CICS Portfolio e-NewsLetter

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Editorial

2010 Highlights

It's been a busy year for us here in CICS-land and next year shows no signs of being any different. The world-wide CICS development teams here in Hursley, Australia, India, and China, the CICS Tools developers here and in Russia, and the PD Tools developers in San Jose and Australia have all been working to deliver new products and new versions of existing products.

Meanwhile, Nick and I, in the marketing team, have produced a wide variety of material to help you to learn about and understand all of the new things that are happening on and around CICS. In this issue, we'll largely be reprising the things that we've already talked about before.

What's New?

There are a couple of new things worth mentioning. Firstly, V11 of the PD Tool suite is now generally available, with lots of new features including plug-in GUIs for CICS Explorer. Also available now is CICS PA V3.2 which also adds lots more function to its CICS Explorer plug-in.

Also new is a webcast replay showing how Cognos can consume CICS business events and mashup the resulting data-cubes with CICS dynamic scripting in IBM Mashup Center. Threadsafe Considerations from IBM RedBooks continues to be high in the download statistics, and we've just published an update showing how the CICS Explorer and some of the CICS Tools can help.

Finally, I encourage you to read Harry Irsel's insightful piece on Cloud Computing in our new Customer Corner. If you'd like to contribute to CICS eNews too, just write to me with your proposal.

Looking forward

As you know, we can't talk about what we're working on, but I think you'll find 2011 is going to be an interesting year. Our business and strategy teams have just launched a major survey to gather and analyze customer requirements, so, if you would like to influence the contents of a future version of CICS TS for z/OS, follow the link to the survey in the Feedback section of the eNewsLetter.

However, I can talk about some exciting events that we are planning for next year. We plan to be at SHARE and Impact again next year with lots of sessions on new features, as well as many old favourites. We also hope to run more CICS sessions at Rational's Innovate conference next June. Also, expect more CICS-related IBM RedBooks - we know that you find them useful.

Finally, as we move into the end of year holiday season once again, I'll end by wishing you all

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Seasonal Greetings

Product highlights

Available: CICS Performance Analyzer Version 3.2 - New
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

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
- Data sheet : ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tools/CICS_PA_V3.2_datasheet_GI13056700.pdf
- CICS PA web page: http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/panaly/

Available: IBM Problem Determination Tools V11.1 - New
IBM Problem Determination Tools V11.1 deliver cost-effective and highly functional application performance analysis, source code debugging, application abend analysis, and data management. 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.

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.

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/

Available: 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.

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.

Available: Websphere ILOG Business Rules for z/OS V7.1.1

The delivery of Websphere ILOG Business Rules for z/OS V7.1.1 provides two 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).

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

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

CICS Deployment Assistant (CICS DA), a new member of the CICS Tools family, is designed to simplify and speed the deployment of CICS systems.

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

Available: CICS Explorer V1.0.1

CICS Explorer V1.0.1 provides significant new capabilities - a new System z perspective to view and edit z/OS datasets and zFS files, submit jobs and retrieve output, plus the ability to export, edit, and import Connection definitions.

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

Available: CICS TS Dynamic Scripting Feature Pack

The CICS Transaction Server Feature Pack for Dynamic Scripting V1.0 embeds and integrates technology from Project Zero and WebSphere sMash into the CICS TS V4.1 run-time, enabling more than four million PHP and Groovy developers to create reports, dashboards, and widgets, and much more.

More information:

Announcement Letter http://www.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=an&subtype=ca&supplier=897&appname=IBMLinkRedirect&letternum=ENUS210-144

Web page http://ibm.com/cics/scripting

Available: CICS Transaction Gateway V8.0
Transaction Gateway V8.0 for z/OS and Multiplatforms continues the journey of CICS Transaction Gateway as the premier connector for SOA connectivity and enterprise modernization of CICS assets, and delivers new capability in the following areas: Extended support for Java™ Enterprise Edition (JEE), improved scalability and availability, extended interoperability and simplified security with CICS, and exploitation with CICS Explorer.

More information:

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

Available: IBM WebSphere Decision Server V7.1
In past eNews issues, we've talked about products supporting business rules and business events that you can use with CICS TS, so its exciting to announce that two of those products have now been combined into one.

WebSphere Decision Server V7.1 includes the following WebSphere products: IBM WebSphere Business Events V7.0.1 and IBM WebSphere ILOG JRules V7.1.1. The combination of these technologies enables organizations to flexibly build solutions that can detect and react to data patterns as they occur within a specified time period, and then provide the appropriate automated decision response to transactional and process-oriented business systems.

