



Mainframe Persona Webinar Series

2026

- **Introductions**
- **Market Background**
- **Digging into the Difficulties**
- **Beating the Bottlenecks**
- **Demonstration**
- **Q&A**
- **Resources**



Introductions

PopUp Mainframe
Persona Webinar Series

Accelerating Mainframe Efficiency: Training and Onboarding Webinar

Your Speakers



Geoffrey Decker

IBM Z Champion 2022-2026. Instructor, Northern Illinois University. Leader EMMA, and Open Mainframe Project Governing Board member. He is a multi-year IBM Champion and a Planet Mainframe Influential Mainframer.



Derek Britton

Head of Marketing, PopUp Mainframe
Derek has over 3 decades' experience in enterprise technology, industry commentator, writer, and Planet Mainframe Influential Mainframer.



Stuart Ashby

Practice Head, PopUp Mainframe
40 years' experience, the last ten years focusing on mainframe-inclusive DevOps and improving the mainframe developer experience. Stuart is a Planet Mainframe Influential Mainframer.



Stephen Morgan

Tech Lead, PopUp Mainframe
IMS (DB & TP) systems and MQ expertise, plus middleware, Linux, Cloud. He is passionate about applying DevOps practices to modernize ways of working on the mainframe.

Section 1 – Market Background

Derek

Mainframe Leadership Reality:

The Relentless Focus on
Mainframe Efficiency

KEY INSIGHTS

What leaders are saying about mainframe modernization

69%

plan to **increase modernization**
spend in 2026

84%

say **faster mainframe change** is
very or critically important

88%

have material concerns about
environment availability

34%

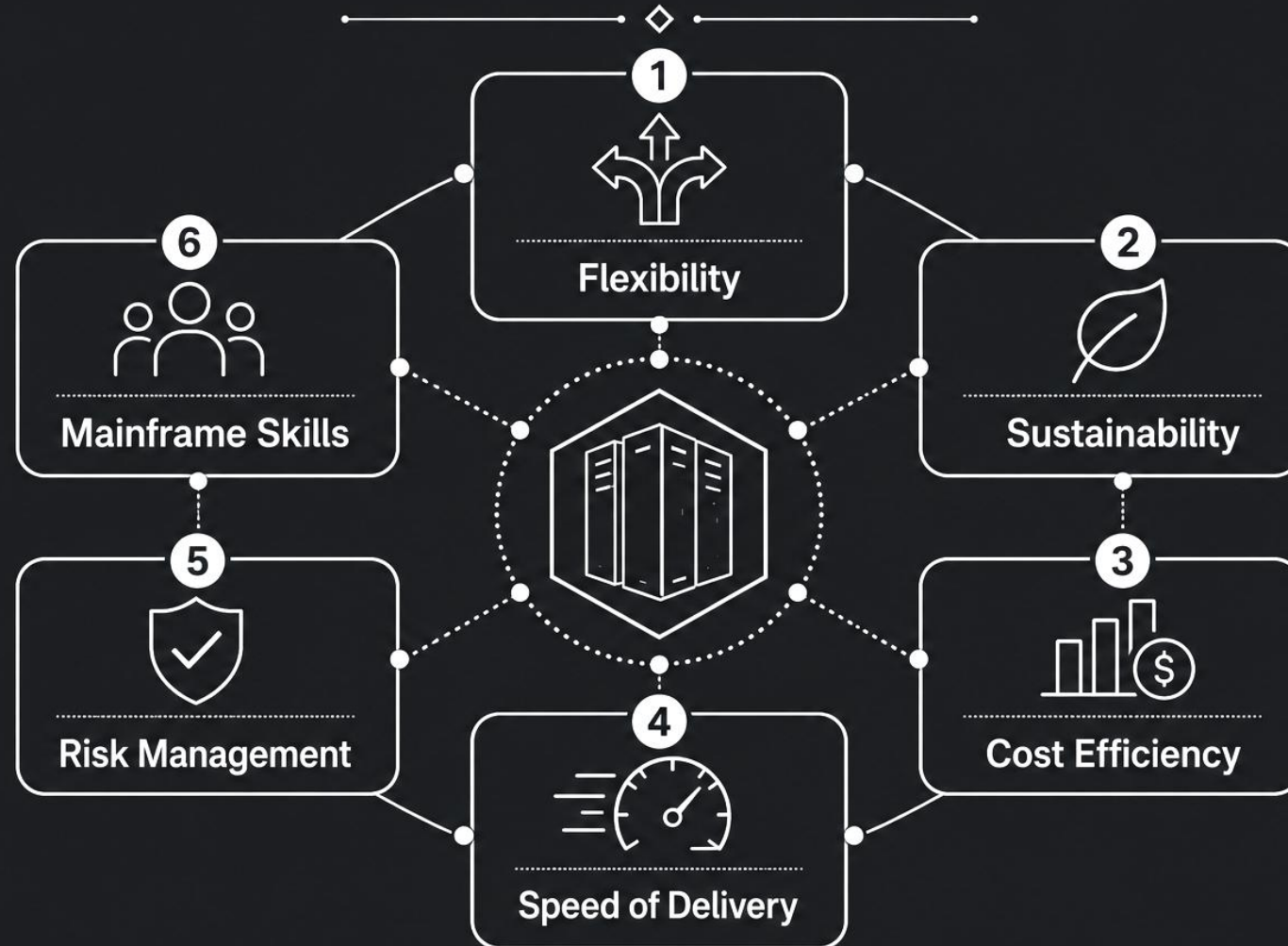
have a **critical need** for more
mainframe environments

