

Triton Consulting

Z Mainframe Availability and Resiliency Service (ZMARS)

An independent assessment of your Db2 for z/OS continuous availability capability

Why ZMARS?

Most organisations assume their Db2 for z/OS data sharing environment is resilient. Few have independently validated that assumption. At Triton Consulting, we identify weaknesses before they become incidents.

ZMARS examines your ability to maintain service in the face of:

- LPAR failure
- Subsystem outage
- Distributed connectivity failure
- Logical data corruption
- Disaster recovery scenarios
- Ransomware and cyber attacks

What is ZMARS?

ZMARS (Z Mainframe Availability and Resiliency Service) is an independent assessment of your ability to maintain Db2 for z/OS continuous service availability even in the most challenging conditions. ZMARS delivers prioritised findings and recommendations designed to improve your ability to recover quickly, minimise downtime, and maximise availability of your business-critical applications.

The service is fully flexible, with multiple modules to choose from, allowing you to focus on the areas that matter most—whether that's system recovery, performance optimisation, or resilience improvements. Each ZMARS study is tailored to your specific needs, ensuring a customised approach that delivers real value to your business

Key Phases of ZMARS

ZMARS follows a four-phase approach to assess and improve your Db2 for z/OS environment:

1 Data Collection and Analysis

We start by gathering key information about your system, including an environment overview, schematics, and relevant data for the modules you have selected. This helps us understand your setup and prepare for the next phase.

2 In-depth Interviews

The Triton study team will conduct detailed interviews to assess your business's needs for availability and resilience, using targeted questions based on your module, environment, and Phase One data analysis.

3 Creation and Delivery of Study Reports

After the interviews, we compile our findings into two clear, actionable reports—one for executives and another for technical teams. You'll receive a draft for feedback, followed by two final versions.

The ZMARS study is led by Gareth Copplestone-Jones, a former member of the **IBM Db2 for z/OS SWAT team**.

4 Optional Follow-on Implementation

Following the study report, if you need help putting the recommendations into action, Triton offers project management and implementation support on a schedule that works for you.

ZMARS Modules

The ZMARS service consists of multiple modules, giving you the flexibility to choose which ones to include or prioritise based on your specific needs:

- CICS Attach
- Database Backup and Recovery
- Database Housekeeping
- Db2 for z/OS Application Design and Quality Assurance
- Db2 for z/OS Automation
- Db2 for z/OS Single Points of Failure
- Db2 System Application and Performance Monitoring
- Disaster Recovery
- Distributed Application Connectivity to Db2 for z/OS
- IMS Attach
- Software Maintenance
- Workload Manager
- ZPARMS

CICS Attach

Achieve a robust CICS setup with balanced Db2 data sharing, continuous availability, optimised CPU performance, and effective in-doubt work resolution.

Database Backup and Recovery

Provides robust backup and recovery capabilities tailored specifically for our Db2 for z/OS databases running on the z/OS platform.

Database Housekeeping

Safeguard the stability and performance of your database environment by maintaining efficient CPU usage and ensuring reliable response times for critical operations.

Db2 for z/OS Application Design and Quality Assurance

Achieve service availability by implementing enforceable database and application design standards to prevent inefficiencies and outages.

Db2 for z/OS Automation

Evaluate and address exception conditions in real time with the Db2 for z/OS Automation ZMARS module using automation and message tracking.

Db2 for z/OS Single Points of Failure

Identify single points of failure in your Db2 for z/OS configuration and outline your strategy for restoring or continuing services quickly and transparently to ensure continuous application availability despite individual component failures.

Db2 System and Application Performance Monitoring

Proactively prevent service disruptions with real-time monitoring and historical reporting, detecting deviations early for seamless operations.

ZMARS Modules

Disaster Recovery

Increase your disaster recovery capabilities to ensure your organisation can respond effectively and promptly to major outages where you can no longer conduct business from your primary production site.

Distributed Application Connectivity to Db2 for z/OS

Improve remote application management, service availability, and transaction workload balancing in a z/OS Parallel Sysplex and Db2 for z/OS Data Sharing environment.

IMS Attach

Examine your setup for the IMS Transaction Manager configuration across the z/OS Parallel Sysplex to prevent response delays, performance issues and Db2 crashes.

Software Maintenance

Evaluate how your software maintenance strategies, practices, and procedures for Db2 for z/OS Engine and your Db2 tools and utilities contribute to the safe operation of your Db2 systems.

