Abstract

A panel of IBM CICS customers will discuss their experience in migrating to and using CICS Transaction Server for z/OS V3.1. The session chair, who works at CICS Level 2 in Raleigh, NC, will also discuss some experiences with other customers who are running CICS TS 3.1. Come and hear the story from those who have been there, done that.
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Agenda/Topics

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- Migration Motivators
- Migration Inhibitors
- Coexistence (with CICS TS 2.3) Considerations
- SOA Initiatives
- Surprises/Gotchas
- Summary
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Introduction

- UF **CNS**, University of Florida Computing & Networking Services (formerly known as **NERDC**), is the primary data center at the Gainesville, FL campus.

- Currently utilizing an IBM **zSeries z800 2066-002** with 16GB, running **z/OS 1.6** and **1.7**, **CICS TS 2.3** and **3.1**, **DB2 7.1**, **RACF**, **JES2**, etc.

- 3 LPARs - 1 internal "sysprog sandbox", 1 test "alternate", and 1 production or "primary". **z/OS 1.7** is being tested in the sandbox.

- We have 13 CICS regions configured, and run ~1M prod. transactions/weekday, and ~2M on peak load days.

- 2 internal/test sandbox, 2 development/test, 4 test/QA, and 5 production CICS regions currently configured.
Introduction (cont.)

- We're considered a "Classic" CICS site. ("Legacy = It Works!")
- Web access to CICS is via the CICS Socket Interface, in use at our site since ~1997.
- More than ~60% of local CICS tasks utilize sockets.
- All locally developed CICS applications are Assembler and/or COBOL. We have ~8K CICS application load modules, and ~32 have CICS sockets API (for file/data transfer, email, web enablement, etc.).
- Several internal CICS applications written in C/C++ and REXX. Java has been IVP tested, and a small Java CICS application is being developed (via Eclipse) and tested.
Migration Motivators (Why migrate?)

• Continue to provide a current and stable CICS environment.
• Provide CICS application developers with the latest enhancements and functionality.
• Attempt to "never say never" to local CICS developers.
• Primarily a "Classic" CICS site, which makes this particular migration very easy. (No CICS application development group code changes have been required for this migration.)
Migration Motivators (cont.)

- Desire to participate in SOA initiatives at UF, utilizing CICS and the mainframe.

- Ease of installation ("piece of cake"). Tapes arrived on Fri. morning, IVPed next Mon. morning, internal CICS region converted Mon. just after noon. (Prep work done in advance, once given ok to order.)

- Open source Eclipse based CICS Information Centers for Linux *very* helpful. "BookMangler" format still useful, however.

- No OS/VS COBOL run-time support in CICS TS 3.1 was not an issue at our site as we've only utilized IBM Enterprise COBOL for several years.
Migration Motivators (cont.)

- SHARE - knowledge transfer, user experience sessions, etc. Special thanks to IBM SHARE volunteers.

- IBM - CICS product enhancements. CICS Web Services and SOA enhancements were key selling points at UF. WebSphere Developer for zSeries entitlements helpful, also.

- IBM CICS beta programs and early customer initiatives. Thanks to IBM and those customers that participated. (UF participated in the CICS TS 2.3 beta.)

Migration Inhibitors

- The CICS TS license increase was definitely not a selling point at our site. *Much* more time was spent on justification than on installation/migration.

- No hardcopy installation guide - only the Release Guide and Program Directory hardcopy included in order. Improvements in the latest CICS Information Centers make this a moot point.

- For our April 12, 2006 order, Sept. 2005 Info. Center (licensed), Sept. 2005 TP&D Collection Kit, and March 2005 Licensed Online Library Collection Kit. A bit of a timing issue, but the online IBM March 2006 CICS Information Center was utilized and later downloaded for this install.
Coexistence (with CICS TS 2.3) Considerations

- No CSD compatibility groups required.
- Copied all required local CSD RDO GROUPs and LISTs from CICS TS 2.3 CSD to CICS TS 3.1 CSD.
- We run all 2.3 and 3.1 regions from a single 3.1 CSD, and maintain the CSD from a 3.1 region (or via 3.1 DFHHCSDUP program).
- RDO GROUPs DFH$SOAP and DFH$SOAP no longer required, and prefix.SCAVLOAD removed from DFHRPL concatenation. (SOAP support is integrated into CICS TS 3.1.)
Coexistence (with CICS TS 2.3) Considerations (cont.)

• Updated RACF with new CICS TS 3.1 transactions.
• Reused CICS 2.3 DFHAUXT, DFHDMKP, DFHTEMP, and DFHINTRA datasets - all others built new.
• No MVS logger changes required.
• No CICS macro table changes required (but re-assembled, as usual).
• Typical minor SIT changes.
• Typical re-assembly of URMs (DFHPEP, DFHZNEP, NERZATDX (local DFHZATDX)).
• Local XTSEREQ GLUE re-assembled (no source code changes).
SOA Initiatives

- Initial meeting held with IBM and major UF IT groups.
- CICS Web Services tested and verified with Xephon samples.
- For WS-Security enhancements, waiting for relief in APAR PK27523 due to initial June 2006 CICS WS-Security PE PTFs.
- Working with local application developers to prototype a "best practices" CICS Web Services application.
- Plans are to develop local SOA presentation(s).
- CICS and the mainframe look like *excellent* SOA players, but of course, there is "competition".
Surprises/Gotchas (User error? ;-)

• Withdrawal of support for 1-byte console id.

• CICS TS 3.1 Information Center "What's New", in the "Discontinued functions" section says: "Support for defining terminals using the 1-byte console id is withdrawn. The CONSOLE attribute on the TERMINAL resource definition is obsolete, but is supported to provide compatibility with earlier releases of CICS®."

• Local CICS shutdown automation program was modified, replacing a "valid console table" lookup with INQUIRE TERMINAL, looking for ACCESSMETHOD(cvda) of DFHVALUE(CONSOLE), compatible with CICS TS 2.3 and 3.1.

• Local RDO console group created with TERMINAL CONSNAME instead of CONSOLE (CICS TS 2.3 still using CONSOLE).
Summary

- UF continues to exploit the many inherent advantages of CICS, z/OS, and the mainframe.
- SOA and Web Services enhancements to CICS TS 3.1 were strong selling points, but increased license cost was not (go figure! ;-).
- CICS TS 3.1 has been easiest migration yet, and we've had 100% scheduled availability of our production CICS TS 3.1 regions.
- Thanks! Have a great time for the remainder of the conference, and have a safe trip home.
- Questions? Comments? Random thoughts?
Appendix/Additional Information

- IBM CICS TS 3.1 Information Center: http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/cicsts31/index.jsp
- IBM Migration information for CICS when changing release or operating system: http://www-1.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=swg21207399