# You Might be a Mainframer If …

*http://www.grnscrn.com/bigblue.htm*

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# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- When someone mentions green card, you don't think of immigration
- You understand the significance of version 3.8
- You think of DASD not DISK
- You know what a disk pack is
- When someone mentions RENT you don't think of housing expense
- You know that WAD has nothing to do with gum
- You think that fixed font, green on black is an ideal programming environment
- You know where "pluckin' and shuckin'" really came from (and wish you didn't)
- You know that the head of string is not an HR position
- You think of DASD when someone mentions string

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- You don't trust any machine you can lift or step over
- You remember when your computer had an air bag in it (and a compressor to inflate it)
- You understand how a computer can work better with 30 gallons of water in it
- You know that a functional recovery routine is not physical therapy
- You don't feel that having only two concurrently active paths to any disk is sufficient
- Your field engineer has ever shown up with parts to fix your computer BEFORE you even know it was broken
- You know what load unit dials are, and how to use them
- You know why BALR 14,14 works like it does
- You don't consider channels something on TV or part of a product distribution system
- You think any system that can't successfully scale past a 4 – way for a single image is a toy

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- You remember punched cards and why they were called unit records
- You know what a drum card is
- You know that a DASD FARM isn't where little DASDs grow
- You know CORE is in an apple… mainframes use monolithic memory these days
- You DO know what CORE memory is
- You understand why 31bit addressing and not 32bit
- You know that DEBE does everything but eat
- You spell "kicks" CICS
- You can make a sentence out of just acronyms, and your peers will understand it perfectly
- Your computer has always been made up of multiple processors

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- You expect your system and application to stay "up" even if one of the processors it is using fails
- You can recite at least three meanings for the ISC acronym
- You remember having to press REQUEST on the console
- You know the keystroke for EOB (Alt + 5)
- You know domains were something that Amdahl invented
- You know that REUS is not waste recycling
- You know that a Coupling Facility has nothing to do with the railroad
- You know that a control register has nothing to do with Point Of Sale
- When someone says prism, you're not thinking of light diffraction
- When someone mentions a "pizza oven" you don't immediately think of food

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- You know the difference between UNI, MP, AP, and SMP
- You think of availability in terms of end user access to applications, not just recovering to the C:> prompt
- You consider most horizontal scaling clustering to just be wanna-be's
- You find taking a stand-alone dump to be perhaps annoying, but not offensive
- You remember HIPO and know that it's not a zoo animal
- You know why you can't pop address plugs across strings (especially on MSS staging volumes)
- You know why blue cables are not grey
- EREP doesn't scare you
- You know what CUU means
- You know what DISOSS is and it doesn't scare you

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- You remember consoles that were more like electric typewriters than display terminals
- You remember the advent of dot-matrix printing and thought it was sooo cool
- You know PROFS doesn't refer to college teachers
- You don't have to be told when to press the Enter key
- You don't spend hours looking for the "ANY" key
- You know the difference between BTAM, TCAM, QTAM, and VTAM
- You know who "the BUNCH" were (Burroughs, Univac, NCR, CDC and Honeywell)
- You know that SPOOL is an acronym (Simultaneous Peripheral Operations Online)
- You don't think that address space is an area on an envelope
- You remember when having four "screens" on one, in orange on black was a big deal

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- You've successfully used PSW RESTART
- You know what Reset, Load, Rewind, Start had to do with
- You understand the benefits of connection-based communication architectures
- You know that TSO TEST could not test everything
- You know that just because your manager wrote some code, that didn't make it authorized
- You know that AC(1) had nothing to do with room temperature
- You know that Carrier Sense Multiple Access / Collision Detect is how a token succeeds in life.
- You know the relative merits of Count Key Data and Relative Block Addressing
- You know that //EOJ is not a web address.
- You know what IEFBR14 does and how many APARs were taken on it (4)

