

CICS and mobile with Indi Singh

Nick Garrod – Hi and welcome to the '*Did You Say Mainframe?*' series of podcasts. This is where I chat to specialists about hardware and software topics related to the mainframe. My name is Nick Garrod and I'm your host.

Now today we're joined by Indi Singh from the CICS development team in Hursley and he's here to talk to us a little bit about the mobile integrations gone into CICS in the most recent release. So Indi thanks very much for joining us

Indi Singh – Thanks Nick I appreciate the opportunity to be here to talk about CICS mobile.

Nick Garrod – So Geoff Pirie did a podcast for us when we bought a feature pack out to integrate CICS and mobile. I'd like you first of all to just to give a brief update of what's happened since that first feature pack came out and what we've done with the runtime.

Indi Singh – Sure so Geoff gave a very good overview of the benefits of using mobile extensions feature pack and due to the popular demand and popularity of that feature pack we've decided to bring that into the base when it comes to CICS 5.2 so that people are able to take advantage of the benefits of the feature pack with some extra enhancements such as bringing in UTF 16 support through character encoding on the payload as well as extra functionality around the management of the web services.

Nick Garrod – So with all these new kind of capabilities and functions are there new ways now to integrate mobile with the CICS platform or CICS environment that you might be running?

Indi Singh – Absolutely, so some of the other things we've been working on is also being able to bring those JSON web services and put them into the CICS Transaction Gateway so that is the ability to take advantage of the reliability and scalability of CICS Transaction Gateway as a network concentrator but able to call JSON web services as well to all the versions that CICS Transaction Gateway supports.

Nick Garrod – So CICS Transaction Gateway if you forgive my ignorance here but that's very Java based, I've heard a lot about CICS and Java in recent times and more recently specifically around the WebSphere Liberty profile is there any relationship here and bonding going on between the function that we're creating with mobile going into CICS and perhaps Liberty?

Indi Singh – I'm really glad you asked that actually Nick one of the things the feature pack didn't give users was the ability to easily expose their Java applications through JSON web services. Now one of the things you can do now with a Liberty profile running inside CICS is to make use of the JACS RS feature which will allow you have your Java applications exposed as a RESTful JSON web service running inside Liberty. As well as that what you can also do is your applications running inside a Liberty profile can also actually deal with the presentation logic of your application. So whereas traditionally CICS has traditionally been the service that exposes your business data into say a web service or other kind of interface and then something else would take that and do presentation on top of it, you can actually have that presentation logic inside of Liberty running inside of CICS.

Nick Garrod – So now as you say the actual presentation layer is now residing inside the CICS runtime and that's new isn't it?

Indi Singh – Yeah absolutely that's something you can do now.

Nick Garrod – So that's a big deal. Right I get that were talking a lot about Java here but I know that CICS introduced a value unit edition CICS VUE recently to appeal to customers who had worked loads in the Java area and could get a pricing break on getting that product, would this mobile workload fit with that profile as well?

Indi Singh – So yes using Liberty for example any of those applications you're running in there because they're Java based if you are creating new applications to run inside the Liberty profile to do this mobile workload it will all be eligible for the CICS VUE, so you can get that one time charge for CICS.

Nick Garrod – So while were talking about costs and charges and things like that I think its probably fair to talk a little bit about the recent IBM announcement where they're talking about mobile pricing and helping with the acceleration of growth that mobile devices might bring and whilst System Z is imminently able to take that huge spike in workload is scalable to accommodate that there may be charges associated with that. Does this mobile capability that were bringing into CICS qualify for this mobile pricing.

Indi Singh – Absolutely so every feature I've spoken about today and really any other means that you wish to bring mobile workload into CICS could all be eligible for the mobile pricing scheme that IBM have introduced so I would suggest that if you do have mobile work-loading and you'd like to take advantage of that you should speak to your sales representative.

Nick Garrod – And negotiate with them, yes I understand. Now we've spoken quite a bit here about CICS and mobile and communicating with mobile devices and I'm also aware that there are other IBM products in their portfolio to help mobile, for example Worklite, could you say a few words about how CICS integrates with Worklite and how you might implement a solution with that?

Indi Singh – Absolutely so CICS definitely does integrate with Worklite in all the ways and all the functions I've talked about today can all be easily driven through Worklite acting as a mobile application so if you would like to use Worklite and gain the benefits of its ability to understand the devices its talking to and be able to concentrate the network flow through one centralised location then that's absolutely possible because on the front end external to CICS, Worklite will drive this HTTP request like it would do any other service.

Nick Garrod – And so Worklite is there doing the bits that Worklite is really good at doing and then passing it to CICS where CICS is doing the bits that CICS is really good at doing.

Indi Singh – Yes you've summarised it very well

Nick Garrod – Thank you very much! So in summary Indi what are the key points you would like listeners to take from this discussion?

Indi Singh – Well I think the key points really are that mobile workload is a new type of workload it is a new shape of workload but really it is just workload and System Z and CICS has four decades being that housing for all your business critical applications and data because you've needed the reliability you've needed the scalability you've needed these performance factors and really it continues to be that powerhouse that system of

record that you need no matter how you choose to bring more workload into it with System Z or CICS.

Nick Garrod – That's tremendous Indi thank you very much for coming along today

Indi Singh – Thanks Nick

Nick Garrod – So that about wraps it up for this podcast for more details go to www.ibm.com/software/os/systemz/podcasts/websphereonz

Join us again for another insight into another interesting topic on the mainframe, for now this is Nick Garrod saying thank you for listening.