



IBM Spectrum Scale

Spectrum Scale Licensing and Lifecycle

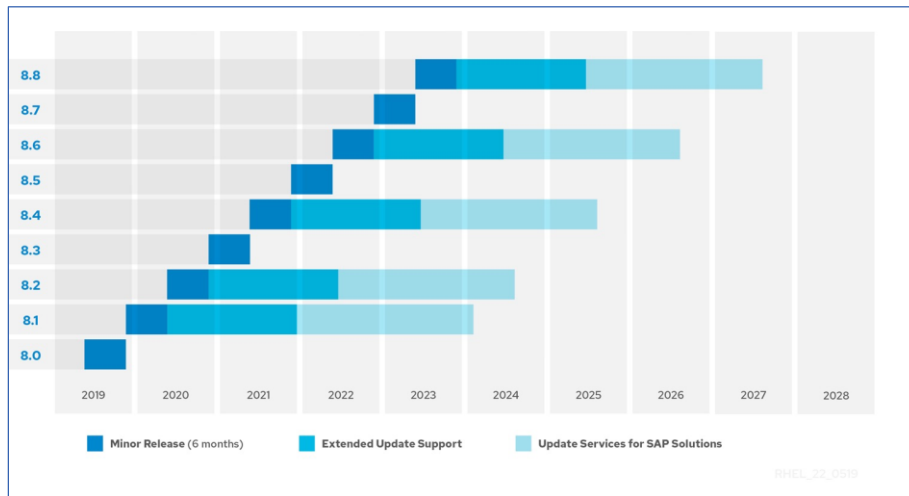
User Group, September 2019

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Many Scale customers need extended update support

- Many customers are required to rapidly install security and other “critical” fixes by their Infrastructure or Security teams
 - Common practice for Linux distros
 - Increasingly mandated for middleware and applications
- However, installing Linux or Scale updates is expensive
 - May have strict processes for adopting feature-bearing releases
 - Often requires re-testing or re-certification of applications
 - Some certifications are very slow to arrive e.g. OracleDB
- An extended update support release allows customers to receive a fix stream without taking new features
 - Security and other fixes continue even after the next release
 - On Linux distros, known as EUS (Extended Update Support) or LTS (Long Term Support)
 - Eliminates need for extensive re-testing in order to stay secure
 - Allows better dependency management both upstream (OS) and downstream (apps such as SAP or Oracle)

Compare the predictable RHEL plan



Sidebar: Release nomenclature at IBM

- IBM identifies software by V.R.M.F
 - V = Version number (“5.0.0.0”)
 - Indicates a separate IBM licensed program that usually has significant new code or new function
 - Typically has new Part Numbers
 - Major feature changes
 - R = Release number (“5.1.0.0”)
 - Minor feature changes
 - M = Mod level (“5.0.4.0”)
 - Can include new functionality
 - Can include OS currency updates
 - Typically twice a year for Scale
 - F = Fix pack, commonly known as PTF (“5.0.4.1”)
 - Security and functional fixes
 - Cumulative
 - No new functionality

- For details, see:
 - <https://www.ibm.com/support/pages/vrmf-maintenance-stream-delivery-vehicle-terminology-explanation>

IBM is using a standard version format for MDV. The product numbering is based on the IBM and Fix Level structure within the V.R.M.F format.

The following table provides details of the individual version elements.

Note: Although not all of the version elements are publically available, they are all fully supported.

Numbered element	Example	Description
V - Version number	(7.0.0.0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicates a separate IBM licensed program that usually has significant new code or new function • Number limit from 0-99 • Major feature changes. • Starts a 5 year maintenance cycle • Downloads found on Passport
R - Release number	(7.0.0.0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor feature change release. • Number limit from 0-99 • Starts a 5 year maintenance cycle • Downloads found on Passport
M - Modification number	(7.0.0.0)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturing refresh also referred to as Fix Pack. • Number limit from 0-9999

Releases and the support lifecycle at IBM

- Support life is determined by V.R numbers and the “3+2” support lifecycle
 - Each Version or Release of Scale is supported for *at least* three years from the GA date. A change to the V or R digit starts a new clock
 - A new Mod level or Fix pack does *not* start a new clock
 - After EOS, IBM *may* offer “extended support” for up to two years. This does *not* include PTFs
- Typical Scale release cadence
 - New Version or Release every 3 – 5 years
 - New Mod level six months
 - PTFs delivered ~6 to 8 weeks apart
- What is supported?
 - All Mod levels of a currently active release remain supported, i.e. you can call IBM for help
 - PTFs are provided **ONLY** for the **most current** Mod level of **each** supported release
 - Currently 4.2.3 and 5.0.3 (soon to be 5.0.4)
 - **This will be important later!**



