CICS Portfolio eNewsLetter

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October 3rd 2012

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ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/enews/CICS_eNewsLetter_October_2012.pdf

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Editorial

CICS V5.1 announced today

Operational efficiency and service agility…

…with cloud enablement

October 2012 is a historic month for CICS with the announcement of new versions of CICS TS and five core foundational CICS Tools, which work together to help you to increase your operational efficiency and improve your service agility. The new version of CICS TS satisfies over 100 customer requirements which aligned with, and helped to define our version themes. You'll be hearing those words quite a lot, but we do believe that they do represent most businesses key priorities. New versions of CICS Transaction Gateway and IBM Session Manager are also announced. You can get more details of all of the new announcements below.

Editors:

John Knutson

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Product highlights

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

IBM® CICS® Transaction Server for z/OS® (CICS TS) V5.1 is announced today, bringing increased operational efficiency and improved service agility with cloud enablement.

CICS TS V5.1 satisfies over one hundred customer requirements that help solve the two most pressing challenges that companies face today; driving operational efficiencies, while increasing service agility.

Driving operational efficiencies

• Greater capacity: achieve cost savings through consolidation

• Managed operations: control critical resource thresholds with policies

• Increased availability: reduce the need for planned downtime

• Deeper insight: extend performance and compliance information

Increasing service agility

• First-class applications: create agile services from existing assets

• First-class platforms: create agile service delivery platforms

• Modern interfaces: build rich web experiences for critical applications

• Foundational enhancements: extend core capabilities

CICS TS V5.1 delivers these capabilities in a way that positions users of CICS for the next transformational era in technology, moving them towards a service delivery platform for cloud computing.

IBM CICS Explorer, the strategic management interface for CICS TS, has been upgraded to CICS Explorer V5.1. This is a major update to support the latest CICS TS and CICS tools capabilities. CICS Explorer V5.1 will also work with other supported versions of CICS TS.

IBM has also updated five core foundational CICS tools to align with CICS TS V5.1. These tools will exploit and augment the latest operational efficiency and service agility enhancements made in CICS TS V5.1, as well as delivering valuable new capabilities for customers using current CICS TS releases.

http://www.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=an&subtype=ca&supplier=897&letternum=ENUS212-325

CICS TS Developer Trial V5.1 was also announced today, with general availability in January. In the meantime, CICS TS Developer Trial V4.2 is still available. More details here: http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/cicsdt/

You can find a presentations, datasheets, and demos on the CICS TS V5.1 web page and new collateral will be posted to in the coming days and weeks, so check back now and then to see what's new:

http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tserver/v51/

Announcement: CICS Tools V5.1

Announced today are new versions of five core foundational CICS Tools that exploit and augment the latest operational efficiency and service agility enhancements in CICS TS V5.1.

CICS Tools can help you to optimize your CICS resources and achieve greater capacity and improve the availability of your critical enterprise systems. Their powerful automation capabilities can speed service delivery, improve standardization, and reduce risk, while rich discovery, advanced visualization, and comprehensive reporting provide the insight needed to ensure that your applications run smoothly and changes are efficient and reliable.

Support for the application and platform resources introduced in CICS TS V5.1 help you to achieve value from the new version of CICS more quickly. The tools include modern interfaces integrated with CICS Explorer, helping both new and experienced IT personnel to be more productive with minimal training delay. Foundational enhancements continue to extend the tools capabilities in many areas.

You can find further details of the new versions of the CICS Tools in the announcement letter:

http://www.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=an&subtype=ca&supplier=897&letternum=ENUS212-374

The CICS Tools announced today and some of the highlights in the new versions are shown below:

IBM CICS Interdependency Analyzer for z/OS V5.1

CICS IA V5.1 includes application name when collecting dependency and command flow data. This lets you analyze and manage your new CICS TS applications more easily. Initial deployment of the product is simplified and data management is improved.

Web page http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/ianaly/index.html

Data sheet ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tools/CICS_IA_V5.1_datasheet_GI13-0587-00.pdf

IBM CICS Deployment Assistant for z/OS V5.1

CICS DA V5.1 includes a new IBM System z Application Assist Processor (zAAP)-offloadable server component with enhanced discovery that creates a centralized and more complete model of your CICS infrastructure. An enhanced plug-in for IBM CICS Explorer provides advanced visualization with tagging and filtering. This lets you view, print, and manage your CICS infrastructure as you want to see it. The model can now be exported to standard spreadsheet tools for external analysis and reporting, and a sample report is provided. The centrally-managed model, with audit logging facilitates sharing, especially with large and distributed teams, and addresses key governance requirements.

