VIRTUALZ
COMPUTING™

Activating Enterprise Data for the AI Era

A 2026 Framework for Real-Time Data Access Across Mainframe and Cloud

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP PAPER

Executive Summary

AI adoption has accelerated faster than enterprise data architecture. In 2026, the organizations winning with AI are not those with the most advanced models — they are the ones with the fastest, safest access to trusted enterprise data.

Yet much of the world's most valuable data remains stored in systems designed long before cloud-native AI existed. These systems are stable, secure, and mission-critical — but they were never built to feed modern AI pipelines in real time.

The result is a widening gap between innovation and infrastructure. Enterprises are not struggling to build AI. They are struggling to reach their own data.

VirtualZ closes that gap.

This paper outlines the new architecture emerging in 2026: a hybrid data access framework that allows enterprises to activate mainframe and cloud data instantly — without rewriting applications, without risky migrations, and without fragile integration pipelines.

The 2026 Reality: AI Is Only as Good as Its Data

AI initiatives now span every function:

- Fraud detection
- Real-time personalization
- Risk modeling

- Customer intelligence
- Predictive operations
- Autonomous decision systems

But AI models fail when data is:

- Delayed by batch pipelines
- Locked inside legacy formats
- Fragmented across environments
- Replicated into stale copies
- Governed inconsistently

The problem is not the mainframe. The problem is **data friction**.

Modern AI requires:

- Real-time structured data
- High-speed file pipelines
- Shared hybrid access
- Elastic storage
- Governed movement
- Zero disruption to core systems

This is not an integration problem. It is an architecture problem.

The Emerging Architecture: AI-Ready Hybrid Data Platforms

Enterprises in 2026 are adopting a new design principle:

Do not move systems. Move access.

Instead of replacing platforms, leading organizations are building a universal data access layer that allows AI, analytics, and applications to operate across environments safely and instantly.

That architecture requires four capabilities:

1. Structured data delivery
2. High-speed file movement
3. Real-time shared access
4. Cloud-scale storage elasticity

VirtualZ delivers each layer — out of the box.

PropelZ™ — Structured Data Delivery for AI and Analytics

PropelZ™ enables secure, governed delivery of structured enterprise data into AI and analytics platforms—without ETL pipelines, custom code, or application rewrites.

Use cases include:

- Feeding Snowflake, Databricks, and data lakes

- AI model training pipelines
- Governance reporting
- Tape-to-cloud modernization
- Unified enterprise data access

"PropelZ is a very straightforward install... ready to go in just a couple of hours." — Jerry Edgington, Pellera

PropelZ transforms structured enterprise data into an AI-ready stream.

FlowZ™ — File Pipelines for the Hybrid Enterprise

FlowZ™ is designed for high-speed movement and sharing of enterprise-generated files.

Modern AI and analytics workflows rely heavily on file pipelines — training sets, archives, backups, batch outputs, and large-scale data exchange. FlowZ enables:

- Tape replacement strategies
- Archive modernization
- Cloud file pipelines
- Hybrid DevOps workflows
- Backup mobility
- AI training data distribution

It removes the complexity of disk or tape emulation while enabling elastic, cloud-connected file workflows.

FlowZ is the bridge between legacy batch systems and modern AI data pipelines.

Lozen™ — Real-Time Shared Enterprise Data

Lozen™ enables applications in cloud and distributed environments to read and write live enterprise data — without copying or replicating it.

This capability changes modernization economics. Enterprises can:

- Run hybrid applications against shared live data
- Train AI systems on current records
- Modernize incrementally instead of migrating
- Eliminate stale snapshots
- Preserve data governance

"Lozen integrated smoothly, ensuring secure, real-time data access."
— Gilberto Biondo Junior, AWS

Lozen enables shared hybrid execution — not just integration.

Zaac™ — Elastic Storage for the AI Era

Zaac™ virtualizes enterprise disk and tape storage, allowing cloud and SAN resources to behave like native devices.

This creates instant storage elasticity without disrupting applications. Use cases include:

- Cloud-backed DASD and tape
- Instant capacity expansion
- Archive modernization
- Business continuity
- Disaster recovery
- AI-scale storage demands

"Zaac brings flexible storage options to the mainframe without compromising security or reliability."
— Dale Vile, Freeform Dynamics

Zaac turns storage into a dynamic resource instead of a hardware constraint.

Industry Validation

VirtualZ's architecture is recognized across the enterprise ecosystem:

- Named one of **CRN's 50 Coolest Storage Vendors**
- Recognized by **ISG Provider Lens®** as a modernization Contender
- Highlighted by **Freeform Dynamics** as redefining enterprise storage thinking
- Trusted by AWS, Microsoft, Google, and global system integrators

This recognition reflects a market shift: enterprises are demanding architecture-level solutions, not integration workarounds.

The Strategic Outcome

Enterprises adopting AI-ready data architecture gain:

- Faster AI deployment
- Lower integration risk
- Reduced storage costs
- Elastic scalability
- Unified governance
- Incremental modernization
- Protection of mission-critical systems

They modernize without disruption. They innovate without delay. They activate the data they already own.

Conclusion

The future is not about replacing what works. **It is about turning it into AI-powered advantage.**

VirtualZ enables enterprises to activate legacy and hybrid data instantly — transforming stable systems into engines of modern innovation.

The AI-ready enterprise is not built by abandoning the past. It is built by connecting it to the future.

VirtualZ Computing

Your AI Needs Data.
We Deliver All of It. Instantly.