

# CICS Portfolio e-NewsLetter

*Subscribe to and read CICS eNews at:*

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

October 7<sup>th</sup> 2010

## Contents

Product highlights .....	1
Announcement: CICS Transaction Gateway Desktop Edition V8.0 .....	1
Announcement: CICS Performance Analyzer Version 3.2 .....	2
Announcement: IBM Problem Determination Tools V11.1 .....	2
Announcement: Websphere ILOG Business Rules for z/OS V7.1.1 .....	4
Available: CICS Deployment Assistant for z/OS V1.1 .....	5
Available: CICS Explorer V1.0.1 .....	6
Events .....	6
Teleconference: Introduction to CICS Dynamic Scripting in CICS TS V4.1 – 12 October, 16:00 – 17:30 (UK time) .....	6
Webcast: Dynamic Application Solutions with CICS TS V4.1 and IBM Mashup Center, November 17th 2010 .....	7
IBM European WebSphere Technical Conference 11-15 October 2010, Germany .....	7
Information on Demand 24-28 October 2010, Las Vegas.....	8
CICS Resources .....	8
IBM Redbooks®: IBM Problem Determination Tools for z/OS .....	8
IBM Redbooks: Leveraging CICS Events with an ESB .....	9
IBM Redbooks: Threadsafe considerations for CICS .....	9
CICS in the News .....	9
Award: CICS innovation wins highest IBM technical accolade .....	9
Customer Corner.....	10
Customer contribution: My future runs on system Z - Part One - Prologue	10
CICS People .....	12
Kat Sharp.....	12

## Product highlights

### Announcement: CICS Transaction Gateway Desktop Edition V8.0

CICS TG Desktop Edition is designed as a follow-on product to the CICS Universal Client, providing quick and easy desktop connectivity to CICS applications. It is based on the market-leading CICS Transaction Gateway for Multiplatforms offering. CICS TG Desktop Edition supports a wide variety of operating systems and runtime environments, including Java, .NET, C/C++, COM, and COBOL.

In addition to continued support for CICS Universal Client applications, CICS TG V8.0 Desktop Edition provides significant enhancements over previous releases of CICS Universal Client in the following areas:

- CICS connectivity for Java and .NET desktop applications
- Relief from the limits of 32KB COMMAREAs
- Request monitoring and statistics functions currently available in CICS TG V8.0 for Multiplatforms
- Systems monitoring with CICS Explorer

CICS TG Desktop Edition V8.0 will be generally available 29th October 2010. Existing customers of CICS Universal Client are eligible to purchase a trade-up licence to CICS TG Desktop Edition.

More information:

- IBM's CICS Connectors family web page: <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/connectors/>
- Announcement letter: <http://www.tinyurl.com/cicstgdesktop>.

### **Announcement: CICS Performance Analyzer Version 3.2**

CICS Performance Analyzer (CICS PA) for z/OS V3.2 simplifies and extends its support for the CICS Explorer, delivering powerful CICS performance analysis to a wider technical audience.

New capabilities in this release are:

- Support for statistics and statistics alerts in CICS Explorer
- Easier data source set-up when using CICS Explorer
- Flexible query and presentation engine
- Batch reports produced in PDF format
- Housekeeping for DB2 data sources

CICS PA V3.2 will be generally available December 10, 2010.

More information:

- Announcement letter: <http://www-01.ibm.com/cgi-bin/common/ssi/ssialias?infotype=an&subtype=ca&htmlfid=897/ENUS210-331&appname=isource&language=enus>
- CICS PA web page: <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/panaly/>

### **Announcement: IBM Problem Determination Tools V11.1**

IBM Problem Determination Tools V11.1 deliver cost-effective and highly functional application performance analysis, source code debugging, application abend analysis, and data management. This powerful family of problem determination tools helps to improve application delivery throughout the life cycle for traditional, web-based and service-oriented applications.

