CICS V5.3

Launch Information

A few words

" I'm delighted to announce the latest release of IBM CICS Transaction Server, shaped by our largest ongoing client feedback programme through deep design partnerships with over 30 clients.

Their input prior to the release's conception and ongoing feedback through our continuous delivery was invaluable. I believe our clients will see a marked difference in this release that not only demonstrates significant value, but the continued ability of CICS to deliver in the cloud and mobile era. "

Michael Perera
VP z Systems Software

In this booklet

CICS Transaction Server for z/OS
V5.3 Overview

CICS TS provides enterprise-grade, mixed language application serving.

CICS TS V5.3 continues to build upon 3 key areas of Service Agility, Operational Efficiency and Cloud. Designed to help you **do more**, **with less**.

In addition to major enhancements to these core V5 themes, we are introducing game-changing DevOps functionality through the Build Toolkit, DFHDPLOY and the CICS TS plug-in for IBM UrbanCode Deploy. This enables you to increase speed whilst reducing risk.

So when can you get your hands on it?
The planned availabity date for IBM CICS Transaction Server for z/OS V5.3 is:

December 11th 2015

Can't wait that long?

The CICS TS V5.3 open beta is still available to try. Check it out at **ibm.biz/cicsopenbeta**

Service Agility

Build and deploy the modern and traditional applications you need to support your business

Additional Liberty profile features

CICS TS V5.3 expands our support for the WebSphere Liberty profile with the following features now available:

- Contexts and Dependency Injection (CDI)
- Java EE Connector Architecture (JCA)
- Java Persistence API (JPA) - JDBC type4 only
- Java Message Service (JMS) 1.1 support with the WebSphere embedded messaging engine
- Enterprise JavaBeans (EJB) Lite subset
- Open Service Gateway initiative (OSGi) Console
- Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) registry
- Managed Beans
- MongoDB
- Session Persistence - JDBC type4 only
- JMX Connector
- Monitoring
- REST connector (for JMX)

Enhanced Interoperability

V5.3 enhancements help make CICS a world class Java application server, with support for Java 8, JEE6 web profile, Liberty z/OS Connect, and the ability for Java applications to use the standard JCA interface to invoke traditional CICS programs.

Simplified Management

Liberty profile users can now manage and monitor applications and system objects with the JMX client API, or remotely using tools such as the JConsole monitoring tool included in Java SE. Administrating JVM servers has also been improved by simplifiying the process of managing log files.

Operational Efficiency

Run and manage your systems of record with increased system capacity and the capability to achieve more with less

Web service optimizations

Web services are one of the most popular methods of interacting with CICS. To support this, V5.3 delivers significant optimizations to reduce the CPU & memory overhead for most SOAP and JSON-based HTTP CICS web services, by removing the need for an intermediate web attach task (CWXN) during pipeline processing.

Performance improvements

CICS V5.3 includes a number of improvements to reduce your CPU overhead, including reduced lock contention within monitoring, the use of prefetch and over 30 existing SPI commands being made threadsafe.

CICS benefits from the improved performance in hardware such as the new z13, as well as being able to exploit hardware instructions and capabilites from the new pre-req of an IBM z9.

Enhanced metrics

V5.3 allows for greater insight with reduced overhead. A number of metrics are now in global CICS statistics and are captured without needing CICS monitoring active. Efficiencies introduced in the CICS trace facility & CICS monitoring facility also help ensure overheads are kept to a minimum.

CICS Transaction tracking has been extended to those started via the CICS-WebSphere MQ bridge, to help with problem determination, reporting, and auditing.

Cloud with DevOps
Simplify system management and facilitate rapid application deployment

Automated builds
The CICS build toolkit enables CICS Cloud applications, bundles & OSGi Java components to be automatically built from source code, dramatically reducing time and effort required. Substitution variables can also be used to deploy to different target environments such as development & production, to enable re-use of scripts.

Scripted deployments
Once built to zFS, CICS projects can now be programmatically deployed across CICS systems through the new DFHDPLOY batch utility. It can be used to set their desired state, such as 'enabled', and be used to undeploy when no longer required.

UrbanCode Deploy Support
IBM UrbanCode Deploy orchestrates and automates the deployment of applications, middleware configurations, and database changes. The CICS TS plug-in enables CICS applications to be part of these system orchestrations to enable a true DevOps approach for your z Systems solutions.

Enhanced cloud enablement
In addition to the new DevOps capabilities, core CICS cloud technologies have been enhanced. Including new threshold policy options, support for transaction entry points in CICS cloud applications, automatic recovery of application state across CICS restarts and enhanced DB2 support.

Getting the most from CICS

If you're looking to understand CICS better, or need a helping hand, we have a number of educational resources and support options

IBM Knowledge Center *ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter*
A central respository of IBM information on all our products, including CICS TS and the Tools.

dwAnswers   *developer.ibm.com/answers*
Question & Answer support forum.

CICSdev *ibm.biz/cicsdev*
Blogs, tutorials and samples from CICS development and support teams.

CICS Buzz   *ibm.biz/cicsbuzz*
Monthly newsletter for all things CICS - important news, upcoming webcasts & conferences, and more.

YouTube   *ibm.biz/cicsyoutube*
Product demos and overviews can be found on our CICS Hursley channel, as well as replays of lunch & learns and other interesting videos.

CICS Development Services

For more information on these offerings, contact: paul_fairbairn@uk.ibm.com

Workshops & Health Check
We can offer a comprehensive health check of your systems, as well as a number of workshops on: Mobile, Java in CICS, Cloud, Upgrade, Availability & Performance.

CICS Tools Deployment Support
Both on-site and remote options are available to help you get started with a new Tools deployment project.

zSparks
On-site workshops, proofs-of-concept and education on Mobile, Java and Cloud solutions with CICS.

Stay in touch with Team CICS:

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