

Solution Profile

Turn Mainframe Storage Data Into Operational Insight

See risk sooner, recover faster and plan with confidence



Less Specialist Dependency

Put mainframe storage insight in the hands of your broader operations team, not just a shrinking pool of specialists.

Faster Service Recovery

Correlate storage behavior with application and infrastructure data to shorten triage and reduce escalations.

Smarter Capacity Decisions

Use storage trend data to time capacity investment before bottlenecks degrade service levels.

The mainframe still holds your most critical data, yet for many teams it remains a performance black box.

It continues to be the backbone of enterprise IT, trusted to run the highest-volume workloads with availability that open systems rarely match. But the mainframe workforce is changing rapidly, and the engineers replacing retiring experts often lack decades of experience interpreting mainframe performance data.

When storage performance falls, service levels suffer, and isolating the cause takes too long. The mainframe's monitoring tools are powerful, but they were built for specialists and don't match the analytics platforms the rest of IT runs.

The result is a critical insight gap: Storage data remains isolated from the unified view leaders need to manage risk, plan capacity and confidently make decisions.

Hitachi Vantara closes that gap.



Unified Risk View

Enterprise context around mainframe storage helps manage risk more effectively.



Faster Triage

Correlated data helps isolate issues sooner and reduce downtime.



Defensible Planning

Anticipate constraints and prioritize capacity investments before service levels are affected.



Modernized Operations

Familiar workflows reduce dependence on scarce expertise and speed action.

Open Your Mainframe Storage to Enterprise Analytics

Hitachi Virtual Storage Platform One Block High End (VSP One Block High End) and Ironstream® from Precisely® bring specialized mainframe storage telemetry into the enterprise analytics environment, enabling broader operations teams to resolve problems faster and make infrastructure decisions based on integrated evidence.

VSP One Block High End is built for mainframe environments, with the performance, scalability, cyber resilience and availability your most critical workloads demand. What sets it apart is its direct access to mainframe performance data as part of a modern, unified storage platform.

The data source is the VSP One Block High End mainframe analytics recorder (MAR) feature, which captures detailed, time-synchronized information about mainframe storage performance. MAR enables teams to correlate the mainframe server view from IBM Z environments with the storage-internal view of key business elements. In tandem with Ironstream, that data flows automatically into enterprise analytics platforms such as Cisco® Splunk® and ServiceNow®.

With mainframe storage performance visible alongside the rest of the IT environment, teams no longer need to switch to a specialist console to investigate issues. They can identify problems sooner, pinpoint the root cause faster, and plan capacity with greater precision.

MAR Benefits

The MAR feature on VSP One Block High End:

- Correlates mainframe and storage views. MAR connects IBM Z server-side performance signals with the internal storage view, giving teams a fuller picture of what is happening across the environment.
- Turns specialist data into operational insight. MAR makes mainframe storage telemetry easier to use by feeding it through Ironstream into enterprise platforms such as Splunk and ServiceNow.
- Improves response and planning. Time-based performance data helps teams identify root cause faster, spot emerging bottlenecks earlier, and support more defensible capacity decisions.

Why It Matters

MAR helps organizations move from reactive troubleshooting to proactive operations. Instead of waiting for a specialist to pull separate mainframe and storage reports, teams see correlated evidence in a single environment. That reduces time spent diagnosing performance issues, lowers operational risk for mission-critical workloads, preserves scarce mainframe expertise and gives leaders better data for service assurance, capacity planning and investment decisions.

In BMC's 20th annual mainframe survey of 1,000 mainframe technologists, just over half of respondents identified as millennials, up from 36% seven years earlier, and Generation Z mainframers made up 15%, up from 1% in 2018.

Source:

BMC 20th Annual Mainframe Survey, reported by CIO Dive, September 2025.

Use Cases

Find the Root Cause of Slowdowns Faster

When a critical application slows down, every minute spent isolating the issue increases business risk. Traditional troubleshooting forces teams to manually correlate mainframe storage, application and infrastructure views, delaying decisions when service levels are already under pressure.

With VSP One Block High End, the investigation begins with correlated evidence instead of separate data pulls. MAR captures storage performance in real time and aligns the IBM Z server view with the storage-internal view. Ironstream then streams the correlated data to the operations platform. Engineers can trace a slowdown to its source in the dashboard they already use instead of routing the issue to a separate team.

The executive impact is faster triage, fewer escalations and less dependence on specialized staff, keeping scarce expertise focused on higher-value work.

Gen Z mainframers went from 1% of the workforce to 15% in seven years.

Source:

BMC 20th Annual Mainframe Survey, reported by CIO Dive, September 2025.

Plan Storage Capacity Before Bottlenecks Occur

Capacity decisions are most effective when they happen before performance is at risk. The challenge is that early warning signals frequently remain buried within specialized tools, making it hard to distinguish normal growth from emerging constraints.

With VSP One Block High End, capacity planning begins with trend data leaders can act on. MAR tracks storage activity over time and correlates IBM Z server-side signals with the storage-internal view of business elements; Ironstream then brings that information into enterprise dashboards. Capacity managers can identify developing constraints alongside the rest of the environment and prioritize investment accordingly.

For leadership, that means better investment timing and fewer surprise bottlenecks, with upgrades prioritized before users are affected and performance aligned with business growth.

Manage the Mainframe Like Any Other System

The mainframe remains mission-critical, but managing it as a separate operational domain creates governance, staffing and risk challenges. As deep expertise becomes harder to replace, leaders need to bring mainframe storage into the same operating model used across the rest of IT.

VSP One Block High End and Ironstream bring mainframe storage into the enterprise operating model. MAR correlates IBM Z server context with the storage-internal view, and Ironstream delivers that data to enterprise analytics, monitoring and service management platforms. Operators can monitor mainframe storage alongside the rest of the environment using workflows they already know.

At the executive level, this is operational modernization without disruption. Broader teams support mainframe storage through familiar tools, leadership gains a more complete risk picture and the platform becomes easier to govern across the enterprise.

From Black Box to Open Book

Your mainframe is too critical to operate as a black box. With Hitachi Virtual Storage Platform One Block High End and Ironstream from Precisely, storage data once trapped inside specialist tools becomes part of the enterprise analytics environment your leaders already use to manage performance, risk and investment.

The outcome is clearer accountability across platforms: faster triage when service is at risk, more defensible capacity planning and a path to modernize mainframe operations without sacrificing the strength your most critical workloads require.

Explore more and see how this Hitachi solution can turn your mainframe storage data into operational insight.

Learn More

About Hitachi Vantara

Hitachi Vantara is transforming the way data fuels innovation. A wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi, Ltd., we're the data foundation the world's leading innovators rely on. Through data storage, infrastructure systems, cloud management and digital expertise, we build the foundation for sustainable business growth.

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