As part of this latest version, there has been a considerable focus upon providing Eclipse GUI plug-ins for Debug Tools, Fault Analyzer, and the Application Performance Analyzer, for the CICS Explorer environment. These functions and capabilities are provided in addition to the previously existing PD Tools Eclipse GUI capabilities which have existed for application developers in Rational Developer for System z for years. In addition to working with the CICS Explorer, CICS TS, and the CICS Tools, the tools can be used in a variety of z/OS environments such as IMS™, DB2®, and UNIX® System Services.

Members of the IBM PD Tools family

- **IBM Application Performance Analyzer for z/OS V11.1 (5697-Q03)** helps developers and systems personnel tune applications and resolve performance constraints.
- **IBM Debug Tool for z/OS V11.1 (5655-W45)** 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 V11.1 (5655-W46)** assists developers in analyzing and fixing application and system failures. It offers developers information to help determine the cause of failure and assist in resolving the problem.
- **IBM File Manager for z/OS V11.1 (5655-W47)** 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.

Some of the latest key PD Tools Version 11.1 related functions include:

- Updated Eclipse GUI support - Special focus upon CICS Explorer and CICS Tools integration
- Application Performance Analyzer Natural/ADABAS support
- Additional Fault Analyzer JAVA
- Fault Analyzer C/C++ Dwarf File support
- File Manager enhancements to logging for base and IMS functions
- FM C/C++ copybook support
- Latest PL/I support
- Support debugging of COBOL, C, C++, PLI on a WAS//Java Environment and JZOS
- Debug Tool Automonitor Break Point support
- Debug Tool DB2 Stored Procedure Type Sub support.
- And much, much more...

To help you transform your System z environment into a service-oriented architecture (SOA) hub, the IBM Problem Determination Tools deliver support across the life cycle whether you are building new or enhancing existing applications. These tools can help you to modernize and transform existing System z applications whether your goal is to:

- Develop and deploy new workloads to leverage the unique performance, availability, security, and cost benefits of System z
- Increase your responsiveness to business requirements by modernizing your mainframe platform
- Optimize management of your IT environment, reducing cost and complexity while supporting efforts to improve governance and compliance

The latest version of the IBM Problem Determination Tools, along with the IBM Workload Simulator for OS/390® and z/OS, continues the trend of cost-effectively protecting tool investments and maximizing IT productivity.

More information:

- Announcement letter: <http://www-01.ibm.com/cgi-bin/common/ssi/ssialias?infotype=an&subtype=ca&htmlfid=897/ENUS210-308&appname=isource&language=enus>
- PD Tools web page: <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/awdtools/deployment/>

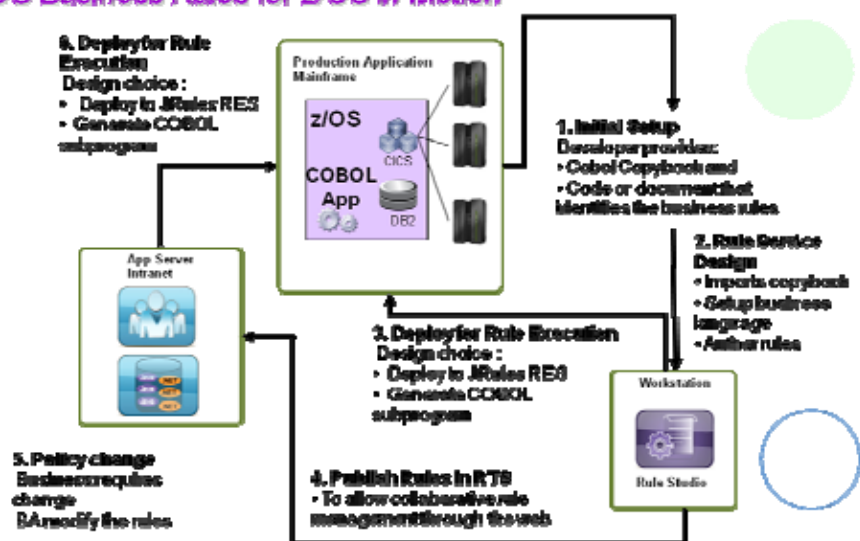
## **Announcement: Websphere ILOG Business Rules for z/OS V7.1.1**

The ILOG BRMS provides all the functionality to manage business rules within a BR Lifecycle. Managing business rules throughout the rule life cycle requires more than just authoring, testing and deploying rules for a specific business area. Equally important is effective management of changes to rules after they have been deployed to achieve time and cost savings.

