



OPEN  
**MAINFRAME**  
PROJECT

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

# Open Mainframe Project Annual Report

[www.openmainframeproject.org](http://www.openmainframeproject.org)

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## Happy 10th Anniversary, Open Mainframe Project!

*John Mertic, Director of Program Management, Linux Foundation*

Ten years ago, the Open Mainframe Project was founded with a bold goal: to bring open source collaboration to one of the world's most critical computing platforms. A decade later, that vision has become a reality. Through sustained community effort, the project has helped modernize the mainframe ecosystem by uniting vendors, end users, and developers around shared innovation.

Over the past ten years, the Open Mainframe Project has enabled impactful open source initiatives, expanded education and workforce programs, and advanced open standards, tools, and interfaces that make mainframe technologies more accessible to new generations. As a neutral and trusted home, the project has fostered community-driven development, shared learning, and collaboration at a global scale.

In 2025, the project celebrated this milestone year by building on its strong foundation. Hosted initiatives reached key milestones, delivering new releases, technical advancements, and broader adoption. Education programs and events continued to connect seasoned practitioners with students and early-career professionals, reinforcing the project's long-standing commitment to skills development and workforce renewal.

What truly defines the Open Mainframe Project—this year and throughout its first decade—is its people. The dedication of project leaders, maintainers, and contributors, combined with the support of member organizations that believe in the long-term value of open collaboration, has created a resilient and vibrant community.

As the Open Mainframe Project marks ten years of impact and looks ahead to its next chapter, it does so with gratitude, momentum, and confidence. Entering 2026, the project is well positioned to build on its legacy and continue advancing open source on the mainframe for many years to come.

Check out the [technical milestones](#), [birthday videos](#) from the community.



## Collaborating with and Educating the Community Through Industry Events

*Donna Hudi, Chief Marketing Officer, Phoenix Software; Chair, Open Mainframe Project Marketing Committee*

In 2025, the Open Mainframe Project maintained a strong presence at major industry events, using these forums to share expertise, showcase innovation, and strengthen connections across the global mainframe community. Participation in both vendor-led and community-driven conferences reinforced the project's role as a central hub for open source collaboration.

At GSE UK, the project engaged practitioners, contributors, and students through sessions and discussions focused on open source tooling, modern development practices, and workforce development. At IBM TechXchange, including Community Day, project leaders and contributors highlighted real-world use cases and demonstrated how open collaboration is accelerating modernization across enterprise environments.

Community engagement remained a priority at SHARE Cleveland and SHARE Orlando. At both events, the Open Mainframe Project supported sessions, project showcases, and networking opportunities that connected experienced professionals with new and emerging voices in the ecosystem, while promoting education and skills initiatives.

Collectively, these engagements reflect leadership beyond code—positioning the Open Mainframe Project as a convener, educator, and advocate for open source on the mainframe.

Check out the videos and photos:

- SHARE D.C. in February 2025 - [photos](#)
- SHARE Cleveland in August 2025 - [photos](#)
- IBM TechXchange in October 2025 - [photos](#) & [videos](#)
- GS UK in November 2025 - [photos](#) & [videos](#)





## Updates for Projects, Programs, and Working Groups

### Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The Technical Advisory Committee guides the Open Mainframe Project's technical direction and cross-community collaboration. In 2025, the TAC expanded its leadership by adding Vice Chair Mike Friesenegger, Solutions Architect at SUSE, alongside Chair Phil Tully, LinuxONE Engineering Operations Director at Citi. This structure strengthens coordination, strategic planning, and long-term sustainability.

Key accomplishments included updated reference architectures, continued contributions to Zowe and related projects, and community-led workshops and hackathons to accelerate adoption.

### Galasa

*Louisa Denly, Product Manager, IBM*

In 2025, Galasa solidified its position as a key enabler of modern mainframe DevOps and enterprise-scale testing. The project focused on enhancing security, scalability, and automation, while prioritizing the Galasa Kubernetes Service as its core deployment model to support large-scale, remote testing with improved role-based access and observability.



Significant improvements were made to CI/CD workflows, GitHub Actions integration, and test infrastructure, enabling faster, more reliable deployments. Releases 0.43.0 and 0.44.0 introduced immediate test-run record creation for better visibility, optimized internal data exchange for efficiency, and enhanced Helm charts to validate dependencies before test execution. Additional operational enhancements included configurable certificate management, CouchDB revision controls, and refined REST APIs.

