

# CICS Portfolio e-news

**August 2006**

[View from CICS development by Dibbe Edwards](#)

[CICS and System z scene by Rick Thomas](#)

[New announce: CICS Online Transmission Time Optimizer V1.2 \(OTTO\)](#)

[Preview announce: CICS Transaction Gateway V7](#)

[Great customer feedback at the June T&M Conference](#)

[Recent success: 'How Standard Life leveraged CICS for increased competitiveness'](#)

[New white paper: 'Managing your CICS systems now and in the future'](#)

[What's on: CICS worldwide events](#)

[Technical podcasts](#)

[Webcasts](#)

[New Redbook: 'Implementing CICS Web Services'](#)

[Add personal value with CICS training](#)

[Subscribe to these great newsletters](#)

[Useful links and resources](#)

## ***CICS development***

### **View from CICS development by Dibbe Edwards**



The [SHARE](#) User Events in Baltimore this year run through August 13 – 18 and provide 5 days of high-quality technical training and information sessions that give you the answers you need. At SHARE, you can hear about the latest software, learn about other new technologies and network with some of the finest brains in the business.

In the session ‘CICS Project Opening and CICS Product Family Update’ (session 1020, Monday 14 August, 0800), you can find out what’s happening in the project. During the first half of this session, project manager, Barry Brooks of the University of Florida, will run through the CICS Project and its organizational structure. You can also hear about the schedule for the week plus details of other areas of interest. During the last half of this session, Phil Hanson from IBM Hursley Laboratory will discuss recently announced CICS products and will look at CICS Transaction Server, CICS connectors, and the CICS tools.

In the session ‘SOA Implementations on z’ (session 1022, Monday 14 August, 0930) I’ll be looking at specific customer implementations and the business benefits that customers have realized by deploying onto the z platform. I’ll also be looking at CICS Transaction Server V3, WebSphere Application Server and the WebSphere application development portfolio of products, and how using these products have enabled customers to quickly and efficiently move to a SOA business infrastructure.

I look forward to seeing you at SHARE in Baltimore this year.

[Dibbe Edwards](#), Director, CICS Development

## ***CICS marketplace***

### **CICS and System z scene by Rick Thomas**



The internet has been around for quite a while now. However it's only relatively recently that volume business over the internet has taken off in a big way. With the emergence of new technologies, plus the requirement for products and services to be available on demand 24/24, the internet has generated its own 'big bang' in the form of an explosion of commercial activity.

To meet this rapid expansion in demand, organizations are having to move from old-fashioned, prescriptive, technology-centric IT systems to modern, flexible, service-based business solutions.

In this context, there's already been a lot of talk about how transforming and reusing existing CICS assets as Web services in an SOA environment is the way forward, how businesses are moving from distributed computing back to the mainframe for better reliability and scalability, plus a simplified environment. You've heard the theory but what's happening in the real world? What types of organization are using these new approaches? Why did they decide to adopt SOA? Why did they reaffirm their allegiance to the mainframe? What benefits are they seeing from modernization? Let me give you a couple of examples...

One of the largest retailers in the US faced the difficult challenge of keeping up with customer demand and needed to modernize. Because of the large volume of transactions involved (over a billion a year and growing) the retailer wanted to achieve a low cost-per-transaction. A large number of applications were also involved which could be much better managed in a single environment. The retailer also wanted high availability. To meet these objectives, the retailer chose IBM System z.

A European Ministry of Finance wanted to modernize so that its clients (companies and individuals) could file online tax returns in order to conform to new governance regulations. The current system was based on outdated CGI technology which limited system performance and functionality. The ministry chose CICS Transaction Gateway, System z and a portfolio of IBM's integrated development products. Since the modernization program began, more than three million online tax returns have been successfully processed.

Look out for more CICS and System z success stories in future.

[Richard Thomas](#), Program Director, CICS Marketing

## ***CICS products***

### **New announce: CICS Online Transmission Time Optimizer V1.2 (OTTO)**

CICS OTTO V1.2 was announced on August 1. It provides additional capabilities for improving the efficiency of large 3270 networks. Key features of CICS OTTO V1.2 are:

- data stream error display for improved compression status management
- improved viewing of trace data
- option to exclude transactions and terminals from optimization
- enhanced on-screen user information
- enhanced user documentation

For more details, see the product [page](#) and follow the link to the announcement letter.

### **Preview announce: CICS Transaction Gateway V7**

CICS TG V7 was preview announced on July 25. It brings a host of new capabilities including enhanced real-time system monitoring. Also included will be extended networking support (including IPv6), advanced security enablement and the CICS Universal Client V7. For more details see the [preview](#) page.

## ***CICS happenings***

### **Great customer feedback at the June T&M Conference**

Attendees at the Transaction & Messaging Conference in Atlanta in June included hundreds of system developers and programmers. Indications were that the version 6 CICS products, as well as CICS Transaction Server V3 have been extremely well received and that CICS and System z are giving customers what they want, need and expect. During the conference, attendees also heard a strong statement of intent about the future direction and themes for CICS, System z and SOA.

Thanks to everyone (attendees, presenters and organizers) who made the June T&M conference such a success. Look out for the [November](#) T&M Conference in Salzburg, Austria.

### **Recent success: ‘How Standard Life leveraged CICS for increased competitiveness’**

Standard Life is Europe’s largest insurance company, generating most sales through independent financial advisers (IFAs). The company wanted to become more competitive through increased sales, reduced channel marketing costs and better exploitation of existing CICS assets. A key part of the solution was to enable the IFAs

to obtain information from the company's product database, on demand through a Web portal. The underlying technology reused the company's existing CICS applications on System z by invoking them as Web services in CICS Transaction Server.

This SOA solution enabled Standard Life to quickly bring new sales applications online. As a result, the company was able to handle more business transactions at a greatly reduced cost.

