

# CICS Portfolio eNewsletter

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## Editorial

### CICS in the Cloud

April 2012 is an important month for CICS with major announcements across the whole portfolio. Perhaps the most important of these is the announcement, today, of the CICS TS V5.1 open beta, which will give all of our customers the opportunity to try out new cloud-style assembly, deployment, and life-cycle management of CICS applications. IBM's Problem Determination Tools announce their 12<sup>th</sup> version in almost as many years, including, for the first time, a plug-in for IBM Workload Simulator. CICS PA and CICS CM update their plug-ins too and there's lots new in CICS Explorer V1.1.1. We also announce a new version of WXTR that now lets you run C/C++ programs in WAS, as well as COBOL, satisfying the Statement of Direction made earlier this year.

Editors:

John Knutson

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## Product highlights

### Announcement: CICS Transaction Server for z/OS V5.1 open beta

The IBM® CICS® Transaction Server for z/OS® (CICS TS) V5.1 open beta introduces cloud-style CICS development, deployment, and operations, by delivering new Platform as a Service (PaaS) capabilities that can be used to host Software as a Service (SaaS)-based CICS applications. Foundational advancements in both capability and scalability will allow CICS applications to do more, more easily.

The combination of new Application, Platform, and Policy definitions will greatly simplify the assembly, deployment, and life-cycle management of CICS applications, delivering many of the characteristics found in private-cloud systems. CICS TS V5.1 open beta gives you the opportunity to explore the concept of a cloud-style CICS deployment in your own environment.

Support has been added for a fast and lightweight Java web container, built on WebSphere Application Server Liberty profile technology, which implements the Java Servlet and JavaServer Pages (JSP) specifications, enabling you to co-locate your web and business applications.

The open beta contains a wide range of foundational improvements, including support for Java 7 and further 64 bit exploitation. Event processing is expanded by new WRITE OPERATOR and message capture points, and a new capability to emit a single event to multiple adapters.

The CICS-WebSphere MQ dynamic program link (DPL) bridge has been enhanced to pass data using containers, increasing the amount of data that can be passed and broadening the solutions in which it can be used.

CICS TS V5.1 open beta also introduces a number of enhancements to make operations easier and more transparent:

- Statistics and monitoring records are enhanced to provide more information that relates to the load, capacity, and performance of the system.
- Better defaults for startup parameters and new messages that audit online configuration changes.

The IBM CICS Explorer V5.1 open beta, included with the CICS TS V5.1 open beta, has been updated to include support for the new and enhanced capabilities of this CICS TS deliverable.

Cloud computing is transforming the way people think about information technology. CICS TS V5.1 open beta now introduces cloud-style development, deployment, and operations to the CICS platform, giving you the opportunity to evaluate these capabilities, determine their relevance to your enterprise, and provide feedback to IBM on the concept and implementation.

CICS TS V5.1 open beta will be available for download on July 13<sup>th</sup> 2012 by visiting: <http://ibm.com/cics/openbeta>. For further information, please see the announcement letter available here: <http://tinyurl.com/cicstsv51openbeta>.

To register your interest in this open beta, or to find out more about IBM CICS Early Programs, please contact [cicsep@uk.ibm.com](mailto:cicsep@uk.ibm.com).

**Announcement: IBM Problem Determination Tools V12.1**

Also announced today are new versions of IBM Problem Determination Tools, delivering a wide range of enhancements, too numerous to list here, but including:

- Enhancements to the existing GUI plug-ins, including improved integration with platforms like CICS Explorer and IMS Explorer
- An initial Workload Simulator GUI plug-in
- Enhancements to Java™ support
- Support for the latest IBM products such as CICS® TS V4.2, IMS® V12, and DB2® V10
- Functional, usability, and performance enhancements, including new commands and new options

Members of the PD Tools family include:

