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.

Trevor Eddolls
Editor

Welcome to the Virtual CICS user group

Firstly, let me welcome you back to the all-new Virtual CICS user group.

Using as a model the successful Virtual IMS user group, the Virtual CICS user group plans to work in much the same way. Members will receive a newsletter six times a year keeping them informed about what's been going on in the world of CICS - such as product announcements or updates, and new articles that are available through the Internet.

In each of the other six months, there will be a virtual user group meeting including a presentation by a CICS specialist. User group members get access to this information completely for FREE.

And that's only possible because the user group is being sponsored by Fundi Software. We are very lucky that Fundi Software has agreed to sponsor the user group.

Who are Fundi?

Fundi Software is an Australian software product development company. Established in 1982, Fundi is today one of the leading providers of tools for IMS and CICS systems.

Taken from the Zulu language, Fundi means "expert". The name reflects Fundi's desire to be acknowledged for expertise and excellence. Fundi Software is committed to developing superior products recognized for innovation, quality, and value.
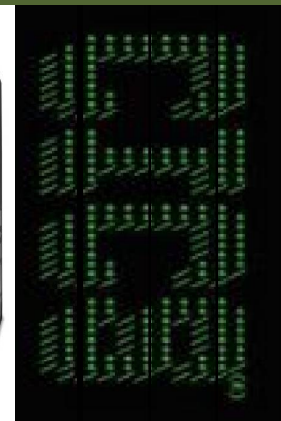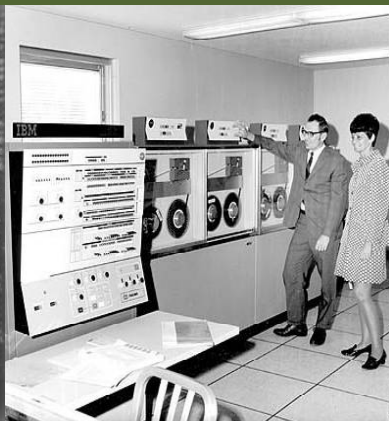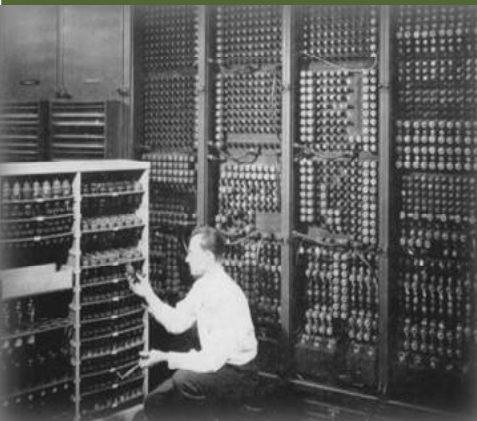
Fundi Software has established strategic relationships with leading international software vendors including IBM. Through those alliances, Fundi Software delivers software products to the world.

Fundi Software specializes in products that enhance the manageability, performance, usability, and productivity of the OS/390 and z/OS platforms. These products are

used world-wide by many Fortune 1000 companies.

Fundi Software is an IBM development partner, therefore in most instances customer contact is handled through the IBM international marketing and product support network.

We are all very pleased that Fundi has become involved with the user group, and through that involvement made it possible for us to provide the regular speakers and newsletters, and also maintain the Web site as a one-stop shop for CICS professionals.

Meeting dates

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

- 10 May 2011 – Jim Martin, Fundi Software. "Solving the problem when CICS isn't the cause".

- 12 July 2011 – Jeff Geminder, CA. "Cross-enterprise application performance monitoring and CICS-specific drill-down".

- 13 September 2011 – Charles Jones, Seagull Software.

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

Recent CICS articles

CICS: The Critical Enabler for the Event-Driven Enterprise by Anthony Papageorgiou in zJournal. You can find the article at www.mainframezone.com/it-management/cics-the-critical-enabler-for-the-event-driven-enterprise.

CICS and Identity Propagation: Solving the End-to-End Security Challenge by Phil Wakelin, Nigel Williams, and Martin Brown in zJournal. You can find the article at www.mainframezone.com/it-management/modern-integration-methods-for-ims-application.

CICS Task History Recording by Dave Williams in zJournal. You can find the article at www.mainframezone.com/it-management/cics-task-history-recording.

CICS news

Veryant has announced vCOBOL Enterprise, a platform to migrate legacy COBOL applications off IBM mainframes to Unix, Linux, and Microsoft Windows systems. This approach significantly improves critical runtime performance commonly associated with mainframe CICS transactions, the company claims. Full details can be found at `www.veryant.com/about/`

`news/mainframe-migration-cobol.php`.

