Ready for your wish list... Over the last year the CICS® team have been working hard to get V5.3 ready for general availability. Today we are proud to announce the GA of CICS V5.3! Read on to learn about all the support coming to you with this latest release. There are a multitude of articles, blogs, podcasts and webinars to get you on your way with CICS V5.3. There is also exciting information about the recently announced z/OS Connect EE V2.0. Don't forget to take a look at the latest Redbooks and Redpapers revolving around CICS with DevOps and Liberty. Finally, to get you into the holiday spirit, we have seasonal posters and videos on our Facebook and Twitter pages!

CICS TS V5.3 Release

Your next upgrade is now live!
It might have been hard to miss our three core new and enhanced themes since the October announcement, but if you want to learn more don't forget to have a look at our launch handbook.
We've got some exciting improvements in:

- **Service Agility**: with additional WebSphere Liberty profile feature, enhanced interoperability, simplified management, and enhanced Java SE support.
- **Operational Efficiency**: with web service optimizations, performance improvements, enhanced metrics, and additional security options.
- **Cloud with DevOps**: with automated builds, scripted deployments, UrbanCode Deploy support, and enhanced cloud enablement.

To coincide with the new CICS TS V5.3 release the CICS Explorer has also been updated, making it easier to see the CICS data that is required by providing enhanced customization options for table views, which can then be saved for future use. To find out more about what the new release has to offer along with CICS TS VUE V5.3 and CICS TS Developer Trial, have a look at our announcement letter.
Already like the sound of it? Good news, contact your local IBM representative or follow this link.

To learn more we also have a new technical overview video with Fraser Bohm, chief architect and STSM for CICS, as he discusses his highlights in the release. Watch the video here.

z/OS Connect EE V2.0

IBM z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition 2.0

In line with the release of CICS V5.3, z/OS Connect release their new Enterprise Edition (EE) 2.0 today! This version extends the value of applications that run on z/OS by allowing you to easily create efficient and scalable APIs for contemporary mobile and cloud applications, helping you to excel in the API economy!

With IBM z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition you can benefit from these enhancements:

- Application developers, with or without z/OS-skills, can intuitively create RESTful APIs from traditional z/OS-based assets

- Mobile and cloud application developers, whether they are in an enterprise, with partners, or are key innovators in an industry, can easily incorporate z/OS data and transactions into their applications without the need to understand z/OS subsystems.

For more information, visit the z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition page and check out the z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition Data Sheet.

IBM Explorer for z/OS V3.0 Aqua

Available today!

IBM Explorer for z/OS V3.0 Aqua (z/OS Explorer) is available today, providing z/OS application developers and system programmers with an improved strategic integration platform for IBM Eclipse-based offerings. It provides the strategic Eclipse platform for connectivity to key z/OS functions required by all z/OS application developers and system programmers. z/OS Explorer delivers significant enhancements for navigation to z/OS data sets, zFS files, and JES jobs and output. It Includes smart editors for JCL files, and a TSO command console that enables users to issue TSO commands directly. CICS Explorer V5.3 is built on z/OS Explorer Aqua. Download it here

IBM Service Management Unite V1.1.1

Improved Management Services

CICS clients with IBM Service Management Suite will be pleased to know that the latest continuous delivery of IBM Service Management Unite V1.1.1 is available today, with enhanced problem identification with acknowledged ownership, problem isolation with improved visualization, and help to safely restore service. You can get more details and download the update here. To learn how SMU helped Jill, watch this short video.

END OF SUPPORT

CIC TS V3.1 & 3.2 End of Support Announcement

Another reminder that on 31 December 2015, CICS TS V3.1 and V3.2 will be withdrawn from service. For more information about this read the announcement letter here.

If you plan to upgrade, don't miss our latest release of CICS TS V5.3! Contact us here!

Redbooks and Redpapers

Redbooks:

CICS & DevOps: What you need to know

Want to know more about DevOps? This new Redbook can tell you what it is and more. Find out about the benefits of DevOps and how to successfully adopt it in a CICS environment. Review the three major environments involved and the available tools that enable DevOps adoption, and also learn about sample scenarios with different tools and application types. Interested? Make sure not to miss out on the extras; including an introductory video two of the authors, demos, and a blog with the key five things to know about CICS & DevOps. Read it here.

CICS & Liberty: What you need to know

What is Liberty? Pick up this Redbook to find out all about how Liberty works with CICS; from understanding how to set up, run, and adopt CICS into the Liberty environment, to comprehending all the benefits Liberty has to offer to your services. In addition to that, read the discussion about the technology essentials and mapping to actual products and features, and enjoy some extras including an introductory video, demos and a blog. If this sounds good to you, follow this link.

Redpapers:

CICS TS V5.3 Benchmark on an IBM z13

Read this latest Redpaper on the CICS TS benchmark on an IBM z13 and learn about CICS scaling to high transaction rates in excess of 227,000 transactions per second. Also read here to see how CICS TS V5.3 now interfaces with z/OS WLM to collect transaction CPU times that can be used for consideration with mobile pricing. Read it here.

Articles

CICS Tools Supporting the CICS Journey

Want to learn more about how CICS Tools has supported the recent release of CICS TS V5.3? Satish Tanna, CICS Tools senior IT specialist, gives a brilliant explanation of how Tools has complemented the performance of CICS V5's three key areas, featuring enhancements in service agility, operational efficiency, and cloud with DevOps. With particular focus on their four tools, he illustrates what CICS IA, CICS CM, CICS PA, and CICS DA provides for V5.3. Read the artivle in Enterprise Tech Journal here.

