

CICS V5



Well hello, open betas.... on this fine Tuesday we're delighted to announce an array of fab new open betas, plus a new product release, as well as lots more classic buzz content. Happy reading CICS lovers!

Brand New open betas!



CICS Transaction Server V5.3

The CICS TS V5.3 open beta offering builds on the capabilities delivered in prior CICS TS V5 releases, and adds substantial new development operations (DevOps) functionality. New and enhanced capabilities are delivered in three main focus areas, each with four core capabilities:

Service agility: Focuses on enhanced support for Java and the WebSphere Liberty profile and includes:

- Additional Liberty profile features
- Enhanced Java SE support

Operational efficiency: Includes performance optimizations, enhanced metrics, and additional security:

- Web service optimizations
- Additional security options

Cloud with DevOps: Includes new cloud and DevOps support to automate CICS deployments:

- Automated builds
- Scripted deployments
- UrbanCode Deploy support
- Enhanced cloud enablement

[Click here for the CICS TS V5.3 ebook guide](#)

[Click here for the CICS TS V5.3 Open Beta announcement letter](#)

CICS Transaction Gateway V9.2

The CICS TG V9.2 open beta offering enables continuous integration testing for JSON web services and all remote CICS TG applications. The new CICS Intercept plug-in allows selective pass-through to live CICS servers, or virtualized responses, when deploying a Gateway daemon to a customer's platform of choice.



[Click here for the CICS TG V9.2 Open Beta announcement letter](#)

Introducing CICS Operational Insights

IBM CICS Operational Insights (CICS OI) is a new service that is designed to

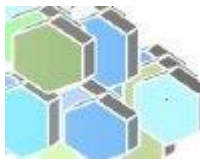
provide insights into potential improvements to your CICS environment. The CICS OI open beta offering previews this self-service offering that helps managers of CICS TS systems to understand potential operational efficiency improvements to their CICS TS environment by analysing operational data. On February 23rd, the CICS OI homepage will go live! Check back here on that day and [click here to access the page!](#)

[Click here for the CICS OI Open Beta announcement letter](#)

For a high level overview of the capabilities of CICS OI, [check out the introductory video here!](#)

Also, check out this podcast from the 'Did you say mainframe?' series, for more insight into CICS OI.

TXSeries for MultiPlatforms V8.2



Today, we proudly announce the latest release of TXSeries for Multiplatforms with performance and application development enhancements, [available now!](#)

Performance

- Up to five times improvement in response time, and up to 50% reduction in memory footprint while processing large data, using channels and containers over IP interconnectivity (IPIC) protocol.
- Up to 40% improvement in transaction response time for CICS applications written using Micro Focus COBOL.
- Improvement in transaction throughput and multifold reduction in memory footprint for CICS applications written in Java by leveraging shared class caching in JVM.
- Up to 40% improvement in performance for batch applications accessing VSAM files in Structured File Server (SFS).

Application Development

- TXSeries for Multiplatforms V8.2 introduces support for COBOL-IT, for Linux on x86 architecture.
- This release of TXSeries extends Micro Focus COBOL support to include Visual COBOL.
- IBM COBOL application developers can now simultaneously debug their online CICS Applications.
- Support for External Call Interface (EXCI) facility.

[For more details, view the full announcement document here](#)

Mainframe Mobile App Throwdown



Will you enter the 2015 [Mainframe Mobile App Throwdown?](#)

App happy? Show us your skills. The contest is open now - register and we'll help mainframe mobile app in your own environment. You could accelerate your mobile your critical business data and transactions on z.

The great prizes on offer include a week of mobile design assistance from top IBM passes to the IBM Edge 2015 conference! Don't miss out - the contest is open to business partners, so start building your prototype app today - head to [ibm.biz/mr](#)

Lunch and Learn!



Eager to learn more about CICS but don't have the time? The Lunch and Learn series could be the answer, with just a 30 minute session each month providing some great CICS education.

TODAY, Feb 17 @ 12:00 noon ET

CICS Transaction Server V5.3 Open Beta - The Evolution Continues

Join CICS TS product manager Andrew Bates and other CICS experts as they discuss the developments and value in today's latest release of CICS, as well as share some exclusive news around some additional upcoming announcements! [Click here to join!](#)

March 19 @ 13:00 PM ET

CICS VSAM Transparency for a low risk VSAM to DB2 Migration Strategy

Join this session with CICS Tools specialist Eric Higgins to learn how CICS VSAM Transparency can help you reduce time, cost and risk as you move VSAM data to DB2 for both CICS and batch applications. [Click here to register!](#)

[For more information about these sessions, click here!](#)

Excellent CICS Education!

Blogs!



[Getting started with CICS Deployment Assistant](#)

Are you trying to understand your z/OS topology? Wondering how all those CICS regions link together in a CICSplex that has grown beyond recognition? Or perhaps you're trying to create a test environment that accurately reflects production?

If you're trying to do any of these then IBM CICS Deployment Assistant for z/OS V5.2 (CICS DA) can really help you. This blog post will start to show you how!

Books!

[Application Development for IBM CICS Web Services](#)

This IBM® Redbooks® publication focuses on developing Web service applications in IBM CICS®. It takes the broad view of developing and modernizing CICS applications for XML, Web services, SOAP, and SOA support, and lays out a reference architecture for developing these kinds of applications.



[Assembler Language Programming for IBM z System™ Servers](#)

If you want an in-depth guide to the Assembler language, you couldn't do better than download and read this book by John Ehrmann from the IBM Silicon Valley Lab it's comprehensive and readable.

[The state of CICS in the modern enterprise](#)

In this first CICS report in three years, see what the data from the recent *Enterprise Tech Journal* survey reveals about the state of CICS today – its importance, uses, and future, as respondents envision it.

Calling Generation z!



5 years or less experience working on the mainframe? Want to engage with other professionals new to z? Then get involved with our brand [new Generation z Facebook group for you to join and participate in!](#) Also, keep up to date with the InterConnect 2015 conversation, including more information about the [Gen z social event](#), taking place just before the Rock the Mainframe party!

Find out more by [joining the group now!](#)

Events and Workshops



[InterConnect 2015, February 22-26](#)

More to watch and more to read this month in preparation for for the Premier Cloud and Mobile Conference! Follow us on Twitter and Facebook for all the latest content, such as new session menus and videos. [Click here to Register now!](#)



[IBM z Systems Technology Summit](#)

At the Summit, you have opportunities to learn from real-world scenarios, live demonstrations and in-depth presentations. Experts will be on hand to discuss many “out of the box” benefits in the z Systems portfolio of products with practical tips, best practices and guidance on many of the critical topics facing IT professionals today.



[IBM z Systems Technical University, May 18-22, Dublin](#)

The 2015 IBM System z Technical University will explore these capabilities in depth and allow you to take a deeper dive into smarter computing implementation, product announcements, as well as, key topics across the System z platform.



[SHARE 2015, March 1-6, Seattle](#)

SHARE 2015 helps enterprise technology professionals expand their industry knowledge, enhance their skills and increase the efficient of their organization. [Click here to register now!](#)



[Edge 2015, May 11-15 The Venetian, Las Vegas](#)

Registration is now open for Edge 2015. At Edge, you will experience a multifaceted event culminating in a best-in-class Executive Summit and three Technical Universities: Storage Systems, System z and Power Systems.

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Very good



Okay



Could do better

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A box office sensation! Check out z Systems: The Movie



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