Web page http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/deployment/

Data sheet ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tools/CICS_DA_V5.1_datasheet_GI13-0600-00.pdf

IBM CICS Performance Analyzer for z/OS V5.1

CICS PA V5.1 includes new application, platform, and policy performance metrics in batch reports and plug-in views, to simplify application-centric and platform-centric performance analysis and reporting. The new release includes many functional and navigation improvements to its plug-in for CICS Explorer, as well as simplifying host data management.

Web page http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/panaly/

Data sheet ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tools/CICS_PA_V5.1_datasheet_GI13-0591-00.pdf

IBM CICS Configuration Manager for z/OS V5.1

CICS CM V5.1 manages the new application and platform resource definitions in CICS TS V5.1. This simplifies the management and improves the governance of the CICS environment.

Web page http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/cm/

Data sheet ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tools/CICS_CM_V5.1_datasheet_GI13-0599-00.pdf

IBM CICS VSAM Recovery for z/OS V5.1

CICS VR V5.1 delivers key enabling technology, designed to enable CICS and batch VSAM files to be used in geographically dispersed Active-Standby and Active-Query configurations. In addition, a number of batch logging, migration, and other improvements are included.

Web page http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/vr/

Data sheet ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tools/WSD11329-USEN-00_CICSVR_DS_0620.pdf

Announcement: CICS Transaction Gateway V9.0

Announced today are major updates to all three members of the CICS Transaction Gateway family:

- IBM CICS Transaction Gateway for z/OS V9.0
- IBM CICS Transaction Gateway for Multiplatforms V9.0
- IBM CICS Transaction Gateway Desktop Edition V9.0

CICS TG V9.0 provides significant enhancements helping to increase operational efficiency and improve service agility. In particular:

- Exploit the latest runtime environments for distributed applications including Java 7
- Reduce complexity and management costs for high volume users with increased vertical scaling on IBM z/OS
- Extend Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) connectivity to three-tier topologies for interoperation with high availability CICS TG features
- Include connection-level time-out for users migrating from External CICS Interface (EXCI) to IP Interconnectivity (IPIC) connectivity

- Allow support for 64-bit C distributed platform External Call Interface (ECI) applications that include asynchronous calls

- Allow end-to-end transaction tracking with the WebSphere Application Server V8.5 Cross Component Trace (XCT) facility

- Full eXtended Architecture (XA) transaction meta-data for Dynamic Server Selection (DSS) algorithms eliminates the need to dedicate Gateway daemons to single lines-of-business that need high availability and two-phase commit

- Extend the recording of historical statistics to the CICS TG for Multiplatforms product

You can find full details in the announcement letter:

http://www.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=an&subtype=ca&supplier=897&letternum=ENUS212-323

Web page http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/ctg/

Data sheet ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tools/CICS_TG_V9.0_datasheet_GI13-0598-00.pdf

Announcement: IBM Session Manager V3.2

Announced today is IBM Session Manager V3.2, the major feature of which is an updated plug-in for IBM CICS Explorer that provides an new online administration (OLA) perspective to update configuration information including users, profiles, applications, terminal, and system parameters. This complements the operational capabilities added to the plug-in in the previous release and further reduces the need to use the ISPF interface.

If you use pass-tickets to implement session security, you can now manage them more easily using a new configuration option. This release also includes ease-of-use, security, installation, configuration, and operational enhancements, including requirements raised by individual customers and user communities, working together to make Session Manager even easier to deploy, manage, and use.

You can find full details in the announcement letter:

http://www.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=an&subtype=ca&supplier=897&letternum=ENUS212-332

Web page http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/smanag/

Data sheet

ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tools/IBM_Session_Manager_V3.2_datasheet_GI13-0566-00.pdf

2012 Events

These are the same events that I listed in the August eNewsFlash, but now I can tell you that they will all feature CICS TS V5.1 and the updated CICS Tools and CICS TG. So, if you weren't planning to attend, now you've got some more good reasons to do so.