79%

think **skills and inadequate
tooling** are hampering progress

Sources: Gartner (2025); Vanson Bourne (2025)

6 Strategic Challenges for Mainframe Organizations



Strategic Challenges

Affecting How Mainframe Change Is Delivered

Section 2 – Digging Into The Difficulties

Stuart and Geoffrey

The Operational Reality

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The Operational Reality

Tooling, skills, and access remain serious challenges for mainframe training

KEY INSIGHTS

What leaders are saying about mainframe modernization

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The Trainer's Dilemma

“In my experience, setting up mainframe training environments can be tricky because of the **combinations of software**, the **permissions needed**, and the lack of **LPAR availability**. It can hamper progress in providing vital teaching and onboarding of mainframe skills.”



Andy Brisland

Training Instructor,
LearnQuest

Affiliate Coordinator
for EMMA

IBM Champion

The Trainer's Dilemma

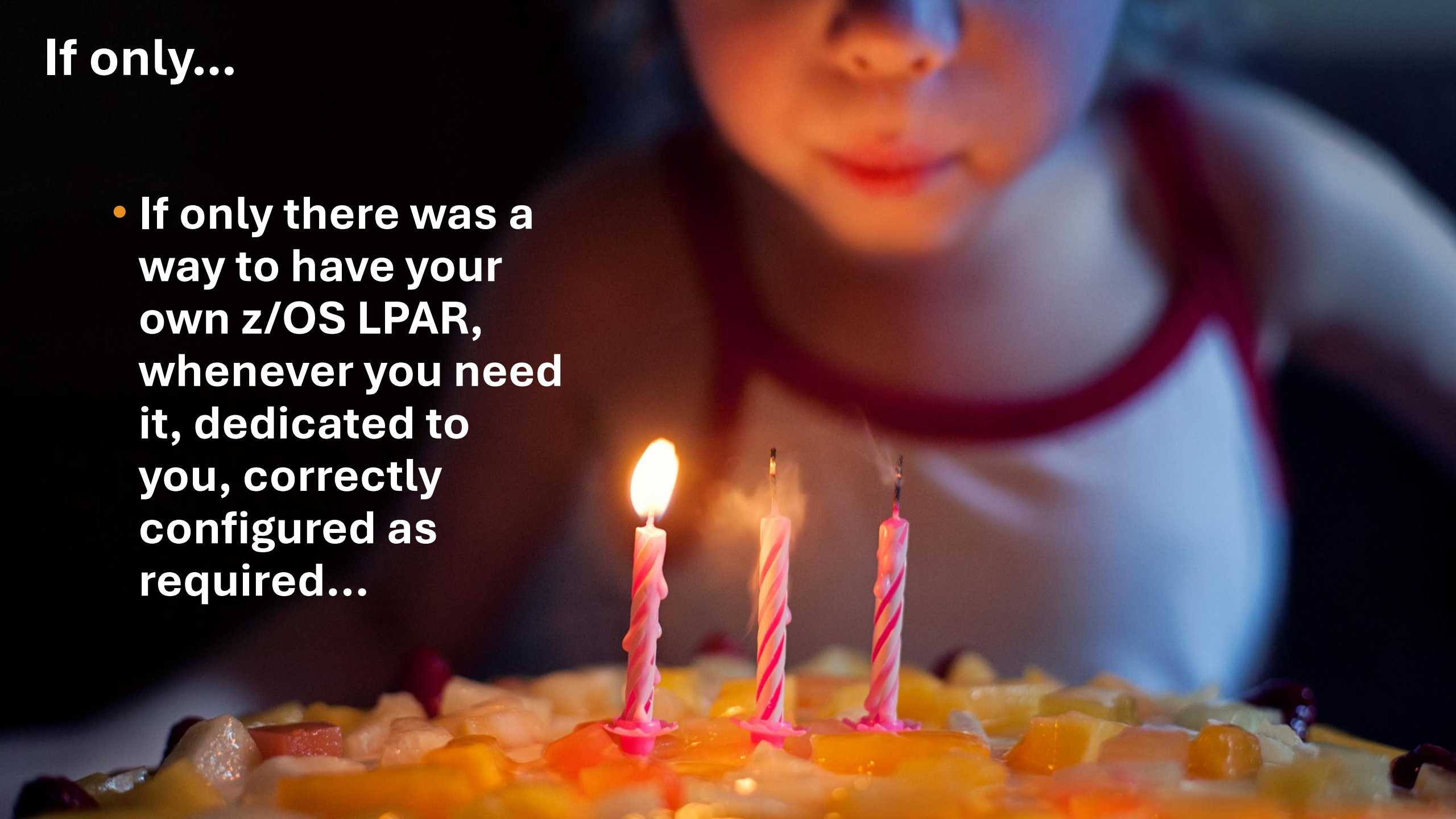
- “Having trained hundreds of young — and not so young — mainframers in my career, some that wanted to learn it and many that didn't but ended up loving it, **it is critical to have hands-on a mainframe environment for them to try out what's being taught.** It cannot be taught in slides, quizzes and badges. **Learners MUST have the ability to take what's presented to them and put it into practice in as real an environment as possible** and in pushing the limits of their mainframe training. It has to be rigorous and as real-world as possible.”



