# masters of mainframe

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The quarterly newsletter for ca technology mainframe customers      **JULY 2013**

## Mainframes: the hot new technology?

A warm welcome to Masters of Mainframe: our exciting new newsletter for mainframe leaders and experts. Before we look forward, let's quickly remind ourselves of the turbulent history of the mainframe.

Andy Askew, Vice President Mainframe Business Unit, CA Technologies, Europe

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## + product news

### Application Performance Management (APM): the next generation

CA Mainframe Chorus 3.0 is the only APM solution that reports all your applications' performance in just one dashboard. And that's only the start of its capabilities.

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## + industry news

### Software vendor uncertainty: risky or rewarding?

Fundamental changes are happening in the mainframe management software sector. Have you considered if they expose you and your business to risk?

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## + technical focus

### Capture and share your irreplaceable mainframe skills

Knowledge sharing is a burning issue in the mainframe world. CA Technologies offer a unique approach to capturing and sharing skills then transferring them to the next generation.

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<Add your event details here>

## + and finally

For the latest news updates and more, and to join the conversation, follow us on Twitter @CAmainframe, LinkedIn or our blog Mainframe Voice.

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## A word from our CTO – Andy Askew, Vice President Mainframe Business Unit, CA Technologies, Europe.

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## Mainframes: the hot new technology?

### The rise, fall and rise of the mainframe

Today's technology evolves at breathtaking speed. And in our world of hyper-accelerated product lifecycles, it's rare indeed for technologies to return to popularity once fashion has moved on.

Yet that's precisely what's happening with mainframes today. The latest powerful management and analytic tools are liberating the mainframe to play a vital role in your dynamic IT infrastructure.

Take a hot topic like big data. Ironically, there's a natural fit between decades-old mainframe technology and the immense volumes of unstructured data generated by new channels. Smart enterprises are leveraging their mainframe's raw power to drive value from data harvested from the Web and social media as well as from unstructured data like email.

IT's need to do more with less is also key to the mainframe revival. Cost-conscious enterprises are thinking creatively about IT, and finding ingenious ways to leverage value from latent or underused assets. Today's software tools have eased the task of integrating your mainframe with your virtualised, cloud-based or hybrid systems. So your mainframe can once more be recognised as a central pillar of your infrastructure.

Of course, some challenges persist. Enterprise mainframes have evolved into complex and often unique entities. As a result, they demand exceptionally specialised skills and knowledge. This can create a skills shortage in IT.

Masters of Mainframe will help you overcome these challenges. Each quarter, we'll feature the most relevant industry, product and technology news. So as your mainframe returns to centre stage, you'll keep your skills current, maximise your contribution to the business, and help nurture the next generation of mainframes.

If skills shortages are especially pressing, check out our Mainframe Academy – the flexible way to gain real-world technical skills in an accelerated timeframe.

I look forward to joining you on this exciting the journey into the mainframe renaissance.

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## products news



**Application Performance Management (APM):
the next generation**

Experienced mainframers will remember when application workloads numbered perhaps 100,000 events per day. Today, that figure may reach 150 million. Seismic changes like these mean now's the ideal time to assess your mainframe Application Performance Management (APM). In particular, it's prudent to evaluate if the tried-and-tested tools you've relied on for years are still your most efficient and effective option. Some mainframers may also want to consider if their current APM vendor represents a sustainable long-term proposition. What challenges should today's APM toolsets be capable of solving? Today, the need for application availability is unpredictable, with spikes in demand occurring at surprising times. Mainframe workloads have increased dramatically as consumers use their tablets and smart phones 24x7 to make large volumes of small transactions. Next, there's the increasing complexity of delivering IT services to consumers. A transactional website may combine 15 or 20 services from your hybrid data centre and/or the cloud. Diagnosing a problem in these environments can be deeply complex and time consuming.

If these challenges resonate with you, CA Mainframe Chorus 3.0 can help transform your APM. Chorus is designed to help you get the most from your existing mainframe resources while building for the next generation. Firstly, Chorus APM is predictive rather than passive, highlighting small issues as soon as they represent a potential risk – for example a process that takes a fraction of a second longer each week. Chorus uses an intuitive GUI to present reports, and keeps historic data so you can compare performance changes.

Second, only Chorus offers truly integrated APM that spans all your applications across all your systems – from your mainframe to your physical and virtual servers and out into the cloud. So in the scenario described earlier, where multiple services combine to deliver a transactional website, Chorus can quickly identify the cause of a failure – whether it's deep in your mainframe or at a third-party hosted provider. Lastly, and perhaps most powerfully, only Chorus gives you all this performance monitoring capability via a single dashboard. Other providers may offer APM; but you still need to connect and interpret their results. Chorus collates all the performance management data you need, whether it's from UNIX, Windows, your mainframe or the customer's browser. Chorus 3.0 also includes a unique set of tools designed to collect knowledge from your existing mainframe experts and share it with the next generation. You can learn more about Chorus Knowledge Management in the Technology section of Masters of Mainframe.

At CA Technologies, we're passionately supporting the mainframe renaissance. And with CA Chorus, we're providing the industry's most powerful tools for restoring the mainframe to its rightful place at the heart of your hybrid infrastructure.

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