Announcing Update-3 of MVS 3.8J Turnkey 5!

Highlights

- Restructured and simplified DASD environment by moving to 3390 volumes where possible.
- Detailed migration strategy provided for users of TK3, TK4- and RYO systems.
- All popular software contributions and usermods are pre-installed.
- Minimal or no disruption when future TK5 updates are installed.
- Unprecedented level of documentation provided.

The Hercules MVS 3.8 community has always been fortunate to have members who take the time and effort to build and distribute MVS 3.8 systems that provide major advances in functionality and usability. Volker Bandke led the way when he created the Turnkey 3 system that was widely adopted by many satisfied users around the world. Based on the environment established by TK3, a significant number of enhancements were developed and contributed to the community by various TK3 users. Not every TK3 user installed all of these enhancements resulting in MVS 3.8 systems at various levels. Jürgen Winkelmann recognized that this was an issue and decided to build a successor to TK3 which he named TK4- in deference to the work performed by Volker Bandke in building TK3. Jürgen released TK4- in 2013. TK4- included all of the various enhancements contributed after TK3 was released. Jürgen also provided Windows and Linux based scripting to simplify the operation of Hercules and MVS 3.8. and widen the appeal of running TK4-. Subsequently, he released 8 updates to TK4- to include further enhancements as they came available from contributors.

Further enhancements became available resulting in, again, MVS 3.8 systems at various levels. This time it was Rob Prins who decided to address the issue with MVS-TK5. After so many years it was time to rethink and redesign the packaging for TK5 to position it for the future and ease of installing update releases. This has resulted in substantial changes to the MVS 3.8 environment. The most significant change is the reduction of the number of DASD volumes by moving to 3390 DASD, where possible. MVS-TK5 consists of 15 DASD volumes whereas MVS-TK4- consists of 28 DASD volumes. The major benefit of such a redesign and restructure is that future releases of TK5 will only replace 3 DASD volumes. It will be easy to keep current with future TK5 update releases because updates can be installed with minimal or no disruption to a user's system.

Migrating to a TK5 will require some planning and effort for this one-time task. Considerable attention has been given to providing a comprehensive migration strategy that will minimize the effort required to smoothly migrate current systems across to TK5. The effort of migration will certainly be worthwhile because TK5 offers so many benefits for all its users.

Rob Prins created the TK5 distribution with the help of a number of people who packaged the additional software and tested the distribution. These contributors are acknowledged within TK5.

After many months of testing, the new MVS-TK5 distribution is finally here and available for download. It can be downloaded from www.prince-webdesign.nl/tk5. Within the TK5 distribution the “doc” directory contains the document TK5 Introduction and User Manual. This document contains all the many reasons to migrate to TK5 and the detailed migration strategy.

Update 2

When TK5 was first released Rob Prins made the commitment that, for subsequent TK5 Update releases, only TK5RES, the systems residence volume and the two usermod/package distribution volumes, TK5001 and TK5002, would be refreshed by each update. TK5 is unique because it is the first MVS 3.8 system that is resident on 3390 DASD. The move to 3390 DASD required, as a base, the installation of Jim Morrision’s usermods to support 3375/3380/3390 DASD. In addition, a number of other usermods were developed and installed to facilitate MVS 3.8 support for 3390 DASD.

However, TK5 users encountered further issues with MVS 3.8 support for 3390 DASD. Each of these new issues have now been addressed with usermods that are described in the TK5 Usermod Directory.

One issue required the rework of the initial Jim Morrisson contributed support for 3375/3380/3390 DASD. Further investigation revealed regression and incorrect SMP data for these essential usermods. A complete rework and repackaging of the Jim Morrison usermods has now been installed on TK5 as part of TK5 Update 2. This necessitates the inclusion of the TK5DLB volume with TK5 Update 2 to correctly reflect the SMP status of the code base and base libraries for TK5 systems. The base distribution libraries must be updated by the 3775/3380/3390 DASD support usermods because an MVS 3.8 system, specifying 3375/3380/3390 DASD, cannot be generated without these usermods installed.

The replacement of the TK5DLB volume should not impact a user’s TK5 system unless SMP has been used to ACCEPT usermods that have been installed on a TK5 system resulting in data sets on TK5DLB being updated. If this is the case then the replacement of the TK5DLB volume will regress the SMP ACCEPT processing and a rerun of the ACCEPT processing will be required.

Update 3

When TK5 was initially released Rob Prins made the commitment to regularly update TK5 to include all the latest software enhancements and usermods appropriate for the MVS 3.8 environment. TK5 Update 3 is an outstanding example of Rob delivering on that initial commitment he made to TK5 users. The Update 3 changes required a significant effort from Rob to update and integrate all these changes into the TK5 system. Now, with no or minimal disruption to their current system, a TK5 user can enjoy all the benefits of Rob’s effort with an upgrade to TK5 Update 3 by following a simple installation process.

Rob Prins