Geoffrey Decker
IBM Z Champion 2022-2026. Instructor, Northern Illinois University. Leader EMMA, and Open Mainframe Project Governing Board member.

If only...

- If only there was a way to have your own z/OS LPAR, whenever you need it, dedicated to you, correctly configured as required...



Section 3 - Beating the Bottlenecks

Stuart

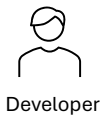
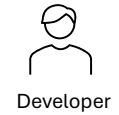
- **Fictional Mainframe Training provider**
- **Flexible, efficient mainframe training courses**
 - Reduced admin effort
 - Increased learning flexibility (repeat, catch-up)
 - Reduced LPAR burden



What training environment is needed today?

Development

Mainframe Training Courses



AI Training Environment



DevX Tools Training environment



COBOL Training environment



Blue Horizons
— (MAINFRAME TRAINING) LLC —

What training environment is needed today?

Development

Mainframe Training Courses

PopUp Mainframe FastTrack's facility is the easy button to capture the LPAR configuration in its' entirety



COBOL Training environment

Introducing PopUp Mainframe



An instantly available
z/OS environment to
accelerate urgent
mainframe activities

Functionally equivalent
to z/OS , PopUp
Mainframe runs under
Linux on Z, LinuxONE,
or x86 servers



Everything needed from a mainframe environment...

...minus the time and effort



Robust, Personal, Flexible

PopUp Mainframe instances can be single user or shared, and – if your test scenario fails – you can rollback to the start

