

BMC CONTRIBUTES TO OPEN MAINFRAME PROJECT'S ZOWE WITH THE WORKFLOW WIZARD



BMC's contribution to the [Open Mainframe Project](#) (OMP), the Workflow WiZard, has been accepted as part of the Zowe project. The Workflow WiZard helps developers and systems programmers simplify the generation and management of z/OSMF workflows.

The [IBM z/OS Management Facility](#) (z/OSMF) is used by systems programmers to manage z/OS. In addition to general management tasks, it handles installation, configuration, and maintenance of IBM and ISV z/OS software products.

Workflow WiZard makes it easier to create z/OSMF workflows, whether you are a systems programmer writing workflows for your own shop or an ISV software developer writing a workflow to configure your products.

It has been quite a journey to get to this point. If you would like to learn more about how the Workflow WiZard project came to fruition, please read on.

The Journey To Make Mainframe Software Installation Easier

Since 2015, I have been the product manager representing BMC as part of the Common Vendor Install Initiative, a collaboration of IBM and ISVs working to adopt a common and modernized way for customers to manage z/OS software using z/OSMF.

As we began to work on the simplification and modernization of our installation process, it became

apparent we would need to develop a lot of z/OSMF workflows, some of them lengthy and complex. We needed an easier way to develop and manage all of these workflows.

The Inception of the Workflow WiZard

z/OSMF workflows are written in XML. Editing and managing them is challenging, with no easy way to maintain individual workflow steps and no ability to divide a workflow so multiple developers can work on it. We also found that testing of workflows was time-consuming, particularly when Velocity scripts were involved.

These challenges led us to develop a workflow builder that assembles a z/OSMF workflow from individual step templates and largely eliminates the need to code Velocity scripts. This enables multiple developers to work on a workflow and be responsible for their own steps. It also significantly simplifies testing and ongoing workflow management.

Sample Template for Input to the Workflow WiZard

```
NAME=ABCD
TITLE=Register AB to CD
DESCRIPTION=Register AB registry to CD
DEPEND=EULA,APF
GROUP=ABSETUP
TYPE=JCL
--INSTRUCTIONS--
This step will register the AB registry to CD.
This step may or may not be needed in the future.
--CONTENT--
//ABREG EXEC PGM=ABUTIL
#GEN_STEPLIB("ABLINK,EFLINK,GHLIB")
//ABUTLPR DD SYSOUT=*
//ABUTLER DD SYSOUT=*
//STDIN DD *
  <abutil version="1000">
    <register duplicate="warning">
      <ef efgroup="{EF_GROUP}" replace="yes">
        <cdreq xcfgroup="{EF_GROUP}#">
          <regdsn>#GET_DSN("CD.REGISTRY")</regdsn>
        </cdreq>
      </ef>
    </register>
  </abutil>
```

The Plan To Make the Workflow WiZard Open Source

As we talked to other vendors and our customers, it became clear that they also needed an easier way to build and manage workflows. With the increased use of open source software on the mainframe, especially with Zowe, we decided to make the Workflow WiZard available under Zowe

so everyone could benefit from the capability and, if they desired, contribute to its ongoing development.

Conclusion

With Workflow WiZard now a part of the Open Mainframe Project's Zowe project, we're confident it will make the jobs of developers and systems programmers easier, and that with further iteration from the Zowe community, its capabilities will improve well into the future.