More information:

Announcement letter: http://www-01.ibm.com/common/ssi/ShowDoc.jsp?docURL=/common/ssi/rep_ca/8/877/ENUSZP10-0438/index.html&breadCrum=DET001PT022&url=buttonpressed=DET002PT005&specific_index=DET001PEF502&DET015PGL002=DET001PEF011&submit.x=7&submit.y=8&lang=en_US

Events

Here are some of the events that we will participate in early next year, to help you with your planning your 2011.

z Technical Summit (including a CICS track) – North American cities

We'll be running a series of one day System z Technical Events in North America in the first quarter of 2011, featuring a full track with six CICS sessions, so if you live in the vicinity, please pencil in the date. We are waiting for the formal announcement and registration links, but we'll get you the details in January.

The planned dates and cities are (subject to change): Toronto, Jan 27; Dallas, Feb 8; San Francisco, Feb 10; DC, Feb 15; Atlanta, Feb 17; NY, Mar 8; Costa Mesa, Mar 15.

Pulse 27th Feb

http://www-01.ibm.com/software/tivoli/pulse/

SHARE - 27th Feb

http://www.ibm.com/links/?prompt=1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.share.org %2FEvents%2FUpcomingConference%2Ftabid%2F349%2FDefault.aspx

Impact 10th April

http://www-01.ibm.com/software/websphere/events/impact/?S_TACT=100DY01M&S_CM P=emedia

German Guide Apr 13th (I think - need to confirm)

Innovate 5th June

https://www.ibm.com/services/learning/ites.wss?pageType=page&c=a00084 13

GSE Nordic 7th June

http://www.ibm.com/links/?prompt=1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.gse-nordic.org%2FWorking%2520Groups%2FGNRC%2FConferences%2F2011%2 F

CICS Resources

Here's a reminder of some of the resources that we've published this year

Webcasts

Smarter Banking (Apr)

http://www-01.ibm.com/software/sw-events/webcast/T959673G32931S83.html

CICS TG (Aug)

http://www-01.ibm.com/software/sw-events/webcast/N698966Y92471U02.html

Dynamic Scripting (Nov) New

http://www-01.ibm.com/software/sw-events/webcast/S070632G63299D16.html

Redbooks

CICS Explorer - April

http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247778.html?Open

Smarter Banking with CICS TS V4.1 - May

http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247815.html?Open

Extend the CICS Explorer: A better way to manage your CICS - May

http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247819.html?Open

System z on the go: accessing z/OS from smart phones - June

http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247836.html?Open

Leveraging CICS Events with an ESB - August

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

PD Tools for z/OS - September

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

Threadsafe Considerations for CICS (Update) – November - New

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

Demos

CICS Deployment Assistant demos

Currently these four videos are only available on the CICSExplorer YouTube channel, but they will also shortly be available from the tools web pages on ibm.com.

CICS DA YouTube playlist:
http://www.youtube.com/user/CICSExplorer#grid/user/F1AE740339E30A45

CICS Explorer new z Perspectives New

http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tserver/v41/library/index.html

Dynamic Scripting Feature Pack

http://www-01.ibm.com/software/info/television/html/S651804T13026J82.html

Performance comparisons between CICS TS V3 and V4 with WLM

http://www-01.ibm.com/software/info/television/html/H821109R11622V26.html

Using CICS Explorer to alter definitions in an SMSS (single server) region

http://www-01.ibm.com/software/info/television/html/T363414B60329Z91.html

Videos

CICS Transaction Gateway V8

http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/ctg/demo/CTG_Video_V8.html

Articles

Diagnosing CICS Problems Using No-Charge Supplied Facilities

http://www.mainframezone.com/it-management/diagnosing-cics-problems-using-no-charge-supplied-facilities/P1

CICS Task History Recording

http://www.mainframezone.com/it-management/cics-task-history-recording

CICS Sysplex Optimized Workload Routing: The Workload Manager (WLM) feature of CICSPlex System Manager is a useful tool for optimizing system capacity in highly complex environments.

http://www.mainframezone.com/it-management/cics-sysplex-optimized-workload-routing

Access to CICS from WebSphere Application Server Using CICS Transaction Gateway: This article provides an overview of architectural choices using different CTG topology to integrate CICS and WebSphere Application Server (WAS) on z/OS and distributed platforms, modes of implementation, and J2EE Connection Architecture (JCA) resource adapters.