- **IBM Application Performance Analyzer for z/OS V12.1** (5655-W71) helps developers and systems personnel tune applications and resolve performance constraints.
- **IBM Debug Tool for z/OS V12.1** (5655-W70) helps developers debug applications running in a variety of environments, such as batch, TSO, CICS, IMS, DB2, DB2 Stored Procedures, and UNIX System Services.
- **IBM Fault Analyzer for z/OS V12.1** (5655-W69) assists developers in analyzing and fixing application and system failures. It offers developers information to help determine the cause of a failure and assist in resolving the problem.
- **IBM File Manager for z/OS V12.1** (5655-W68) delivers comprehensive, user-friendly tools for working with z/OS, CICS, DB2, IMS, or WebSphere® MQ data. The developer can create, browse, copy, edit, print, and format or reformat data files in the most popular System z file formats.
- **IBM Workload Simulator for z/OS V1.1** (5655-I39) can simulate a network of terminals and its associated messages. It is ideal for stress, performance, regression, function, and capacity planning tests.

For more details on the enhancement in V12, please read the announcement letter at:

<http://www.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=an&subtype=ca&supplier=897&letternum=ENUS212-119>

**Announcement: CICS Explorer V1.1.1**

IBM CICS Explorer for z/OS V1.1.1 (CICS Explorer) has been restructured to separate the CICS-specific perspectives and capabilities from the connectivity infrastructure and z/OS platform views to create a new, reusable component known as IBM Explorer for z/OS V1.1 (z/OS Explorer).

As mentioned above, the V12.1 plug-ins for five IBM Problem Determination tools – Fault Analyzer, File Manager, Debug Tool, Application Performance Analyzer, plus, new this year, Workload Simulator – will utilize the z/OS Explorer component. The z/OS Explorer component will be seamlessly integrated with CICS Explorer, providing full compatibility for existing CICS TS and CICS Tools perspectives, and enhanced usability by the PD Tools.

z/OS Explorer V1.1 is also embedded in IMS Enterprise Suite Explorer for Development V2.1.2, giving the PD Tools plug-ins a consistent user experience.

Key capabilities provided by z/OS Explorer include:

### **Connections**

A common connections framework provides a consistent visual and programming experience for managing connections between plug-ins and server components such as CICS TS regions, DB2 databases, and tool servers. When plug-ins use the connection framework, users are only prompted for their ID and password once per session, even when accessing multiple tools on same LPAR.

A new Connection Management view will supplement the current modal Preferences panel, providing enhanced capabilities including filtering, intelligent automatic connection naming, connection status, as well as the ability to define, edit, and export/import connection definitions. Logon details, previously referred to as Credentials, can now be associated with multiple connections in a single operation.

Connection definitions can now be centrally defined and remotely accessed by individual Explorers, without the need for them to be manually configured or imported by each user.

Users of the V11.1 PD Tools plug-ins will need to migrate their connection definitions, when they will benefit from the common connection framework and the shared connection definitions.

A SDK (Software Development kit) includes demonstrates the use of the connection framework with a source code sample for a plug-in that integrates a telnet client with the existing zFS file support.

### **Access to z/OS resources**

z/OS Explorer includes a perspective, views, and APIs to list, create, edit, and control z/OS datasets, partitioned datasets, zFS files and paths, submit jobs and view JES spool output. When used in conjunction with z/OS releases V1.9 to V1.12, these capabilities require the FTP (File Transfer Protocol) server provided by IBM Communications Server.

Customers with z/OS V1.13 and above can connect z/OS Explorer to z/OSMF V1.13 (z/OS System Management Facility) using its RESTful interface, to submit jobs, obtain the status of a job, list the spool files for a job, retrieve the contents of a job spool file, cancel a job, or purge a job from the JES spool. z/OSMF integration extends the capabilities provided by the current FTP connection to display spool output for active jobs, such as CICS regions, faster retrieval of spool output, and enhanced manipulation of jobs. A FTP connection is still required to access z/OS datasets and zFS files.

### **Other CICS Explorer V1.1.1 enhancements**

Java Web Start (JWS) technology can now be used to deploy the CICS Explorer executable from a network connection, removing the need for individual users to update their CICS Explorer, and facilitating large-scale deployment to hundreds or thousands of users. When used in conjunction with shared connection definitions, JWS allows centralized rollout to large numbers of desktops from a single control point.

