

CICS Portfolio e-NewsFlash

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October 4th 2011 - updated October 19th 2011

There are a number of important announcements today, including CICS TG V8.1 and CICS VT V2.1, as well as the immediate availability of the CICS Dynamic Scripting Feature Pack V1.1 providing support for CICS TS V4.2.

The CICS eNewsFlash sent out on October 4th has been updated with a couple of additional key announcements - WebSphere MQ for z/OS V7.1 and Rational Developer for System z V8.0.3. I'm also taking this opportunity to announce the CICS Family Beta Program - see below for more details.

Product highlights

Available: CICS Dynamic Scripting Feature Pack V1.1

It's great to announce that the CICS Dynamic Scripting Feature Pack V1.1 is now available, providing a situational application framework for customers using, or planning to use, CICS TS V4.2. This satisfies the Statement of Direction made in the announcement of CICS TS V4.2 in April. The updated feature pack is functionally equivalent with the original release, but, when used in conjunction with CICS TS V4.2 JVMServer technology, 64 bit Java 6.0.1, and multi-threaded JDBC support in DB2, it provides a robust, managed, and scalable environment for situational applications.

CICS Dynamic Scripting can help you to meet the long tail of application demand and exploit business opportunities by rapidly creating and deploying situational applications which access CICS assets, while complying with key IT processes like manageability, scalability, and security - delivering real business agility at reduced cost. We've created a number of CICS-specific sample applications to help you to get up to speed quickly with this new technology, and you can also run a wide range of other PHP and Groovy sample applications in CICS. See the CICS page on the project zero web site for more details.

Further details can be found in this Support Letter:

<http://www.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=swg21566483> , and at

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

The WebSphere sMash forum has been moved from the Project Zero web site to developerWorks. All previous posts have been migrated. The new forum can be found here:

<http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/forums/forum.jspa?forumID=2459> . The existing wiki and downloads, including documentation on the CICS sample applications, can still be found on Project Zero here: <http://projectzero.org/cics> .

The CICS Dynamic Scripting Feature Pack V1.1 can be downloaded now from:

http://www.ibm.com/services/forms/preLogin.do?lang=en_US&source=swg-cicsds&S_CMP=rnav

Announcement: CICS Transaction Gateway V8.1

CICS Transaction Gateway V8.1 (CICS TG) is announced today, with General Availability planned for December 2nd 2011. CICS TG is the market-leading IBM connector for CICS, and is production proven in over a thousand customer environments, with successful deployments across every major industry. CICS TG is the strategic flexible, high-performing, security-rich, and scalable method of service-oriented architecture (SOA) access to CICS servers. CICS TG is available in three editions - CICS TG for z/OS, CICS TG for Multiplatforms, and CICS TG Desktop Edition - to match the connectivity, availability, and scalability requirements of a wide range of customers. Whatever the style of application - JEE applications running in WebSphere Application Server V8, Microsoft .NET Framework applications, or stand-alone desktop applications - CICS TG is the connector of choice to integrate them with CICS.

You can find more information at the links shown below:

Announcement letter:

<http://www.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=an&subtype=ca&supplier=897&appname=IBMLinkRedirect&letternum=ENUS211-357>

Data sheet: ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/http/cics/ctg/CICS_TG_V8.1_Datasheet_GI13-0561-02.pdf

Web page: <http://ibm.com/cics/ctg>

Announcement: *CICS VSAM Transparency V2.1*

CICS VSAM Transparency V2.1 (CICS VT) also announces today, with General Availability planned for December 2nd 2011. CICS VT simplifies and speeds the migration of data from VSAM to DB2, so that you can add value to your information assets. CICS VT and DB2 enable you to take advantage of robust capabilities like 24x7 availability, integration with DB2 applications, and use of powerful business intelligence and data analytics tools for the line of business, and function-rich database management, performance, and governance tools for the IT specialists. For example, you can use IBM InfoSphere Guardium to encrypt credit card data, as required by the PCI DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard) regulations.

New capabilities in CICS VT V2.1 include:

- Auto-generation of data migration jobs
- Improved support for IDCAMS (Access Method Services) options
- File migration progress reporting
- Improved diagnostics
- Numerous functional enhancements introduced by PTF since the general availability of CICS VT V1.2
- CICS VT V2.1 supports CICS Transaction Server for z/OS (CICS TS) V3 and CICS TS V4, and IBM® DB2 for z/OS (DB2) V9, and DB2 10.

You can find more information at the links shown below:

Announcement letter:

<http://www.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=an&subtype=ca&supplier=897&appname=IBMLinkRedirect&letternum=ENUS211-355>

Data sheet:

ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/http/cics/tools/CICS_VSAM_Transparency_V2.1_datasheet_GI13057900.pdf

Web page: <http://ibm.com/cics/vt>

Announcement: IBM WebSphere Operational Decision Management for z/OS , V7.5

Also announced today is IBM WebSphere Operational Decision Management for z/OS, V7.5, providing a combined business rules and events management

platform, with comprehensive automation and governance of operational decisions that control the actions of critical business applications. This offering provides multiple business rule execution choices for z/OS customers, including a new runtime component, zRule Execution Server for z/OS, which can run either stand-alone on z/OS or within a JVMServer in a CICS TS for z/OS V4.1 or V4.2 region.

