

Virtual CICS User Group Presentation

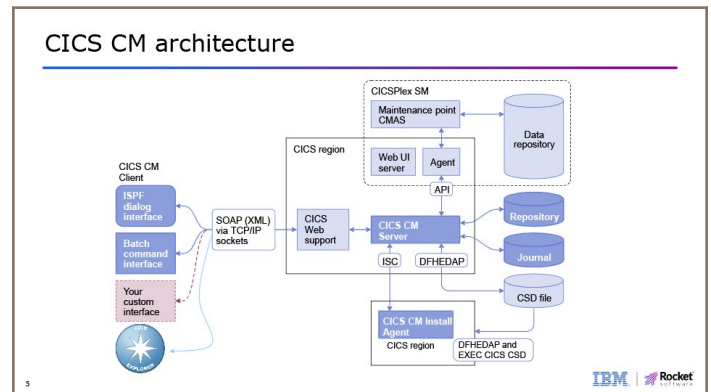
# CICS RESOURCE DEFINITIONS AS PART OF A DEVOPS PIPELINE

In the dynamic world of enterprise computing, managing critical systems like the Customer Information Control System (CICS) efficiently is a key concern for many organizations. A recent virtual CICS User Group session focused on this topic, featuring a presentation from Ezriel Gross, Principal Solutions Advisor at Rocket Software. Gross, a specialist in IBM CICS tools and a recognized expert as both a Gold Consultant and IBM Champion, explored how a CICS Configuration Manager (CICS CM) can simplify and enhance the management of CICS resource definitions within a DevOps pipeline.

Gross kicked off the presentation by reviewing a typical DevOps pipeline, noting the unique challenges that organizations face when managing CICS resource definitions in a traditional environment. These challenges are often compounded by the complexity and critical nature of CICS within many enterprises, where manual interventions, lack of standardization, and limited control over resource definitions can create inefficiencies and increase the risk of errors. Gross emphasized that these issues often stem from the absence of a single, centralized point of control for managing resource definitions.

Rocket Software’s CICS Configuration Manager (CICS CM) addresses this need by providing a unified framework for managing CICS resource definitions across multiple environments. The tool’s ability to handle both CSD (CICS System Definition) files and CPSM (CICSplex System Manager) repositories makes it adaptable to different enterprise setups, offering flexibility for organizations of various sizes and structures. Gross emphasized that by

integrating CICS CM into a DevOps pipeline, organizations can streamline the process of managing resource definitions, enhancing both efficiency and control.



One feature of CICS CM, as Gross highlighted, is its capacity to delegate responsibilities while maintaining a high level of control over changes to resource definitions. This is particularly valuable in complex environments where multiple teams may need to make updates or adjustments to resource definitions. Through CICS CM, developers can be granted access to a shadow CSD environment, allowing them to make changes in a controlled setting. Once these changes are tested and approved, they can be migrated to production or test environments, ensuring that only vetted updates are implemented. This process helps reduce the risk of human error and ensures a more robust and reliable development cycle.

## SPONSORS





## NEXT VIRTUAL MEETING | November 12, 2024

### The 7 Deadly Sins of CICS Integrations

Horror is not constrained to the movies, but happens every day in your CICS environment! We will share common examples of poor and horrific examples of CICS integration which drives up MIPS and degrades response times. Just when we thought the insanity of screen scraping was over, along comes Robotic Process Automation (RPA). What if your Cloud first, API, or Microservice strategy increases MIPS by cementing your legacy architecture into your Hybrid Cloud Architecture vs optimizing it? Join our fun-filled recap of past and current sins and let the healing begin.

**Russ Teubner**  
Distinguished Engineer  
*Broadcom*

**Scott Brod**  
Product Manager  
*Broadcom*

[REGISTER](#)

### CICS Resource Definitions as part of a DevOps Pipeline Continued

Moreover, CICS CM's security features add another layer of protection by allowing administrators to set access controls. Administrators can restrict certain users from making changes to specific resource types or attributes, ensuring that only authorized personnel can alter critical system components. Gross noted that this capability not only improves operational security but also supports compliance with organizational policies and industry regulations.

Gross also delved into one of the more challenging aspects of managing CICS resources: the migration of resource definitions across different environments, particularly in cases where LPAR (Logical Partition) boundaries are involved. These scenarios can often introduce complications due to differences in system setups and storage configurations, especially when environments do not share DASD (Direct Access Storage Device). CICS CM simplifies this process by enabling resource definitions to be flattened into a file format that can be easily transferred between environments.