CICS Serviceability Enhancements to Dump and Trace CICS Tools; Supporting the CICS Journey

The CICS development and support teams have worked hard to enhance the diagnostic features of CICS TS and improve the serviceability of the product. Darren Beard and Andy Wright discuss some of the recent enhancements that have been made to the CICS dump facilities in this new Enterprise Tech Journal Article. Read it here.

CICS V5.3 Focuses on Agility, Efficiency, Cloud and DevOps

If you know a little about CICS, it might be hard to miss our new release of CICS TS V5.3. However, you might have missed how CICS and the James Bond franchise can be considered one and the same. If this is a shocking conclusion to you, it's worth reading Catherine Moxey and Nick Garrod's latest article for the IBM Systems Magazine and try to hear them out. Read their short but detailed article on the latest enhancements to service agility, operational efficiency, and cloud with DevOps in CICS V5.3 here.

BLOGS:
CICS: Making history on 11th December 2015

Want to get a quick overview of CICS TS V5.3? In this short blog post, Indi Singh discusses the key deliverables that help make this on of our greatest releases (to date). Read it here.

CICS Explorer: Customising Views in CICS Explorer 5.3

For those using the new face of CICS, namely the CICS Explorer, Sophie Green has some hints and tips for you. Enabling you to customize the views to suit the task at hand and work more efficiently. Learn more here.

CICS Tools: The essential toolkit for every CICS TS user

Looking to make the most of your CICS installation? Look no further than the CICS Optimization Solution Pack, which has just released V5.3 with CICS Deployment Assistant, CICS Configuration Manager, CICS Interdependency Analyzer and CICS Performance Analyzer. In this post David Harris gives you a quick insight into the value and capability these tools provide. Take a look here.

CICS Events with Decision Server Insights

In celebration of the fact that IBM Operational Decision Manager Advanced for z/OS V8.8 also becomes generally available today, we have a brand new blog post about the benefits of integrating CICS event processing support with ODM Decision Server Insights. Follow this link here to read the discussion on scenarios for consuming CICS events in Decision Server Insights.

Useful Information

The Elevator Pitch: CICS Optimization Solution Pack V5.3

Are you new to CICS Tools? Have a look at this quick introduction to the capabilities and value of the four Tools included in the CICS Optimization Solution Pack V5.3. Learn about IBM CICS Deployment Assistant for z/OS, IBM CICS Configuration Manager for z/OS, IBM CICS Interdependency Analyzer for z/OS and IBM CICS Performance Analyzer for z/OS to understand the full range of Tools for CICS V5.3. Visit this SlideShare here.

Video Series: New Features in CICS Explorer V5.3

Remember to watch this series of short informative videos that describe how to use and implement new features in the CICS Explorer V5.3. Click here to find the playlist including:
- CICS Explorer 5.3 creating and deleting views
- CICS Explorer 5.3 customizing a view
- CICS Explorer 5.3 managing default and active view settings
- CICS Explorer 5.3 default connections and selective connection export

Podcast

CICS V5.3 Performance & Java

Check out our latest podcasts on our CICS podcast page to find out more about Performance and Java. Martin Cocks discusses some of the exciting performance improvements that come with the new release of CICS V5.3 and details the areas in which his team have focussed their attention to in this version. Moreover, listen to Phil Wakelin discuss what is new with Java and Liberty capability in the upcoming CICS V5.3 release including API capabilities, standardisation and good support for migration of applications. Follow this link to listen.

Webcasts

Upcoming Lunch 'n' Learns
15 December 2015, 11am (ET) - **New Continuous Release and Deployment Capabilities for CICS Customers**
In this rapid economic climate, clients are challenged more and more to deliver speedy mobile, cloud, big data and traditional applications at high quality and low risk. How does an enterprise deal with its complex multiple platform application? Join Mike Fulton, IBM Distinguished Engineer of CTO DevOps for Enterprise Systems, Tony Chen, IBM UrbanCode Deploy for z Systems architect, and Luis Carlos Silva, IBM Offering Manager for Continuous Testing and Delivery for z Systems, in this upcoming webinar to discuss the latest release of IBM® UrbanCode™ Deployand its support for mainframe IBM CICS®, IBM DB2®, and IBM IMS™ applications. Register here!

Events

21 - 25 February, Las Vegas, Nevada - InterConnect 2016

That's right, the premier cloud and mobile conference is coming up again next February! If you are new to this event, InterConnect is for those building new business models, transforming industries, and creating better results. It is an event for anyone from an IT leader to a designer to a cloud expert; as long as you strive to build a better business this is the place for you. Click the link here to register.

28 February - 4 March, San Antonio, Texas - SHARE 2016

Don't miss out on the SHARE 2016 in San Antonio! With over 500 technical sessions that cover key industry hot topics such as DevOps, Analytics, Big Data, Security, Mobile and Cloud there will definitely be something there for you. Bringing together hundreds of enterprise IT professionals, SHARE aims to help shape and build lasting connections between attendees through a series of interactive sessions. Register before 15 January 2016 and catch the early bird rate here.

7 - 10 March, Wiesbaden, Germany - IMS Technical Symposium 2016

For all those IMS users or for those who are interested, early registration is now open for the largest IMS-exclusive technical conference in the world! Register by clicking here.

In case you missed it!

CICS Seasonal Social Media!

It's that time of year again and if you have been looking at the CICS Twitter or Facebook pages you may have noticed a few seasonal posters. If you haven't then get yourself down to our page and check out an array of videos, posters and CICS related poems to keep the holiday spirit alive! Look at our Facebook page here.

How did we do today?
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Very good

Okay

Could do better

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