Virtual CICS user group: Newsletter 4

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, “CICS TS 4.2: Leveraging event processing and high-performance Java”, and was presented by Charles Jones, from the Product Management group at Rocket Software.

Charles works in the Product Management and Pre-Sales Group within the Application Development, Integration, and Modernization Business Unit of Rocket Software. He works with Rocket Software’s SOA-based integration middleware, application modernization, and BI products; specializing in LegaSuite solutions for CICS. Charles is a frequent speaker on the latest advancements on the CICS platform and also provides contributions to industry publications.

Figure 1: SOA and CICS today

Charles started his presentation by looking at the technical capabilities of CICS TS 4.2, suggesting that in terms of events it now had system events, assured emission, and ALM (Application Lifecycle Management). In terms of Java, it was a 64 bit, multithreaded JVM server, with OSGi (Open Service Gateway initiative) support. In terms of connectivity, there

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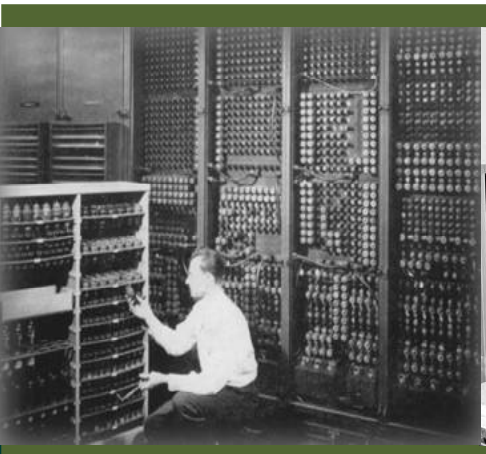


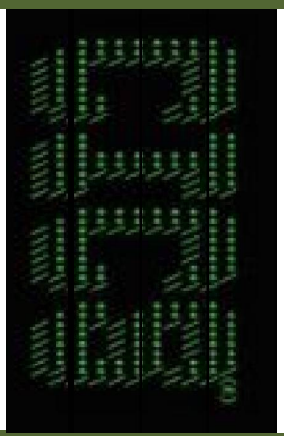

were HTTP and IP extensions, Axis2 Web Services. When it comes to management, there's transaction tracking, WLM (WorkLoad Management), and password phrases. In terms of scalability, it's 64 bit, and there's more and enhanced threadsafe transactions.

Moving on to CICS TS V4.2: Java, Charles informed the group that the 64-bit multithreaded JVM server produced exponential performance improvements. The OSGi ALM made it possible to start and stop applications without restarting the JVM server. And the System z optimizationsmade it fully zAAP (System z Application Assist Processor) enabled and provided z196 exploitation.

When it comes to getting started with CICS Java applications, Charles informed the group that you needed the CICS Explorer SDK for access to the JCICS class libraries. Looking at Eclipse IDE, CICS Explorer, and the CICS Explorer SDK, Charles said to install the SDK into an Eclipse IDE. To set up, deploy, and test the JCICS examples, you have to first define/install the CICS resources (JVM server, transaction, program, and bundle definitions). Set up the CICS region – including the SIT JVMPROFILE and Java 6.0.1. Finally, publish the examples and test.

For the CICS JVM servers, you need JVM profiles in JVMPROFILEDIR (HFS), a threadlimit (max T8 threads in a JVMServer), which is controlled by the SIT value in MAXTHRDTCBS. The maximum number of T8 TCBs is 1024, the maximum per JVM Server is 256, and there's no limit on the number of JVM servers per region.

Additional considerations include OSGi. Charles' suggestion was to use the SDK for new or re-packaging, and you must know the name of the JVMSERVER. He said to review best practices in

