

## **OM Podcast**

Host: Hi, and welcome to the “Did you say Mainframe?” podcast series. This is where we regularly interview IBM technical experts who can help you to understand important IBM mainframe hardware and software issues. And I'm your host Nick Garrod.

Host: Now today we are joined by Chris Walker from the Omegamon development team and he will tell us about the new Omegamon Performance Management suite. Chris, thank you for taking the time to join us today.

SME: Thanks for inviting us Nick. It's a pleasure.

HOST: Chris, what is the Omegamon Performance Management suite? Can you expand a little bit on what we're discussing here?

SME: OMEGAMON Performance Management Suite V530 is the latest release of our evolving OM product set specifically focused on z/OS and its key subsystems, including storage and network monitoring. Specifically we'll focus on the support for CICS TS and CICS TG on z/OS.

HOST: And what does it do, why should our listeners be interested?

SME: Well OM has been known for years to collect vital monitoring data about CICS to allow users to monitor, analyse resolve problems quickly and efficiently. Customer feedback was very clear that one set of end users – our SMEs - had a requirement for a fast intuitive modern UI to navigate through and fix problems across all sub-systems.

In the previous release (V510) we added the new enhanced 3270UI which pulled data from multiple agents and displayed them side-by-side (CICS, z/OS IMS, DB2...) were all within a single consistent user interface. And security was customizable (e.g. RACF) to ensure users can be restricted only to the products they are allowed to monitor or take action on

That was always the first step and this new release integrates a large new set of features - again from customer feedback - to enhance the capability to end users and help them solve problems.

HOST: What is, or are, the key benefits of OM?

SME: There are five enhancements that I'll speak about today, Nick: Near-Term History; Embedded Data; CICS Application Trace; CICS TG support and also I'll mention some of the installation & configuration enhancements.

HOST: So shall we take the first one, I think it was called the Near-Term History and elaborate on that.

### **Key Update - History**

SME: History has been available in OM previously and you can view history in older OM UIs. The ability to show near-term historical data allows a user to investigate the symptoms and settings within a subsystem prior to the issue occurring (e.g. high workload). Data snapshots are taken for selected attribute groups at specified times, for example every 5 minutes. And then you can switch from viewing the live data into a historical summary to identify which problems are starting. So when looking at data collected at a given time period, you can then also navigate through the product from workspace to workspace in that timeslot.

Also, for CICS we have migrated the very popular task history function (ONDV) into this UI so you can look at the individual tasks that have run within the last data collection period. It also provides the ability to filter transactions and view details of transactions including, providing quick navigation to any tasks which form part of a, say a logical transaction across the entire CICSplex.

HOST: That's great Chris. I think the second one was around Embedded Data?

#### **Key Update - Embedded Data**

SME: There are no subsystems operating in isolation these days. Problem solving may involve transaction tracking or traversing through various subsystems from symptom to root cause (for example: an application may connect through CTG to CICS, which in turn may write to a queue, update a DB2 table). So, embedded data builds upon the aim of having a single UI for all OM agents. So we're not just displaying data about the various subsystems individually but actually providing integrated workspaces enhanced by data collected by multiple agents.

An example might be that you're looking at problems in a CICS address space. Now the basic OM CICS agent will give you some basic information about that address space, but the OM for z/OS agent will give you more details or OM for Storage agent give you more details about the resources your CICS region is using. So if you have those agents up and running, the additional data is available directly onto on the CICS workspaces - no need to switch UI or navigate elsewhere within the UI - and in most cases you can then move directly into workspace provided by that other agent in context.

HOST: Terrific Chris, shall we move onto the third, I believe that was application trace?

#### **Key Update - Application Trace**

SME: So, our Application Trace feature has been migrated into enhanced 3270UI and allows users to trace the flow and CICS calls as the various CICS programs are executed on the monitored region. One significant enhancement is that you can follow the trace through as the program calls across to other regions within the CICSplex. You'll see it on screen where the switch occurs and the trace continues. This is very useful in highlighting long intervals that would be a focus for problems with poor response time. You can also control which tasks are traced, trace data from multiple tasks that make up the same logical transaction, and also see the trace data that has been collected for either an active or historical task. So it's a really useful function in debugging application problems.

HOST: That sounds really interesting Chris, I think the next one was around CICS TG support?

#### **Key Update - CICS TG support**

SME: CTG on z/OS support has been in the product for several releases. In V530 we have added support within e3270UI (incl. history & embedded data functions). We've also added statistics about IPIC connections into CICS and transaction tracking enhancements for WAS regions running in multi-servant mode. There are a lot of CTG users to also pick up on this OM.

HOST: And I think the final one Chris was around installation and Configuration Enhancements

## Improved Install & Configuration

SME: Quicker and easier to configure than any previous OM using the PARMGEN config tool, including a First Time User option to make things easier for any sysprog setting up OM for the first time or migrating from a previous release. Very consistent across all the OM agents and should reduce the amount of time spent setting things up.

No need to make changes to CICS JCL to start monitoring. In previous releases, you were required to add load libraries to your CICS regions and DD cards to specify that OM was going to monitor those regions. V5.3.0 implements support for a new CICS library definition which should allow customers to avoid this change to your CICS JCL making time to set up monitoring much easier.

HOST: Okay I can see there are plenty of benefits and many areas for a variety of users here. When is it available?

SME: It's available now, it went GA on September 5th. So the entire updated OM Performance Management Suite is now there to be acquired.

HOST: Where can I get it?

SME: Usual places. If so desired the individual OM agent can be ordered separately however the Suite is the preferred solution as it gives the integration I've been describing and we're hoping that the benefit of having multiple agents together will improve the overall opinion of using OM.

HOST: Where can our listeners get more detail?

SME: [www.ibm.com/OMEGAMON](http://www.ibm.com/OMEGAMON)

DeveloperWorks - SMC blog and videos

<https://www.ibm.com/developerworks/community/blogs/5e65990a-9690-42e2-93b1-c2267be7620c/?lang=en>.

HOST: So in summary – what are the key points you would like our listeners to go away with?

SME: OM for CICS remains the premier monitoring product for CICS and has reinvented itself to provide the features and functions demanded by our customers. Further OM should be seen now as an integrated suite covering System z management from the operating systems to the sub-systems, networks etc.

HOST: So that is very interesting. Thank you very for taking the time to enlighten us on the Tivoli Omegamon Performance Management suite.

SME: Thank you Nick.

HOST: Well, that wraps up this podcast discussion. To find out more about Tivoli Omegamon Performance Management suite, please go to the description for this podcast at: <http://www.ibm.com/software/os/systemz/podcasts/websphereonz/>

Join us next time as we talk about another important mainframe topic. For now, this is Nick saying “Thanks for listening”.