Now, the choice of rule execution can be done during the design phase of your application. The delivery of Websphere ILOG Business Rules for z/OS V7.1.1 (GA Release October 15, 2010) provides both rule execution options for your CICS applications in one new product. ILOG Business Rules for z/OS now contains Rules for COBOL (for native COBOL rule execution) and JRules Rule Execution Server (RES) on z/OS (for JAVA rule engine and management execution).

With Business Rules for z/OS, customers can flexibly move between two different options, based on whether they need to embed business rules directly within COBOL applications, or whether they are ready to fully externalize rules and utilize the Rule Execution Server to interact with mainframe applications. Using either option, the rules are defined and maintained in the same manner, which facilitates the ability to move from code generation to service-based rule execution as part of a progressive application modernization strategy.

## ILOG Business Rules for z/OS in Motion



By using the ILOG BRMS for your COBOL applications, your organization can realize the following bottom-line benefits:

- Preserved business value of existing assets and rules managed as intellectual assets in the BRMS
- Minimized business risk by ensuring consistency of the business rules throughout business applications
- Improved competitive position through enhanced business service and reuse with the BRMS technology
- Enhanced cost reduction and ROI with reduced total cost of ownership.

More information:

- Web page <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/integration/business-rule-management/jrules/>
- Announcement letter [http://www-01.ibm.com/common/ssi/rep\\_ca/9/897/ENUS210-319/ENUS210-319.PDF](http://www-01.ibm.com/common/ssi/rep_ca/9/897/ENUS210-319/ENUS210-319.PDF)

### Available: CICS Deployment Assistant for z/OS V1.1

CICS Deployment Assistant (CICS DA), a new member of the CICS Tools family, announced July 24th, is now generally available. CICS DA is designed to simplify and speed the deployment of CICS systems. With CICS DA you can discover, model, visualize, and deploy new and existing CICS regions, using automation and policy-driven advice built on your own and IBM's knowledge and experience.

More information:

- Web page: <http://ibm.com/cics/deployment>
- Announcement Letter:
- <http://www.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=an&subtype=ca&supplier=897&letternum=ENUS210-221>

- Two-page datasheet:

[ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tools/CICS\\_Deployment\\_Assistant\\_V1.1\\_flyer\\_GI13055701.pdf](ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tools/CICS_Deployment_Assistant_V1.1_flyer_GI13055701.pdf)

## Available: CICS Explorer V1.0.1

To complement the availability of CICS DA, I'm pleased to announce the availability of CICS Explorer V1.0.1 which provides significant new capabilities - a new System z perspective, the ability to export, edit, and import Connection definitions (something many of you have been asking for for some time), along with some new Operations and Administrative views, the ability to view SIT options, a new breadcrumb trail in Editor views, and a new System z/OS Quick Tips section in the on-line help.

**System z perspective** Four views are available in the new System z perspective providing an intuitive and secure way to view and edit z/OS datasets and zFS files, submit JCL, and view output and job logs directly from the CICS Explorer.

The underlying functions of the new System z perspective are used and extended by CICS Deployment Assistant V1.1, described elsewhere in the newsletter.

**Connection definition import/export** Using the new Connection Export/Import page in the Connection Preferences view you can export your connections as a .xml file. This file can be edited, shared with other users, and imported into other CICS Explorer instances.

**Breadcrumb trail** When you open an editor a breadcrumb trail is shown at the top of the editor to provide you with more context when you have multiple editor windows open.

