



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

Virtual CICS user group presentation

The latest webinar from the Virtual CICS user group was entitled, "Success paths for integrating CICS with new technologies", and was presented by Don Spoerke, Principle Solutions Engineer with GT Software.

Don is a 25-year veteran in the enterprise modernization space, and has collaborated with an impressive list of global FORTUNE companies to intelligently integrate legacy mainframe assets to scale for new business application initiatives. Don provides a practical, sound, technical and strategic vision for organizations that seek to expand the role of the mainframe within the enterprise to quickly and cost-effectively integrate into new technologies like mobile and Web applications,

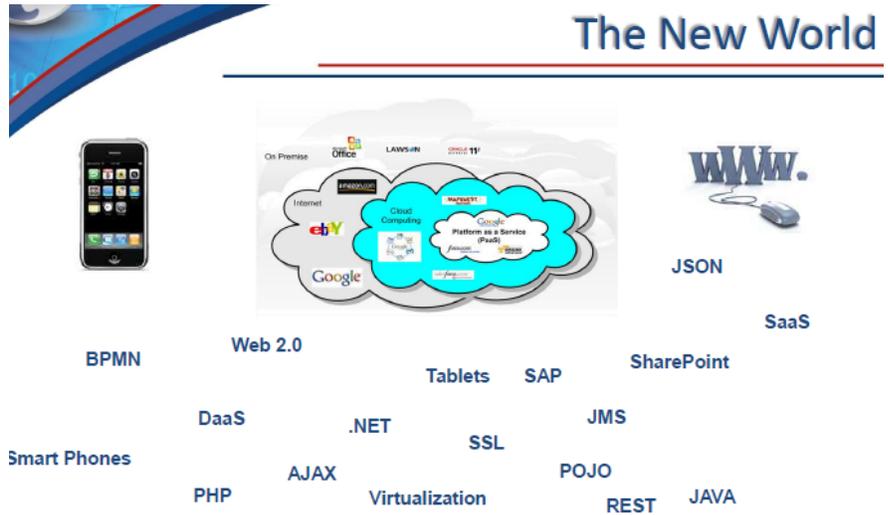


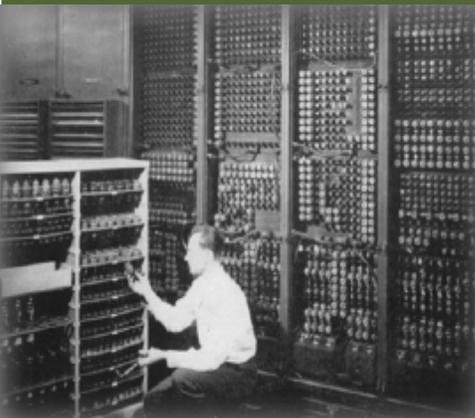
Figure 1: The New World for mainframe applications

as well as cloud-based solutions.

Don Spoerke started his presentation to the user group by saying that CICS was the backbone system for many Fortune 100 companies, and for over 40 years had provided a dependable, reliable, and scalable system for both online and batch processing.

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Don suggested that the way forward was to turbo charge those applications, not rewrite them!

Don suggested that the mainframe was not agile, quoting survey figures showing 27% of mainframe sites feel constrained by legacy applications. He went on to say that 75% feel “Agile IT” could save 30%. 45% feel the need to modernize, but 80% of sites don’t have a roadmap for modernization.

Don asked: “Do you have projects that require data from CICS for use in mobile/ cloud applications?”

Figure 1 shows some of the acronyms associated with the kind of connectivity that’s going to be required to modernize CICS applications. Don suggested that many CICS sites were ‘hitting the wall’ (see Figure 2) when it comes to modernizing CICS.

Don informed us that mainframe data can be used in cloud and mobile applications. Critical mainframe data can be made available directly from cloud or mobile applications using:

- ODBC/JDBC (Open Database Connectivity/ Java Database Connectivity)
- Web services (SOAP/ REST) (Simple Object Access Protocol/ REpresentational State Transfer)
- JSON (JavaScript Object Notation)
- JCA (Java EE Connector Architecture).

So CICS applications can be called by mobile or cloud applications, while at the same time they can call mobile or cloud applications.

In this way, CICS applications can be included in new applications. They are left unchanged, just reused. These new applications can provide new business functions.

Not surprisingly, Don used a GT Software tool to explain how this can be achieved.

He went on to say how new Web services can leverage industry standards (such as IFX, SWIFT, ACORD, etc).

CICS applications can use company-specified standards

and mappings (XSDs, WSDL – XML Schema Definition, Web Services Description Language).

A copy of Don Spoerke’s presentation is available for download from the Virtual CICS user group Web site at www.fundi.com/virtualcics/presentations/NewtechnologiesSep12.pdf.

You can see and hear the whole user group meeting by downloading the WMV file from www.fundi.com/virtualcics/presentations/2012-09-11meeting.wmv.

Meeting dates

The following meeting date has been arranged for the Virtual CICS user group:

- 6 November 2012 – Colin Pearce will be giving a presentation.

Please note that this presentation will start at 9:30am CST (3:30pm GMT)

We will be using Citrix GoToMeeting for the user group meetings.

Recordings of meetings are available for download from



Figure 2: Hitting the wall!

our Web site for people who were unable to attend the meeting.

Recent CICS articles

CICS 101: VSAM and DB2 Data in CICS by Phyllis Donofrio in *Enterprise Tech Journal* (August/September). You can find the article at <http://enterprisesystemsmedia.com/article/cics-101-vsam-and-db2-data-in-cics>.

Using CICS Tools to Modernize Traditional CICS Applications by Paul Crockett in *Enterprise Tech Journal* (August/September). You can find the article at <http://enterprisesystemsmedia.com/article/using-cics-tools-to-modernize-traditional-cics-applications>.

CICS news

IBM has announced a number of software offerings for the zEnterprise EC12, including enabling CICS to be developed, delivered, and operated in the cloud in order to help zEnterprise clients build private cloud environments that can support a high volume of customer transactions. With the new CICS 5.1 portfolio, interactive applications such as ATM systems, bank-teller

applications, and insurance applications can be made available in the cloud.

Full details can be found at <http://www-03.ibm.com/press/us/en/pressrelease/38956.wss>.



GT Software has released Ivory Hub, a product suite that allows rapid application delivery for mobile, Web, and cloud. The Ivory Hub product suite enables users to transfer data between mainframe and non-mainframe systems. It also provides SQL access to distributed data and allows users to deploy access through a gateway or directly, depending on their preferred deployment option. Ivory Hub Enterprise Access enables SQL access to distributed data on mainframe and non-mainframe (LAN-based) platforms from single SQL queries Supported access environments including: CICS, DB2, IMS and DL/I, VSAM, Adabas, Datacom/R or Datacom SQL, and sequential disk.

Full details can be found at <http://www.gtsoftware.com/news/gt-software-extends-enterprise-modernization-capabilities-ivory-hub>

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 www.fundi.com/virtualcics provides a central point for coordinating periodic meetings (which contain technically-oriented topics presented in a webinar format), and provides articles, discussions, links, 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 trevor@itech-ed.com.

The Virtual CICS user group is free to its members.