



Welcome to the Virtual CICS user group newsletter. The Virtual CICS user group at www.fundi.com/virtualcics is an independently-operated vendor-neutral site run by and for the CICS user community.

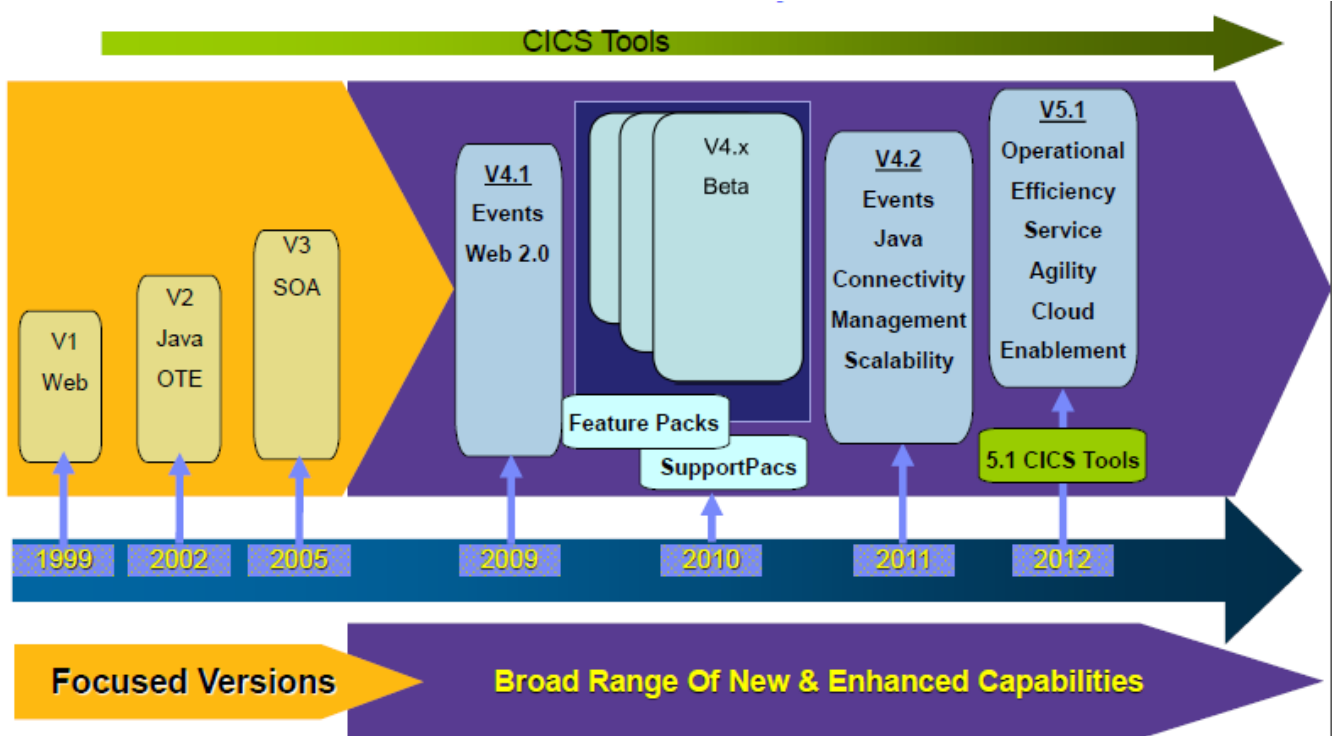


Figure 1: CICS TS - the story so far

Virtual CICS user group presentation

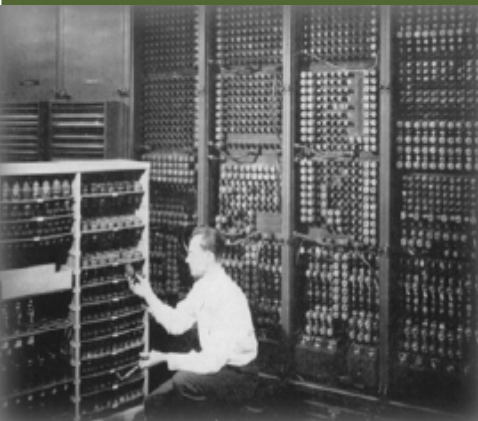
The latest webinar from the Virtual CICS user group was entitled, "CICS V5.1 - Portfolio Update", and was presented by Nick Garrod, IBM Software Group Market

Enablement Specialist CICS TS, and Ted Caffarelli, IBM Software Group Product Line Manager for CICS Tools.