**SIT Option view** You can now view system initialization table (SIT) parameters, SIT overrides, or a combination of both. You cannot, however, see changes in the values of parameters that were made after startup using system programming interface commands.

**New views** Four new Operations views and one new Administrative view have been added in this version.

More details and links to the download site can be found at <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/explorer/download/>

## Events

### Teleconference: Introduction to CICS Dynamic Scripting in CICS TS V4.1 – 12 October, 16:00 – 17:30 (UK time)

You are invited to join this Support Technical Exchange which will provide an introduction to CICS Dynamic Scripting, which integrates Project Zero technology into CICS Transaction Server for z/OS (CICS TS) V4.1, providing a robust

environment for PHP and Groovy applications and web feeds. Tight integration with existing CICS applications and data allows CICS assets to be exposed as RESTful services or Web 2.0 AJAX interfaces.

The presentation will be followed by a question and answer period in which Jonathan will answer your questions about the topic. The presentation will run up to an hour and a half depending on the number of questions asked. Phone numbers and Web conference information for this presentation can be found at <http://www.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=swg27019845>. You will need to provide your name and company affiliation when dialing in and you will need a touch tone phone to be able to ask questions.

The presentation will be recorded for replay. To see previously given presentations and Open mics for CICS click on Webcasts for CICS Transaction Server and OMEGAMON.

### **Webcast: Dynamic Application Solutions with CICS TS V4.1 and IBM Mashup Center, November 17th 2010**

You should attend this webcast to learn how the PHP and Groovy dynamic script languages and the Web 2.0 programming model delivered by the Dynamic Scripting Feature Packs for CICS Transaction Server and WebSphere Application Server together with IBM Mashup Center will help you benefit from reduced application backlogs, greater business agility, and tighter control over computing resources.

This webcast will be held November 17 at 11:00 am EST (16:00 GMT). A registration page will be available shortly at this link <http://www.ibm.com/software/systemz/webcast/17nov>

### **IBM European WebSphere Technical Conference 11-15 October 2010, Germany**

Attend the WebSphere Technical Conference and expand your knowledge of BPM, CICS, Messaging, WebSphere Application Servers and Infrastructure, including a focus on SOA and Cloud Computing topics. You will also gain insight into current IT trends and learn how to keep pace in today's rapidly changing business climate.

With over 200 unique sessions and 20 hands-on labs, the WebSphere Technical Conference will feature key themes in today's technology trends.

The conference begins with a keynote session focusing on how IBM can help your organization keep pace with change and drive better business outcomes through greater agility and improved collaboration. This is followed by feature sessions focusing on WebSphere Portal, CICS, Messaging and Connectivity, and the WebSphere Platform, including Application Infrastructure, development and BPM.

For the remainder of the conference, you may choose from over 200 unique sessions focusing on SOA, Cloud Computing, BPM, CICS, Messaging and WebSphere Portal -- yes, we listened to your feedback and this year's event will include 3-days of sessions focusing on WebSphere Portal in addition to the 5 days of WebSphere topics we traditionally deliver.

For more information: <https://www-304.ibm.com/jct03001c/services/learning/ites.wss?pageType=page&c=X043853T65553D46>

## **Information on Demand 24-28 October 2010, Las Vegas**

Information On Demand 2010 is the premier conference for organizations applying information and analytics to drive innovation, business optimization and competitive differentiation. Offering extensive technical and business sessions, certifications, hands on labs, demos, and networking, it provides a tremendous opportunity to improve your skills and learn about the latest advancements in information and analytics technology.

