

# CICS Portfolio eNewsletter

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## Editorial

### CICS – an icon of progress

As we enter the second century of IBM's existence, we are proud that CICS is one of 100 icons of progress, marking that historic occasion.



For more information about this, and other IBM Icons of progress, please visit:  
<http://www.ibm.com/ibm100/us/en/icons/cics/>

### Transaction Server V4.2 is now GA

Andrew Bates, CICS Servers PLM

As CICS Transaction Server for z/OS Product Manager, I am delighted to open this newsletter by telling you about two incredible achievements in the world of CICS. Firstly, today is the day that CICS TS V4.2 - the culmination of four years development from the IBM CICS development organisation - is now generally available for customers to order, install and run their businesses on. With a vast array of new and enhanced capability in the areas of Events, Java, Connectivity, Manageability and Scalability, CICS TS V4.2 truly does have something for everybody.

Secondly, I am immensely proud to tell you IBM is today announcing that CICS has officially been chosen as one of the 100 most significant innovations in IBM's entire 100 year history. This means that CICS will forever share a place in history alongside such indelible IBM achievements as the founding of IBM, the enabler of the Apollo missions, the definer of e-business and the mapping of humanities family tree. From the invention of the punch cards to the ubiquity of the PC. From Blue Gene to Watson. So far, around two thirds of the Icons have been announced and CICS is one of fewer than ten software related innovations to have made the list. Given that IBM is a company with literally thousands of great software products to its name, making this list really is something to be proud of. I encourage all of you to view the list on [ibm.com/ibm100](http://ibm.com/ibm100) to remind ourselves of the history of CICS, and of some of IBM's other great achievements.

## Product highlights

### Available: CICS Transaction Server for z/OS V4.2

Announced at the end of April, CICS Transaction Server for z/OS V4.2 is Generally Available **today**. The new version builds upon the new and enhanced capabilities delivered in Version 4.1, to enable customers to compete in the marketplace, comply with standards and regulations, and control their IT processes.

CICS TS V4.2 delivers technical innovation and significant business value in five main focus areas: **Events, Java, Connectivity, Management, and Scalability**. This release also delivers a series of architectural enhancements to enable CICS system and application programs to use and exploit System z 64-bit architecture, where customers could benefit.

The result is a powerful new release with a huge amount of value for all stakeholders - delivering a smarter transaction processing experience for CICS users and their customers in turn.

In the Resources section (see below) you'll find a number of articles, demos, webcasts etc covering the new release, and you can always find more information about CICS TS V4.2 using these links:

Announcement Letter – <http://www.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=an&subtype=ca&supplier=897&appname=IBMLinkRedirect&letternum=ENUS211-080>

Web page - <http://ibm.com/cics/tserver/v42>

### Available: CICS Explorer V1.1

Also available on June 24<sup>th</sup> is the latest release of the CICS Explorer which offers value to both CICS TS V3 and CICS TS V4.1 customers. There are more enhancements to the z/OS perspectives as well as support for new capability for Event Processing and Java. This release marks a significant value for users of the CICS Explorer and maybe downloaded at no extra cost from:

<http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/explorer/download/>

### Available: IBM products supporting CICS TS V4.2

Many IBM products including IBM CICS Tools and Problem Determination Tools, compilers, and databases will support CICS TS 4.2 at GA

Some of the products requiring enabling PTFs to be applied are listed below:

- Application Performance Analyzer for z/OS, V11.1 with the PTF for APAR PM34080
- CICS BAC V1.1.1, PTFs for APAR PK84665 and APAR PM34067
- CICS CM V2.1, PTF for APAR PM32874
- CICS DA V1.1, PTF for APAR PM34068

- CICS IA V3.1, PTF for APAR PM34054
- CICS PA V3.2, PTF for APAR PM30692
- CICS OTTO V1.2, PTF for APAR PK89259
- CICS VR V4.2 and CICS VR V4.3, PTF for APAR PM34799
- Debug Tool for z/OS V11.1 PTF for APAR PM27734 -- PTF UK66981
- Fault Analyzer for z/OS V11.1 PTF for APAR PM34295 -- PTF UK68814
- File Manager for z/OS V11.1 (no other APARs/PTFs needed)
- Application Performance Analyzer PTF for APAR PM34080 -- PTF UK67481 (Eng), PTF UK67482 (Jpn), PTF UK67483 (Kor)

Complete and current details of APAR and PTFs are now maintained in a document linked to from the CICS System Requirements page, which should be your prime reference.

