

hSpeech for the CICS in Action Demo:

Welcome to CICS in Action, a brief demonstration that shows how today's CICS Transaction Server opens the doors to new levels of flexibility and performance for your mission critical CICS applications.

For more than 30 years, businesses around the world have trusted CICS to manage their mission critical transaction processing, like DATAF, the German tax consultancy, they depend on CICS data and applications to get things done, reliably and efficiently, day in day out.

Over the years they've invested more than 1 trillion dollars in CICS applications, everyday more than 30 billion CICS transactions worth more than 1 trillion dollars are processed around the world, you could say that CICS makes the business world go around.

Today CICS is involved to become much more than a backend system. Major enhancements have removed limits on how CICS interacts with other applications, enabling it to seamlessly integrate with diverse applications and play an integral role in today's service oriented architectures or SOAs.

In SOAs this is processing??? the underlying IT infrastructures, are combined into pre-built reusable building blocks and those building blocks can be quickly reconfigured to address fast changing business priorities. But many businesses have inflexible IT infrastructures that are lashed together with hard-wired connections to allow communication between application inside and outside the enterprise. Hard wiring also means hard to change and hard to maintain.

Today's CICS integrates easily with distributed applications and web services so you can realise the full potential of SOAs. How? First CICS now provides a faster way to exchange data between mixed applications, with a new method of exchange using channels and containers, that removes the 32k data size restriction so CICS programs can easily exchange unlimited data with any web-based program.

Second, CICS takes advantage of open transaction environment technology, each application is assigned a maximum resource limit which prevents one or two applications from monopolising resources, while other applications starve.

Third, CICS now assigns separate and isolated communication areas for each application, instead of one common area, which speeds up response time.

Today some 90% of business critical mainframe applications connect to the web but many aren't connecting in the most efficient way. CICS can help fix that. Lets take a closer look at how you can directly connect your CICS applications to web, distributed and other platforms.

Previously, web and distributed applications had only one way to communicate with the CICS transaction server. Through the TCP/IP protocol. that created problems as new communication protocols were developed. For instance, web applications use http protocol so the old CICS had to translate web application requests from http into TCP/IP

Before processing transactions and translation was handled by custom solutions written in proprietary code for both input and output. A time consuming high maintenance task. Worse, those custom solutions multiplied as more new communication standards such as java, jcp, and soap came on the scene.

Each new communication protocol required the development of more and more proprietary code to integrate with CICS.

Add another server, for more applications and you have a large tangle of poorly planned solutions. The end result is a complicated infrastructure that requires more maintenance and support personnel. While presenting greater potential for performance and availability problems.

CICS now uses IP or web sphere MQ to handle soap protocol, which enables it to easily deal with many integration needs between Z/OS and other platforms, such as Unix, Linux and Windows. Net. This capability can be taken advantage of through easy to use tools with no need for proprietary coding, this enables greater reuse of existing and proven application assets.

With less potential for performance issues and greater return on investment.

Now web services can quickly access crucial data stored in CICS applications. With no costly reengineering or workarounds. As Vestigo says " its a whole new CICS, modernised to meet today's IT challenges".