On the user-facing side, Galasa improved test visibility and maintainability with enhanced Java APIs and optional certificate verification for z/OS 3270 telnet tests. Offline documentation support via Docker images now enables development in environments without internet access, and front-end UI improvements, contributed by a summer mentee, provide a more intuitive dashboard for test history and debugging. These advancements demonstrate Galasa's commitment to scalability, security, usability, and modernizing mainframe application testing.

### COBOL Programming Course

*Michael Bauer, Software Engineering Supervisor, Broadcom*

The COBOL Programming Course continued its active participation in the Open Mainframe Project's Summer Mentorship Program, reinforcing its role as a cornerstone of workforce development for the mainframe ecosystem. In 2025, the mentorship focused on the creation of new, advanced hands-on COBOL labs



designed to move learners beyond introductory concepts and into real-world, practical application.

These labs emphasized problem-solving, program structure, and modern development workflows, helping new developers build confidence working with production-style COBOL code.

Through close collaboration with experienced mentors, [Athar Ramzan](#) contributed directly to course content that will benefit a broad audience of learners, from students to early-career professionals. This work strengthened the course's ability to prepare participants for real mainframe environments while demonstrating how mentorship and open collaboration can accelerate skills development and knowledge transfer across generations of mainframe talent.

### **Mainframe Open Education (MOE)**

*Nanxi Meng, Instructional Designer, Broadcom*

In 2025, Mainframe Open Education expanded GitBook into a comprehensive hub for technical learning and career development. New features included university program listings, job opportunities, event information, and recordings from past sessions, alongside new content tailored to beginners.



MOE also launched the “Git Involved” campaign and introduced a streamlined onboarding experience. Outreach materials—including Z Awareness Flyers and a University Outreach Package—were finalized to support faculty and institutional partners. Internally, the MOE Core Team focused on collaboration, mentorship, and welcoming new contributors.

### **Zowe**

*Jakub Balhar, Product Manager, Broadcom*

In 2025, Zowe continued to strengthen its position as a foundational open source framework for modern mainframe development. The project delivered three minor releases, introducing meaningful enhancements across the Zowe CLI, APIs, and user interfaces. A notable addition was the new SSH backend for Jobs and Datasets, which expands flexibility for users and enables alternative connectivity options aligned with modern security and infrastructure requirements.



Throughout the year, the Zowe community remained highly engaged through industry events, working groups, and hands-on discussions centered on real-world use cases. These conversations increasingly emphasized developer workflows, including how CLI tools, VS Code extensions, APIs, and web interfaces can simplify interactions with z/OS and integrate mainframe development into broader DevOps toolchains.

Looking ahead, the upcoming Zowe 3.4 release represents a major step forward in usability and adoption. By significantly simplifying configuration and reducing server-side installation prerequisites, Zowe 3.4 lowers barriers for organizations getting started and accelerates time to value. Together, these advancements reinforce Zowe's role in making the mainframe more accessible, developer-friendly, and aligned with modern enterprise practices

## **zopen Community**

*Igor Todorovsky, z/OS Open Source Development Lead at IBM*

In 2025, the zopen Community continued its rapid evolution into one of the most active and collaborative open source ecosystems in the mainframe world. Surpassing 300 projects in its portfolio, zopen significantly expanded the availability of modern tooling, languages, libraries, and utilities for z/OS—delivering innovation at a pace previously unseen on the platform.



Key technical advancements this year included expanded dataset I/O support across popular editors, improved internationalization through gettext-based localization, and the introduction of zEDC-accelerated compression for zip and gzip workflows. These enhancements not only improve performance and usability, but also bring the z/OS development experience closer to that of other modern platforms.

Beyond technology, the zopen Community made meaningful investments in community growth and recognition. The launch of a new Contributor Badge Program and the welcoming of two new Open Mainframe Project Ambassadors helped recognize leadership, encourage participation, and strengthen contributor pathways. Quarterly release waves and regular community updates kept momentum high, while partnerships with universities and the continued growth of the IBM z/OS Open Source Development & CI/CD program further expanded adoption.

Today, the zopen Community is larger, more international, and more engaged than ever—demonstrating how open collaboration can transform the pace and accessibility of innovation on the mainframe.