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- **You know what an APAR is  (Authorized Program Analysis Report)**
- **You know that DITTO is an acronym.   For DOS, no, not that DOS, the other DOS.  (IBM Data Interfile Transfer, Testing, and Operations Utility).**
- **You know that FS didn't take over from the mainframe, but became a pretty good System/38.**
- **You don't understand all the furor about security... it's a given**
- **You think that two computers that can't share the same data for update is silly and archaic**
- **You know that RESERVE has nothing to do with dinner or wine**
- **You know that RELEASE isn't kicking back with a cool one**
- **You know what Select Out Bypass is**
- **You know that BUS and TAG aren't children's games**
- **You know that SPIE and STAE are not commands for your pet**

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- You know the difference between STAE and ESTAE
- You think count – key – data is the way all information should be structured
- You know that FETCH Protect isn't a way to keep your dog from getting to the bone stash
- You think that all systems should be able to run at 100% 24x7 without having issues
- You know that 24x7x365 was coined by someone who didn't understand math
- You don't find 6 months of continuous up-time without having to restart the system as unusual
- You don't "boot" a system, you IPL it
- You don't know what throwing an exception means, but do know what an abend code is about
- You think that all the bits of a word should represent a numerical value the same way it's written… high order on the left
- You know the difference between single and multi-mode fibre cable and where to use which

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- **You can create a tape backup of something and know you can read it back on another machine**
- **You think nothing of sharing a database between transactional and batch work, and maintaining response time**
- **Creating a 2 billion row operational, transactional database capable of sustaining thousands of transactions per second doesn't even warrant a raised eyebrow**
- **You can state, with accuracy, how busy your machine is**
- **You can tell who used what resources on your machine, and when**
- **Someone says "sigh" and you think SIE**
- **When something has a problem, you know documentation will be available to solve that problem**
- **You don't understand why other people in IT don't understand what an LPAR is**
- **You think that OSA isn't a Japanese word**
- **You understood the value of Token Ring**

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- **You know that FDDI is just Token Ring on glass**
- **Your program don't track no stinking rodent**
- **You don't consider BTAM, QTAM, VTAM to be kinds of headgear**
- **You logON to a system, you don't logIN**
- **You know how to find out what maintenance is on your system, definitively**
- **If someone mentions BDAM or ODAM, you know they're not swearing**
- **You know your machine knew how to "phone home" way before E.T.**
- **You can find data, because you know it's pointed to by a catalog**
- **You know that GOO VOO is not part of a 50's "oldies" song**
- **You remember when computers had lots of blinking lights, and know what they meant**

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- You know what a "tape ape" is
- You can explain the phrase "no ring, no write"
- Virtualization is not a new term to you
- You actually used report writer to write a report
- You know that PTFs might come after your APAR
- You think you can fix the jam in the MFCM
- If you remember the sequence PCP, MFT, MVT
- If you keep a FLOWCHARTING TEMPLATE (GX20-8020-2) in your desk drawer
- If you know that much of FORTRAN was written in FORTRAN!!
- If you know what the BOMB is that the CE picked up from the airport (core memory tester – SIMM)

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- If you still carry a "HEX" TI calculator
- You know how to "SUPERZAP"
- You know what MIPS originally meant, and can explain why it doesn't mean that today
- You know that IEF, IEB, IDC, IEA aren't names of consulting firms
- You don't think the reader is a newspaper
- You know what green-bar is
- You know that a data cell is not a jail for data… well, maybe
- You don't think about running daily anti-virus scans, and still feel safe
- You don't think of JECL as the other personality of Hyde
- You know what packed decimal means

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- **You can spell anything in eight characters**
- **To you, COND EQUAL is not ambiguous**
- **COND ONLY makes perfect sense**
- **You know that Super Zap isn't a sports drink**
- **You know what a VTOC is**
- **You expect applications that fail to "clean up" after themselves**
- **You know that IEHIBALL is not a computer utility**
- **You know that MIDAW is not a medical remedy**
- **You remember MG sets and PCDUs**
- **You think all computers belong on a raised floor**

