



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, “Kick your Mainframe into High Gear: Access and Use Mainframe Data with Mobile, Web, and Business Intelligence Applications”, and was presented by Don Spoerke, a Senior Solutions Architect at 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 practical, sound, technical and strategic vision for organizations that seek to expand the role of the mainframe within the enterprise to quickly and



Figure 1: The IT challenge

cost-effectively integrate into new technologies like mobile and Web applications, as well as cloud-based solutions.

Don started the session by telling the user group that the big challenge IT is facing is linking mainframes and mainframe data with personal devices such as smartphones and tablets (see Figure 1).

He explained that the need to enable applications for mobile devices was the result of demand from clients and users; demand from/

for BYOD (Bring Your Own Device); and private app stores (see Figure 2).

Mobile can enhance your business through the use of self-service applications; internal service applications;

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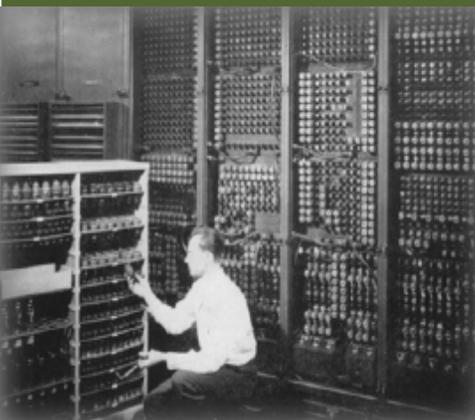




Figure 2: Enabling applications for mobile

and agent-based applications.

Business Intelligence (BI) can enhance your business in a number of ways. Big Data and analytics can provide customized content and targeted marketing. Data mining leads to greater customer satisfaction. And brand recognition can lead to instant savings and loyalty programmes.

Not surprisingly, Don suggested that there were a number of benefits to organizations from using Ivory Data Hub. These included: modernizing legacy applications; extending value and investment of the mainframe; a consistent development environment; decreasing and mitigating

risk by accessing mainframe data for new applications; not needing a big bang conversion; and increasing flexibility in data access and application deployment.

Don explained his functional hub model of application development (see Figure 3). He then went on to illustrate how Ivory Data Hub could help with each of the components.

GT Software's Don Spoerke then told the user group what this looked like in the real world. He suggested that it can be used with critical, near term projects. It incorporates and integrates mainframe data. It provides BI/Data warehouse initiatives. The mainframe can be included in metrics/

KPIs. And it also leverages existing skills.

A copy of Don Spoeke's presentation can be found at <http://fundi.com/virtualcics/presentations/HighGearJan14.pdf>.

You can see and hear the whole user group meeting by downloading the WMV file from www.fundi.com/virtualims/presentations/2014-01-14meeting.wmv.

Meeting dates

The following meeting dates have been arranged for the Virtual CICS user group:

- On Wednesday 12 March – yes, for one day only we're switching to a

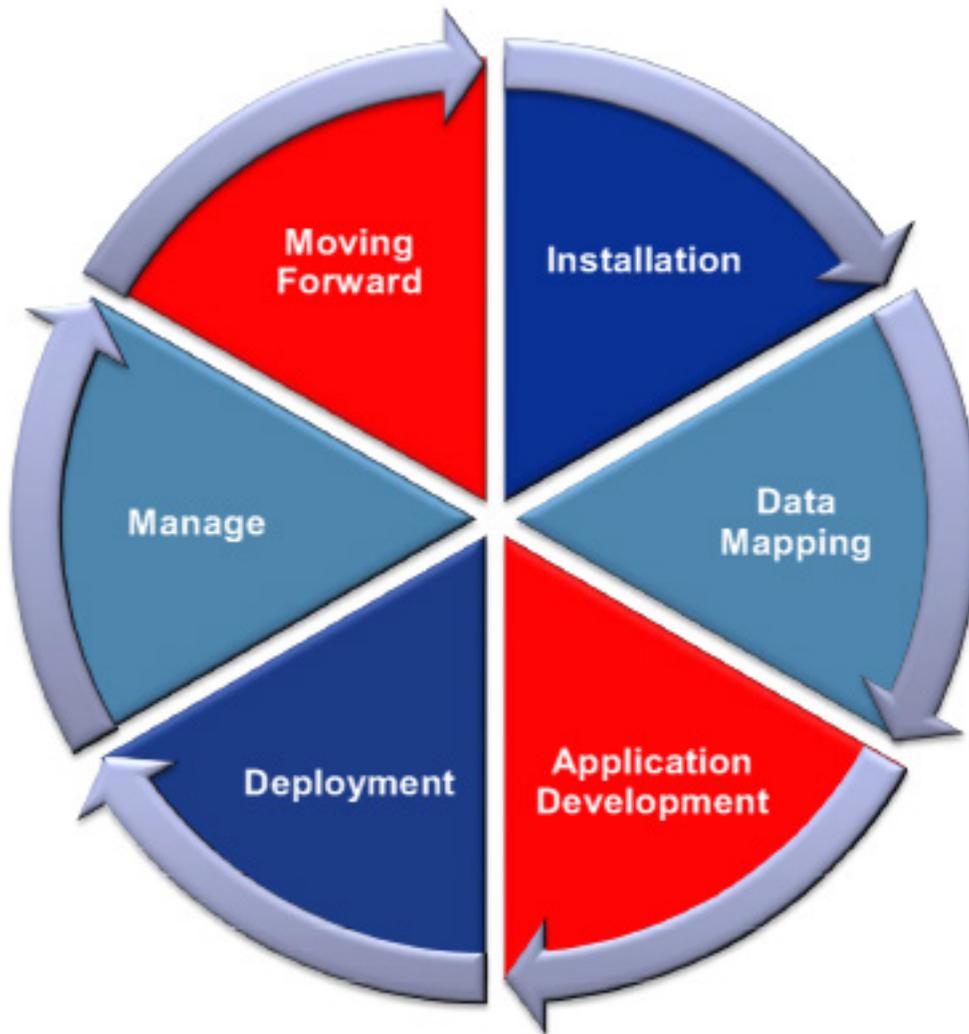


Figure 3: Functional hub

Wednesday – we have a presentation from IBM’s

Indi Singh entitled. “CICS is ready for mobile, are

you ready?” It starts at 9:30 CDT and 16:30 GMT – if only Summer Time



started on the same date everywhere!

- On 13 May, we have a presentation from Colin Pearce entitled “CICS Transaction Debugging”. And that’s back to normal – on a Tuesday at 10:30 CDT and 16:30 BST

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

Recent CICS articles

CICS Transaction Gateway V9.0: Handling the Demands of the Modern Enterprise by Paul Crockett in the Winter 2013/2014 edition of *Enterprise Tech Journal*. You can find the article at <http://enterprisesystemsmedia.com/article/cics-transaction-gateway-v9.0-handling-the-demands-of-the-modern-enterprise>.



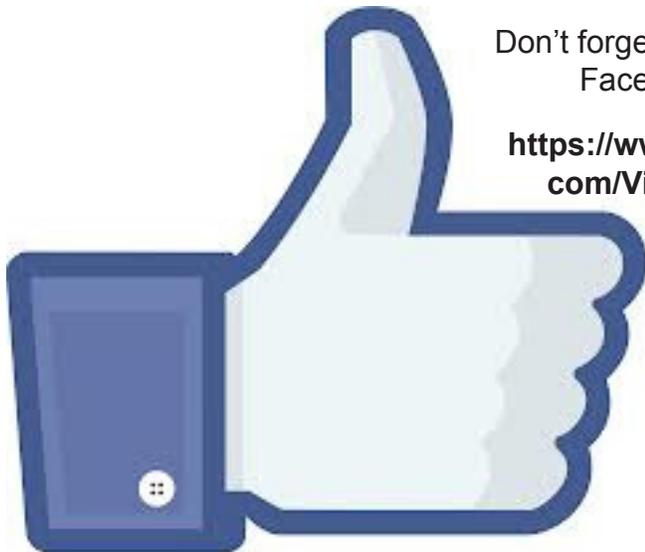
CICS Feature Packs Help Address Modern Mobile, Security and Batch Needs by Heather Seaton and Nick Garrod in the November 2013 edition of *IBM Systems Magazine*. You can find the article at http://www.ibmssystemsmag.com/mainframe/administrator/cics/cics_feature_packs/.

CICS news

Compuware has announced enhancements to Compuware Strobe. Strobe Advisor now includes information on CICS, IMS, and Language Environment (LE) performance issues. Strobe furthers its integration with PurePath for z/OS CICS and now includes the ability to profile CICS transactions from within the dynaTrace dashboard. Full details can be found at <http://investor.compuware.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=817622>.

Don't forget to Like us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/VirtualCICS>



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.