Top 5 Reasons to Attend:

1. Improve your skills - Get deep technical education and the best strategic insight and analysis
2. Learn what's new - Explore the latest advances in IBM information and analytics software and solutions - including technical sessions, usability sandboxes and hands on labs
3. Get best practices - Hear from industry leaders who are leveraging information and analytics to realize and build competitive advantage in today's economic environment
4. Experience unrivalled networking - Interact with your peers, industry experts, Business Partners and IBM executives who share your interests and challenges
5. Take action - Make an immediate impact on your organization with actionable next steps to optimize your business performance through information and analytics

For more information and to register, visit: <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/data/2010-conference/iod.html>

## **CICS Resources**

### **IBM Redbooks®: IBM Problem Determination Tools for z/OS**

IBM Problem Determination Tools consists of a core group of IBM products designed to work in conjunction with compilers and run times to provide a start-to-finish development solution for the IT professional. This IBM Redbooks publication can provide you with an introduction to the tools, guidance for program preparation to use with them, an overview of their integration, and several scenarios for their use. Of particular interest to our CICS audience is the overview



of the PD Tools integration with CICS Explorer, for a start-to-finish development solution.

You can download the Redbook at:

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247918.html?Open>

### **IBM Redbooks: Leveraging CICS Events with an ESB**

In this new IBM Redbooks publication, we show examples of using an ESB (enterprise service bus) to transform and enrich an event received from CICS Transaction Server. We also show an example of enriching an event. This book is intended for anyone planning to use CICS events with an ESB.

For more information:

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247863.html?Open>

### **IBM Redbooks: Threadsafe considerations for CICS**

This IBM Redbooks document is a comprehensive guide to threadsafe concepts and implementation in the context of CICS. In addition to providing detailed instructions for implementing threadsafe in your environment, it describes the real world experiences of users migrating applications to be threadsafe, along with our own experiences. It also presents a discussion of the two most critical aspects of threadsafe, system performance and integrity.

The major changes to the latest edition of this popular publication reflect the use of the CICS Explorer plug-ins for CICS Performance Analyzer and CICS Interdependency Analyzer to identify suitable candidates for threadsafe optimization.

For more information:

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

## **CICS in the News**

### **Award: CICS innovation wins highest IBM technical accolade**

The development team behind the 'new face' of CICS – IBM's widely-used software that handles millions of transactions a second – knew they had made a great leap forward when they launched CICS Explorer just under two years ago.

Now, they have won an IBM Corporate Award, which recognizes the highest technical achievements by IBM teams across the world.

The CICS Explorer moved CICS from its old-style, green-screen mainframe interface to one that matches the user-friendliness of today's applications. It is much more intuitive, with more functionality, and includes task-oriented views to

provide integrated access to a range of data and help the younger generation of operators, developers and administrators get to grips with CICS.

## Customer Corner

This new section of CICS eNews is dedicated to contributions from CICS customers, starting with the first in a series of articles written by Harry Van Irsel, IT Architect at Rabobank in Holland. If you would like to contribute an article to describe the use of CICS in your enterprise, please write in the first instance to the editor at [Knutson@uk.ibm.com](mailto:Knutson@uk.ibm.com). Opinions expressed in this section are those of the author, and may not reflect those of IBM or the editor.

### Customer contribution: My future runs on system Z - Part One - Prologue

#### **Deploying CICS Web services to preserve IT investments of the Rabobank**

The Rabobank service architecture encourages the reuse of existing IT investment and promotes the reuse of services in current and future systems. Traditional mainframe applications (mostly in Cobol) are among the most valuable assets of the Rabobank. Without these Cobol programs, the Rabobank could not do business. Reusing these proven assets can result in delivering new services much more quickly, and it is significantly less expensive to reuse existing applications than to write new ones.

Cobol applications can be exposed on the IBM mainframe as services with well-defined interfaces. Such services enable loose coupling, providing the necessary flexibility to build composite applications, thereby improving interoperability and reuse.

These Cobol applications integrate within the Rabobank service architecture infrastructure using the Web services support provided by IBM CICS Transaction Server (CICS TS), Version 4.1. This allows Cobol functions to be published as services and also allows Cobol programs to make service calls to services outside the mainframe.

