

# Radically Changing Configuration

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# What is Configuration-as-Code?

Configuration-as-code (CaC) is the practice of **handling changes, deployments and updates to software and systems via code** rather than manual processes, allowing for a version-controlled, reproducible and **automated method of managing environments**, leading to more consistent and reliable systems.

The essence of CaC is to treat **system configurations the same way that software code** is treated.

**Our clients have repeatedly told us**

**“It’s scary to admit but I don’t really know how my system is configured.”**

Our clients have repeatedly told us

**“It can’t just be Parmlib. It has to be the full stack.”**

**Our clients have repeatedly told us**

**“You have to do something about  
all the knobs.”**

Our clients have repeatedly told us

**“Without standardization and simplification,  
no generic automation will be possible.”**

# We need to change because...

## Business Drivers for Configuration-as-Code (CaC)

### Auditability

Storing configuration in a source code management system allows for an audit trail through any changes that are made, pull requests verified, and a history of changes to a particular system.

### Rollback

The ability to gather previous versions of configuration allows for agile and quick rollbacks during any changes made to the system.

### Consistency

For the IBM Z stack, the formatting for configuration-as-code being published as a consistent set of YAML documents across the ecosystem, so a developer and system programmer will have the flexibility to work across the entire stack.

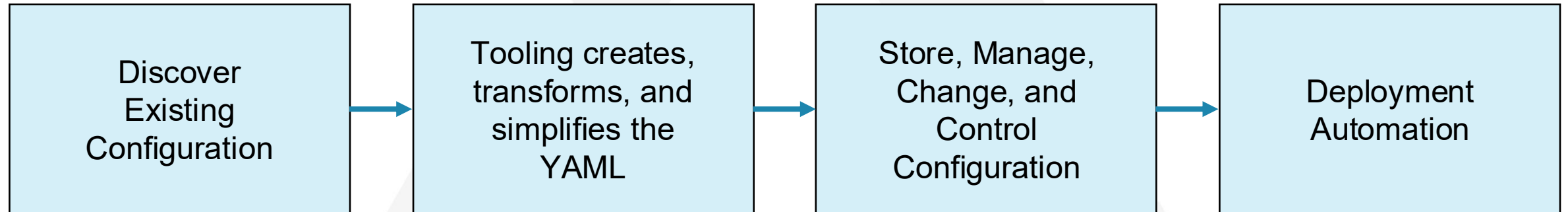
### Skills

The skills needed to edit and make changes to the configuration will be industry-standard, which will make it easier for new-to-Z professionals to understand and learn how to use IBM Z.

