

About the IODF Explorer

The IODF is a Critical Control Point in the management of the z/Series platform!

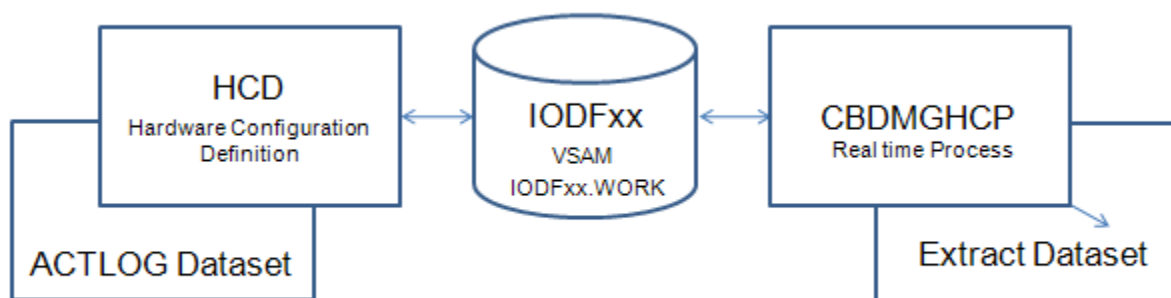
The Input/Output Definition File (IODF) is the set of logical configuration statements that are used to define a network of hardware resources. These resources are generally available to both the z/OS operating system (OSCP) and the z/OS platform hardware (IOCP) and related ESCON/FICON Directors (SWCP), if any. Because of its vital role in shaping the environment the IODF is viewed as a major *Control Point* for maintaining the accuracy and integrity of the z/OS Operating System and its associated z/Series Hardware (The Mainframe).

By definition The Mainframe is a highly adaptable general purpose computer that can be “shaped” into many different forms, formats and configurations to meet varying needs. Some will use the platform exclusively for the z/OS operating system. Others will split the platform between z/OS and z/VM or z/Linux (a form of UNIX). Sometimes it will be configured to run z/OS and z/Linux as guest operating systems under z/VM. The process of shaping the z/Series platform into the unique computing configuration that will meet business requirements is the job of the Hardware Planner.

In doing their jobs, these skilled technicians use IBM’s HCD and/or HCM to create and maintain the one or more IODF Datasets each containing one or more unique configurations. While powerful and required for their intended purpose HCD and HCM are often viewed as lacking the depth of reporting and change detection and reporting functions that are found in the IODF Explorer.

Understanding how the IODF Explorer adds value.

The results of any HCM and/or HCD session are stored in the IODF dataset and used during a Power on Reset (POR) or Initial Program Load (IPL). In addition, IBM provides a migration module (CBDMGHCP) that can be directed against any IODF Dataset to produce a listing of highly formatted I/O Macro Statements, sometimes called a “Deck”. The IODF Explorer leverages this process by storing these Decks as IODF Extracts. The process is fully automated and a full update can be completed in minutes.



Next, using the Extracts as source data, the IODF Explorer presents, on demand, intuitive attribute style reports. As needed extracts can be Blueprinted and compared one to any other for detecting changes at various levels within the same IODF or across IODFs.

Find out how to unlock the latent value of the IODF and the power of the IODF Explorer, and in doing so improve the integrity of any z/OS environment. Contact us at support@newera.com