http://www.mainframezone.com/operating-systems/access-to-cics-from-websphere-application-server-using-cics-transaction-gateway

Banking for a smarter world, with CICS TS V4.1: The impact of the economic crisis of 2008 has been felt around the world, especially in the Banking and Financial services industry. The crisis has abated to leave a different landscape – one which banks must quickly come to terms with.

http://www.mainframezone.com/cics-spotlight/banking-for-a-smarter-world-with-cics-ts-v4.1

CICS Performance: Squeeze More MIPS from Your Applications: This article examines the evolution of threadsafe execution in CICS from its inception to today, and why you should exploit threadsafe in as many of your applications as possible.

http://www.mainframezone.com/it-management/cics-performance-squeeze-more-mips-from-your-applications

CICS Transaction Server for z/OS: A Robust Platform for Java: Java is popular throughout the IT industry and, for many organizations, is now their programming language of choice. CICS Transaction Server (TS) has steadily extended its support for Java-based workloads as part of the drive toward modernizing business applications and using them in a Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA).

http://zjournal.com/index.cfm?section=article&aid=1155

zJournal articles

Connecting CICS to the Internet by Russ Evans

CICS and Identity Propagation: Solving the end to end security Challenge - Phil Wakelin, Nigel Williams, Martin Brown

http://digital.mainframezone.com/zj/digital.DEC-JAN11.r3p1

Podcasts

CICS Transaction Gateway Version 8.0: What's new?: Hear about recently announced CICS Transaction Gateway Version 8.0 high availability, multiplatform support, and enhanced integration with both CICS Transaction Server and the CICS Explorer™

http://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/info/television/swtv/websphere/systemz/podcasts/CICS_TG_V8.mp3

Smarter Banking with CICS Transaction Server: Hear about how you can unlock business data in CICS core banking systems using the new Web 2.0 and business events support in CICS TS V4.1.

ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/podcast/Smarter_Banking_with_CICS_Podcast.mp3

CICS Configuration Manager: Hear about how with modern business growth more application change can lead to cold start risk and how predicting the changes to applications can minimise the disruption and down time to systems.

http://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/info/television/swtv/websphere/systemz/podcasts/CICS_CM_R_Andrews.mp3

CICS TS V4.1 WLM Sysplex Optimised Workloads: Hear Dave Williams, a Senior Developer in the CICSPlex SM development team, describe about how Sysplex Optimisation addresses dynamic routing problems across Parallel Sysplexes, and the performance gains that can result from it.

http://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/info/television/swtv/websphere/systemz/podcasts/davewilliams_final.mp3

CICS Configuration Manager, Part I: Listen to Joe Winchester, from the CICS Explorer Strategy and Planning team, explain how the CICS Configuration Manager leverages the CICS Explorer to deliver a consistent look and feel with respect to the other CICS tools.

http://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/info/television/swtv/websphere/systemz/podcasts/CM_Pt1.mp3

CICS Configuration Manager, Part II: Listen to Joe Winchester, from the CICS Explorer Strategy and Planning team, explain the value that CICS Configuration Manager brings through control and governance of CICS definitions.

http://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/info/television/swtv/websphere/systemz/podcasts/CM_Pt2.mp3

Maintaining Service Level Agreements with CICS dynamic workload management: Listen to Paul Johnson from CICS Worldwide Development at IBM Hursley in the UK explain how the CICSPlex SM component has been adapted to exploit the coupling facility in order to smooth and further improve application throughput, whilst maintaining a highly available application environment.

http://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/info/television/swtv/websphere/systemz/podcasts/johnson_high_availability.mp3

Achieving Business Resilience with the new capabilities introduced with CICS TS 4.1: Listen to Paul Johnson from CICS Worldwide Development at IBM Hursley in the UK explain how we enhanced the CICS

application development experience in collaboration with our colleagues at Rational.

http://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/info/television/swtv/websphere/systemz/podcasts/biz_resiliance.mp3

Integrated Event Processing with CICS 4.1: Listen to Catherine Moxey from the CICS Worldwide Development Team at IBM Hursley in the UK explain how easy it is to get business events out of your CICS applications with CICS TS Version 4.1.

ftp://ftp.software.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/podcast/Podcast_16_BEP.mp3

Customer Corner

This section of CICS eNews is dedicated to contributions from CICS customers, with the second 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. Opinions expressed in this section are those of the author, and may not reflect those of IBM or the editor.

