



Virtual CICS user group: Newsletter 58



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

```

EXP GR(*) TCPIPSERVICE
ENTER COMMANDS
NAME      TYPE      GROUP      LAST CHANGE
EXMPPORT  TCPIPSERVICE  DFH$EXWS  02/04/16 17:49:11
ECI       TCPIPSERVICE  DFH$SOT   02/04/16 17:49:08
HTTPNSSL  TCPIPSERVICE  DFH$SOT   02/04/16 17:49:08
HTTPSSL   TCPIPSERVICE  DFH$SOT   02/04/16 17:49:08
DFH$WUTC  TCPIPSERVICE  DFH$WU    02/04/16 17:49:10
DFH$WUTC  TCPIPSERVICE  USER$WU  09/23/19 08:14:29

RESULTS: 1 TO 6 OF 6
PF 1 HELP 2 SIG 3 END 4 TOP 5 BOT 6 CSR 7 SBH 8 SFH 9 MSG 10 SB 11 SF 12 CNCL

SYSID=S700 APPLID=CICSTS53
TIME: 09.41.06 DATE: 09/08/20

```

Figure 1: Connecting TCP/IP service

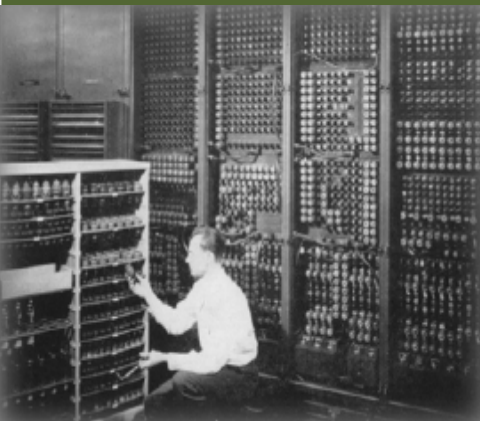
Virtual CICS user group presentation

The latest webinar from the Virtual CICS user group was entitled, "Installing and Connecting to CICS EXPLORER for a single CICS region". It was presented by Colin Pearce.

Colin has been a z/OS and CICS Systems Programmer for over 30 years and have been teaching for more than 20 years. He has worked in permanent and contract roles, and has installed CICS and related software many times.

Contents:

Virtual CICS user group presentation	1
Meeting dates	4
CICS articles and blogs	4
Managing Hybrid-Mainframe Application Performance With Integration Analytics	5
About the Virtual CICS user group	5



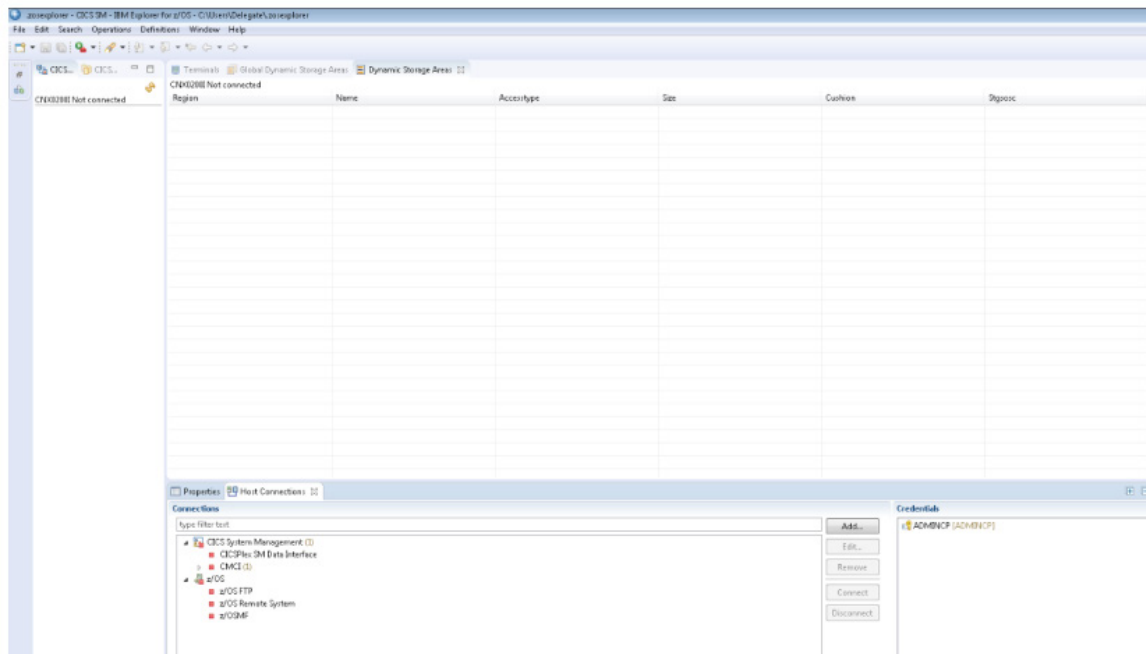


Figure 2: CICS Explorer start screen

He is well versed in the Application side of CICS using Command level and with CICS Debugging in both the Transaction level and CICS Systems Dumps using IPCS.