## Open Mainframe Project 2025 Ambassadors

*Maemalynn Meanor, Director of Marketing Communications at the Linux Foundation*

The Open Mainframe Project Ambassador Program empowers individuals to share knowledge, engage the community, and help advance the project's mission. In 2025, the project welcomed a new group of ambassadors from diverse regions and organizations that leverage mainframe technology. They were selected for their leadership, technical expertise, and strong commitment to the goals of the Open Mainframe Project.

These ambassadors play an active role in expanding the community by giving talks, mentoring others, reviewing educational materials, and contributing blogs and articles that showcase the project's initiatives and successes. Their efforts help increase awareness of open source mainframe technologies and highlight the opportunities available across the ecosystem.

This talented group brings a mix of skills, experiences, and perspectives - supporting the Open Mainframe Project's growth worldwide. Their participation strengthens the project's global network and reinforces the collaborative spirit that drives innovation and adoption in the mainframe community. Learn more about the [2025 Ambassador class](#) here.

The new ambassadors join an already thriving program with thought leaders from several Open Mainframe Project member companies and other industry organizations. To see the complete list of ambassadors, please check out the Ambassadors Page [here](#).



**Aazam Ajmal Thakur**

Student



**Aditi Rai**

Student



**Andrej Chmelo**

Software Engineer, Broadcom



**Billie Jean Simmons**

Software Developer, IBM



**Geoffrey Decker**

Instructor, NIU



**Germanas Samrickis**

Software Developer, Rocket Software



**Harithamma D**

Senior Software Developer, IBM



**Igor Todorovski**

Software Developer, IBM



**JJ Lovett**

Sr Manager, Education & Customer Engagement, Broadcom



**Rahat Khan**

Student



**Rudiger Schulze**

Senior Technical Staff Member, IBM



**Sean Rooney**

AIOps & Automation Client Services Technical Consultant, IBM



**Stefan Schmitt**

Senior Technical Staff Member, IBM



## Mentorship Program

*Tom Slanda, Program Coordinator, Linux Foundation*

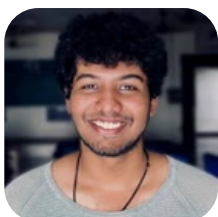
In Summer 2025, more than 1,100 applicants competed for 13 Open Mainframe Project mentorship positions. Selected mentees worked across projects including Galasa, Zowe, Mainframe Open Education, the zopen Community, and modernization working groups, gaining hands-on experience with Linux, open source software, and mainframe technologies. [Read](#) about their experience or [watch](#) their summary videos.

Learn more about the [2025 Summer Mentors and Mentees](#) here.



**A. Vijay Aditya**

Indian Institute of Technology (BHU),  
Varanasi



**Advith Krishnan**

SRM Institute of Science and Technology,  
Potheri



**Amrutha Rajsheker**

Saveetha Engineering College, Chennai



**Anshu Saini**

Indian Institute of Information Technology Design  
& Manufacturing Kancheepuram, Chennai



**Athar Ramzan**

Polaris School of Technology, Bengaluru



**Divij Sharma**

Indian Institute of Information Technology,  
Design and Manufacturing, Jabalpur



**Jerry Sun**

University of British Columbia,  
Vancouver



**Meena Chand**

University of Wolverhampton,  
United Kingdom



**Ojus Chugh**

Jaypee Institute Of Information Technology,  
Noida



**Paras Chawla**

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar



**Rohan Sen**

Indian Institute of Information Technology,  
Design and Manufacturing, Jabalpur



**Tasneem Mohammed**

Cairo University, Egypt



**Yetunde Obakeye**

University of Wolverhampton,  
United Kingdom

## Mainframe Connect

*Rahat Khan, Producer, “I am a Mainframer” and “Mainframe Voices”*



Mainframe Connect, sponsored by Peller Technologies and Phoenix Software, is the Open Mainframe Project's consolidated podcast and storytelling home, created to make it easier for listeners to find all of its mainframe-focused shows in a single, consistently branded place. It reflects the project's goal of growing a vibrant, modern mainframe community by highlighting real people, practical use cases, and open source innovation instead of just platform features.

“I Am a Mainframer” podcast is the foundational series in this lineup, launched back in 2017 and now with dozens of episodes featuring practitioners from many countries, companies, and career stages. Each episode digs into how a guest discovered mainframes, the work they do today (from system programming to DevOps to product management), and their advice for students or career-changers considering the field. This series puts a human face on mainframe work, showing that there is no single “typical” background for entering the ecosystem.