CICS System Requirements Page: <http://ibm.com/cics/tserver/sysreqs>

CICS TS V4.2 support letter: <http://www-01.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=swg27020857>

### **Available: WebSphere eXtended Transaction Runtime V1.0**

Also generally available today is WebSphere eXtended Transaction Runtime V1.0 (WXTR) - a tightly integrated environment for hosting modern COBOL applications using CICS transactional services within IBM WebSphere Application Server. WXTR provides an increased deployment choice for customers wishing to progressively modernize their COBOL, while standardizing infrastructure around WebSphere Application Server.

Mike Vizard (see below) has written a very illuminating post on WXTR and its implications on his enterprise architecture blog, which you can read here: [http://www.itarchitectforumblog.com/content/application\\_development/giving\\_ai\\_x\\_a\\_little\\_extra\\_cics.html](http://www.itarchitectforumblog.com/content/application_development/giving_ai_x_a_little_extra_cics.html)

You can find more information about WXTR V1.0 using these links:

**Announcement Letter** <http://www.ibm.com/common/ssi/cgi-bin/ssialias?infotype=an&subtype=ca&supplier=897&appname=IBMLinkRedirect&letternum=ENUS211-144>

**Web page** <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/webservers/appserv/extended-transaction-runtime/index.html>

### **Available: Multithreaded JDBC and SQLJ in a JVMSERVER**

The CICS Transaction Server Feature Pack for Dynamic Scripting V1.0 and Supportpac CN11: CICS TS support for WebSphere Compute Grid are enhanced by **APAR PM32731** which allows the IBM Data server driver for JDBC and SQLJ to run multithreaded in a JVMSERVER environment.

*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 details on our scripting web page <http://ibm.com/cics/scripting>

*Supportpac CN11: CICS TS support for WebSphere Compute Grid* provides the infrastructure to enable IBM WebSphere XD Compute Grid to schedule and manage Java job steps in CICS. More details here: <http://www-01.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?rs=1083&uid=swg24027213>

## Events

### **Conference: *SHARE Summer – Orlando - August 7-12, 2011***

SHARE Inc. is an independent, volunteer run association with more than five decades of experience. SHARE's mission is to enable people in Information Technology environments to achieve significant business results. The quality and quantity of technical value of SHARE conferences has been consistent and cost beneficial over the years.

Through SHARE's program, a wide range of technical content is covered to meet the needs of numerous job functions. In association with the SHARE CICS Project, IBM experts from the Hursley development and the North American technical support teams will present over 25 technical sessions and labs, providing beginners and experts with the education they need to get the most from their CICS system and associated tools and technologies.

The opportunity to experience SHARE in Orlando and the vast array of networking and training opportunities available is highly valuable to enterprise technology professionals, like you, looking to enhance their professional development and increase the efficiency of their organizations. For more details and to register, visit: <http://www.share.org/orlando>

### **Virtual z Technical Summit (with CICS track) 29th June**

This virtual event was created using material presented at a series of one day System z Technical Events that we ran in North America earlier this year. The virtual event features replays of all six CICS sessions, so, if you missed the chance to attend in person, please take the opportunity to visit the virtual event. The presentations have all been updated to reflect the new content and value in CICS TS V4.2, so these sessions will give you an early opportunity to learn more about this important new release.

Attend this complimentary virtual event hosted by IBM and learn how System z and CICS can help you work more effectively and reduce the burden of managing a complex data center.