Nick has worked in various areas of CICS for over 25 years and currently works in their Marketing team. He

Contents:

Virtual CICS user group presentation	1
Meeting dates	5
Recent CICS articles	5
CICS news	5
About the Virtual CICS user group	5



regularly represents CICS at conferences and customer visits as well as being the CICS representative on many of the CICS user groups around the world.

Ted started his career with IBM in 1982 as a Systems Engineer, supporting enterprise scale clients in Upstate New York. After 17 years in the field, Ted joined IBM Software Group, as a World Wide Market Manager supporting enterprise tools, including the Problem Determination tools. Today, Ted is the Product Line Manager for the CICS tools suite. Over the past 30 years, Ted has earned numerous IBM awards; Engineering Symposiums, Hundred Percent Clubs, Major Suggestion Awards, and Golden Circles.

Nick Garrod started the presentation by looking at the history of CICS TS (see Figure 1). He went on to look at current challenges, suggesting that it's critically important to keep operational costs as low as possible. There are increased pressure to be able to deliver results faster and more efficiently, but current operational practices often inhibit the speed of delivery. Nick suggested that investments made today can not only meet short-term goals, but must continue to deliver value long into the future.

Nick informed the user group that CICS TS V5.1 delivers operation efficiency with:

- Greater capacity
- Increased availability
- Reduced complexity
- Better control over critical system resources.

Service agility:

- Faster and easier deployment of applications
- Improved management of the application environment
- Greater responsiveness to unwanted behaviour
- Co-location of back-end applications and front-end interfaces.

Through cloud-enablement:

- Consistent with the IBM Cloud Computing strategy
- Positioning customers for the next transformational era in technology
- Moving towards a cloud-oriented service delivery platform.

What's driving greater operational efficiency are greater capacity, managed operations, increased availability, and deeper insight.

Increasing service agility comes from first-

class applications, first-class platforms, modern interfaces, and foundational enhancements.

Nick said that the CICS developer trial became available on 11 January. This is a no-charge trial, but does have a fixed expiry date.

Nick also looked at CICS Explorer V5.1 and how it fitted with the enhanced CICS portfolio products (see Figure 2).

Ted Caffarelli then took over the presentation and started by talking about CICS Deployment Assistant for z/OS V5.1, which he said can be used to:

- Visualize and manage your CICS topology
- Discover existing regions and subsystems
- Automation creates new CICSplex
- Plexify and clone CICS regions
- Start and stop a CICS region.

Enhancements in the new version include:

- Enriched discovery of over 30 entities
- Improved visualization with tagging and filtering
- Connections view with scoping