Integration with everything

Compatible with IBM, 3rd party and opensource mainframe and DevOps tools

Full z/OS equivalency

PopUp Mainframe runs z/OS – and supports all z/OS software and subsystems

Start/Stop in Seconds

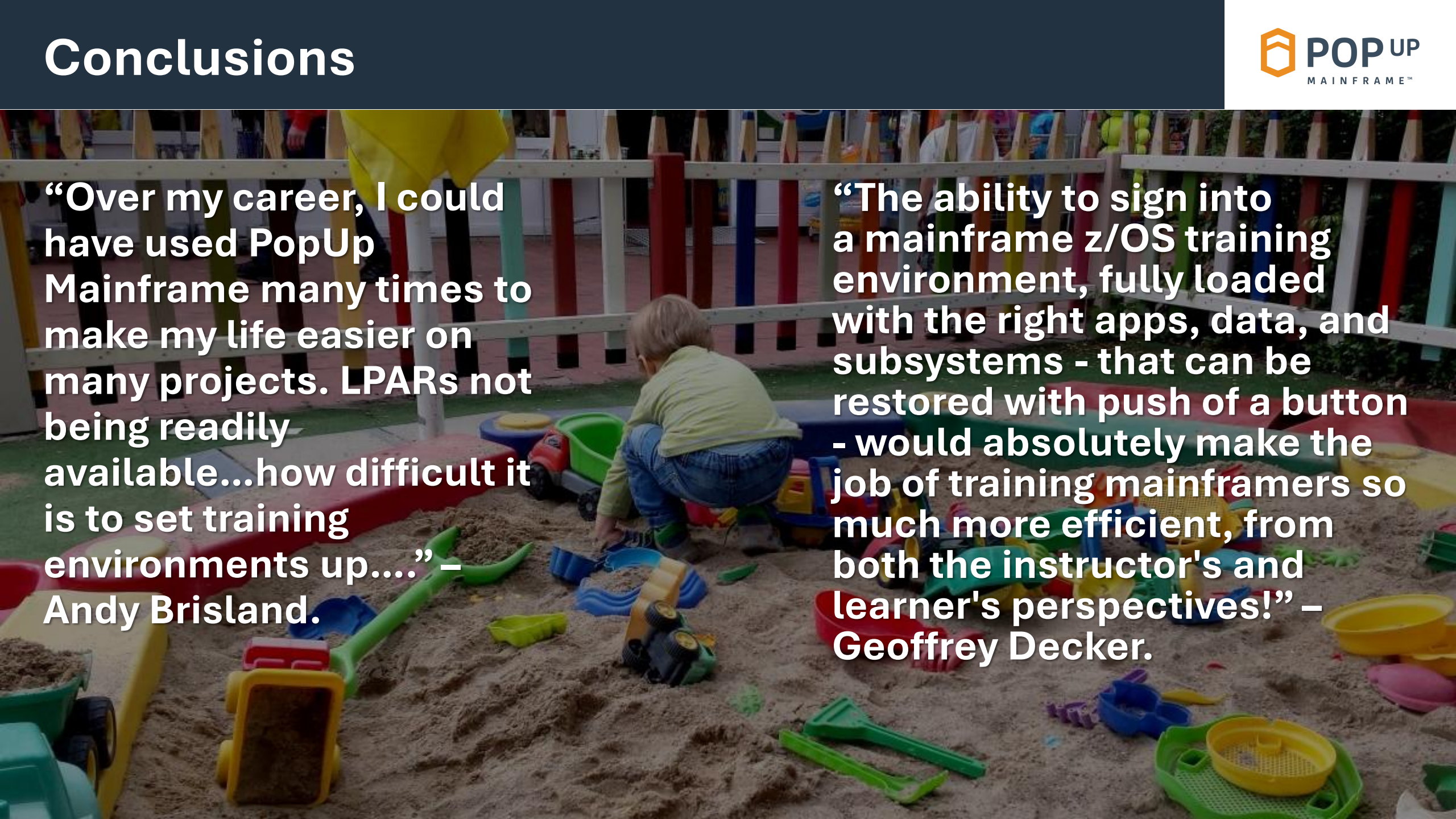
Initiate / shutdown PopUps in moments for full flexibility and power and emissions savings

Accessible, Available

Instant availability via ISPF or your choice of GUI to support broad, rapid adoption and usage

A fully functional, compatible, virtual, disposable mainframe environment

Conclusions

A photograph of a young child with blonde hair, wearing a light green long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans, crouching in a sandbox. The child is surrounded by various colorful plastic toys, including shovels, buckets, and toy cars. The sandbox is filled with sand, and the background shows a wooden fence and some greenery.

“Over my career, I could have used PopUp Mainframe many times to make my life easier on many projects. LPARs not being readily available...how difficult it is to set training environments up....” – Andy Brisland.

“The ability to sign into a mainframe z/OS training environment, fully loaded with the right apps, data, and subsystems - that can be restored with push of a button - would absolutely make the job of training mainframers so much more efficient, from both the instructor's and learner's perspectives!” – Geoffrey Decker.

What PopUp Mainframe can help you achieve



Improved Training and Onboarding outcomes



Sustainability

Switching off resources when not needed reduces emissions and power usage by up to **50%**



Flexibility

Start key training work **any time, instantly, and with full control**, to maximise productivity



Speed to Market

Increased delivery of training enables staff to adopt new ways of working and new tooling faster



POP UP

MAINFRAME™

Demonstration

Stephen

Our Demo Scenario (1)

- **Fictional Mainframe Training provider example**
- **Flexible, efficient mainframe training courses**
 - Reduced admin effort
 - Increased learning flexibility (repeat, catch-up)
 - Reduced LPAR burden



Our Demo Scenario (2)

Activities

- Administrator Dashboard
- Provision Training Environment
- Undertake Tasks
- Restore and Repeat Tasks
- Snapshot and Share

Topic

- **COBOL Training Course**
 - Stage 1 - COBOL CICS Db2 change



Q&A

Resources and Next Steps

- PopUp Mainframe Persona Blog Series – [PopUp Mainframe. It's Personal. - Popup Mainframe](#)
- PopUp Mainframe Training Perspective Blog - [Why Anytime is the Right Time for z/OS Training - Popup Mainframe](#)
- Product Overview Demo Videos – <https://www.youtube.com/@PopUpMainframe/videos>
- PopUp Mainframe X and Z Edition – [PopUp Mainframe X&Z Editions - Popup Mainframe](#)
- Mainframe Market Research Page - [2025 Mainframe Market Survey - Popup Mainframe](#)

Coming Soon:

Webinar 3 – Mainframe AppDev Sept 22

To register, visit <https://planetmainframe.com/personaseries>



www.popup-mainframe.com

