

Virtual CICS User Group Presentation

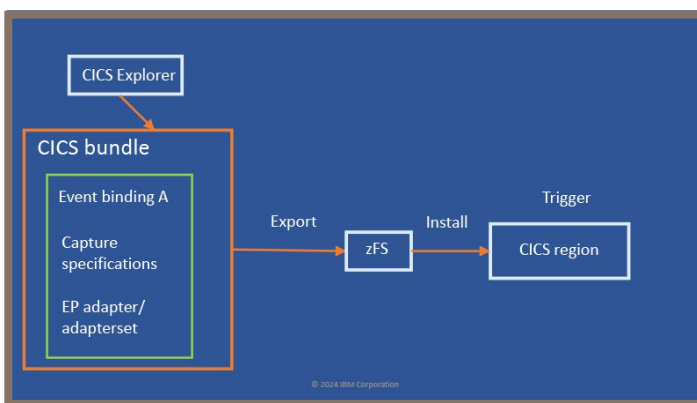
CICS Event Processing & CICS Policies

The recent virtual user group meeting, delved into the evolving world Customer Information Control System (CICS). This session showcased the critical advancements in CICS, particularly in event processing and policies, which are essential in adapting to the dynamic needs of modern businesses.

Jenny He, an IBM expert, headlined the session, providing an in-depth look at the capabilities and implementation of CICS event processing and policies. She emphasized how these tools allow businesses to monitor and notify events without needing to alter application source code, enhancing operational efficiency and customer service. Jenny explained that CICS event processing enables the monitoring of business activities—from simple transactions like bank withdrawals to complex operations such as supply orders—through event-enabled APIs. These events are captured seamlessly due to the CICS Explorer, a tool that facilitates the creation and management of event bindings and policies.

During the presentation, Jenny highlighted the use of CICS Explorer for defining and exporting policies and event bindings. This tool provides a user interface that makes it easier for organizations to set up and manage their monitoring systems within their CICS environments. She detailed how policies in CICS serve as modern tools for system administrators, allowing them to track CICS region statuses, resources, and tasks through tailored rules that can trigger actions based on specific conditions.

The discussion also covered the practical application of these features, with Jenny showcasing a demo using a CICS-supplied sample application. This illustrated how events could be defined, captured, and processed effectively. Furthermore, she distinguished between task rules and system rules within policies, demonstrating how these could be configured to monitor different aspects of the CICS environment and respond to predefined thresholds.



How to decide the threshold for task rules?

- Performance Analyzer
 - Sample forms to produce reports you can use to identify suitable threshold values to set in task rules

Policy rule type	Sample CICS PA Version 5.4 form	Title	Description
Async request	ASSUM	Asynchronous API Activity	Provides details of EXEC CICS asynchronous API requests by transaction.
Database request	MPRMIRQ	Platform - RMI Requests Summary	Provides details of DB2*, IMS (DBCTL), and IBM* MQ requests by transaction.
EXEC CICS request	MPMISC3	Platform - Misc Requests Summary	Provides details of EXEC CICS requests, named counter requests, program link requests, start requests, and syncpoint requests by transaction.

- Complete list of CICS PA forms:
<https://www.ibm.com/docs/en/cics-ts/6.1?topic=policies-cics-pa>

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NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING | May 14, 2024

CICS Interdependency Analyzer in Devops

In this presentation we will look at how CICS IA can be used to automatically generate reports related to diff aspects of a CICS application in the Devops pipeline, which can then be used to determine next action. We will include a short demo of the capabilities as an introduction and then explain the usage of the product for Devops.



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CICS Event Processing & CICS Policies Continued

An enlightening segment of the session was dedicated to performance measurements associated with CICS policies. A highlighted study showed minimal performance overhead while implementing policy rules, which reassures the efficiency and effectiveness of these monitoring tools. The session concluded with a dynamic Q&A segment, where Jenny addressed various technical inquiries from the audience, including policy rule exclusions, JSON support in HTTP adapters, and customization of thresholds and message triggers.

This user group session highlighted the collaborative and educational spirit of the mainframe community, focusing on sharing knowledge and best practices to ensure the continuous development and optimization of mainframe operations through innovative tools like CICS event processing and policies. Join us for our next session in May.

Performance overhead of CICS Policy

- CICS region runs with and without a set of 1000 policy task rules.
- Transaction rate of ~4,000 per second.
- Task runs 1,000 EXEC CICS ASSIGN commands.
- ~5 micro-second overhead is measured.
 - This is insignificant, even with high API usage and policy rule numbers.
- CICS performance report: <https://www.ibm.com/docs/en/cics-ts/6.1?topic=report-cics-policy-rules>

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CICS policies vs. CICS application events

CICS policies	CICS application events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use rules to monitor system resource status, the amount of resource usage and unusual system states Action can be a message, a CICS event, abending task, changing z/OS WLM status, or reject EXEC CICS request 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use capture specifications to filter on application data on selected EXEC CICS API calls Action is a CICS event

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Access the Recording



News and Announcements

- Sponsorship opportunity—We are looking for additional co-sponsors for the Virtual CICS User Group. The user group gives its sponsors an opportunity to show that they are working with, and helping to build, the CICS user community. Contact virtualusergroups@gmail.com for more information.
- After you register for our next event on May 14, save the date for our following session on July 9th where we will be joined by Mark Wilson from Vertali.

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 <https://www.virtualusergroups.com/cics/> provides a central point for coordinating periodic meetings (which contain technically-oriented topics presented in a webinar format) 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 virtualusergroups@gmail.com. The Virtual CICS user group is free to its members.

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