He has written many courses in CICS namely (CICS for System Programmers, CICS Transaction Debugging, CICS Command Level Programming, and CICS Internals). He knows and understands the newer facilities in CICS, such as Web Services and Threadsafe.

He has taught for IBM in Australia, India, and Singapore, and has taught for third-party suppliers. He worked for IBM Singapore for a number of years, supporting Citibank, where his main role was to take

their problems, and try and reproduce them on the IBM site before engaging the IBM Level 2 support.

Colin Pearce started his demonstration of how to use CICS Explorer by showing how to set up a single CICS region connecting to CICS Explorer. Figure 1 shows which TCP/IP service to use. The default port number to use is 01490. That will allow CICS Explorer to connect to the CICS region.

CICS Explorer can be downloaded from IBM and can be easily installed and accessed from a Windows desktop. The start screen is shown in Figure 2.

The first thing to select on the right-hand side is 'Open Perspective'. From here users can select CICS SM.

Colin said that a perspective is really a workspace. A user then selects 'Window' then 'manage connections'. This then opens a small window at the bottom of the screen from which the appropriate CICS management client interface (CMCI) can be selected.

Clicking on CMCI will give the opportunity to create a new connection. It can have any name. The host name will probably come from your z/OS administrator, and the port number is 01490. Connecting will require a userid and password.

To do any useful work, click on 'Operations' and select, for example, 'Regions' from the menu. menu items are organized as with CEMT commands. This will open a tab in the middle area of the

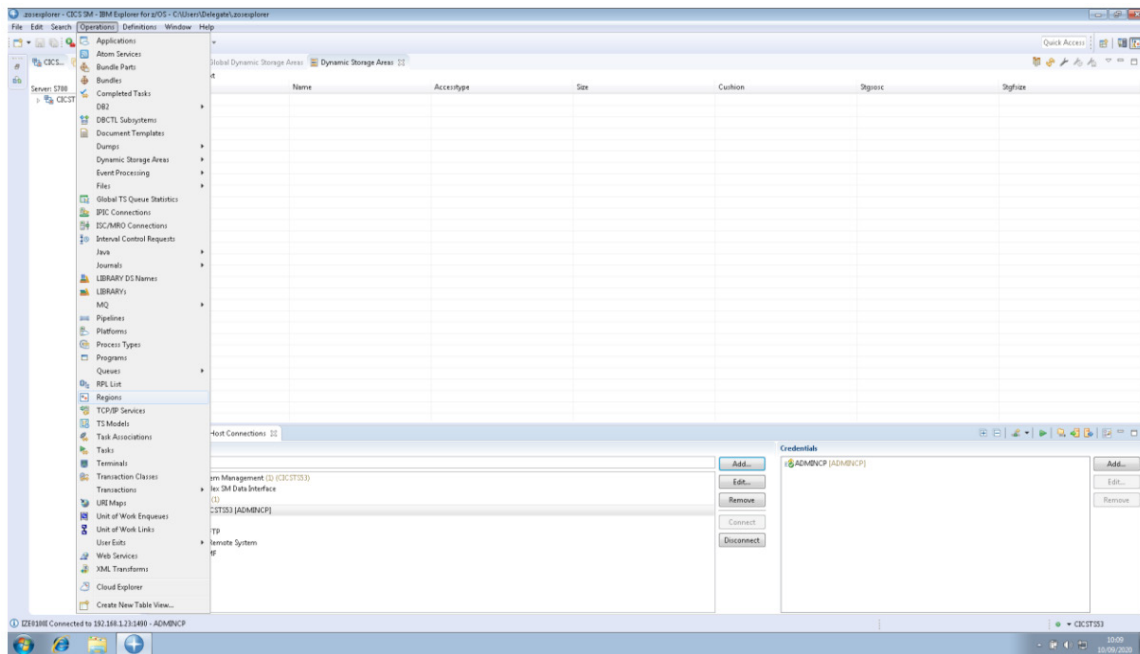


Figure 3: Using CEMT-like functions

window showing the region information (see Figure 3).