Virtual doors open at 10:30 a.m. EDT in the US and 10:30 a.m. GMT in Europe on June 29, 2011. For more information and to register, visit: <http://www-01.ibm.com/software/sw-events/virtual/G105229U62178T20.html>

## CICS Resources

### IBM Redbooks

#### **New: Introduction to CICS Dynamic Scripting**

IBM® CICS® Transaction Server Feature Pack for Dynamic Scripting embeds and integrates technology from WebSphere® sMash into the CICS TS V4.1 run time, helping to reduce the time and cost of CICS application development. The Feature Pack provides a robust, managed environment for a wide range of situational applications allowing PHP and Groovy developers to create reports, dashboards, and widgets, and integrate CICS assets into mash-ups, and much more.

<http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg247924.html?Open>

### Webcasts

#### **SHARE eLearning Webcast - Early Look at CICS TS V4.2 Performance - 28th June**

In this SHARE eLearning Webcasts, John Burgess from IBM's CICS performance team in Hursley will talk about some of the new capabilities introduced in CICS TS V4.2 and the performance implications (if any) when using them. Among the topics to be covered will be the new CICS mapping program to support Hardware Instrumentation Services, a comparison of performance between CICS TS V4.1 and V4.2, IPIC for Transaction Routing, Function Shipping File Control requests and DPL. Java with the JVM server as well as the other performance changes in CICS V4.2

The webcast will be held June 28, 2011 at 10 a.m. CDT. To register, please visit: <http://www.share.org/SHAREeLearning/Webcasts/tabid/700/Default.aspx>

#### **Webcast - Architecting Smarter Banking Solutions with IBM CICS and Rational Tools 28th June**

Financial institutions are facing tremendous challenges to adapt, yet often have siloed and constrained legacy systems that are not well suited to a world that is flatter, riskier, and smarter. Watch how the new features in CICS and Rational Developer for System z facilitate adapting existing systems to leverage modern SOA, Web 2.0 and mobile technologies, to achieve flexibility and speed development while still maintaining best practice architectural principals. Utilizing these new features can be easy and non-invasive to the existing systems, so you can adapt while maintaining stability and robustness.

#### Speakers:

Catherine Moxey is an IBM Senior Technical Staff Member in CICS Strategy and Planning

Dave Myers is the System z Application Development Tools Product Line Manager

The webcast will be held Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at 11:00 AM EDT. To register, please visit: <http://cot.ag/myRyzk>



**Replay: CICS TS V4.2 Preview – Leveraging Event and Java Features**

Follow the link to hear Andrew Bates, CICS TS Product Line Manager with IBM, and Charles Jones, LegaSuite Product Manager with Rocket Software, talk about the latest innovations in the upcoming release of CICS TS V4.2, with a particular focus on the new Java and event capabilities.

<http://www3.rocketsoftware.com/seagull/webinars/cics-tsv4r2-preview/index.html>

**PD Tools webcast**

Look out for an upcoming webcast on PD Tools coming soon – details will be on the PD tools website and CICSFluff twitter feed.

**Videos**

See three of CICS's finest talking about CICS TS V4.2 in the lovely confines of the Hursley library. Catherine Moxey, Ian Mitchell, and Fraser Bohm discuss the value of CICS TS V4.2 – watch it here on Youtube and soon to be added to the IBM website.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmZtTde-c98>  
<http://www-01.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/tserver/v42/library/index2.html>

**Demos****Event processing**

*System events*

[ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/system\\_events\\_flv.flv](ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/system_events_flv.flv)

*Application Events scenario CICS TS V4.1*

[ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/EP\\_demo\\_flv.flv](ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/EP_demo_flv.flv)

*Application Events scenario extended for CICS TS V4.2 function including search, assured and lifecycle event examples*

[ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/cics\\_v42\\_ep\\_flv.flv](ftp://public.dhe.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/cics_v42_ep_flv.flv)

**Transaction Tracking**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxseWIfabOM>

## Articles

### **zJournal – High-performance transaction processing for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Some people think that if you're in marketing, all you can do is talk. Well it's not true in the case of your trusty editors – John and Nick – who have just had an article on CICS TS V4.2 published in the latest issue of zJournal – available in hard-copy by subscription, or for immediate consumption over the interweb from this link:

<http://www.mainframezone.com/it-management/cics-transaction-server-for-z-os-version-4.2>

## Blogs etc

### **Mike Vizard – Journalist and blogger**

Mike Vizard, a well-known journalist who has been covering Enterprise IT and Emerging Technology for over 25 years, has recently started blogging on the Future of IT Architecture. Naturally, Mike has now turned his attention to the role of CICS and has written a number of insightful posts on the value of some of CICS' new and updated including Java, web services, our new COBOL container for WAS, as well as possible futures like CICS in the cloud.