Most of the common business services exist already as Cobol functions that are part of the core banking applications. Besides reusing existing applications a company also reuses knowledge. No new skills are needed to build these Cobol applications as services. The application remains the same familiar Cobol, while CICS Web services support handles all the necessary translation to and from web services standards (like using SOAP messages), the routing and the use of the correct transport mechanism (like Websphere MQ or HTTP).

But there is more to consider. SOA (Service Oriented Architecture) Strategist Paul Dimarzio points out (in his book "*Secrets of SOA*") that the platform-neutral nature of SOA development technologies has led many people to take a matching platform-neutral view of SOA deployment. He states that SOA deployment and the target infrastructure require as much, or even more, attention than that given to development. Larger and more complex enterprises need to take even greater care to ensure that SOA services are deployed on platforms best able to handle the job properly.

He points out following main non-functional requirements and infrastructure challenges:

- **High availability** Business-critical Web services must be available at all times. Deploying important applications as Web services means we need to ensure that those Web services are available in the event of planned and unplanned outages of software and hardware components.
- **Security** Business-critical web services must be secure and must meet the end-to-end security requirements of the customer.
- **Performance and scalability** Business-critical web services must meet the performance and scalability expectations of the customer.
- **Real-time monitoring** Problems must be automatically highlighted, and detailed real-time information (including service hit rates, response times and message lengths) must be available for problem diagnosis.

Meeting these requirements is inherent to the mainframe and that's why it is a very strong platform for business critical services. Considering Cobol there are worldwide about 200 billion lines of Cobol code in use, mostly within insurance and banking transactions. In the past ten years Cobol has gone through several facelifts and nowadays supports object orientation, XML-parsing, integration facilities for JEE and .NET, Web Services, event-driven programming and full graphical user interfaces. Cobol programs can be written, debugged, compiled and tested with the most advanced development tools like Eclipse. Cobol source code is very portable. There are ANSI Cobol standard compilers available on almost every hardware platform, like the mainframe, Unix, Linux, and Windows platforms. So, Cobol is over 40 years old but still alive and kicking.

## Conclusion

The mainframe and Cobol are here to stay, because the traditional mainframe applications are among the most valuable assets of the Rabobank. Without these Cobol programs, the Rabobank could not do business.

The implementation of CICS web services support makes it possible to open up these proven assets as web services and integrate them with other components in the Rabobank service architecture using worldwide standards.

Reusing these proven assets can result in delivering new services much more quickly, and it is significantly less expensive to reuse existing applications than to write new ones.

Very few migration specialists advise to convert software from one language to another without clear strategical and financial arguments. With the implementation of CICS Web Services support the Rabobank becomes one of the leading companies in opening up traditional mainframe applications and integrating them in an service oriented architecture.

*Harry van Irsel has worked in IT since 1985 in a wide variety of roles, always with a focus on high available, high performance, high volumes and robust online applications running on the IBM mainframe environments. He operates as 'the glue' between many different divisions (in and outside the company) at all kind of levels involving multiple hardware platforms and application development-, test and production environments. Able to foresee, pinpoint and solve issues in a service oriented infrastructure. Consultant and instructor of Websphere MQSeries, CICS and DB2 subjects. Sometimes acts as a guest speaker at (international) technical forums and user groups. As Certified S.O.A. Architect and expert in design and development on zSeries (service integration, web services, web2.0 technology, CICS, DB2, Websphere MQSeries) he works on positioning and making the IBM mainframe a very strong S.O.A. platform within the Rabobank Group.*

*The Rabobank Group is an international financial services provider operating on the basis of cooperative principles. It offers retail banking, wholesale banking, asset management, leasing and real estate services. Focus is on all-finance services in the Netherlands and on food and agribusiness internationally. Rabobank Group is comprised of independent local Rabobanks plus Rabobank Nederland, their umbrella organization, and a number of specialist subsidiaries. The group entities maintain strong mutual ties. Rabobank Group's total employee base numbers about 59,000 FTEs, who serve about 9.5 million clients in 48 countries.*

Author contact Information: Harry Van Irsel - [H.L.J.Irsel@rn.rabobank.nl](mailto:H.L.J.Irsel@rn.rabobank.nl)

## CICS People

### Kat Sharp

In this series, we interview members of the CICS development team to find out more about their work and interests. We met up with Kat Sharp who works on the CICS Explorer Team

**Hello Kat! Thank you for meeting me today!**

Hi, no problem

**Where are you from?**

I'm originally from Edinburgh

**Where did you go to university and what did you study?**

I went to Edinburgh University where I studied Computer Science.

