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.

Virtual CICS user group presentation

The latest webinar from the Virtual CICS user group was entitled, "Recording CICS tasks", and was presented by Ishai Biran, Product architect at AlgoriNet, Inc. Unfortunately, a large part of the presentation was taken up with a video, which was inaudible. I can only apologise to attendees for this.

Ishai has spent his entire adult life in software development, both in Israel and in the United States.

In the late 80's he developed the product "Online Help Facility" (OHF), a tool for creating cursor-sensitive windows of help for CICS applications running on 3270 terminals, without touching the application code. The product was later purchased and marketed by Software Diversified Services.

Later in his career, Ishai focused on Java Web development, and worked as a consultant for JPMorganChase and other Wall Street firms. At that time he also taught programming classes at New York University.

In the last decade, he returned to CICS, and founded AlgoriNet Software, where he manages the development of Task Flow Recorder and VSAM-Handy.

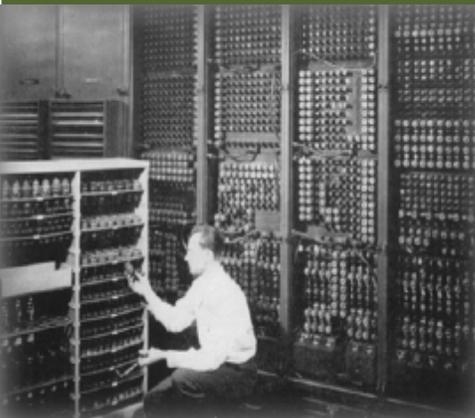Ishai explained there was a need to record because:

- it helped to understand the execution flow of applications written by others.

- it showed how much time is spent in each module, in database operations, or in wait periods.

- it finds run-time bottlenecks.

- it helps to understand synchronization and potential deadlocks among tasks that communicate with each other.

- As opposed to debuggers, tasks that are being recorded run in normal speed, without breakpoints.

- Different instances of the

Contents:

same transactions can be compared easily in order to find out why execution flow, run time, and results vary.

- Mirror tasks that run in other CICS regions are recorded as well, and their events are merged into the execution flow of the parent task.

- The content of the working storage at any given time, the value of each record or database result set are displayed as well.

- The recording report can show the name of each paragraph or section of the code being performed.

- Operators can be recorded without them even knowing. Recording suspicious users helps detect fraudulent activity.

- The same transaction can be recorded before and after a code change. A comparison between the two execution flows should become part of the deployment process.

You can watch the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBJzZgqFKts.

A copy of Ishai Biran's presentation is available for download from the Virtual CICS user group Web site at www.fundi.com/virtualcics/presentations/

CICSTaskRecorderMay17.pdf.

You can see and hear the whole user group meeting by downloading the WMV file from www.fundi.com/virtualcics/presentations/2017-05-09meeting.wmv.

Again, my apologies for so much of the session being inaudible.

Meeting dates

The following meeting dates have been arranged for the Virtual CICS user group:

- 11 July 2017, when GT Software's Glenn Schneck will be discussing "CICS in an API world".

- The following meeting is on 12 September 2017, when Colin Pearce will be discussing, "Understanding Storage Violations".

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

Recent CICS articles

IBM CICS asynchronous API allows for natural program creation! by Chris Poole in *IBM Systems Magazine* (May/June 2017 issue). You can find the article at: www.ibmsystemsmagmainframedigital.com/nxtbooks/

ibmsystemsmag/mainframe_20170506/#/46.

The CICS Asynchronous API in CICS TS V5.4! by Jenny He on CICS DevCenter (16 May 2017). *You can find the article at: developer.ibm.com/cics/2017/05/16/cics-asynchronous-api-cics-ts-v5-4/.*

Controlling the flow of work into CICS by John Tilling on CICS DevCenter (16 May 2017). You can find the article at: developer.ibm.com/cics/2017/05/16/controlling-flow-work-cics/.

CICS PA V5.4 supports the worlds most powerful mixed language application server by Satish Tanna on CICS DevCenter (12 May 2017). You can find the article at: developer.ibm.com/cics/2017/05/12/cics-pa-v5-4-supports-the-worlds-most-powerful-mixed-language-application-server/ .