### Multi-Versioning Podcast

**Hi and welcome to the ‘Did you say mainframe’ series of podcasts, this is where I, Nick Garrod, chat to technical experts about hardware and software topics related to the mainframe.**

**Today we are joined by Matthew Webster from the CICS Development team in Hursley, and he’s come here today to tell us about some of the new cloud capability that is included in CICS TS V5.2 Today he is going to focus on ‘multi-versioning’ and its value. Matthew, thank you for joining us.**

Thanks for inviting me, Nick.

**So lets kick this off with a brief description of what multi-versioning means to CICS and CICS customers?**

Application multi-versioning allows more than one version of a CICS application to be installed on the same platform at the same time, extending the capability we introduced in CICS V5.1, where we allowed you to package, deploy and define a CICS application with a version, but you couldn’t install more than one at the same time, so we think this enhancement is addressing a number of key requirements associated with private cloud computing.

**So what does this give to the customer, why should they care?**

Mobile workloads, server consolidation, application modernization or even just deploying bug fixes; these are all things our customers need to deal with. We are told most workload that enters the enterprise touches the mainframe. That workload is increasingly being driven by mobile devices whose owners can be very public in their criticism of broken or missing functionality. They can write bad reviews or post on Twitter. Also for many users a mobile app is the primary if not only way of interacting with a business. So these situations can not only be quite embarrassing but also can lead to losing customers. Line of business needs to respond to changes, to the needs, responding to users, and we think that application multi-versioning can help by reducing the cost of introducing application upgrades while, at the same time, minimizing the risk to existing users.

**So can you give some examples of what benefits customers can realise from this?**

There are many benefits but lets start with deploying a bug fix. While you can use NEWCOPY to update a running application you can only reliably do it for one program at time, if you got more than one programme fixed that have dependencies between them, then you can have issues about which one you want to install. And you can’t do it for different resources, you can only do it for programmes, you can’t do it for web services and things like that. It’s also slow to roll back. With application multi-versioning you package the bug fix in a new version of the application, INSTALL & ENABLE it to ensure it’s OK then make it AVAILBALE. All new requests will go to the new version while existing requesting running the old version complete normally. Then if there is a problem with the new version you can simply make it UNAVAILABLE and new requests will go to the old version, it’s very fast. If you wanted to do this without using multi-versioning you would have to start up additional regions.

You can also host two or more versions of an application on the same platform and allows users to simultaneously access both either as a web service or web interface by giving each version a unique URL. This enables you to give new features to a subset of users while not disrupting the rest. Again this would in the past have required addition regions.

**How can our listeners get it, when is it available?**

Application multi-versioning is a key part of our “Cloud enablement” capability available in CICS TS V5.2 was is GA Friday 13th June (but it’s nothing to be scared of).

**Where can I get it?**

You can download CICS from usual place. Also need a new version of CICS Explorer or update the SDK you might be using with a Rational product like RDz.

**Are there any supporting resources to help our listeners who want to experiment with this? Like Redbooks, Articles, Presentations, Demos,**

No redbook at the moment but watch this space. As always the best place to look is the new Knowledge Center. As well as a dedicated section in What’s New on multi-versioning there are 2 new scenarios – “Updating an application on a platform” and “Hosting two versions of a CICS application concurrently on the same platform” - that explain how to put the capability to work. We have also recorded demos to accompany the scenarios in both English and Chinese language versions. They are available to download from the CICS web site ibm.com/cics; just click on the “Library” tab. Finally see the CICSdev blog which has articles posted by experts in the development team on multi-versioning, CICS cloud and the other exciting new capabilities in CICS TS V5.2.

**So Matthew, just sum up what our listeners should be taking from this podcast**

In CICS TS V5.1 we introduced the application resource which allowed everything that comprises a business application - or service in cloud parlance - to be given a meaningful name and version then managed together throughout the DevOps process. When used in conjunction with threshold policies this allows you to accelerate the rate of change without increasing the risk to production environments. The multi-versioning capability in CICS TS V5.2 takes this to a whole new level by allowing different versions of an application to be hosted and supported at the same to so that operations can quickly and reliably fix any problems and users can upgrade at their own pace without the need for additional infrastructure.

**Thank you Matthew, that puts multi-versioning in to perspective and it enables our customers derive more value from the latest CICS release.**

**So that about wraps it up for this podcast, for more details go to….** **http://www.ibm.com/software/os/systemz/podcasts/websphereonz/**

**Join us again for an insight in to another interesting topic for the mainframe. For now this is Nick Garrod saying thank you for listening**