Double clicking the region name shows its attributes. This is like the result of a CEMT inquire system command plus more information. Values can be changed by highlighting a value and double-clicking the value. Either a new value can be typed in or a value can be selected from a drop-down menu showing the options available. The changed line is highlighted and the Control s command will save the change that was just made. Multiple changes can be made by clicking enter after each change is made and before they are all saved.

Next Colin selected 'Transactions' from 'Operations', and showed the local transactions. These

can be copied, discarded, or other actions. Again, the attributes are shown.

Looking at the RPL (relocatable program library) list, Colin demonstrated how to add a quick filter to select only part of the full display.

Dynamic Storage areas can also be selected from 'Operations'. This lists all the DSAs available and their sizes. And Programs can be selected from 'Operations'. This can be filtered. A right-click on a name gives the usual options of 'Phase in', 'Copy', 'Discard', etc.

Colin went on to show what can be done with files. He showed all his local files and how to right-click on the name and close the file using the attributes window.

He then showed 'Definitions'. Using Explorer, it's possible to define bundles, which the CEDA command can't do. Right-clicking on an existing definition pops up a menu. Selecting 'New' from there can create a new transaction definition. The region name is already entered.

Colin went on to show how to create a new program definition and how to change the attributes by clicking on a particular attribute and selecting from the drop-down menu (see Figure 4).

Lastly, Colin selected 'Group List Definitions' from 'Operations' to show what was available. And, next he selected 'Resource Group Definitions' from 'Operations' to show the resource definitions. These can be checked to make sure they

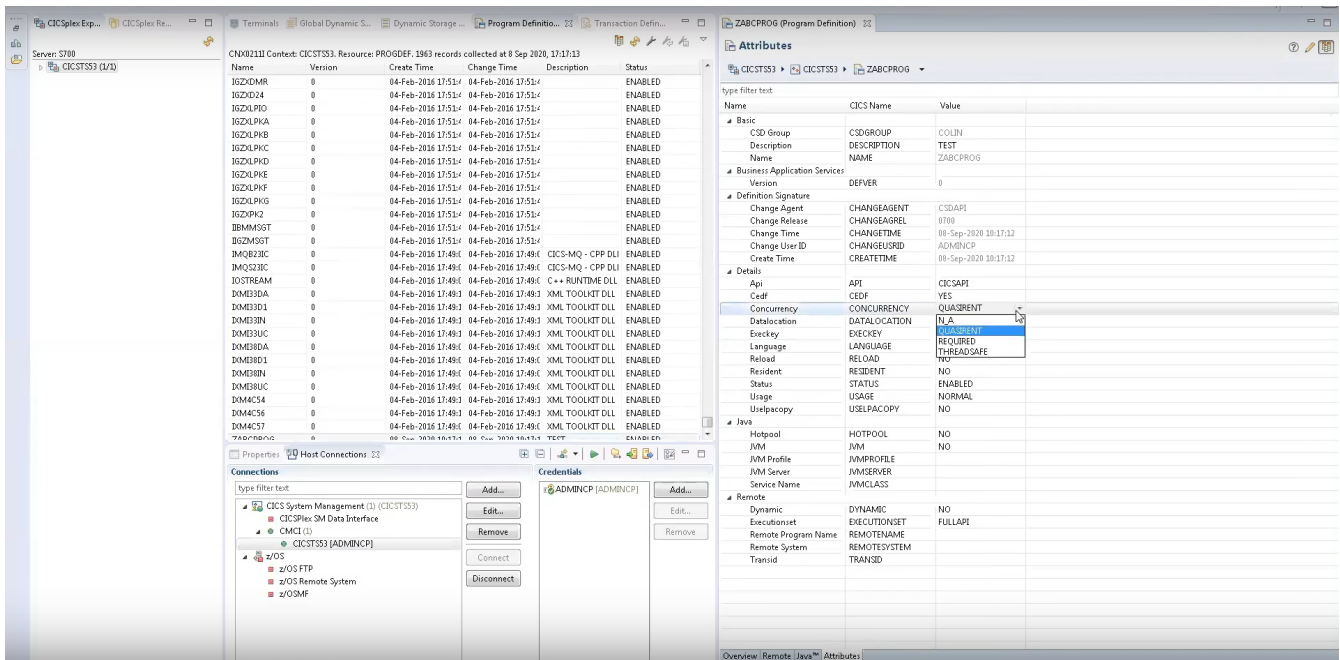


Figure 4: Changing attributes

have been set up correctly. When you finish using CICS Explorer, end the session by selecting 'Disconnect' and 'Exit'.