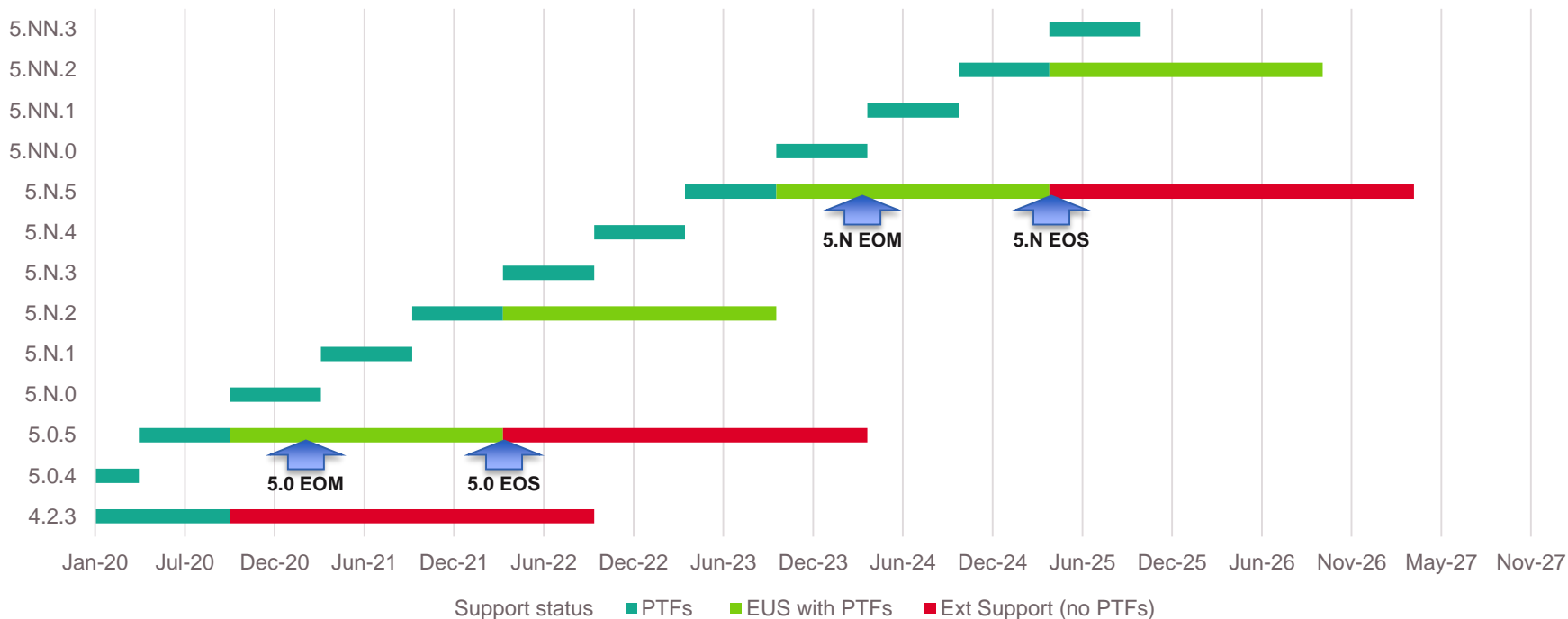
An EUS release simplifies ownership of Scale

- Scale V4.2.3 “incidentally” became an EUS-like release
 - As the last Mod pack for the 4.2 release, 4.2.3 continues to receive PTFs, so it’s a lot like an EUS release
 - We allowed the 4.2.x release stream to stay supported for a very long time, partly because it is the last release to support older Linux distros
 - *However*, until we announced EOS, nobody knew how long that would last, which is not good for planning
- This time, we are doing it officially with V5.0.5
 - You can remain current on security and other fixes without the expense of functional upgrades
 - You can choose to take advantage of Versions and Releases while skipping Mod packs
 - You will know even before GA how long to expect support and can plan accordingly



Every third release is EUS with an additional 18 months of PTFs

Scale Support lifetimes



Scale EUS and RHEL8 EUS Alignment

Scale release	Planned date	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.4	8.6	8.8	9.x?
5.0.4	4Q2019	■	■					
5.0.5 LTS	2Q2020		■	■	■	■		
5.N.0	4Q2020		■	■				
5.N.1	2Q2021		■	■				
5.N.2 LTS	4Q2021			■	■	■		
5.N.3	2Q2022			■	■			
5.N.4	4Q2022				■	■		
5.N.5 LTS	2Q2023					■	■	■
5.NN.0	4Q2023					■	■	
5.NN.1	2Q2024						■	■

Executive Summary

- New Scale Version or Release every three years *or more* (as today)
- Mod packs ~every six months (as today)
- EUS release every 18 months
 - i.e. every third Mod pack comes with EUS
- Customers can get a PTF stream...
 - Either by staying with the EUS release
 - Or by moving with each Mod pack
- 5.0.5 will be our first planned EUS release
 - Will release six months before 4.2.3 goes EOS to allow for managed migration
 - Will also be the last 5.0.x and eligible for Extended support
- Subsequent EUS releases will overlap by six months to support managed migration

NEW

Bonus! Scale Developer Edition coming in Q4

- Scale Developer Edition will be full function but size limited
 - Derived from **DME**, all functionality available
 - Limited to 12 TBs: enough for a small test cluster
 - Available from the Scale "try and buy" page on ibm.com
- Refreshed after each Scale Mod level (first PTF)
- Free for non-production use, e.g. test, learning, upgrade prep...
 - If you have to ask, it's probably not permitted
- Not formally supported

IBM Spectrum Scale

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Thank You