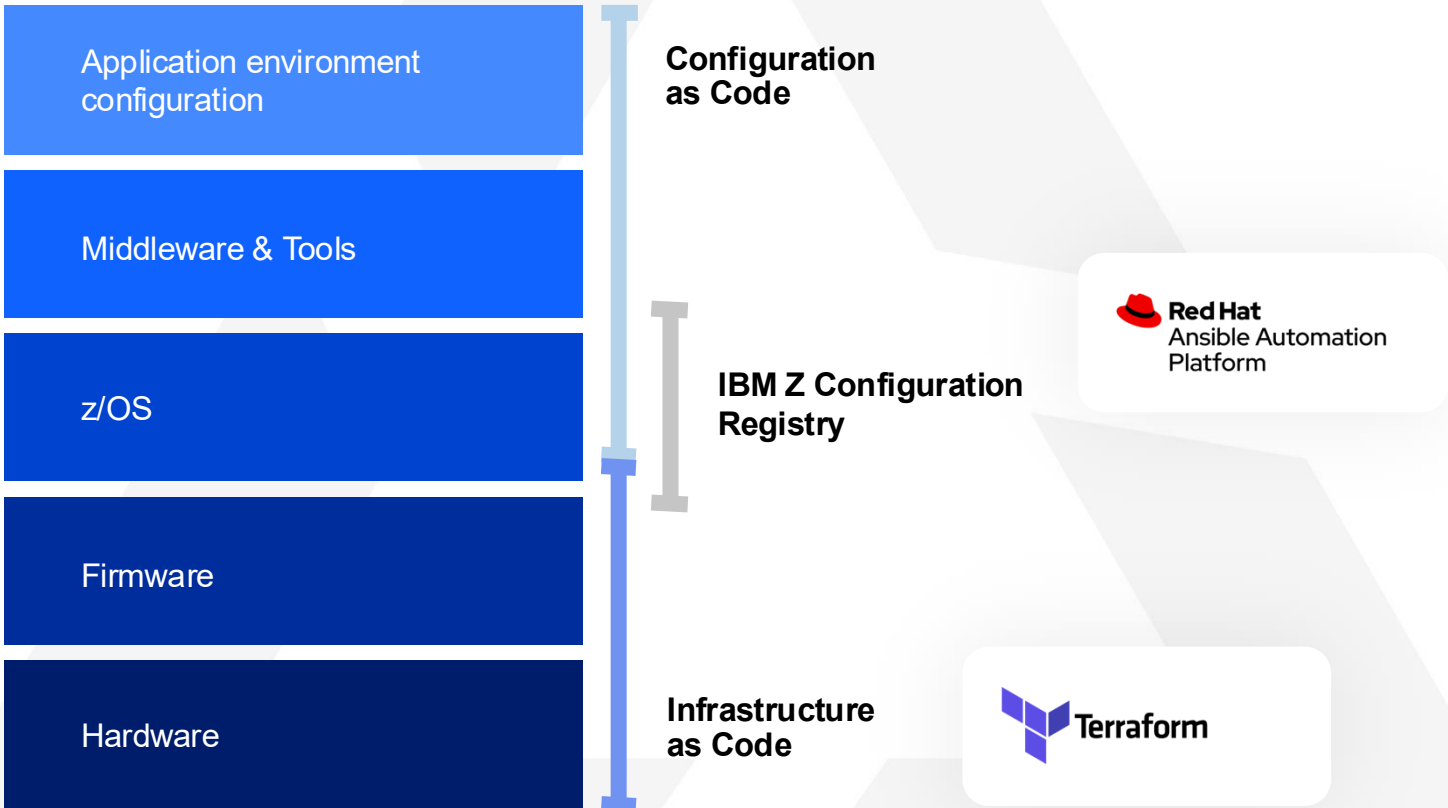
## In this session, we'll cover

- Our vision for leveraging configuration-as-code (CaC) in Z
- Demo of what implementing CaC might look like
- Discuss key challenges in simplifying configuration management and automation opportunities in your organizations
- Our work to date in simplifying configuration (IBM Z Configuration Collection Program)

# IBM Z Vision for Configuration-as-Code



# Configuration automation and simplification across the entire platform stack





## Discussion Question:

- Thinking about tools like IDEs, Git, and Ansible, what comes to mind from your own experience?
- If any of them feel out of reach, what's been the biggest hurdle in getting started and adopting them in your shop?
- What changes—technical or cultural—would be needed for this to work well in your organization?
- What new automation or workflow opportunities does this approach unlock for you?

# Simplifying Configuration: Z Configuration Collection Program

It's a data-driven initiative to **identify configuration settings that can be simplified**. The program collects configuration data directly from participating clients to inform decisions based on actual usage patterns, i.e., removal, consolidation, internalization, optimization for smarter defaults.

Round 1 data collection in 1H 2025:

- Focused on collecting z/OS parmlib, IODF, Db2, IMS
- Analysis of anonymized config data in process
- Round 2 collection to start in Q2 2026

# We want more input from you!

Want to share more **thoughts on the future of configuration demo**? Email Frank De Gilio at [degilio@us.ibm.com](mailto:degilio@us.ibm.com) or connect via Discord ([System Z Enthusiasts](#))

Want to **join the Z Configuration Collection Program**? Sign up using this QR code. For questions and more information, email [zos@ibm.com](mailto:zos@ibm.com).

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