

ON

Evolution Top 5 Series

**Top 5 Reasons To Keep
IBM i PTFs and Technology
Refreshes Up To Date**

Always Available. Always **ON**.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Patching is important

Starting with V6R1, IBM has considerably slowed down the frequency of new OS releases to give their customers more time to assess and upgrade to the latest version. So, instead of releasing a new version of OS every two years, IBM issues new functionality and fixes by releasing a Technology Refresh (TR). Today, a Program Temporary Fix (PTF) is much more than just a simple fix. They are also a conduit that IBM uses to release new functionalities and increase performance and security enhancements.

Organisations can benefit from staying up to date with PTFs and TRs in a range of ways, with the key reasons including:



01. Security



04. Performance & Functionality



02. Software support



05. Preventive Service Planning



03. Incompatibility of OS and Microcode



How to succeed at IT...

At Evolution Systems, we help organisations make IT simple.

By selecting us as your IT Services provider, you get a trusted partner with over 15 years of experience who will help you stay up to date with patches when IBM releases them for these five reasons:



01 Security

Without the most recent security PTFs, your system is vulnerable to cyberattacks. Anticipating every future cybersecurity threat is impossible for even the best software developers. When IBM identifies vulnerability within their software, they release PTFs to remove it. Security PTFs are designed to protect your system, applications and the data that's stored there. By applying the newest security PTFs that respond to the latest threats, your systems will remain less vulnerable to potential attacks. IBM spends considerable time and money into cybersecurity and, as they discover new vulnerabilities, security PTFs allow them to respond quickly and fix them straight away.



02 Software Support

Software support is offered to IBM i customers so that IBM can ensure that their operating system is running securely, performing well, and is free of bugs. Software support grants customers access to the latest PTFs to fix a wide variety of issues. If you don't have the latest PTFs installed on your system and you find an issue, there's a good chance that someone else has had the same problem before, and a fix has already been released. Moreover, when a support call is lodged with IBM, they need you to have the latest PTFs installed so that they can rule out issues that have already been catered for through previously released PTFs.



03 Incompatibility of OS and Microcode

IBM i OS and Microcode incompatibility can happen if too many PTF or TR levels are skipped. This will stop the server from being upgraded to a new OS level until the microcode is also updated, which would cause additional downtime, and in some cases, require reversing the upgrade until the levels are correct. If the TR level is too far behind, current PTF's cannot be installed, and it will require additional steps and more time to update the system's Licensed Internal Code (LIC).



04 Performance & Functionality

Performance and functionality are also released via PTFs and TRs. If the latest updates are not applied, extra features that could make operations easier will not be available. These features could allow processes to be automated where it was previously too complex. Functionality included in the latest operating systems release will sometimes also be added to lower releases via PTFs. New performance improvements will allow organisations to process more or faster without hardware upgrades required.



05 Preventive Service Planning

Preventive service planning helps organisations reduce incidents and unplanned downtime by installing software fixes before a software bug can cause an issue. Much like having a car serviced regularly helps decrease the chances of an unexpected breakdown, installing the latest PTFs reduces the risk of the operating system and licenced programs experiencing various issues and potential unplanned outages.

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