existing workflows—an area where BMC's track record inspires optimism.

Avoid System Outages and Downtime: Resilience Through Intelligence

The BMC AMI Ops Insight suite represents a masterclass in operational resilience, weaving GenAI-driven automation, insights, and data integration into a robust defense against outages. BMC AMI Ops Insight Insight's ability to accelerate mean time to detect and repair (MTTD/MTTR) through precise root cause analysis and actionable recommendations is a standout, addressing the perennial challenge of downtime in high-stakes environments. Equally impressive is BMC AMI Ops Insight Automation's use of REST-enabled automation and dynamic workflows, which eliminate manual tasks and enhance precision—critical for organizations navigating complex, mission-critical systems. The integration of BMC AMI Ops Insight Monitor for IP with BMC AMI Datastream for Ops, enabling near real-time z/OS network activity streaming into platforms like Splunk and Elastic, democratizes insights across skill levels, a shrewd move in an era of expertise scarcity. This suite's cohesive design not only fortifies reliability but also positions BMC as a strategic partner for enterprises balancing modernization with operational continuity, though widespread adoption may depend on proving scalability across diverse environments.

Eliminate Data Disruptions: A Blueprint for Database Modernization

BMC's database management innovations under the AMI suite offer a sophisticated antidote to data disruptions, blending self-correcting recovery, DORA compliance, and operational streamlining into a forward-thinking framework. BMC AMI Recovery for Db2's intelligent recovery adjustments minimize downtime and manual intervention, freeing DBAs to focus on strategic priorities—a critical efficiency in resource-constrained IT teams. The suite's DevOps enhancements, including GitLab-supported BMC AMI DevOps for Db2 and the forthcoming BMC AMI SQL Assurance for Db2, signal a shift-left approach that embeds agility into database workflows, while BMC REORG PLUS's native LOB processing accelerates reorganizations. Security and compliance are equally well-served, with BMC AMI Application Restart Control for Db2 enforcing secure configurations and BMC AMI Backup and Recovery for IMS introducing cloud-hardened backups via the Image Copy JCL Wizard. These advancements collectively underscore BMC's vision of a resilient, compliant, and efficient database ecosystem, though the January GA timeline for SQL Assurance suggests enterprises may need interim solutions to bridge gaps.

Simplify Hybrid Cloud Storage: Agility Meets Reliability

BMC AMI Cloud's enhancements for storage administrators reveal a keen understanding of hybrid cloud complexities, delivering a streamlined approach to data management that balances agility with reliability. By optimizing retention and storage usage, it ensures compliance while slashing administrative overhead—a boon for efficiency-driven enterprises. The Cloud Data Sets Concatenation feature, which unifies multiple data sets into a single workflow, tackles the perennial challenge of managing large-scale data with elegance, while automated metadata capture and advanced filtering empower rapid data indexing and visualization. This suite's ability to simplify operations without sacrificing control positions it as a vital tool for navigating hybrid cloud ecosystems, though its long-term impact will depend on seamless integration with broader cloud strategies—a challenge BMC appears well-equipped to meet.

Automate Certificate Management: Security as a Strategic Asset

BMC AMI Security's focus on automated certificate management signals a proactive stance on mainframe security, addressing compliance and resilience in an increasingly scrutinized domain. Through simplifying certificate management and enhancing visibility, BMC empowers organizations to stay ahead of regulatory pressures—a critical differentiator in regulated industries. BMC AMI Enterprise Connect for Venafi's support for failover, multi-DNS, and SAN parameters streamlines secure connections, enhancing hybrid IT integration while maintaining compliance. The BMC AMI Security Policy Manager's intuitive dashboards, integrated into the BMC AMI Command Center, provide actionable insights into compliance and performance, a feature that elevates security from a necessity to a strategic asset. While these advancements strengthen BMC's security portfolio, their efficacy will hinge on adoption speed and integration with existing security frameworks, areas where BMC's iterative approach bodes well.

New Services Offerings: Transparency Meets Value

BMC's refreshed services portfolio, often overshadowed by its software prowess, emerges as a standout in this announcement, with clearly defined offerings and assigned credit values that signal a commitment to transparency. The BMC Mainframe Advisory Services for mainframe deliver actionable assessment reports to optimize performance and ensure continuity, a pragmatic tool for IT leaders navigating resource constraints. The Capacity Planning Advisory Service aligns resource utilization with workload demands, fostering cost savings and agility, while the Storage Advisory Service enhances data-driven decision-making to streamline storage infrastructure. The Cost Reduction Advisory Service tackles underutilization and overprovisioning, directly impacting the bottom line, and the Performance Advisory Service's detailed metrics analysis preempts bottlenecks. These services collectively reflect BMC's holistic approach to mainframe optimization, though their success will depend on execution and measurable outcomes—a challenge BMC's structured methodology seems poised to address.

Looking Ahead

Based on what I am observing, the mainframe space is more vibrant than it has been in the last 15-years with vendors actively investing in its evolution, recognizing its continued importance for core business functions. The strategic incorporation of GenAI continues to be a key trend, aiming to democratize access to mainframe expertise and streamline complex operational tasks. The key trend that I am going to be looking out for is the tangible impact of these GenAI powered tools on organizations' efficiency metrics and the speed of mainframe modernization initiatives. We are in the first inning, we have a long way to go when it comes to adoption.

When you look at the market as a whole, the announcement today underscores a broader industry recognition that mainframe and cloud environments will continue to coexist and interoperate. Simplifying hybrid cloud storage and enhancing data integration capabilities will be crucial for realizing this hybrid vision. HyperFRAME will be tracking customer adoption in our briefings with BMC and specifically looking for concrete customer success stories and quantifiable improvements in operational efficiency and application modernization timelines resulting from these new features. The true measure of this announcement's significance will be in its ability to translate technological advancements into real-world business value for mainframe users - it is forever thus.

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RESEARCH

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HyperFRAME Research delivers indepth research and insights across the global technology landscape, spanning everything from hyperscale public cloud to the mainframe and everything in between. We offer strategic advisory services, custom research reports, tailored consulting engagements, digital events, go to market planning, message testing, and lead generation programs.

Our industry analysts specialize in rigorous qualitative and quantitative assessments of technology solutions, business challenges, market forces, and end user demands across industry sectors. HyperFRAME Research collaborates closely with your Analyst Relations, Product, and Marketing teams to build and amplify your thought leadership, positioning your expertise to enhance brand and product recognition. Through content that engages readers, viewers, and listeners alike, we ensure your voice resonates across channels.

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