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- You've ever written a CCW string
- You know what PCI code is
- You remember belt-driven disk drives
- You know DOS runs on a S/360, not on an Intel machine
- You understand the relevance of Fredrick P. Brooks' essays
- You know that PCP is an operating system, not a recreational pharmaceutical
- You know what a puddle of oil on the floor next to your 2311 or 2314 meant
- You think of a boot as half of a pair of footgear
- You know that ISAM is not a means of self identification
- You remember when your computer had an alarm bell or horn in it

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- You know what happened if the printer "tape" broke.
- You know what a printer tape is
- You know what happened when you forgot to put a punch in channel 12 on above tape
- You know why not to put your cup of coffee (or other) on top of a 1403 printer
- You know the history of JES2 and JES3 and why you were a JES2 or JES3 bigot
- You know that "bursting" is not an explosive result
- You know what decollating is
- You know that ASP is not a snake, and has nothing to do with the WWW
- You know that HASP isn't something to keep the barn door closed
- You know why VM programmers disliked MVS (it had something to do with it being harder to spell)

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- You knew what a "chad" was before the 2000 elections
- You convinced your manager that there was an op code called "Eject Chad Box" when said box spilled on the floor
- You know why to punch sequence numbers in a card deck
- You know that BPAM is not a cooking spray
- You know what a CVOL is
- You know that a CAM List was not auto parts
- You know that MOUNT and DISMOUNT have nothing to do with equestrian activities
- You know what happens when someone tried to re-sequence a deck after it was dropped, not knowing there were several phases all having been punched with the same sequence numbers
- You know that FORCE did not come from Star Wars
- You think computer utility names like GREP, KILL, AWK, MAN, BIFF and VI are just silly

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- **You consider any terminal not functioning in block mode to be just plain inefficient**
- **You know why you need an ACEE**
- **You know that command chaining was not a management technique to get more work out of people**
- **You know that POPS is neither a beverage or a frozen novelty**
- **You know what a TNL is and how to insert one**
- **You know that REXX is not your dog's name**
- **You named your dog REXX**
- **You thought nothing of running hundreds to thousands of time sharing users on a 1MB system**
- **You've replaced the type ball on a 1052 console with an APL one, just to freak out the operators**
- **You know what a rotate tape is**

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- **You know that being disabled for interrupts is not a handicap, unless you're in a wait state**
- **You know that a DIRF bit is not a spongy play toy**
- **Your computer has a real SILI bit**
- **You think of bandwidth in terms of MegaBYTES and not Megabits**
- **You know that OSA is not a strange Star Wars character trying to say something**
- **You've spent hours arguing with your peers about the fastest way to clear a register**
- **You know where the GVRFLB (pronounced guver-flub) is located**
- **You know that "The BLOB" is not a Sci-Fi monster**
- **You know that MAS has nothing to do with religion, or your mother**
- **You know that Replicate Imbed has nothing to do with sex**

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- **You've found yourself with friends singing songs extolling MVS or JES after 10:30 PM in a strange city**

- **You really thought long and hard about naming your dog FICON**

- **Your vanity plate says MIPS-R-US**

- **A day at 90% average utilization is just another (easy) day**

- **You think that one TCP/IP stack is just not enough**

- **You aspire to DIM**

- **COBOL is not a foreign language for you**

- **You know that USS reduced the gap with "them"**

- **You know what TCO is and what to do about it**

- **You can chargeback**

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- You can audit resource use
- You don't think of SPECTRA as having anything to do with early spy movies
- You remember GECOS
- You can watch the highest priority work in your system get dispatched behind the lowest and be way relaxed
- Your CE is a trusted professional, not a toy operating system
- You don't think twice about running OLTP and BI in the same database
- You know that RISC means Really Important Stuff is in the Compiler
- You think RISC is something to be minimized
- You know that CISC means Crazy Instruction Set Cruncher (just kidding… but we could start a rumor!)
- It has never even occurred to you to run just ONE application on ONE machine

# You Might be a Mainframer If …

- **You know the difference between 3-tier logical and 3-tier physical application architecture**

- **You remember 1964 for the S/360 and not the Mustang**

- **You know that NIP is not racially derogatory**

- **You don't go to the Catalog to order items for the house**

- **You use version control for a list like this**

- **You thought that creating or reading this list was fun**