**Did you enjoy it?**

I really enjoyed it! The course was really interesting; we did a lot of theoretical stuff as well as fun stuff like building robots. Edinburgh is an awesome city, with lots of festivals, shops, and gigs. So there was plenty to do outside of university.

**How did you get involved with IBM?**

I did an internship with a software company in Edinburgh, which made me realize that's what I wanted to do when I left university. During my final year of university the usual milk rounds were going on and I decided to apply to IBM.

**So what is your role within CICS?**

I'm a Software Developer and I work on the CICS Explorer team. I mainly develop CICS Explorer plug-ins for CICS Tools, so things like CICS Interdependency Analyzer, CICS Configuration Manager, and CICS Deployment Assistant

**What sort of things do you do on a day-to-day basis?**

I design and implement functionality for CICS Explorer plug-ins, I get to write Eclipse based plug-ins in Java.

**Did you know much about CICS before joined the team?**

I knew absolutely nothing about CICS before I joined IBM! I also knew nothing about mainframes and Eclipse!

**What are projects you working on at the moment?**

I've just finished working on CICS Deployment Assistant, which was released recently.

**What has been your greatest moment/achievement/success at IBM?**

I recently received a Corporate Award for my involvement in the delivery of 'An Open Tooling Platform for Managing CICS', so on Friday we had a double celebration, celebrating the release of CICS Deployment Analyser and the CICS Explorer team getting the Corporate Award!

**That's fantastic! Well done! How would you sum up CICS in one word or phrase?**

The cheeky answer would be...OLD, but I think that's really great as it shows it's robustness and reliability, and also the fact that it keeps staying relevant enough.

**What do you see for the future of CICS?**

I work on tools, so I am always slightly biased in what we should be focusing on, I'd like to see more integration between IBM tools, as well as building on the CICS Explorer platform to encourage more people, customers, and vendors to extend it.

**What interests/hobbies do you pursue outside of IBM?**

I live for the ski season, I usually go for two or three weeks and I was even skiing on a glacier in July! I'm also into mountain biking and I try to surf (with varying levels of success...). I also enjoy gigs, films, and live comedy - I make an annual pilgrimage to Edinburgh for the festival.

**So what genres of music do you like?**

All kinds, I used to DJ and play in a band. Anything from 1950 onwards - mostly punk, post punk, new wave, electro, hiphop, rock, indie, krautrock, and tons more...

**What instrument do you play?**

I started off playing bass, but moved onto drums - we were a band in the spirit of DIY, so I can basically play our songs, plus a few more.

**What is your favorite thing about working at Hursley?**

The best thing about IBM Hursley is the setting- the grounds are lovely.

**What were your career aspirations when you were younger?**

I didn't have any particular aspirations as a kid, I think maybe I wanted to be a Transformer?!

**Any final insight or tips for our readers?**

As well as releasing CICS DA we've also just refreshed the CICS Explorer to version 1.0.1. It has lots of cool new functionality in a new System z/OS perspective that lets you work with your jobs, data sets and z/OS UNIX Files. Download it and give it a try.

**Is there a charge?**

CICS Transaction Server for z/OS customers version 3.1 or higher can get hold of the CICS Explorer for free from our download site.

**Brilliant! Thanks very much for taking time out to talk to us Kat!**

No problem, I've enjoyed it!

**Feedback**

To provide feedback and comments on CICS portfolio e-news please email the editor at [Knutson@uk.ibm.com](mailto:Knutson@uk.ibm.com)