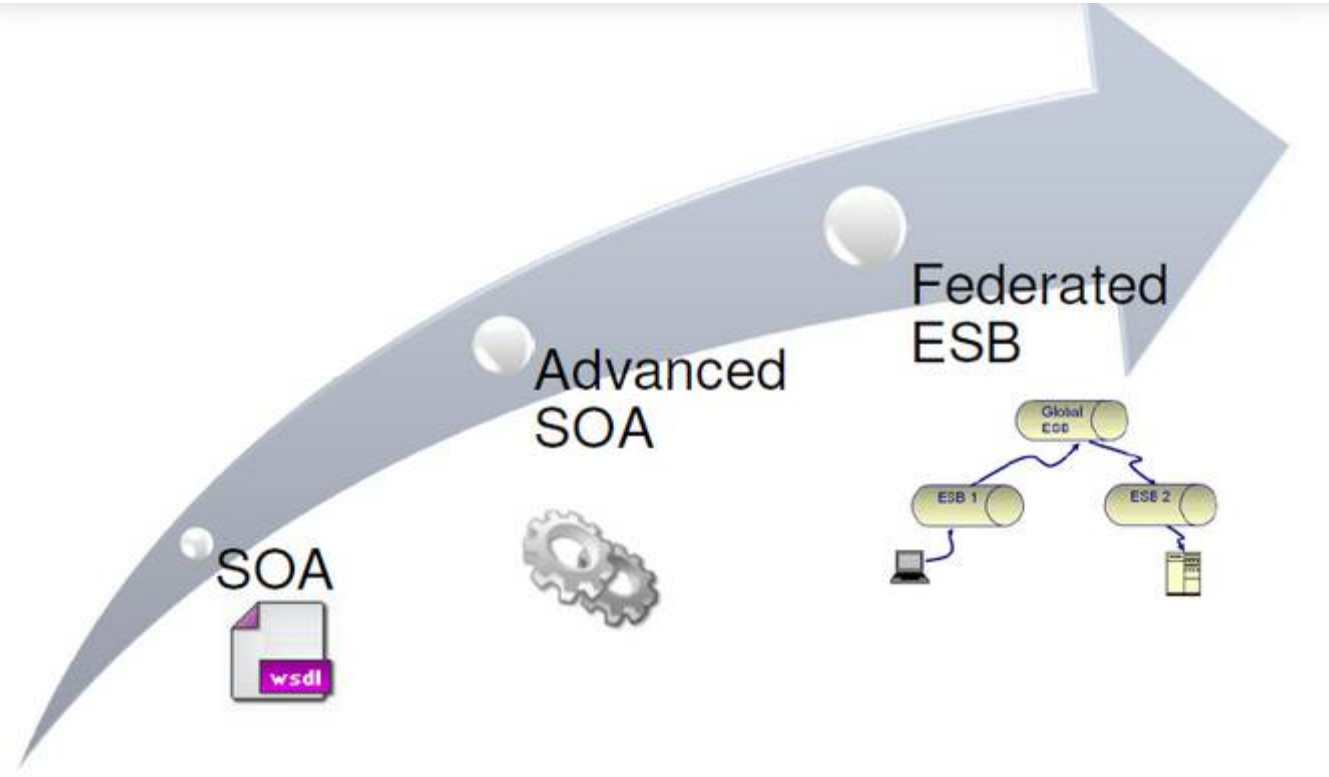

Figure 2: SOA adoption curve

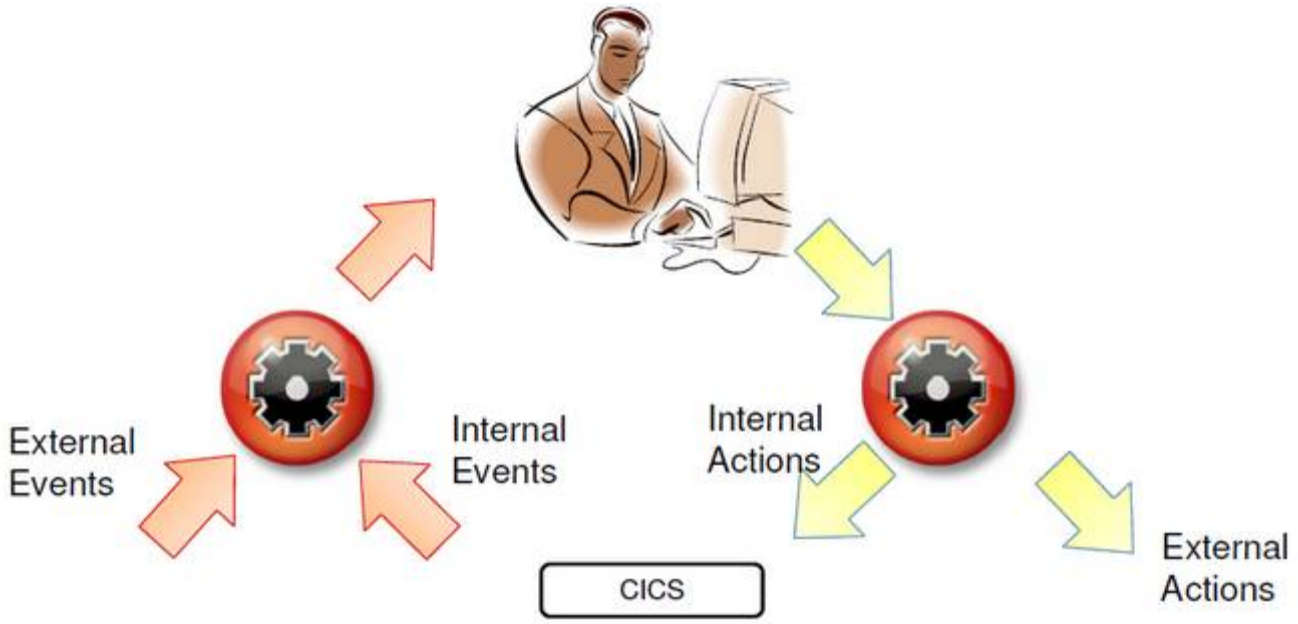

Figure 3: CICS events create awareness

terms of housekeeping, and threadsafe transactions. Use the JZOS copybook importers. And access the free Java Health Center (www.ibm.com/developerworks/java/jdk/tools/healthcenter/).

Charles informed us that event processing with CICS involves a non-invasive event production using the Exec CICS API and program initiation. It has a low overhead with assured emission. There's collaboration of workflow involving business analysts, programmers, CICS sysprogs, and IT architects. The CICS Explorer Event Processor Plug-in provides EP binding, EP capture specs, and an EP adapter.

Talking about LegaSuite, a product Charles is very familiar with, he suggested it provided optimal SOA enablement of CICS assets, providing an efficient, scalable, reliable, and secure infrastructure, as well as offloading to the zAAP. It also responds quickly to patterns of business events with Web-friendly dashboards that consume CICS events and process and enrich events in CICS with LegaSuite.

A copy of Charles' presentation is available for download from the Virtual CICS user group Web site at www.fundi.com/virtualcics/presentations/JavaSep11.pdf.

You can see and hear the whole user group meeting by downloading the WMV file from www.fundi.com/virtualims/presentations/2011-09-13meeting.wmv.

Meeting dates

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

- 8 November 2011 – Eugene S Hudders, president of C\TREK Corp. "*CICS TS Performance – Tuning LSR Pools*". To register for this meeting you need to go to https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/744320409.
- 17 January 2012 – IBM (Hursley)

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

Recent CICS articles

Tech Corner: CICS TS V4.2 addresses customer needs in five key areas by Catherine Moxey in *IBM Systems magazine* (September/ October 2011). You can find the article at www.ibmsystemsmag mainframedigital.com/ nxtbooks/ibmsystemsmag/ mainframe_20110708/#/50.