Alchemy Solutions has announced Version 2 of NeoData, which comprises NeoData SQL, NeoData Utilities, and NeoData zLink, its migration software for COBOL applications and VSAM data. This release of NeoData zLink provides access to VSAM files from batch applications in addition to online (CICS) transactions from the original version. Batch applications can be migrated to Windows even if they still need to share VSAM data with applications remaining on the mainframe. Full details can be found at `www.alchemysolutions.com/news/2011/02/01/Alchemy-Solutions-Announces-General-Availability-of-NeoData-Version-2`.

Using Citrix GoToMeetings

All user group members will be sent a meeting URL about a week before the meeting date – something like: https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/xxxxxxxxx.

You need to click on the link and register for the meeting.

You'll see a screen (like Figure 1), and you need to enter your first and last names and an e-mail address. Once you click the 'Register Now' button you'll see a

Virtual CICS user group meeting 10 May

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM CDT - Show in my Time Zone

Webinar Registration

Virtual CICS user group meeting at 10:30 CDT on Tuesday 10 May 2011
Title: Solving the problem when CICS isn't the cause
Presenter: Jim Martin of Fundi Software

* First Name: * Last Name:

* Email Address:

* Indicates a required field

By clicking the "Register Now" button you submit your information to the Webinar organizer, who will use it to communicate with you regarding this event and their other services.

Register Now   View system requirements

Figure 1: Registration screen

piece of software. Once the software's downloaded, you'll need to run it (see Figure 5).

After that, you will be in the meeting, and able to see and hear everything that's going on – just the same as if we were all in the same room.

confirmation screen (Figure 2).

You'll receive a confirmation e-mail – like the one in Figure 3. On the day of the meeting, you can click on the big button in the e-mail and join the webinar.

Thank you for registering

Registration Complete

You have successfully registered for the following Webinar:

Virtual CICS user group meeting 10 May
Tuesday, May 10, 2011 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM CDT

Add to your Outlook calendar.

A confirmation email has been sent to you.

1. At the time above, click this link to join the Webinar:
   https://www1.gotomeeting.com/join/145513656/106944635

   This link **should not be shared** with others; it is unique to you.

Figure 2: Confirmation screen

You will need to join the meeting a little early because GoToMeetings needs to download a small piece of software onto your computer. And you will need to tell your firewall to enable all connections. The screen is shown in Figure 4.

For each webinar you attend, you will need to download this small

Virtual CICS user group meeting 10 May

JOIN WEBINAR

Join us on Tuesday, May 10, 2011 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM CDT

Dear Trevor,

Thank you for registering for:

Virtual CICS user group meeting 10 May
Tuesday, May 10, 2011 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM CDT

1. Click here to join:
   https://www1.gotomeeting.com/join/145513656/106944635

   This link **should not be shared** with others; it is unique to you.

2. You will be connected to audio using your computer's microphone and speakers (VoIP). A headset is recommended.

Figure 3: Confirmation e-mail

Figure 4: Download GoToMeeting

One other thing. If you want to use a telephone rather than using a headset, you'll need to click on the 'Use Telephone' button (Figure 6). You can then dial in, and enter the appropriate meeting code and audio pin.
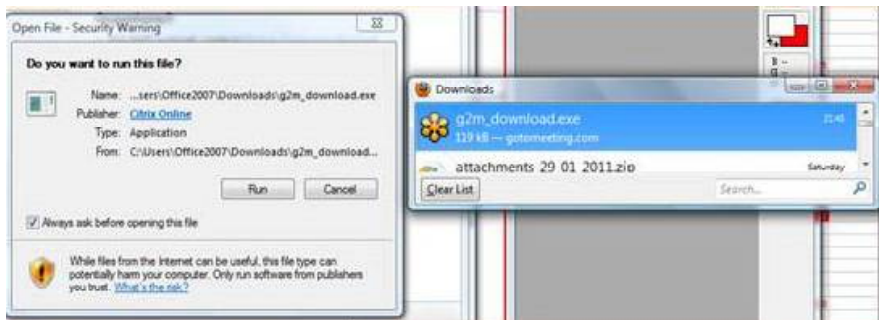

Figure 5: Audio

Figure 5: Running the software

Virtual CICS on Facebook, Twitter, and now LinkedIn!

You can stay up-to-date with all that's happening in the CICS world and with what's happening with the Virtual CICS user group by following us on Twitter or becoming a Fan on Facebook – as well as by checking the Web site regularly.

You can find us on Twitter at twitter.com/VirtualCICS.

You can become a fan on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Virtual-CICS-user-group/163022600420053.

And you can now join us on LinkedIn, by going to www.linkedin.com/groups/Virtual-CICS-user-group-3847862.

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.