In addition to the new generic capabilities introduced with the z/OS Explorer, CICS Explorer V1.1.1 includes the following enhancements:

- Copying and pasting resource data to a spreadsheet
- Exporting a file or folder to a z/OS Unix file system
- Creating a new z/OS Unix file
- Creating a new data set
- Support for CICS VSE
- Ability to create a new resource from an existing definition
- Ability to see the contents resource definition group
- Support for multiple selection job submission from the z/OS Data Sets view
- Support for deleting or purging multiple files in the z/OS Explorer
- Ability to create a Job Submission project and JCL files, in the Project Explorer view in the resource perspective, while working offline

CICS Explorer V1.1.1 will be generally available for download from <http://ibm.com/cics/explorer/download> on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.

### **Announcement: CICS Configuration Manager plug-in V2.1.1**

IBM CICS Configuration Manager for z/OS (CICS CM) plug-in V2.1.1 has been enhanced to provide more of the capabilities currently available in its ISPF and Batch interfaces through its tight integration with IBM CICS Explorer®. Key new capabilities include:

- New Change Packaging views and functions,
- New JCL templates enabling Deployment Analysis reports to be submitted and the output viewed within CICS Explorer z/OS views.
- Improvements to the Install function.

Using the new Packages views, developers can now create and populate their change packages from within CICS Explorer or Rational Developer for System z, without the need to access a 3270 terminal interface. In addition, authorized administrators can READY, MIGRATE, or BACKOUT these change packages as well as explore the History for these.

New context menu options and JCL templates, enable CICS administrators to run and view Deployment Analysis reports directly from the plug-in – again, there's not a green screen in sight.

The CICS CM Install wizard has been made more consistent, now listing target CICS CM configurations and connections and enabling resources to be installed into multiple CSDs in a single operation

The CICS CM plug-in V2.1.1 requires CICS Explorer V1.1.1. Both will be generally available for download from <http://ibm.com/cics/explorer/download> on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. No host changes are required. For more information about CICS CM, please visit <http://ibm.com/cics/cm>.

**Announcement: CICS Performance Analyzer plug-in V3.2.1**

The IBM CICS Performance Analyzer for z/OS (CICS PA) plug-in V3.2.1 has been enhanced, adding improving the navigation within the CICS PA perspective to provide easier access to CICS transaction and system health information. In addition, the Sheet view has been enhanced to allow users to customize the key performance metrics to be viewed and analyzed. Furthermore, the new Wait Analysis and Suspend time report has been incorporated into the detailed performance summary views.

The Sheet view has been enhanced in a number of ways, greatly improving its usability and performance. Custom layouts can be created much more easily than before and saved in the workspace for reuse at a later date, letting you build a library of named views that are tailored to your performance tasks. Contextual data filters associated with each displayed column are also saved with the column layouts. Sort operations are now performed on the host by DB2, significantly reducing network traffic.

The Wait Analysis and Suspend time reports complement the existing detailed Threadsafe, CPU, Storage, and File reports, providing even more detail on individual transactions.

The CICS PA plug-in V3.2.1 requires CICS Explorer V1.1.1. Both will be generally available for download from <http://ibm.com/cics/explorer/download> on June 1st 2012. No host changes are required. For more information about CICS PA, please visit <http://ibm.com/cics/panaly>.

**Announcement: WebSphere eXtended Transaction Runtime V2**

Another of today's announcements is WebSphere eXtended Transaction Runtime (WXTR) V2.1, which offers significant enhancements by extending the coverage of languages and resource managers supported and providing improvements in integration with WAS through support for global transactions, security context propagation, and support for clustered deployments using WebSphere Application Server Network Deployment (WAS ND).

WXTR V2.1 extends the language coverage to support applications written in C along with capability already available for supporting COBOL applications. It also extends resource manager coverage to include Oracle database in addition to IBM DB2. Additionally, further enhancements have been made to the Oracle Tuxedo application modernization feature pack, allowing clients to revitalize existing Tuxedo style applications written in C and COBOL, and unlock the value of these assets by extending them to use Java EE technologies with WAS.

Version 2.1 also simplifies the core infrastructure requirements by enabling non-root user administration and supporting coexistence of multiple versions and instances on the same machine. All these enhancements provide flexibility and choice to clients wishing to modernize their traditional language applications around a WAS-centric application-serving infrastructure.