All of Mike's blog posts can be found here: <http://www.itarchitectforumblog.com/> and his CICS-related posts are here: <http://www.itarchitectforumblog.com/content/cics/>.

### **Joe Winchester – CICS Explorer architect**

Joe is the lead architect for CICS Explorer and has worked on the project since its inception. He has created a blog on IBM developerWorks where he plans to write about the CICS Explorer – starting with lots of great material about CICS Explorer 1.1. If you've ever heard Joe present, you'll certainly want to read his blog – here's the link:

<https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/mydeveloperworks/blogs/JoeWinchester/?lang=en>

### **CICS Community Forums - cicsworld.com**

Ian, over at cicsworld.com, is a Systems Programmer who really takes his passion for CICS to new levels. On his **CICS Community Forums** website he has news items and events, an active forum, a code exchange, and lists of tools and service for CICS – from IBM and other vendors. There's also a place to post new jobs and list mainframe sites in your area – so, if you work with CICS, why not list your own? Just link to <http://www.cicsworld.com>.

## Business Partner news

There was a joint webcast between Rocket Software and IBM on June 1<sup>st</sup>, CICS TS V4.2 preview: Leveraging the New Events and Java Features delivered by Andrew Bates and Charles Jones. To hear a replay please go to <http://www3.rocketsoftware.com/seagull/webinars/cics-tsv4r2-preview/index.html>

**Note:** All statements and claims in this section represent the views of the named business partners and should not be viewed as validation or recommendation by IBM. Business partners may submit copy, with direct relevance to CICS, for publication in future CICS eNewsLetters by emailing the editor at [Knutson@uk.ibm.com](mailto:Knutson@uk.ibm.com).

## Customer Corner

This section of CICS eNews is dedicated to contributions from CICS customers, with the third 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](mailto: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 2**

Legacy becomes highly efficient, highly reusable software in the Rabobank's "reuse over buy over build" strategy. After reading the title of this article, most of you will probably wonder what happened to part 1. Actually part 1 isn't really an article but started as a discussion on Yammer named "My future runs on system Z". Yammer is a simple real-time communication tool for organizations used also by the Rabobank (for more information see <http://www.yammer.com>). This discussion resulted in a lot of positive reactions which contained no sentimental feelings about "the good old days", but very well motivated reasons to put the mainframe back in the spotlights again.

In fact moving away from the mainframe could be the biggest mistake companies can make in the near future when it comes to reducing costs, improving efficiency and all the other things CEO's have nightmares about. This discussion woke me up. There are still people left like me in our organization. I suddenly don't feel myself alone anymore and that's a great feeling that gets you motivated again! So after two prologue articles, one about Web services and one about Cloud computing on the mainframe, it looks like a good idea to start a series of articles dedicated to the possibilities of the system Z environment. Since the Yammer discussion was the cause of all this it was translated into English and published as the starting point of a series of articles with "My future runs on system Z" as their main title [see October and December 2010 and April 2011 CICS eNewsLetters].

So enough introduction, let's get to business!

New technologies and the proliferation of smart wireless devices doesn't change the reality that applications running on mainframes remain the backbone of many organizations. But just because an application might be older doesn't mean it has to look that way or be difficult to access. This article describes how you can leverage Service Oriented Architecture to bridge this generation gap and access a mainframe application from a mobile device by means of a demo.

This will show you a Web 2.0 client that invokes an existing CICS/COBOL application running on a system z mainframe, transformed into a Web service. Bringing in Google Maps then makes the mobile device interface to the mainframe application even more attractive.

