Happy Birthday CICS! On 8th of July the world's favourite transaction server turned 46 years young but it's not the only reason to celebrate... Last week we were pleased to announce the updated CICS TS V5.3 open beta, which contains even more new capabilities for you to test!

CICS TS V5.3 open beta REFRESHED!

CICS TS V5.3 open beta - upgraded

On 10th of July the CICS team delivered a refresh of the open beta for CICS TS V5.3, so you can get your hands on the latest and greatest capabilities. The enhancements of the upgraded open beta include:

- Support for Java Persistence Architecture (JPA), which is one of the components needed for the Java EE 6 Web Profile feature set;
- An improved Java infrastructure, which enables you to run multiple levels of Java in a single CICS region;
- A new JSON processing infrastructure, which provides greater throughput while using less CPU;
- And many other improvements which can be found in the new blog by Andy Bates, CICS TS Product Manager.

Download the updated open beta for CICS TS V5.3 from here.

Also, check out our new CICSDev blog post Improving CICS Web Support with CICS TS V5.3 Open Beta, which highlights the performance enhancements of CICS TS V5.3 Open Beta for CICS web Services and web-based applications.

CICS is calling for feedback

Are you a CICS client? Our development team created a short survey to gain some insights and customer thoughts on how CICS calls out to MQ, HTTP, DB2 and other services hosted in CICS. It would be great if you could spare 10 minutes of your time and provide us with some feedback, so we can keep enhancing CICS. Complete the survey here.

Webcasts

Upcoming webcast

Rocking Linux on z Systems: Join the Open Source Community
Join this free webcast to learn about the new IBM Open Source Ecosystem initiative, and find out how you can get involved too. Hear directly from the experts Marcel Mitran (IBM Distinguished Engineer, CTO z Systems Software Performance and Linux Ecosystem) and Dale Hoffman (z Systems Subsystem Program Management), who are aiming to ensure that running Linux on z Systems is just as smooth as on any other platform. The webcast will be held here on 30th of July at 2pm (ET)**.**

Lunch & Learns

16 July 2015, 1 pm (ET) - Automatic Application Deployment to CICS, z/OS and other platforms using UrbanCode Deploy
Hear Reggie Barosa and Russell Bonner, both from DevOps for z Systems team, explaining how your organization can deploy composite application changes to multiple runtime platforms in minutes. Register now!

20 August 2015, 1pm (ET) - Application Insight: The First Step to Modernize Applications for Maximum Business Value
Join Mark Boyd, DevOps for z Systems Enterprise Modernisation Tools, and Joe Gailey, CICS Tools on z Systems, to understand options to analyze existing application structures, flows and dependencies to determine where changes are required. Register now!

17 September 2015, 1pm (ET) - Expose z/OS Assets to Cloud and Mobile Devices with z/OS Connect
In this webinar, hear Leigh Compton, CICS Integration and Security, highlighting the advantages of using z/OS Connect to access CICS TS and the data, and to understand the functions it manages. Register now!

Webcast playback

Playback of Recover 30% of Your Day with IBM Development Tools webcast is now available on CICS Slideshare. Check it out to learn how IBM DevOps Tools for z Systems help enterprises deliver significant productivity improvements to transform their software delivery capability.

Do you need some help with your CICS systems?

IBM Operations Analytics for z Systems: Accelerate problem identification, isolation and repair
Do you need to make your CICS environment more cost effective? IBM Operations Analytics for z Systems will help you gain insight into application and infrastructure issues as they arise, to accelerate root cause analysis and resolve problems across complex applications. Visit this page to learn more.

Simplify Mobile Workload Pricing using CICS Performance Analyzer for z/OS
Check out this CICSDev blog post to get a step-by-step guide on how to simplify your mobile workload pricing.

CICS Tools Deployment Support
Here in CICS we care a lot about our customers. To help you get the most out of the products you purchased, we now offer a free of charge CICS Tools technical support. For more details on this offer, please visit this page.

Conferences

9-14 August 2015, Orlando, US - SHARE
SHARE provides one of the best IT education, opportunities for professional networking and industry influence. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity,register today!

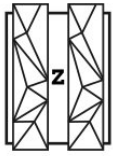5-9 October 2015, Orlando, US - IBM Systems Technical University
Don't miss an opportunity to get the latest news and announcements about critical z Systems software at IBM Systems Technical University. CICS will have its own track full of new information and updates. Beat the early bird cut-off on 30th of August and register now.

13-16 October 2015, Dublin, Ireland - Websphere Technical University
Join the CICS team at WebSphere Technical University for some in-depth technical lectures and hands-on labs, which will help you to expand your knowledge and expertise on the latest technologies and industry trends. Register now, and don't forget that this year by registering for WTU you will also gain access to two other events: IBM Digital Experience and IBM Commerce Learning Academy, which also take place in Dublin on 13-16 October.

Contest time

Master the Mainframe Contest

Are you a student based in Middle East & Africa? Are you looking to start a career in the enterprise computing industry? You have little or no mainframe experience? Then this contest is just for you! This competition is designed to equip the future mainframe experts with basic skills to make them more competitive for the jobs in the industry! Intrigued? For more details, please visit this page. Hurry to register as it closes on 31st July.

And those in the UK and Ireland, follow our twitter account to be the first to hear when the competition opens for you!

How did we do today?

Your feedback is extremely important to us. Please take a second to rate this edition of CICSbuzz!

Very good   Okay   Could do better

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And finally...

Check out our new 60 second video Generation z: We are Mainframe

CICSbuzz editors: John Knutson, Nick Garrod, Anna Bridgen, David Harris, Liam McLear & Kamilia Armasova.
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