For more information, please see the announcement letter:

<http://www.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=an&subtype=ca&supplier=897&letternum=ENUS212-125>

**Announcement: IBM Rational Development and Test Environment for System z**

Also announced today is announcements is Rational Development and Test Environment for System z V8.5, which replaces the Rational Developer for

System z Unit Test Feature V7.6 and V8.0. The Rational Development and Test Environment for System z provides a more modern, agile developer workbench to accelerate delivery of new workloads spanning multiple runtimes. The Rational Development and Test Environment for System z can be assigned to a single developer in a small system configuration, or can support small-scale team environment on a server platform. These environments can be tailored to a single developer or a team's runtime needs without altering existing mainframe testing environments.

Developers also have easier access to modern versions of the IBM middleware, in the Development and Test environment without having to wait for system upgrades on the mainframe. Developers can explore new CICS or IMS features (including those delivered in the CICS TS V5.1 open beta), investigate new architectural models, and perform their first series of tests as well as component regression testing, without worrying about changes coming from other developers causing unexpected errors.

The Rational Development and Test Environment for System z can provide a greater level of control for developers to implement quick environment changes, such as defining new transactions and resource definitions using the CICS Explorer® tools in Rational Developer for System z, without having to involve production operations staff to setup these configurations on the mainframe.

For more information, see the announcement letter:

<http://www-01.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=AN&subtype=CA&htmlfid=897/ENUS212-145>

You can see Rational Development and Test Environment for System z in action next week at Impact in Las Vegas and at Innovate, June 3-7, in Orlando - see details below.



## 2012 Events

### IMPACT – North America – Las Vegas – Next week

Impact starts next week, so there's still time to register for this key event in the IT calendar. Learn more about CICS technology in more than 30 sessions, and see how other CICS customers use it to help them to make their businesses more successful. Register at <http://www.ibm.com/impact>.



Be sure to visit the System z Solution Suite and see solutions from WebSphere, CICS, CICS Tools, Problem Determination Tools, and Rational in action. More details here: <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/os/systemz/impact/suite.html>

### GSE Nordic Conference - May 21st - 23rd, Holmenkollen, Oslo, Norway.

The 2012 GSE Nordic conference offer opportunity to hear first hand about the exciting new CICS TS V5.1 open beta announcement. This year's conference is held at Holmenkollen Park Hotel (as featured in the Jo Nesbo book *The Snowman*) Oslo, Norway. It is a great chance to hear about the latest advancements in Application Development, CICS, DB2, IMS, Mainframe infrastructure and General Interest topics and meet with the technical specialists for these topics. For more information and registration please go to <http://www.gse-nordic.org/>

### System z Summit seminars – 3 USA cities – May-June 2012

The second series of these popular and informative events (I'm quoting attendee feedback) will be kicking off in May, so if you live and work in the US, and would like to learn more about CICS TS, and IBM's CICS, Problem Determination, and Rational Tools, you can get more information and register, at: <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/os/systemz/summit/>.

- May 22, 2012 - Columbus, OH
- May 30, 2012 - Chicago, IL
- June 12, 2012 - San Francisco, CA

### IBM Innovate 2012 – Orlando, FL – June 3-7

Join us at Innovate 2012 to discover what's next in technology and trends from today's industry leaders. Innovate 2012 will show you how to harness the power of software-driven innovation to deliver smarter products and improve business outcomes. IBM Rational will share the stage with customers, business partners and your peers to show you how you can make the most of your investments now by managing complexity, lowering risk, and driving down costs. Register now at: <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/rational/innovate/>

Once again, IBM is holding its System z software Solutions Suite to give presentations and conduct demos that showcase the latest solutions from WebSphere, CICS, CICS Tools, Problem Determination Tools, Lotus and Rational: <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/os/systemz/innovate/#systemzsolutions>

## CICS Resources

### IBM Redbooks and Redpapers

#### **CICS and SOA: Architecture and Integration, SG24-5466-06**

This popular IBM Redbooks publication has been given a major reworking, with a new focus of architecture, so, if you are (or know) an application or enterprise architect, who needs to be brought up to date on how CICS fits in to the bigger picture, this is the book for you.