Trends: CICS TS V4.2 provides a balanced release for everyone by Nick Garrod in *IBM Systems magazine* (September/October 2011). You can find the article at www.ibmsystemsmag mainframedigital.com/ nxtbooks/ibmsystemsmag/ mainframe_20110708/#/28.

High Availability Using CICS Transaction Gateway and CICS Transaction Server by Liz Maple and Andrew Smithson in *z/Journal (August/September 2011).* You can find the article at www.mainframezone.com/it-management/high-availability-using-cics-transaction-gateway-and-cics-transaction-serve.

CICS news

Rocket Software has announced the availability of Rocket Seagull LegaSuite 6, its application modernization suite offering new features and functions across the entire LegaSuite lineup of modernization, integration, localization, automation, reporting, and testing solutions. LegaSuite now offers a Java-based runtime CICS engine that leverages the latest multithreaded 64-bit JVM server in IBM CICS TS 4.2 and brings significant savings for SOA deployments, reducing the cost of ownership of an SOA infrastructure. Full details can be found at seagull.rocketsoftware.com/ products_application-modernization_tour.

Zephyr has announced a new version of PASSPORT Host Integration Objects 2011-826 (HIO), its non-intrusive IBM System z and System i host application integration software that allows fast creation of custom .NET applications to access and integrate with existing host-based systems. Along with the release of this version of HIO, Zephyr is providing open access to a sample z/OS application running under their CICS environment. Zephyr has written a new sample C# .NET application and re-written existing ones to use its CICS-based host application, allowing users to familiarize themselves with its server and client-based custom HIO applications. More information can be found here. Full details can be found at www.zephyrcorp.com/news/ clientless-terminal-emulation.htm.

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.