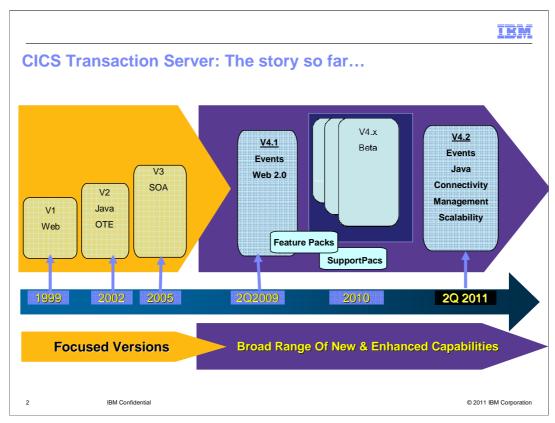
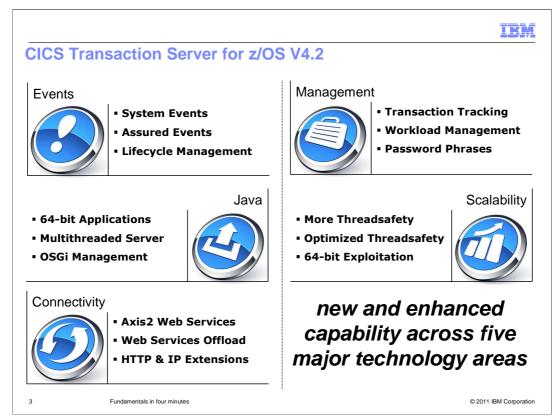


This module provides a quick four-minute overview of the fundamental changes to CICS Transaction Server in Version 4.2.



CICS has been selective in its adoption of technologies for years and endorsement from CICS has often been seen as the validation that a technology is now ready for mainstream enterprise computing. Since CICS Transaction Server Version 3, there have been feature packs and supportpacs of capability that have been rolled into the next major delivery of CICS. With CICS Transaction Server Version 4, the product has evolved to deliver customer needs to make businesses more competitive and able to comply with industry standards and regulations, while controlling resources and reducing costs.



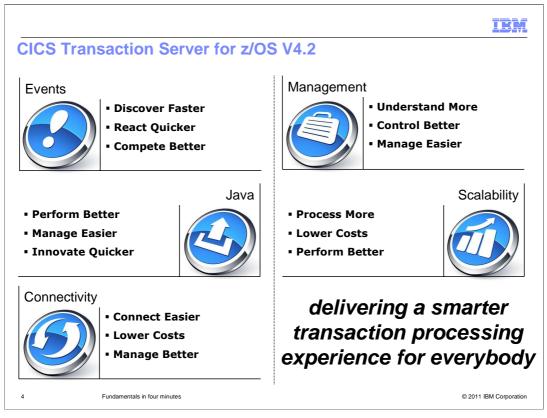
In CICS Transaction Server Version 4.2 there are enhancements to five main technology categories: Events, Java, Connectivity, Management, and Scalability. In the event processing area, system events have been introduced. CICS can emit events that show a change in state of some resources, such as thresholds and transaction abends. There is event lifecycle management to assist in helping understand the impact of changes on events and to reduce risk to events of application change. CICS also has synchronous emission of events that ensure an event is emitted successfully.

Java support has been evolving over many releases and the product now has 64-bit support for CICS Java applications, as well as a multi-threaded JVM server. These features result in a significantly more scalable CICS-based Java run time. CICS Java application deployment is simplified with OSGi support, so applications can be installed, started, stopped, updated, and uninstalled without the need to recycle the JVM.

In the area of connectivity, a Java-based Axis2 web services engine delivers zAAP eligible web services processing and better interoperability for CICS web services written in Java. For connectivity, CICS is continuing to deliver enhancements around TCP/IP support. For example, function shipping between CICS regions across an IP network can improve performance and simplify network administration. Improved workload balancing can be achieved with HTTP connection pooling and better control of persistent HTTP connections.

Management has been made easier with the transaction tracking capability. You can track tasks as they enter CICS and flow across regions, displaying the relationships in the CICS Explorer to simplify and speed up auditing and problem determination. Improvements to workload management provide options to balance work more evenly in differing environments and make changes dynamically. In this release, security has been enhanced with the introduction of 100 character passphrase support.

Scalability has been improved through extensions to multiprocessor exploitation including a new global threadsafe performance option, threadsafe support for mirror transactions, and threadsafe support for CICS applications accessing IMS data. CICS has extended support for the 64-bit architecture to increase capacity by supporting a larger number of concurrent users and concurrent transactions. By utilizing 64-bit storage for trace data, CICS now captures considerably more information and thus can significantly improve problem determination. There is better vertical scalability through extended 64 bit capability and better horizontal scalability through enhanced threadsafe capability.



In summary CICS Transaction Server event support helps businesses to discover faster, react quicker, and compete better. Java support enables CICS to perform better, manage and deploy applications more easily, and innovate quicker for a swifter time to market. The connectivity enhancements make it easier to connect, and manage better, while the management capability enables customers to effortlessly manage, understand, and control. Finally, scalability advances allow businesses to process more at lower costs and perform better. With improvements and enhancements to classic functions, as well the introduction of new technologies, CICS Transaction Server Version 4 represents a balanced release with value for all stakeholders, whether architects, system programmers, application developers, IT management, or CICS administrators.



IBM is celebrating its centennial year in 2011 and has picked one hundred icons of progress that represent the impact of IBM on the world. CICS is one of these icons and you can read more on the IBM website.

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