Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT) is a university directly under the administration of the Ministry of Education (MoE) and co-built by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology(MIIT) in China. It is a comprehensive university with information technology as its main feature, engineering and science as its main focus and a combination of engineering, management, humanities and sciences as its main pursuit, which becomes an important base for fostering high-tech talents. We established solid partnership with IBM China University Program since 1996. The team formed from School of Software Engineering in BUPT won the second place award in ICBC-IBM FIN-Tech Contest in 2018.

Through the FIN-Tech contest experience, we had some basic knowledge of IBM Z and learned the huge business value it brings to the market. Unlike distributed platform such as Linux, it's not easy for students in university to have hands-on experience on mainframe. So when IBM China Systems lab introduced the Zowe innovation project to us, we found it very attractive and would like to know more. From initial research, we learned Zowe was newly released in this February to break the silo and reduce the steep learning curve of IBM Z. It is also a very innovative product which is based on modern technology stack. IBM China Systems Lab invited us to visit the China Systems Center for a mainframe tour. It's amazing experience and our students are highly motivated to join the innovation project.

Our collaborative project with IBM is to develop one native Zowe application plugin with configurable page and widgets to view data provided by some IBM Z automation and monitoring products. We have now kicked off this project, three postgraduate students have already been assigned to work together with IBM advisors. We believe our students can complete the project successfully with their passion and the support from IBM. We are also eager to extend our knowledge and skill to open source and IBM Z and contribute code back to Zowe developers community.

-- by Kuang Jian, Dean of School of Software Engineering, BUPT