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg245466.html>

#### **CICS Transaction Server from Start to finish – SG24-7952**

I've mentioned this new IBM Redbooks publication before, but, with over 3,000 downloads since December, it certainly appears to have hit the spot. Download it, for free, here:

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247952.html?Open>

#### **Implementation of Popular Business Solutions with CICS Tools, REDP-4824**

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/redp4824.html?Open>

#### **CICS Performance Series: CICS TS V4.2 and Java Performance, REDP-485**

Read the first in a new series of IBM redpapers covering CICS performance – this one focuses on Java.

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/redp4850.html?Open>

#### **Threadsafe Considerations for CICS, SG24-6351-04**

This revision of one of our most popular Redbooks includes support for threadsafe DBControl, available with CISC TS V4.2 and IMS 11.

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg246351.html?Open>

### Podcasts

You can find new podcasts on a variety of subjects, including CICS TS Developer Trial V4.2, GenApp SupportPac, and CICS TS V5.1 open beta (it'll be there shortly) at the following location:

<http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tserver/v42/library/index4.html>

### Other papers

You'll find "A Comparison of CICS QR and OTE Performance" and other useful papers here: [http://www-](http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tserver/v42/library/index5.html)

[01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tserver/v42/library/index5.html](http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tserver/v42/library/index5.html)

## Social media

### Communities and social media

We encourage all CICS customers to use our social media vehicles, subject to local corporate or national regulations. Where possible, we endeavour to publish key materials on IBM-managed networks, to facilitate the widest possible access.

- **Communities**

- CICSdev <http://ibm.com/developerworks/connect/cicsdev>
- CICS Virtual User Group <http://fundi.com/virtualcics/>

- **Facebook**

- CICS page <https://www.facebook.com/IBMCICS>
  - Note that we are transitioning from our old *I ♥ CICS* group to this CICS page, so, even if you had joined the group, please visit the new page and 'Like' it.
- I ♥ CICS group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/4907254593/>

- **Forums**

- CICS Explorer <http://tinyurl.com/68bndw>
- CICSdev <http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/forums/forum.jspa?forumID=2724>

- **Twitter**

- [http://twitter.com/IBM\\_System\\_z](http://twitter.com/IBM_System_z)
- [http://twitter.com/ibm\\_cics](http://twitter.com/ibm_cics)

- **Blogs**

- CICSdev <https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/mydeveloperworks/blogs/cicsdev>
- Joe Winchester (CICS Explorer) <https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/mydeveloperworks/blogs/JoeWinchester>
- TheMasterTerminal <http://themasterterminal.com/>

- **YouTube**

- <http://youtube.com/CICSFluff>
- <http://youtube.com/CICSExplorer>

- **CICS eNews**

- <http://ibm.com/cics/enews>

- **List servers**

- CICS-L <http://www.listserv.uga.edu/archives/cics-l.html>

## Business Partner news

### Software developer solutions supporting CICS

We're proud to showcase our CICS TS V4 early adopters. Customers and IBM sellers are always looking for solutions that leverage the latest innovation in CICS development. We are now showcasing the IBM Business Partner who are early adopters of CICS TS V4.1 and CICS TS V4.2 and the solutions they offer. Check it out! Just visit: <http://www.ibm.com/cics/partners>

IBM Business Partners who would like to showcase their solutions simply need to update the Partnerworld Global Solution Directory for their solutions to indicate support for CICS TS V4.1 and CICS TS V4.2

- CICS TS V4.1 [http://www.ibm.com/partnerworld/gsd/searchprofile.do?name=CICS TS V4.1](http://www.ibm.com/partnerworld/gsd/searchprofile.do?name=CICS%20TS%20V4.1)
- CICS TS V4.2 [http://www.ibm.com/partnerworld/gsd/searchprofile.do?name=CICS TS v4.2](http://www.ibm.com/partnerworld/gsd/searchprofile.do?name=CICS%20TS%20v4.2)

Business partners interested in testing their solutions with CICS TS V5.1 open beta should please contact [cicsetp@uk.ibm.com](mailto:cicsetp@uk.ibm.com).

## Feedback

### eNews

To provide feedback and comments on CICS Portfolio eNews, please email the editor at [Knutson@uk.ibm.com](mailto:Knutson@uk.ibm.com).