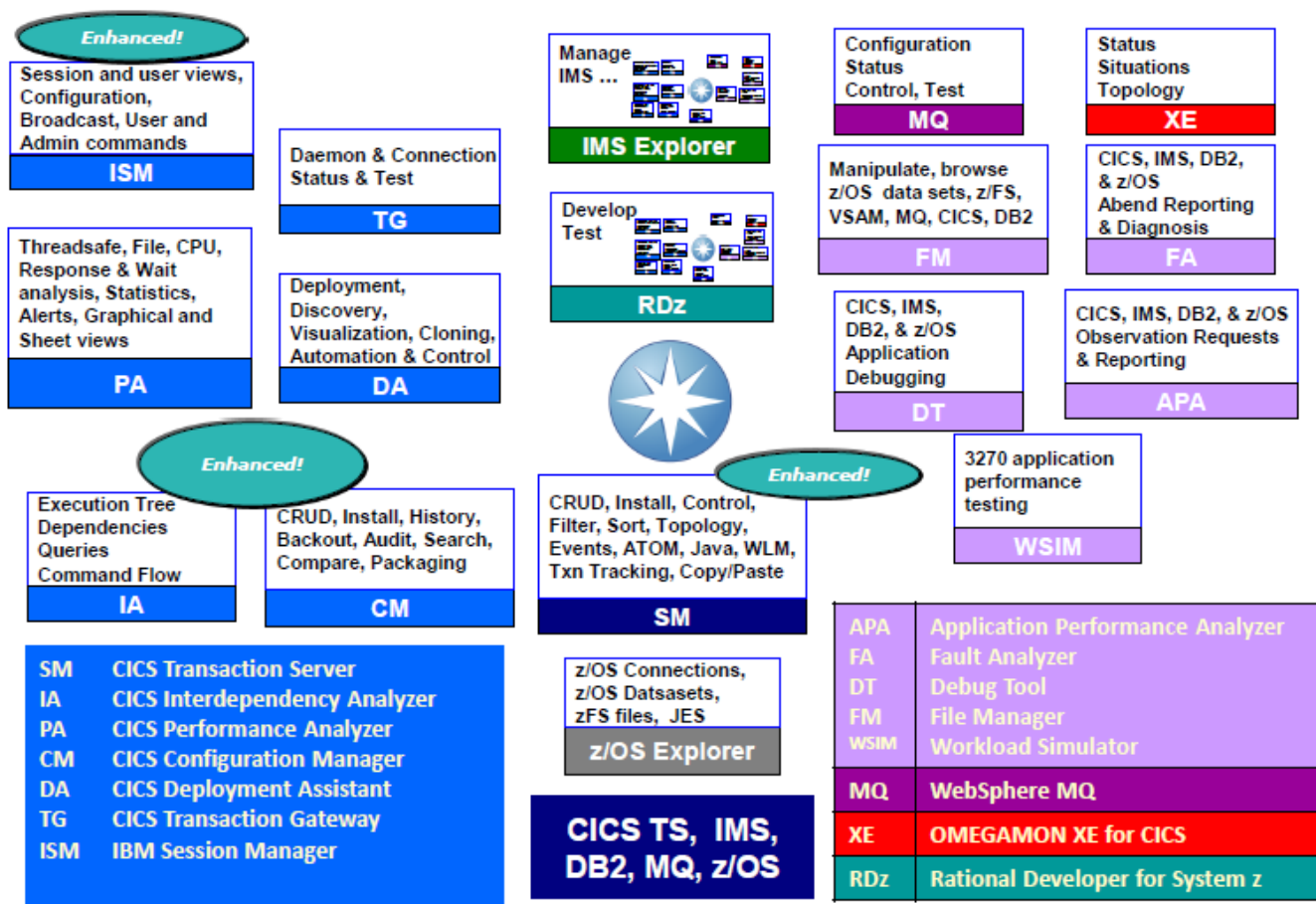


Figure 2: CICS Explorer V5.1

- Export model for external reporting for z/OS V5.1, which enables you to: business application analysis
 - CICS TS V5.1 upgrade cheat sheet
 - Tagging and filtering of model elements
 - New navigators
 - Clone JCL improvements
 - IPv6 support
 - Virtual IP addressing support
 - Serviceability enhancements.
- Identify threadsafe / non-threadsafe programs
 - Isolate and remove affinities
 - Speed CICSplex SM workload management
 - Advanced CICS command flow analysis
 - Highlight CICS web service candidates.
- What's new:
- Support for CICS Transaction Server V5.1, including enhanced
- New threadsafe analysis plug-in view and report
 - Improved installation and configuration
 - DB2 data lifecycle management
 - Native SQL language stored procedures
 - Graphical visualization view of resources.
- The CICS Performance Analyzer for z/OS V5.1 enables you to:
- Comprehensive
- Next was CICS Interdependency Analyzer

Performance Reporting and Analysis for CICS including DB2, WebSphere MQ, and MVS System Logger

- Understand trends and develop capacity plans
- View statistics and create statistical alerts.

What's new:

- CICS TS V5.1 – support for new metrics
- Application, Platform, and Policy
- Plug-in enhancements:
- Application centric view
- Customizable sheet views
- Suspend time reporting
- Easy navigation to key reports and alerts
- SMF logstream support
- Batch statistics reporting for CICS TG
- Improved management of PA data loaded to DB2
- CPU totals on MQ reports
- SMF data processing performance improvements.

