Hercules in 2013

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An affordable platform for…

- Development & testing (inhouse & ISV)
- Operator and sysprog training
- System programmer sandbox
- DR test platform (validation PRA)
- Sunset applications
  shutting down redundant or obsolete business applications while retaining access to the historical data

Potentially innovative

- Virtualization platform for legacy applications on commodity hardware (x86_64)

- => z/OS in the cloud

- Fusion of mainframe and non-mainframe on a single platform

- => Potential for hybrid applications

However…

- Sword of damocles : inhibits exploitation of full potential

- Strong potential to disrupt legacy vendor's profitability model

- => Legacy vendor has been willing to expend considerable resources to squash competition (Platform Solutions, TurboHercules)

Competition Cases

- Tying (vente liée)
- DG-COMP and DOJ

Open source

- Legacy vendor funds the major source institutions
- Will not "bite the hand that feeds them"
- => No solidarity for disruptive technology which displeases the legacy vendor

The future

- z/OS v2r1 +
- => Expect more technology lockouts

Hercules status

- Dev version – 2 year hiatus (2010-2012)
- 4 month freeze (10/2011-3/2012) for git conv
- In 9/2012, dev version renamed as 4.00
- Production releases resumed as fork from 3.07
- Current release 3.08.2
- Next release 3.09

Links

- http://www.hercules-390.eu
- https://github.com/rbowler/spinhawk
- https://github.com/s390guy/hercules-390
- http://www.smrcc.org.uk/members/g4ugm/snapshots/
- http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hercules-390

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