Workload Manager

Ensure safe, efficient high utilisation with the Db2 for z/OS Workload Manager ZMARS module by optimising WLM policy design and performance.

ZPARMS

Verify the consistency of system parameter settings within your data sharing group. Confirm that your ZPARM settings match best practices and adequately meet your requirements for resilience and availability.

Case Study

Central European Bank – Db2 for z/OS Resiliency

One of the largest financial institutions in Central Europe operates a highly available core banking platform built on IBM Db2 for z/OS data sharing within an IBM Parallel Sysplex.

Supporting both retail and corporate banking services across multiple countries, the bank places a strong emphasis on continuous service availability, resilience, and cost efficiency.

The bank engaged Triton Consulting to carry out an independent resilience and performance assessment of its Db2 for z/OS environment. Using a tailored version of Triton's Z Mainframe Availability and Resiliency Service (ZMARS), the engagement focused on evaluating the bank's ability to maintain application services during component failures, accelerate recovery, and identify opportunities to optimise performance and infrastructure cost.

Triton Consulting applied a structured, multi-phase ZMARS methodology combining detailed technical analysis, stakeholder interviews, and targeted reporting. The assessment identified key improvement areas across availability, recovery readiness, distributed connectivity resilience, and workload management, ensuring both technical teams and senior IT leadership had clear, actionable insight.



Client Snapshot

Triton provided a clear roadmap to strengthen resilience against LPAR failures, improve recovery readiness, and optimise CPU consumption, giving us confidence in our ability to maintain continuous service.

Major Central European Bank

As a result, the bank received practical recommendations to strengthen resilience against LPAR and infrastructure failures, improve preparedness for large-scale data recovery scenarios, optimise CPU usage by improving Db2 configuration, and improve workload distribution and application service prioritisation through improvements to Workload Manager policies. The engagement provided the bank with a clear roadmap to enhance application service continuity while controlling mainframe operating costs.

Outcomes Delivered:

- Practical steps to strengthen resilience against LPAR and infrastructure failures
- Better preparedness for large-scale data recovery scenarios
- Reduced CPU usage through improved Db2 configuration
- Improved workload distribution and service prioritisation via Workload Manager enhancements

Summary: ZMARS gave the bank a clear roadmap to improve service continuity, strengthen resilience, and reduce CPU costs.



Read the case study in full [here](#)

Decades of Db2 Experience

Gareth Coplestone-Jones

Triton's Head of Infrastructure Services

Gareth brings over 30 years of hands-on experience with Db2 for z/OS. With a background in systems programming, performance tuning, and infrastructure design, Gareth has supported some of the most complex mainframe environments across multiple industries. He works closely with both technical teams and business leaders to deliver real-world improvements in system resilience, availability, and performance.



Andy Sutton

Senior Consultant

Andy Sutton is a database specialist with over 30 years of IT experience, focused on Db2 administration, performance optimisation, and large-scale migrations. He has delivered solutions across banking, finance, government, and commercial sectors in the UK and Europe. Andy has led high-impact projects including Db2 upgrades, automation, and tuning for high-volume systems, while also mentoring teams and designing robust, scalable database solutions.



The Triton Team

Alongside Gareth and Andy, Triton's team of ZMARS consultants bring their own wealth of experience to every engagement. Each consultant has more than 30 years working with Db2 for z/OS and understands the demands of mission-critical systems. We partner closely with C-level teams and technical leads to provide trusted, practical guidance, helping you make informed decisions and keep your mainframe running at its best.

Let's Make Your Mainframe Stronger and More Resilient

Find out how ZMARS can help improve your Db2 availability and resilience.

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Contact us today for a free consultation

About Triton

Triton Consulting is a specialist, independent data management and digital transformation service provider. Home to IBM Gold Consultants, IBM Champions for Data and AI, and some of the most experienced Db2 professionals in the industry, we support mission-critical environments across financial services, manufacturing, retail and beyond.

For over 30 years, we have provided consultancy across all areas of information management, offering services such as senior project management, technical planning, architecture design, performance tuning, and systems programming.

We also offer services, from large-scale data migrations and tool replacements to implementation of processes, tooling, and culture designed to speed up your application development and deployment life cycle to help your business drive change and transform services.



Find out more about Triton Consulting
www.triton.co.uk



Find out more about ZMARS **here**