

BALAJI SANKARAN

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IBM i (formerly known as iSeries or AS/400) Architect | Admin | Transitions & Transformations | Cloud Migration | Presales | Client Coordination

Highly skilled and results-driven IBM i Architect with 16+ years of extensive experience in system administration, transitions and transformations, cloud migration, presales, and client coordination. Proven ability to design and implement effective IT solutions, optimizing performance and driving business growth. Strong technical knowledge of IBM i systems and applications, combined with in-depth understanding of industry best practices. Exceptional leadership and communication skills, adept at building and maintaining relationships with clients, stakeholders, and cross-functional teams. Committed to delivering high-quality services and exceeding customer expectations. Managed multiple customers in various business industries like Pharma, Healthcare, Insurance, Retail & Engineering

Education

B. Tech in Information Technology
Anna University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu,
India | June 2004 - April 2008

Key Skills

- OS/400 (V5R3 to V7R6)
- BRMS+ICC
- FalconStor VTL
- VIOS Management
- Skytap on Azure
- Halcyon
- Robot HA
- MIMIX
- Ansible AWX

Professional Experience

Consultant

HCL America Inc. | December 2018 – Present

- Researching practical applications of AI within IBM i environments to enhance operational efficiency, strengthen knowledge support, and accelerate modernization workflows.
- Working on cloud migration projects by conducting thorough analysis and assessment of existing IBM i power infrastructure, identifying potential risks, and implementing necessary measures to remediate issues.
- Proposed industry-leading tools and technologies to implement efficient data migration processes, backup solutions reducing downtime and ensuring minimal impact on business operations.
- Managed client relationships by communicating and coordinating with them on a regular basis.
- Proficient in building and configuring IBM i servers, performing HMC and firmware upgrades, PTF management.
- Experienced in conducting OS upgrades on IBM i servers, using established best practices, and ensuring minimal disruption to business operations.
- Skilled in troubleshooting and resolving technical issues related to IBM i ensuring prompt and efficient resolution.
- Successfully performed knowledge transitions for new customers and ensured smooth transition by preparing questionnaires, end to end run book for the steady state team to manage the environment.
- Implemented ICC Backup solution for both cloud and on-prem partitions.
- Performed proof of concept for Ansible automation tool to automate tasks and processes on IBM i systems by creating playbooks.
- Designed and implemented a proof of concept for Nagios Core for i monitoring solution, demonstrating its capabilities to enhance system monitoring processes.
- Performed project activities like Disk Migration, New tool installations, HMC configuration, BRMS install and configuration.

Recent Projects

- OS upgrades V7R4 to V7R5, V7R3 to V7R4, V7R2 to V7R3
- Successful completion of end-to-end cloud migration from on-prem to Skytap for Azure
- Successful completion of hardware migration from Power 8 to Power 10
- Successful implementation of backup on cloud using BRMS and ICC
- Scratch install of HMC version V10R3
- Scratch install of V7R6
- Scratch installation of latest VIOS 4.1.0.21 on power server
- Built partitions for

- Successfully managed both hardware and software contract renewal process for IBM i servers, ensuring seamless continuation of service for clients.
- Proficient in user access management, DASD management, IFS drive mapping.
- Strong understanding of backup and recovery best practices (both BRMS and Native), including disaster recovery planning and execution
- Performed DR activity which includes creation of partition using HMC, installing LIC from CD and OS from backup tape, assigning SAN storage and network configuration.

Technical Specialist

HCL Technologies Ltd | July 2009 - November 2018

- Led an IBM i team of 7 members, managing client coordination, cross-platform dependencies and end to end operations for a pharma client.
- Provided end to end support for IBM i partitions with maximum uptime.
- Performed and owned activities as quarterly maintenance, DR Testing, hardware maintenance, regular internal and external audits, etc.
- Managed backups using BRMS (created control groups and media policies as per the client's requirement).
- Developing and maintaining procedures for system utilities such as backups, restores, performance tuning, performing daily and weekly backups of production systems and other backups as required.
- Performed operational tasks like profile management, printer management, ASP cleanup, HMC management, Granting & Fixing authority issues, Disk addition, executed regular maintenance activities.
- Created user profiles and managed the authorities of the profiles as per the client's compliance policies.
- Have a good knowledge and experience creating and managing different types of printers.
- Performed regular monitoring and health checks on IBM i partitions to ensure optimal performance and minimize downtime.
- Created several knowledge-based articles for new and existing operational tasks.
- Worked on Remedy and Service Now handling incidents, service requests and change requests to implement the environmental changes and hardware related changes.