My future runs on system Z - Part One – Prologue 2

Cloud computing: next step in the evolution of the mainframe?

Once upon a time the IT business started out with mainframes, but there came a time the whole world shouted that mainframes were too large an expensive.

So, the industry developed cheaper processors and put a server in just about everyone's hands like pizza boxes.

That was great! Servers were implemented everywhere, really customized to the customers needs and above all it seemed to be very cheap.

Unfortunately this created an enormous sprawling of servers and their implementations and soon we needed a dedicated maintenance group for just about every server in the company.

Overall the maintainability decreased and IT operational cost threatened to grow sky high again.

Happily there were some very smart guys among us and they "invented" virtualization to solve this and instead of creating physical sprawl by keep on adding physical servers we now created virtual sprawl.

At this point I began to think about the "good old days" and started to daydream about the 1960s mainframe that already had solved these issues.

But looking back in the past is for old guys, sitting back in the corner and grumbling about modernization.

Since I didn't want to end up like Statler or Waldorf, (the two grumpy, disagreeable old men criticizing the whole cast of the Muppet show from their balcony seats) I quit daydreaming and got back to reality.

I jumped back on the road to modernization and tried to follow the rest in keeping the good direction and I witnessed the maturity of nice look and feel GUI's, browser technology, application integration and service oriented architecture in a world were baby's can use the internet before they can say "daddy".

Whow! I really enjoyed al this new stuff and what's more it seemed to work! Still did some glazing back in the past because now we use frameworks and patterns and in the old days we called this standard modules and best practices, but what's in a name…..

The growing exploitation of these new technologies made it more evident that when usage and required functionality increases new issues like scalability, reliability, security, performance, availability were raised. It also became clear that trying to solve these issues resulted in an increase of IT costs.

Often more robust, complex solutions must be build, more iron is needed and that is simply not given away for free. Today's newly build solutions will become the legacy of tomorrow.

Suddenly got a déjà-vu because weren't these reasons to put the mainframe on a side track long time ago……

Oeps, did it again……don't look back…. what has been, has been…..keep focussed on the present because the industry evolves and offers a solution for all these issues by delivering IT resources as services, where IT resources can be almost anything like applications, computer power, storage capacity, networking, programming tools, etc.

Massively scalable IT resources become available as needed and with the customer paying only for what the organization actually consumes.

Amazon.com, Google, and lots of others are rushing to build highly virtualized, massively scalable, and (hopefully) bulletproof IT infrastructures accessible over the Internet or, to use the latest buzz word phrase, "in the cloud".

But…….

Our mainframe data centre was our IT infrastructure cloud long before there was a cloud. Virtualized and highly scalable, bulletproof and accessible over the network, the mainframe has delivered cloud computing for years.

Mainframe data centres that need this kind of scalability already have parallel sysplex capabilities that enable mainframes to act together as a single system image. The parallel sysplex combines data sharing and parallel computing, effectively enabling a cluster of mainframes to share a workload for high performance and high availability.

Now the fog in my head is starting to clear away. The sky is getting bright again and the sun is beginning to shine!

For the past 50 years, the mainframe has served as the backbone of large-scale computing. It has both adapted to new requirements and adopted and exploited new technology. It is being used today in ways that were literally unimaginable back in the 1960s. So to the extent that the past is prologue, it's probably fair to say that when it comes to the "mainframe" .... you ain't seen nothing yet.

Cloud computing is just a next step in the evolution of the mainframe.

Harry van Irsel - IT Architect

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.

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Feedback

Survey

The CICS business and strategy teams have just launched a major survey to gather and analyze customer requirements. This is a really good opportunity to help raise the profile of any CICS TS requirements you may have (although there are no guarantees, of course). As you will be able to see from the three main questions below, the aim of the survey is to discover how CICS TS can do more to making our customers lives easier:

1. If IBM were designing the next CICS TS specifically for your organisation, what content (features and functions) would you like it to contain?
2. Are there any custom written CICS capabilities/utilities (Exits, URM's, Scripts, etc.) that you currently use in your organisation, but that you would rather IBM implemented natively in CICS TS itself?
3. Are there any other no-charge custom CICS capabilities/utilities (IBM SupportPacs, etc.) that you currently rely on to augment your CICS Transaction Server for z/OS environment?

The survey also contains three additional open questions, so you can tell us anything else you would like us to know. The full survey is here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CICSReqs2010

General

To provide feedback and comments on CICS portfolio e-news please email the editor at Knutson@uk.ibm.com.