Mainframe Voices was introduced later as a mentorship-driven initiative, originally conceived by student mentee Rahat Khan as part of the Open Mainframe Project's mentorship program. Instead of focusing on a single guest's biography, Mainframe Voices episodes tend to center on themes such as modernization, AI on mainframe, community leadership, or major platform launches like IBM zI7, often in a panel or roundtable format. This structure creates space for multiple perspectives in one episode and surfaces how different organizations and roles approach the same technical and cultural challenges.

The Mainframe Coven was launched mid-last year as a mini-series hosted by Open Mainframe Project Ambassadors Jessielaine Punongbayan and Richelle Anne Craw. This video series showcases the history, career journeys, and perspectives of women and allies in the mainframe ecosystem, combining personal storytelling with insights on workforce development, diversity, and inclusion.

The first two episodes highlight historical contributions, tracing the impact of “kilogirls” and other pioneering women in computing, illustrating how their work laid the groundwork for today’s mainframe innovations. Later episodes focus on mentorship, community, and career development, showing how curiosity, resilience, and support networks foster entry, growth, and confidence in a field historically underrepresented by women and other diverse talent. The series demonstrates the strategic value of initiatives like the Open Mainframe Project mentorship and IBM Z advocacy programs in cultivating leadership, retaining skilled professionals, and enabling knowledge transfer. By highlighting diverse motivations, backgrounds, and achievements, the mini-series positions the mainframe as a future-ready platform while reinforcing the importance of representation, inclusion, and sustainable workforce development.

Together under the Mainframe Connect banner, these podcasts and videos complement each other with deeply personal and narrative stories and more topical and discussion-based roundtables. For a listener or learner, this offers both inspiring individual journeys and broader conversations about where mainframe technology is headed, how open source is changing the ecosystem, and how new talent can get involved.

#### • **I am a Mainframer podcast**

- [Steven Perva](#), Expert Mainframe Innovation Engineer at Ensono, January 2025
- [Gerald Mitchell](#), Chief Testing Tools Architect and Senior Technical Staff Member at IBM, February 2025
- [Richelle Anne Crow](#), Mainframe Software Engineer from Beta Systems, May 2025
- [Natalie Carrillo](#), IBM Z ISV community Leader, June 2025
- [Emma Skovgård](#), IT security engineer at Danske Bank, September 2025
- [Ricki West](#), a systems programmer at the UK Land Registry, October 2025

#### • **Mainframe Voices video series**

- [Celebrating Women’s History Month: First-Time IBM Champions Share their Inspirations](#) - March 2025
- [Mainframe Voices: How the IBM z17 is Inspiring the Next Generation of Mainframers](#) - April 2025
- [Mainframe Voices: TAC Leadership Driving Open Source Innovation](#) - July 2025
- [Mainframe Voices: Looking ahead open mainframes impact at share, techxchange and GSUK](#) - August 2025

#### • **Mainframe Coven mini-series**

- [Kilogirl](#), Jessielaine Punongbayan and Richelle Anne Crow - June 2025
- [When Computers Wore Skirts](#), Jessielaine Punongbayan and Richelle Anne Crow - July 2025
- [The Historian Mainframer that Made History](#), Pam Taylor - August 2025
- [A Visionary Leader Building Inclusive Ecosystems](#) - Meredith Stowell, September 2025
- [A Champion for Mentorship and Mainframe Advocacy](#), Sudharsana Srinivasan - October 2025
- [A Technologist Devoted to Lifelong Learning](#), Lezlie Browder - November 2025

## Vision for 2026

*Len Santalucia, Chairman, Open Mainframe Project Governing Board*

The Open Mainframe Project enters 2026 with significant momentum. A major milestone will be the introduction of access to real IBM Z mainframe resources, enabling projects to collaboratively develop, test, and share open source code globally.

The year ahead will also bring expanded opportunities to participate in and sponsor project activities, including mentorships, conference sessions at SHARE and TechXchange, and the launch of new initiatives driven by community ideas.

There has never been a stronger time—technically, financially, or strategically—to work with IBM Z. The Open Mainframe Project continues to serve as a gateway to opportunity, innovation, and collaboration across the mainframe ecosystem.



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