A copy of the screenshots from Colin Pearce's presentation is available for download from the Virtual CICS user group website at virtualcics.hostbridge.com/presentations/CICSExplorerSep20.pdf.

You can see and hear the whole user group meeting at <https://youtu.be/vXipvryy-A0>.

Meeting dates

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

- On 3 November, we

have Ezriel Gross, Principal Solutions Advisor, Rocket Software discussing "Visualizing CICS performance data in Splunk using CICS Performance Analyzer".

- The following meeting is on 12 January next year when Satish Tanna, Offering Manager for CICS Tools, zSystems Software at IBM will be speaking.

We are using Zoom for the user group meetings.

CICS articles and blogs

CICS Explorer, z/OS Explorer, and CICS TS V5.6 by Dave Nice in the CICS part of the IBM Z and LinuxONE Community

(21 September 2020): <https://community.ibm.com/community/user/ibmz-and-linuxone/blogs/dave-nice1/2020/09/21/cics-explorer-zos-explorer-and-cics-ts-v56>

TLS 1.2 session ID caching for CICS in a sysplex by Ian Mitchell in the CICS part of the IBM Z and LinuxONE Community (2 September 2020): <https://community.ibm.com/community/user/ibmz-and-linuxone/blogs/ian-mitchell1/2020/09/02/tls-12-session-id-caching-for-cics-in-a-sysplex>

Using MQMONITORs to simplify the administration of CICS-MQ trigger monitors and MQ message consumers by Shuai Cao in the CICS part of the IBM Z and LinuxONE

HostBridge is now offering services, support, expertise, and even free pilot software to help organizations rapidly make CICS applications available.

Community (12 August 2020). <https://community.ibm.com/community/user/ibmz-and-linuxone/blogs/shuai-cao1/2020/08/12/simplify-administration-of-mq-message-consumers>

Configuring Kerberos for CICS with RACF and Microsoft Active Directory by John Taylor in the CICS part of the IBM Z and LinuxONE Community (10 August 2020). <https://community.ibm.com/community/user/ibmz-and-linuxone/blogs/john-taylor1/2020/08/10/configuring-kerberos-for-cics-with-racf-and-micros>

Pervasive Encryption with CICS Transaction Server for z/OS by Catherine Moxey in the CICS part of the IBM Z and LinuxONE Community (10 August 2020). <https://community.ibm.com/community/user/ibmz-and-linuxone/blogs/catherine-moxey1/2020/08/10/pervasive-encryption-cics>

What Makes CICS, a Mixed Language Application Server, So Special? by Ezriel Gross in IBM Systems Magazine (10 August 2020). <https://ibmsystemsmag.com/>

[IBM-Z/8/2020/cics-mixed-language-application-server](https://mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?m=23209&i=664279&p=8)

Continuous Innovation Creates Success ... and Helps Longevity: Introducing CICS TS V5.6 – a Release for Developers by Nick Garrod in Enterprise Executive (Issue 3 2020). <https://mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?m=23209&i=664279&p=8>

Opening the CICS Transaction Server Trace Toolkit by Andy Wright and Darren Beard PhD in Enterprise Tech Journal (Issue 3 2020). <https://mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?m=23234&i=667477&p=10>

Managing Hybrid-Mainframe Application Performance With Integration Analytics

A recent blog at hostbridge.com/managing-hybrid-mainframe-application-performance-with-integration-analytics/ looked at analytics. Nowadays, the mainframe services requests from a range of sources leading to mainframe transaction volumes increasing, but leaving the IT team with a lack of certainty about what is driving the increase, what are the workload origins, who is responsible, or how to remediate issues?

A new free service from HostBridge provides

mainframe users with an in-depth analysis of SMF 110 records. The analysis can be completed remotely, and the results presented using Zoom. The output is a series of dashboards revealing interactions that negatively impact performance and end user satisfaction. These dashboards enable users to drill down to identify the ‘heavy hitters’ by day, hour, or minute.

A \$2 billion global manufacturing leader recently completed the no-cost HostBridge mainframe application analysis. It showed: who was invoking a problem macro; how often it ran; and the amount of CPU time the macro consumed.

Another benefit came in the form of a surprise revelation. They found macros that they didn’t even know existed”, said the senior IS business process analyst for this enterprise. “It’s very helpful because it points out exactly where the problems are with these interactions. We now have a tool that lets us show the end users what their automations are doing to us.”

The form at the bottom of the blog post is an easy way for anyone to request more information about this no-cost or obligation analysis. The results ‘lift the veil’ hiding how non-mainframe applications are driving CICS transactions.