

Re: correct way to update AIX 4.3.3.0 to maintenance level 4330-11? (AIX newbie)

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.unix.aix/2005-02/0636.html>

user_at_domain.invalid

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gprimerib wrote:

- > *Sorry for the basic question, but I'm a Solaris guy trying to warm up*
- > *to AIX. Any help would be greatly appreciated.*
- >
- > *We have an old 7017-R86 (S80) that's running 4.3.3. I need to put it*
- > *on EMC storage and EMC recommends that I install 'Maintenance Level*
- > *4330-11' first.*
- > *Where do I get it and what's the "best practice" way to install it*
- > *safely?*
- >
- > *Thanks in advance.*
- > *DM*
- >

Heres IBM's support web page for downloading fixes and maintenance level packages. Select pseries for the server type for your S80, the rest of the options ought to be straight forward – it gives you some instructions on how to tell your current level, and install tips.

<http://www-912.ibm.com/eserver/support/fixes/fcgui.jsp>

My preferred way of doing an upgrade like this is to use their alternate disk installation technique where you clone your current o.s. onto another disk, and do the upgrade to that disk – then it modifies your bootlist to boot from the upgraded disk. You can point back to the old disk and boot to go back to your old o.s. in case of problems as well. You can do the upgrade this way without as much down time – just rebooting. Otherwise, the best practice would be to have an idle system and do the maintenance upgrade, then reboot.

My system disks (rootvg) are mirrored, and I break the mirror, then use the previous mirror copy disk for the upgrade. Once I'm happy with the results and running with the upgrade, I do the cleanup and re-mirror rootvg. If you don't want to risk breaking the mirror, you can still do it, but you'd need two unused disks (bootable) to do the clone/upgrade to.

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For info on the process – if you have man pages installed...

```
man alt_disk_install
```

To start the process, you can run from the command line, but I find it easier to use smitty (or smit);

```
smitty alt_install
```

You can also access it via websm

Online manuals are available for 4.3 at

http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/cgi-bin/ds_form?lang=en_US&viewset=AIX&config=/usr/share/man/info/en_US/a do

I have problems using the search function here (works fine with the 5L manuals) but you can check out the Install guide, chapter 10.

Also, if you look at the Reference Documentation section, it has command references where you can look up the command.

In your spare time... here's another site with some references to AIX vs Solaris commands/functions.

The next step is learning about NIM (Network Install Manager) to install across the network, which is what I'm really suppose to be looking at on here...

Good Luck – its actually a fairly easy upgrade you're looking at.

Ron
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