Conference - z Tech University – October 1

A new quarter a new event. 2012 IBM System z Technical University, a premier System z Enterprise event, featuring zEnterprise, z/OS, z/VM, z/VSE and Linux on System z and for the first time a full week track of sessions on the most current release of CICS TS will be presented by a number of speakers from the CICS development lab in Hursley.

The most recent System z announcements and most current System z product information will be covered in detail through sessions such as these:

- IBM CICS Transaction Server and CICS Tools - Latest status and directions
- IBM zEnterprise Server Processor Technology - Latest Status and Directions
- IBM zEnterprise Server I/O Technology - Latest Status and Directions
- What's new in z/OS Support for the Latest Server

ZTech University will be held in Las Vegas, Nv USA. October 1-5. Early bird offer ends September 2nd. For more details please visit the web site:

http://www-304.ibm.com/jct03001c/services/learning/ites.wss/zz/en?pageType=page&c=D118910Q90569F55

Conference - Italy CICS Technical Seminar – October 5-6

CICS Technical Seminar is an annual event held in Milan about the latest updates of CICS family of products. The event is held both in English and Italian languages. Experts from Hursley Lab and long experience customer consultants will be presenting about new technologies and new enhancements in CICS.

Location: IBM Forum, Milan; Start Date: 05-11-2012 ; Duration: 2 days

For more details, please visit the web site:

http://www-304.ibm.com/jct03001c/services/learning/ites.wss/it/it?pageType=course_description&courseCode=CA004IT

Conference - WebSphere Technical Convention – October 15-18

In an announcement on August 21st IBM declared its intention to deliver cloud and foundation enhancements to CICS and this conference offers the first opportunity for the European audience to hear detailed information from Hursley CICS technical specialists about the new capabilities from the CICS portfolio.

Location: Berlin, Germany; Start Date: 15-10-2012; Duration: 4 days

For more details please visit the web site:

http://www-304.ibm.com/jct03001c/services/learning/ites.wss/zz/en?pageType=page&c=Q504990W97039S38

Conference - WebSphere Technical Convention, Germany October 15-18

The 2012 IBM European WebSphere Technical Convention (WTC) is a 4 days enablement event scheduled for 15-18 October 2012 in Berlin, Germany. This event delivers deep technical content targeted at architects, developers, integrators, and administrators by offering lectures and hands-on labs that focus on the best practices and practical skills required to run today's agile business enterprises.

WTC will cover 100 sessions that are designed to enhance the skills of IT professionals who are using IBM software and solutions. There is a dedicated CICS Track where you can hear the very latest news and technical information from Hursley technical specialists.

http://www-304.ibm.com/jct03001c/services/learning/ites.wss/zz/en?pageType=page&c=Q504990W97039S38

Webcast - CICS goes Mobile – Replay now available

In this complimentary webcast renowned CICS speaker from Impact, Andy Armstrong, on how CICS addressed the mobile marketplace. How does CICS help to empower the individual with a smartphone in his pocket? How does CICS make use of new smartphone features, such as GPS, mobile Internet and RFID NFC communications? In this webcast, he answered many common questions about where and how CICS fits in a mobile strategy.

This was a very popular webcast with over 400 attendees who asked in excess of 40 questions during the session. Be sure to watch the replay – just visit:

http://www-01.ibm.com/software/os/systemz/webcast/29aug/

CICS Resources

IBM Redbooks and Redpapers

Be one of the first to read this brand new RedBook, specially commissioned to address the needs of application and system architects. It's in draft now, but still a very food read. Download it now at:
http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/redpieces/abstracts/sg248067.html?Open

Podcasts

Podcast - Making your enterprise applications Cloud-enabled with CICS

How CICS V5.1 facilitates Platform-as-a-Service for private clouds, enables mission-critical applications running on CICS to be cloud-enabled. Matthew Webster and Nick Garrod, speakers.

You can download the podcast here:
http://www.ibm.com/podcasts/software/websphere/middleware/index.rss

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_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 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

- CICS TS V4.2 http://www.ibm.com/partnerworld/gsd/searchprofile.do?name=CICS TS v4.2

Many business partners have participated in CICS TS V5.1 early test programs and we will be updating our directory shortly.

- CICS TS V5.1
  http://www.ibm.com/partnerworld/gsd/searchprofile.do?name=CICS%20TS%20v5.1

Feedback

eNews

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