WebSphere Operational Decision Management for z/OS, V7.5 advances and brings together IBM's WebSphere ILOG Business Rule Management System (BRMS) and WebSphere Business Events. This process began in 2010 with the release of WebSphere Decision Server V7.1, which bundled the Java-based development tooling and runtime components for business rules and business events. With WebSphere Operational Decision Management for z/OS, IBM is now providing a combined business rules and events management platform with specific runtime capabilities for CICS, COBOL, and Java-based applications running on the mainframe.

You can read more details in the announcement letter here:

http://www-01.ibm.com/common/ssi/ShowDoc.jsp?docURL=/common/ssi/rep_ca/9/897/ENUS211-429/index.html&lang=en

Announcement: WebSphere MQ for z/OS V7.1

This latest release of WebSphere MQ for z/OS was also announced October 4th, but not mentioned in the email version CICS eNewsFlash (sorry). This is of special interest to CICS customers, in the following ways:

- WebSphere MQ for z/OS V7.1 extends the availability benefits of queue sharing group units of recovery introduced in Version 7 for extended transactional (XA) clients to CICS applications. CICS Transaction Server (CICS TS) V4.2 introduces a new GROUPRESYNC option to the RESYNCMEMBER attribute of an MQCONN definition which provides enhanced functionality in a queue sharing group containing MQ for z/OS V7.1 queue managers.
- When CICS is configured with this MQCONN attribute, indoubt units of recovery between CICS and MQ can be resolved when CICS reconnects to any eligible MQ in the queue sharing group. This removes an affinity between CICS regions and queue managers simplifying system configuration and enhancing availability.

This announcement satisfies the Statement of Direction - support for Group Units of Recovery (Group UR) - made in the CICS TS V4.2 announcement in April. For further details, please see the announcement letter here:

http://www-01.ibm.com/common/ssi/ShowDoc.jsp?docURL=/common/ssi/rep_ca/4/897/ENUS211-394

Announcement: IMS 12 Database Manager

Another of today's key announcements is IMS 12 Database Manager, which include a broad range of new capabilities, including Threadsafe access when used in conjunction with CICS TS V4.2, satisfying the Statement of Direction made in the announcement of CICS TS V4.2 in April.

The IMS Database Resource Adapter (DRA) is enhanced to allow the Coordinated Controller (CCTL) to optionally run without DRA-attached Task Control Blocks (TCBs) and call IMS without switching off the application TCB. Threadsafe access between CICS® V4.2 and IMS is enabled to run on an open TCB. The CICS-DBCTL interface, used by CICS applications to access IMS databases, is enabled to run on L8 open TCBs. This provides benefits for applications that access IMS and which are already or can be made threadsafe. EXEC DLI and CALL DLI calls from CICS can now be made without any TCB switching overhead. This allows CPU savings and increased throughput.

For more details, see the announcement letter:

http://www-01.ibm.com/common/ssi/ShowDoc.jsp?docURL=/common/ssi/rep_ca/3/877/ENUSZP11-0453/index.html&lang=en

Announcement: IBM Rational Developer for System z V8.0.3

Also announced on October 4 was Rational Developer for System z V8.0.3, which speeds development, improves application quality, and provides better compatibility with Interactive System Productivity Facility. This new release provides many new and improved capabilities to support CICS application development, including

- Expanded real-time syntax check and content assists capabilities including support for EXEC CICS at the CICS TS 4.2 level
- Support for EXEC CICS and EXEC SQL validation and content assist in C/C++
- Support for EXEC DLI statements in both COBOL and PL/I, including content assist, refactor actions, and navigation assistance. New real-time validation of EXEC CICS and EXEC SQL statements in Assembler programs
- Code Coverage monitoring, visualisation, and reporting for CICS applications
- Code Review for COBOL annotating COBOL statements which do not meet organization standards
- Improved compatibility with SDF2 for BMS map editing
- Rational Developer for System z includes a newly upgraded and integrated copy of the CICS Explorer, based on the version made available in CICS TS V4.2

For more details, see the announcement letter: <http://w3.ibm.com/sales/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=AN&subtype=IA&appname=gpatem&supplier=897&letternum=ENUS211-358&pdf=yes>

Announcement: InfoSphere Guardium V8.2

InfoSphere Guardium V8.2 announced on September 6th, To find out more about InfoSphere Guardium 8.2 register for this Webcast : Nov 1 2011 @ 11:00am EST : A Proactive, Preventative approach to Compliance Security and Audit - System z - featuring Mike Ferguson, independent analyst and the IBM team. You will receive his new white paper on Information Protection on System z with an analysis of how well Guardium 8.2 meets those needs.

(link: <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/os/systemz/webcast/nov1>)

Further information can be found in the recent System z Magazine article here <http://www.ibmssystemsmag.com/mainframe/trends/security/A-Proactive,-Preventative-Approach-to-Compliance-a/>

Announcement: CICS Family Beta Program

The CICS Early Programs team are pleased to offer an opportunity for CICS customers to participate in a CICS Family Beta Program. This Beta Program will

allow you to interact directly with CICS development, get an insight in to forthcoming new function and be provided with free education and support. This opportunity will give you the ability to feed back your thoughts on functions and allow you to influence the future direction of CICS products. For further information please contact the CICS Early Program team at the following email address CICSEP@UK.IBM.COM

Resources

Videos: CICS TS V4.2 Business Value - in Dutch, French, and German

We have produced the CICS TS V4.2 Business value video in three additional languages - Dutch, French, and German. Currently these are only available on YouTube, but they should be available on ibm.com in the near future.

Dutch <http://youtu.be/7Y-Jdk6OTOM>

French <http://youtu.be/Z96ISl6s004>

German <http://youtu.be/vH6zzPYpETE>