PopUp Mainframe Overview

In the IBM Mainframe community, studies reveal an overwhelming reliance on the platform to support critical business systems – including a strong desire to leverage the latest z/OS and IFL processors.

However, recent market research data* also highlights that mainframe change is hard to do efficiently.

- Nearly all respondents experienced challenges in dev and test when using the mainframe
- Nearly 9 out of 10 have concerns over the availability of mainframe environments
- Nearly a third require 4 or more teams to get mainframe deliveries done
- 8 out of 10 think that staffing and tooling limitations are hindering the business

In short, delivery bottlenecks are hampering business.

When Mainframe Change Needs to Change

That's where PopUp Mainframe can help.

An instantly available mainframe environment to accelerate urgent development and testing activities, PopUp Mainframe is functionally equivalent to z/OS, and runs under Linux on Z, LinuxOne, or x86 servers running in the cloud Cloud or On-prem.

LinuxOne   X86 Cloud / On Prem   IFL / Linux on Z

z/OS

Your Own, Virtualised Mainframe Environment

PopUp Mainframe offers a fully capable mainframe environment whenever needed – supporting R&D, development, testing, and training activities - to help deliver mainframe change faster and more cost effectively than ever.

Key facilities include:

- **z/OS Equivalency** - The product behaves the same as physical mainframe environments, and supports all mainframe subsystems, applications, and data stores
- **Integration** - Supporting IBM, open source, and 3rd party development tools, PopUp fully supports today's mainframe delivery processes
- **Data Compliance** - The product supports full, compliant data masking capabilities through a variety of 3rd party integrations
- **Flexibility and Productivity** PopUp includes facilities to automate sharing and restarting environments, and streamlined administration using Ansible playbooks
- **Instantaneous Availability** The product can be initiated and shutdown in minutes, ensuring rapid availability and resource efficiency

All in all, PopUp Mainframe is a fully functional, fully compatible virtual mainframe environment. See Product Datasheets for further information.

Business Benefits

Using PopUp Mainframe, customers are reporting tangible gains across a range of strategic objectives.

- **Cost Efficiency** - Harnessing incumbent platforms to support mainframe change improves cost efficiencies and protects production MIPS
- **Flexibility** – Enabling key R&D, dev, test, and training work to run at any time, instantly, maximises team productivity and delivery flexibility
- **Speed to Market** - Increasing delivery velocity by 400% can be achieved by removing needless delays and streamlining administration
- **Compliance** – Data integrations enable customers to meet their data compliance requirements in mainframe deliveries
- **Sustainability** - Switching off idle resourced has reduced emissions and power usage by up to 50%

* - 2025 PopUp Mainframe Market Survey, conducted by Vanson Bourne. For more information, see www.popup-mainframe.com
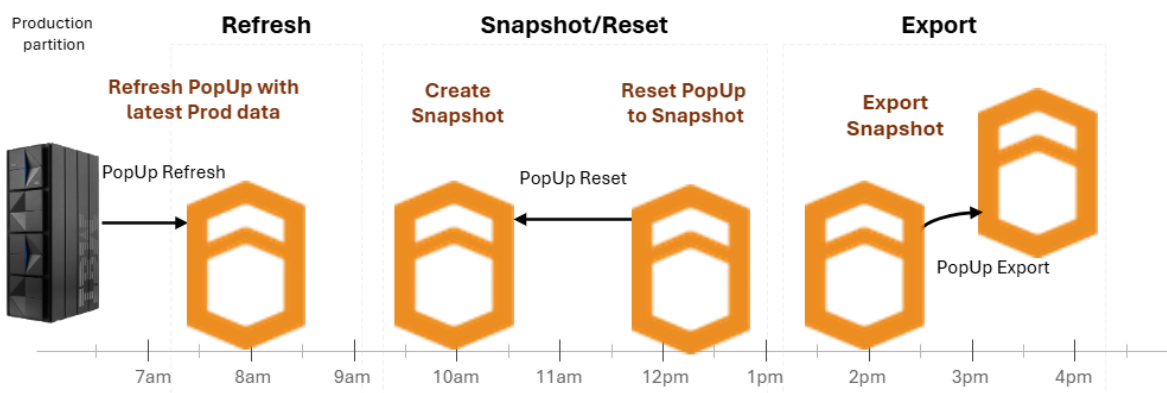
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New Product Capabilities
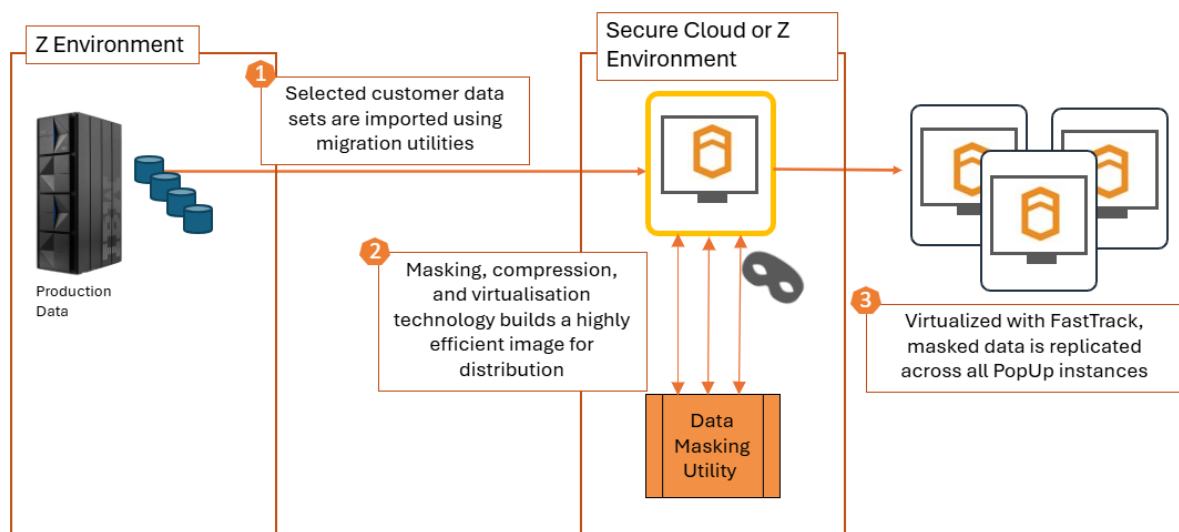
PopUp Mainframe FastTrack facility

This new capability saves a continuous history of data and configuration changes to enable self-service snapshot, restore, and export of PopUp instances to other staff or environments. Share and revert to baseline configurations flexibly and simply. Time saved in avoiding rework and configurations is a huge potential productivity benefit for many typical mainframe delivery scenarios.

FastTrack's semi-automated command line driven scripting dramatically reduces administrative effort.

Comprehensive Data Masking Support

The PopUp Mainframe vision for data masking reflects the broad variety of data masking requirements and solutions in the market, from robust, enterprise-wide masking, virtualization and management suites, to dedicated, z/OS-centric installations.

Selected customer datasets are extracted and masked before or after transit into the PopUp Mainframe gold copy. PopUp Mainframe integrates with a range 3rd party leading Data Masking technology to ensure data compliance is maintained.