



# Virtual CICS user group: Newsletter 54



Welcome to the Virtual CICS user group newsletter. The Virtual CICS user group at [virtualcics.hostbridge.com](http://virtualcics.hostbridge.com) is an independently-operated vendor-neutral site run by and for the CICS user community.

## Virtual CICS user group

The exciting news is that Hostbridge Technology has taken over as sponsor for the Virtual CICS user group.

## Greetings from Hostbridge

The team at HostBridge Technology is pleased to serve as the new sponsor for the Virtual CICS user group. If you're unfamiliar with HostBridge, we have, for decades, helped enterprises make their CICS applications available via APIs and web services.

One goal in sponsoring the user group is to allow it to continue sharing news and information about CICS amongst its members – to help CICS users understand more about CICS and new CICS developments, allow

them to extend what they can do with CICS, and build the best solutions they can.

As part of our sponsorship, we are pleased to offer free HostBridge trial software to group members, with no-cost services and support, for prototyping CICS API or web services enablement. You can chose from:

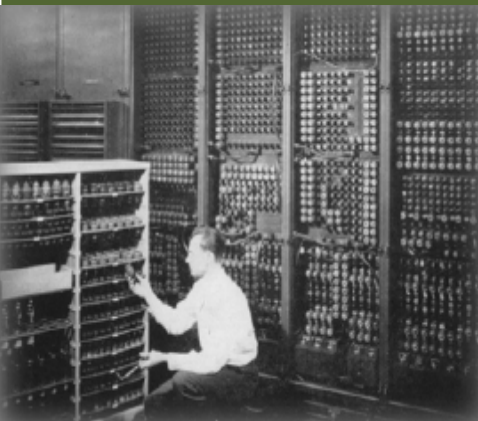
- The HostBridge JavaScript Engine (HB.js): for creating CICS integration and orchestration scripts.
- The HostBridge Transaction Analytics Connector (HTAC): for understanding how web, cloud, or mobile transactions are driving CICS transaction workload.
- The HostBridge Mainframe RPA Assessment: a service for

## Our new website

[virtualcics.hostbridge.com/](http://virtualcics.hostbridge.com/)

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understanding how RPA activity is impacting your mainframe.

We look forward to our association and collaboration! Please connect with us through LinkedIn, Facebook, or YouTube.

Best regards  
Russ Teubner  
CEO, HostBridge Technology

## Meeting dates

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

- On 25 February 2020, Al Saurette, VP Business Development at MainTegrity Inc, will be discussing “Providing system integrity for multiple LPARs with improved GDPR and PCI/DSS compliance”.
- The following meeting will be on 12 May 2020, when IBM's Stewart Francis will be looking at CICS Bundles and Maven.

We are using Webex for the user group meetings.

## Recent CICS articles

*CICS and Kafka Integration* by Ailian Mi on CICS DevCenter (6 January 2020). You can find the article at: <https://developer.ibm.com/cics/2020/01/06/cics-and-kafka-integration/>.

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## The impact of RPA on your mainframe

There's an interesting blog at <https://www.hostbridge.com/assessing-mainframe-rpa-impact/> looking at the impact of Robotic Process Automation (RPA) on a mainframe. What the blog reveals is that as RPA bot activity proliferates throughout an enterprise, it can have an adverse impact on the mainframe. Their analysis showed why: RPA bots were using the least efficient and most brittle mechanism for getting data out of CICS applications off the mainframe: screen-scraping. As leading-edge and artificially intelligent as many RPA platforms are, many RPA vendors rely on low-tech screen scraping to get mainframe data. This is not a good development for those enterprises where RPA adoption is soaring.

Not that RPA is a bad thing. The blog suggests that RPA is providing significant productivity and human cost displacement benefits to enterprises that are using it.

The blog concludes that it's a relatively simple matter to have RPA bots switch to a more efficient, better performing approach to getting mainframe data.

## 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 [virtualcics.hostbridge.com](http://virtualcics.hostbridge.com) 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](mailto:trevor@itech-ed.com).

The Virtual CICS user group is free to its members.