Click [here](#) to find out more about SOA and how what it can do for your business.

## **New white paper: 'Managing your CICS systems now and in the future'**

In this excellent [white paper](#), [Paul Johnson](#), IBM Software Group, shows you how CICS Transaction Server and its Web user interface enable you to effectively manage large enterprise CICS runtime configurations and meet demanding service level objectives. The paper continues the themes of integration, simplification, monitoring and automation in CICS runtime systems.

## **What's on: CICS worldwide events**

Add these key CICS events to your diary:

- 13 August - SHARE Conference, Baltimore, US
- 09 October - IBM System z9 and System z Expo, Orlando, US
- 16 October - IBM Information on Demand, Anaheim, US
- 23 October - Interaction Australia, Melbourne, Australia
- 30 October - WebSphere Technical Exchange, San Francisco, US
- 31 October - GSE, Kenilworth, UK
- 13 November - Transaction & Messaging Conference, Salzburg, Austria

Go to the [CICS Events](#) page for more details.

## **Technical Podcasts**

The Technical [Podcasts](#) have been a great success this year, with a large number of downloads. The theme throughout this year is 'Reuse for SOA'.

- *Making SOA real with WebSphere, Episode 3: 'Running WebSphere Business Modeler'* Third in the 2006 WebSphere technical podcast series on developerWorks, this 35-minute podcast drills further into the features of WebSphere Business Modeler V6.0.1 with Michele Chilanti. The podcast includes the "Did you say Mainframe?!" segment with David Rhoderick interviewing CICS for z/OS Architect Ian Mitchell. On the 18-minute "MarketWatch" podcast, David Backus interviews IBM Fellow Don Ferguson about the software industry.
- *Making SOA real with WebSphere, Episode 4: 'Integrating with WebSphere Process Server'* This instalment continues our conversation on business process management. We talk with Brian Petrini about the importance of WebSphere Process Server and business modeling. In "Did you say Mainframe?!" Steve Wood discusses building Web services for z/OS with WebSphere Developer for z/OS and the Service Flow Modeler feature. The

separate Episode 4, Part 2 features the second instalment of IBM Software Group Chief Architect Don Ferguson's two-part "MarketWatch" special covering industry trends.

- *Making SOA real with WebSphere, Episode 5: 'Optimizing reuse and connectivity'* Fifth in the series, this episode covers two critical entry points to service-oriented architecture: connectivity and reuse. Understand the power of a messaging backbone built on WebSphere MQ that leverages messaging and Web services protocols as a foundation for SOA connectivity. In "Did you say Mainframe?!" hear directly from IBM regarding the strategic direction of the CICS product family and its commitment to optimizing reuse through its standards, Web services, and service-oriented architecture focus. "MarketWatch" will not be heard in this episode.

Upcoming podcasts include: 'Introduction to SOA programming model', 'Solving integration issues when building an SOA', 'Managing change in Web services components and applications'.

## Webcasts

The [Webcasts](#) provide access to a wide range of information about business modernization, SOA, Web services and other topical issues.

### ***New Redbook: 'Implementing CICS Web Services'***

This new IBM [Redbook](#) looks at CICS support for Web services using HTTP or WebSphere. It also covers connectivity, security and transaction management.

## ***CICS training***

### **Add personal value with CICS training**

Links to the best training for building on your CICS expertise:

#### **e-business Application Development technical training sessions**

Gain the skills you need to build e-business applications with [CICS training](#). The foundation curriculum provides you with the core technologies, processes and tools skills that you need to improve your productivity. The advanced curriculum delivers skills in e-business application development, and is an open window into some real skill building and certification opportunities.

#### **CICS workshops**

These great [CICS workshops](#) typically feature materials created by CICS practitioners during residencies that produced IBM Redbooks. They are usually taught by Redbook authors and are delivered in partnership with IBM IT Education Services.

## ***CICS partner e-newsletters***

### **Subscribe to these great e-newsletters**

Links to other e-newsletters to help keep you well informed:

#### **‘IBM training News’: technical training news tailored just for you**

Get late-breaking news on technical training offerings that are important to you! This e-newsletter is tailored according to the interest areas you select in the subscription form. Click the link to [subscribe](#).

#### **‘CCR2’: for the IBM System z and software community**

Editor Mike O’Neill welcomes you to [CCR2](#). This e-newsletter serves as a leading source of information on System z management best practices, tips for exploiting features in the latest IBM releases and trends important to the System z community. Click the link to [subscribe](#).

#### **‘Mainstream’: for the IBM System z and S390 software community**

Editor Denise Hamilton invites you to subscribe to [The Mainstream](#). This e-newsletter covers the latest System z and S390 news, events success stories and related literature. Click the link to [subscribe](#).

#### **‘CICS Update’: if you have CICS you need CICS update**

CICS Update is full of some of the best CICS ideas, lessons based on experience, hints & tips, and useful code snippets. Click the link to [subscribe](#).

#### **‘Transaction Servers and Tools’ e-newsletter: more on CICS tools**

The Transaction Servers and tools e-newsletter contains the latest news, product information, testimonials, shows, events, education and business partner information on CICS Transaction Server, CICS tools, and application development tools. Click the link to [subscribe](#).

#### **‘Now is z Time’: z Software Peaks and Progress**

System z is a vital and vibrant software platform for today's new applications. The ‘Now is z Time’ email newsletter provides an at-a-glance view of key milestones and progress in z software as it moves forward. The newsletter places particular emphasis on the role of z in modern applications for today and the future. Send an [email](#) to get your name added to the distribution list.

## ***CICS links***

### **Useful links and resources**

[CICS product page](#)

[CICS library](#)

[CICS manuals](#)

[IBM Redbooks](#)