Let start at the beginning with the CICS/COBOL application. The chosen application and screen prints are described in much more detail in some good articles and redbooks:

- Hello again, 3270: Accessing z/OS applications with an iPhone,
- Smarter Banking with CICS Transaction Server,
- System z on the Go: Accessing z/OS from Smartphones

The sample application described here will access a simple IBM demo application that retrieves fictional customer information. The demo application runs on an IBM demo System z. It uses traditional 3270 screens to interact with the user. The screen should look very familiar to all you CICS/COBOL developers and hopefully you can understand why nowadays others see this 3270 screens as really something out of the stone age! But....as mentioned before, in reality applications running on mainframes remain the backbone of many organizations.

Those applications are designed for concurrent use and therefore highly tuned, scalable, reliable and secure. So ... wouldn't it be very profitable to just reuse these applications instead of buying packages or even building complete new applications?

Therefore we take this sample application a step further. Our objective is still to access this back-end data through this CICS/COBOL application running on z/OS, but we want to do this using a smartPhone instead of the 3270 screens, without changing the actual CICS/COBOL application. Let's say the new interface is to be displayed on a smartphone. The z/OS application returns customer address information, but now we have a new interface, let us integrate this with Google Maps, which takes it a step further by actually literally showing you where the customer is located.

If you want to see this demo just point your smartphone or other browser (doesn't work from a companies workstation) to the demo application at:  
[http://zserveros.demos.ibm.com:9080/iPhone/CICS-en\\_US.html](http://zserveros.demos.ibm.com:9080/iPhone/CICS-en_US.html)

I hope at this point you've become a little more interested and want to see more. Let's look at another smartphone demo application where the same CICS/COBOL application from the sample above is accessible together with other existing CICS/COBOL applications. This demo you can run by pointing your smartphone or other browser (doesn't work from a company's workstation) at  
<http://zserveros.demos.ibm.com:9080/iPhone/egl.html>

One of the applications you can execute in this demo is a CICS/COBOL application that calculates mortgage (it's the first choice in the demo). Although a simple application it shows perfectly what you can do with it. Calculating mortgage is an existing COBOL program called from other COBOL applications. Using SOA and Web 2.0 technology extends the usability of this application without changing the existing code. Now you can access it via a smartphone or other devices and you can extend the application by adding a pie chart to it that shows loan amount versus interest as shown in the demo. That's nice ...

But now...look at

[https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/mydeveloperworks/wikis/home?lang=en\\_US#/wiki/W75c8733d99bb\\_4d55\\_9ee8\\_4dbc8c56ebee/page/Real%20Estate%20Demo](https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/mydeveloperworks/wikis/home?lang=en_US#/wiki/W75c8733d99bb_4d55_9ee8_4dbc8c56ebee/page/Real%20Estate%20Demo) (This sample is not intended to be a smartphone application so best run it from your workstation browser). This is a simple internet application where you can search for houses that are for sale. In this sample photo's of the available houses are shown including details about each house. By clicking on a photo of a house you can immediately see what the location of the house is by including the Google maps service.

Also notice the box "Mortgage Calculator" in the upper right corner. After selecting a house the amount contains the sale price of the house. You can enter the interest rate and term and calculate the payment. This Mortgage Calculator is exactly the same CICS/COBOL program called from other existing COBOL programs and the smartphone demo mentioned before.

Suddenly what used to be called legacy becomes highly efficient and highly reusable software.

And that really repositions existing (so called legacy) environments, in a "reuse over buy over build" strategy the Rabobank follows!

### **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 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 would rather IBM implemented natively in CICS TS?
3. Are there any other no-charge custom CICS capabilities/utilities (IBM SupportPacs, etc.) that augment your CICS TS environment with?

The survey also contains three additional open questions, so you can tell us anything else you would like us to know. You will find more information here <http://masterterminal.wordpress.com/2011/01/11/cicsreqs2011/> and the full survey can be taken from here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CICSReqs2011>

### eNews

To provide feedback and comments on CICS Portfolio eNews, please email the editor at [Knutson@uk.ibm.com](mailto:Knutson@uk.ibm.com).