This capability is crucial for organizations operating in distributed computing environments, where consistency across various systems is paramount. By automating the migration process, CICS CM reduces the potential for errors that can arise during manual transfers, ensuring that resource definitions remain consistent and accurate across all environments. This feature, Gross explained, is especially beneficial for enterprises with complex IT infrastructures that span multiple regions or data centers.

CICS CM has robust audit and compliance features that allow organizations to maintain a detailed record of all changes made to CICS resource definitions, including information about who made the changes and when. This audit trail is not only valuable for organizations that need to comply with regulatory requirements, but it also promotes operational transparency, making it easier for teams to track and review changes over time.

### Register Today for the Broadcom Virtual Mainframe Technical Exchange

Save your spot for the [2024 Broadcom Virtual Mainframe Technical Exchange](#) on October 8-10. This no-cost online event is open to all Broadcom customers and partners. Broadcom Mainframe technical experts will deliver over **100 sessions**, covering technical education, product roadmaps, how-tos, and roundtable discussions. View the [event schedule](#) to see that we have planned for this three day event. Join us to network virtually with your peers across the globe and gain knowledge you can use immediately.

[Register today!](#)



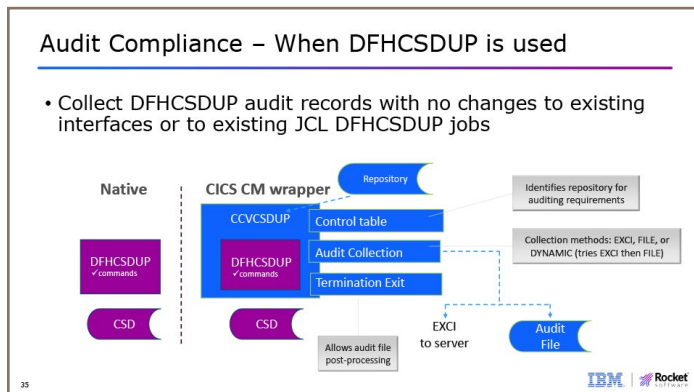
**Mainframe  
Technical  
Exchange**

October 8-10, 2024  
Virtual Event



## CICS Resource Definitions as part of a DevOps Pipeline Continued

The audit functionality is complemented by CICS CM's ability to quickly roll back or revert changes if needed. This rollback capability helps minimize downtime and reduces the impact of potential errors, further enhancing the reliability of CICS resource management processes.



In addition to managing traditional CICS resource definitions, CICS CM also supports the management of ZFS (z/OS File System) resources. This expanded functionality enables organizations to use the tool for managing a broader range of resources, including WS bind files, WSDLs, and OSGI bundles. Gross demonstrated how CICS CM's support for ZFS resources includes full backup capabilities, ensuring that critical system files are securely managed and stored. By extending its capabilities to ZFS resources, CICS CM provides a comprehensive solution for enterprises looking to manage both CICS and non-CICS resources within a single framework.

This broader resource management capability is particularly useful for organizations that are increasingly adopting hybrid or multi-platform IT environments. By offering support for both traditional and modern resource types, CICS CM ensures that organizations can maintain consistency and control across their entire infrastructure, regardless of the specific systems or resources in use.

Gross's presentation at the CICS User Group session underscored the significant benefits of using CICS Configuration Manager. As enterprises continue to navigate the complexities of modern computing environments, tools like CICS CM are becoming indispensable for streamlining operations, reducing risk, and ensuring compliance. By offering a centralized, automated solution for managing CICS resource definitions, CICS CM empowers organizations to improve efficiency, enforce security policies, and maintain transparency across their IT infrastructures.

Whether managing traditional CICS resources or extending control to modern ZFS resources, CICS CM provides the tools necessary to optimize resource management processes in a rapidly evolving enterprise landscape. As Gross's presentation highlighted, the benefits of adopting such a solution extend far beyond efficiency, offering a pathway to improved governance, reduced risk, and greater operational resilience.





## 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](mailto:virtualusergroups@gmail.com) for more information.
- After you register for our next event on November 12, save the date for our following session on January 14.

## 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 [virtualusergroups.com/cics](http://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](mailto:virtualusergroups@gmail.com). The Virtual CICS user group is free to its members.

## SPONSORS

