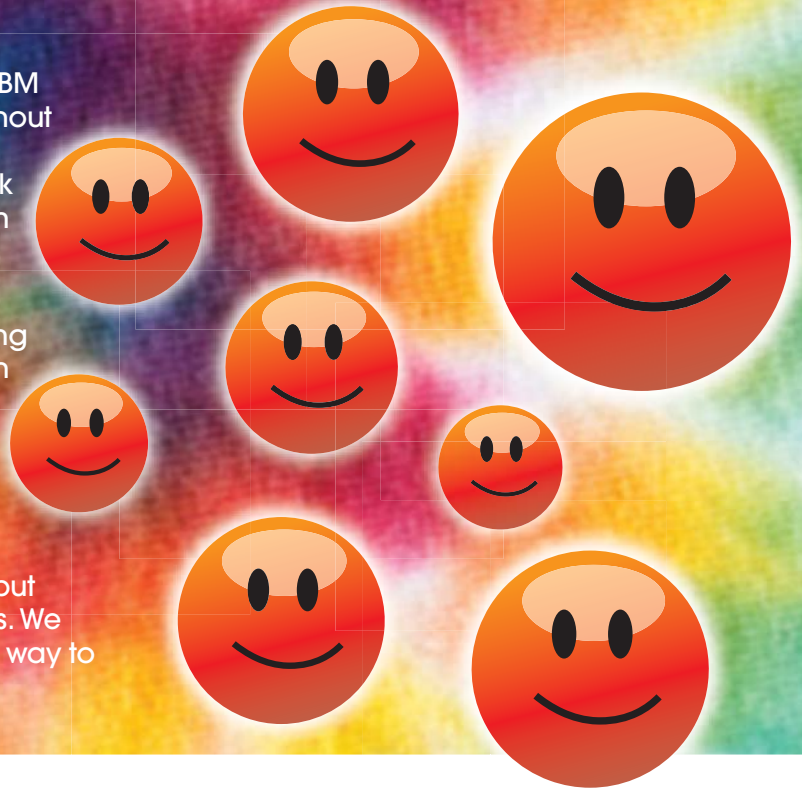# NoTSO

I'm Back!

Did you miss me?

You would think that after all these years the IBM Mainframe would recover automatically without the need for human intervention. Well, some almost do. But in today's 24X7 social network society, "almost" just won't cut it, making a system recovery tool as relevant as ever to technical support staff.

Actually, our support team reports that it is helping more sites fix problems today than at any time in our 25 year history. Could it be this is a result of a renewed focus on mainframe technology as a cost effective alternative to client server at the very time our trusted system programming staff is heading for their much-deserved retirement?

Whatever the case, we all know that it's hard to put a smiley face on a denial of mainframe services. We think you'll agree that we've found a really cool way to do it with NoTSO.

What is NoTSO?

Introduced to the mainframe community over 10 years ago as a companion to its recovery twin Stand Alone Environment (SAE), NoTSO is an Image Control Environment (ICE) Application. Like all the other ICE applications - IPLCheck, The Control Editor, New Release Analysis, and Image FOCUS – NoTSO inherits a resiliency from ICE that allows it to be fully available for problem determination and system repair when other conventional system recovery tools are not. Some of NoTSO key benefits are:

- **ISPF Functionality** – NoTSO assures access to system datasets when updates are critical and access to most system tools – SDSF, HCD, ISMF, RACF, SMP/E – for system repair when they are not available for almost any reason. NoTSO will provide all the functionality of native ISPF without the requirement for JES, VTAM or TSO.
- **Your TSO Tools** – How many TSO system tools do you depend on? How many require dedicated terminals and provide ISPF interface options? No matter the number with ISPF access capabilities, all can be fully integrated by NoTSO into ICE, assuring access and reducing the need for the number of dedicated terminals.

- **z/OS Event Reader** – Rapid problem determination depends on access to the z/OS System Log. But often when you need it most, the System Log is unavailable or cannot be viewed. This is true even though the Master Trace of system events still resides in the real-memory buffer used by the System Log. NoTSO formats and displays the available Master Trace information for recent system events.

What Else Can NoTSO Do?

A very good question. Since NoTSO is an ICE Application, it can easily be extended by integrating the advanced problem determination functions of Image FOCUS that assist in pinpointing IPL and subsystem startup configuration errors and changes, and optionally the Hot Site management aid – Fast DASD Erase – that you will use to erase data at the conclusion of a disaster recovery test.