

## IBM System z Customer Reference Marist College

**Harry Williams, Director of Technology and Systems**  
**Martha McConaghy, Strategic Planner and Project Manager**

**Harry Williams:** Marist College is a small liberal arts college on the banks of the Hudson River in upstate New York... we're about 4500 full-time undergraduate students and about 800 graduate students.

**Martha McConaghy:** Our z9, we have several hundred servers running on there that are clearly servicing the entire college, not just the physical college but also our distance learning students.

**Harry Williams:** I have got over 600 servers for students, for me to buy that number of servers and actually try to manage them would be cost prohibitive plus time prohibitive. We couldn't do it any other way, but with z/VM.

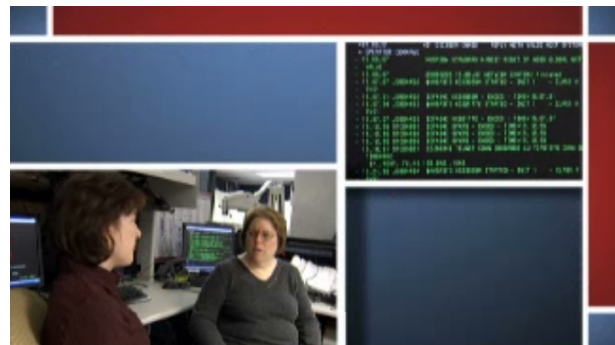
**Martha McConaghy:** When you virtualize, you don't have nearly the complexity in terms of cabling and physical requirements. It reduces the amount of cost to run servers.

**Harry Williams:** z/VM is a complete virtualization... everything that the real hardware does, it provides at the virtual environment.

**Martha McConaghy:** The flexibility to be able to create servers on the fly, to be able to manipulate the resources, to share resources between servers - things that may be very difficult to do on other platforms, you can do very quickly using z/VM.

**Harry Williams:** It takes less staff to do that. I have more tools that I can actually manage. I have the ability to watch what the performance data is, so I can see how virtual machines are running.

**Martha McConaghy:** It also is very stable; it's very reliable, so you don't have a lot of worries about crashes and outages. We run z/VM systems that literally haven't shut down in a year.



There are several other virtualization platforms out there now. One advantage that z/VM has over them is the obvious, which is that it has about 30 year head start. So it's solved the number of the problems that they are now starting to understand. One of the biggest advantages is scalability still. They can handle perhaps a dozen or more images on a single hardware platform, VM can handle hundreds to thousands.

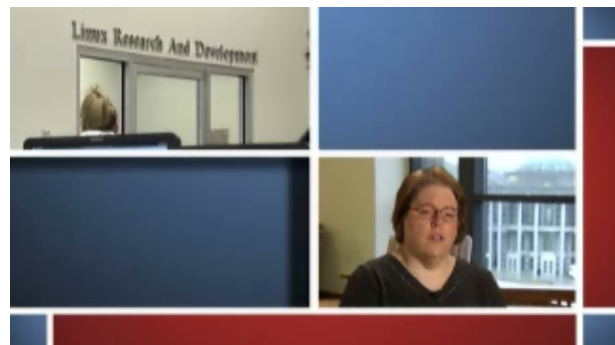


**Harry Williams:** We are able to consolidate everything on a smaller footprint. Our power consumptions are less, our air-condition consumptions are less. So it allows us to maintain our green initiative.



**Martha McConaghy:** Linux on z/VM has been a huge step forward, primarily because those of us who have loved z/VM for many years always knew of its power. And then, Linux came along and Linux allowed us to run applications that before were really prohibitive from being run on the mainframe.

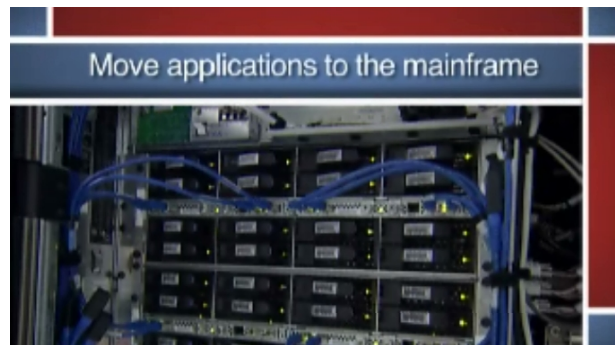
Its value of it being a real native Linux rather than an emulation is primarily the fact that you don't have to rewrite applications in order to make them run.



When we are looking to do new projects, the first thing we ask is, "Will it work on the mainframe?"

**Harry Williams:** We are constantly looking at what other applications we can move there. Currently, we are looking at our ERP. We are also looking at Sakai collaborative environment.

**Martha McConaghy:** Any mainframe customer demands high availability and high reliability, so you do have the expectation that when you bring in IBM Storage like a DS8100, that it's going to work from day one and it's not going to have any major problems, and we have certainly found that to be true.



Being a college, we can't afford to dedicate too much floor space to a data center. Our business is educating students, which means we need to put students in desks in a classroom and not put servers there. So, by saving on power, by saving on the footprint that we take up in the building, we are saving the college money.

**Harry Williams:** System z has been wonderful, fabulous. I can't say enough superlatives about what it has done for us.