CICS Configuration Manager for z/OS V5.1 enables you to:

- Manage changes throughout the life-cycle
- Create reports to identify redundant

definitions, show resource relationships, and change management history

- Manage audit, back-out and change authorizations.

What's new:

- Application, Platform, and Policy resources
- Enhanced plug-in with Packaging and Deployment Analysis
- Sort in Package view and Ready list
- ADD/REMOVE CSD group to/from LIST during Migrate operation
- Option to automatically remove empty Groups from CSD List
- SSL support for plug-in connection
- Audit trail for Install and NewCopy.

CICS VSAM Recovery for z/OS V5.1 enables you to:

- Supports backups created by Backup-While-Open (BWO)
- Automate recovery
- Test forward recovery and backout
- Produce disaster recovery reports.

What's new:

- Replication logging in support of the GDPS-Active-Active availability solution
- Batch logging enhancements
- Batch backout improvements
- Migration utility enhancements
- Logstream printing and other usability enhancements.

Ted then went on to tell the user group about CICS Transaction Gateway V9.0, which enables you to:

- Proven connectivity – distributed platforms integrate with any CICS server
- Skills match for today – bridges the skill gap
- Secure, scalable, and highly available connectivity.

What's new:

- Java 7 support for client applications
- Increased vertical scaling on z/OS
- SSL connectivity for 3-tier topologies
- Connection-level time-out with IPIC
- 64-bit support for ECI V2 and ESI V2

- ECI V2 support for asynchronous calls.
- End-to-end transaction tracking
- Simplified DSS configuration
- Statistics recording with CICS TG for MP.

Lastly Ted talked about IBM Session Manager for z/OS V3.2. What's new:

- Updated plug-in with administration perspective
- Simplified pass-ticket support
- Load RACF classes into data spaces
- Improved DUMP GDG facility
- Customer-driven enhancements.

Ted finished off by showing how the different tools worked with CICS to provide the advantages that Nick had described earlier.

A copy of Nick and Ted's presentation is available for download from the Virtual CICS user group Web site at www.fundi.com/virtual-cics/presentations/CICSV5.1Jan13.pdf.

You can see and hear the whole user group meeting by downloading the WMV file from www.fundi.com/virtualims/

[presentations/2013-01-15meeting.wmv](http://www.fundi.com/presentations/2013-01-15meeting.wmv).

Meeting dates

The following meeting date has been arranged for the Virtual CICS user group:

- On 5 March 2013 at 10:30am CST, Fundi Software's Adham Sidhom, Fundi Software, will be talking about CICS/PA.
- On 14 May we'll be hearing from Hostbridge.

We will be using Citrix GoToMeeting for the user group meetings.

Recent CICS articles

CICS 101: CICS Features and Resources by Phyllis Donofrio in *Enterprise Tech Journal* (Winter 2013). You can find the article at <http://enterprisesystemsmedia.com/article/cics-101-cics-features-and-resources>.

CICS news

Virtel has announced Virtel for iPad. Mobile users can access the traditional screen interface of CICS, IMS, TSO, and other 3270 applications with iPad ergonomics and BOYD-capable security features. Android tablet support will follow (Q2 2013).

More information can be found at www.virtelweb.com/resources/VIRTEL_for_iPad.pdf.

Virtel has also announced that Virtel Transaction Server reduces the footprint of Web-initiated CICS/DB2 transactions by over 50 percent, while doubling their performance and throughput. More information can be found here.. Full details can be found at www.virtelweb.com/resources/VIRTEL_Transaction_Server.pdf.

About the Virtual CICS user group

The Virtual CICS user group was established as a way for individuals using IBM's CICS TS systems to exchange information, learn new techniques, and advance their skills with the product.

The Web site at www.fundi.com/virtualcics provides a central point for coordinating periodic meetings (which contain technically-oriented topics presented in a webinar format), and provides articles, discussions, links, and other resources of interest to IBM CICS practitioners. Anyone with an interest in CICS is welcome to join the Virtual CICS user group and share in the knowledge exchange.

To share ideas, and for further information, contact trevor@itech-ed.com.

The Virtual CICS user group is free to its members.