



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, “CICS is ready for mobile, are you ready?”, and was presented by Inderpal (Indi) Singh, Software Development, CICS Transaction Server with IBM.

Inderpal Singh joined the CICS Transaction Server development team in 2009. He has worked as a software engineer in many areas, including CICS System Management, cloud enablement, and IBM CICS Explorer. His most recent role was as the Team Lead for the CICS Transaction Server Feature Pack for Mobile Extensions. After studying at The University of Sheffield, Inderpal received a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence.

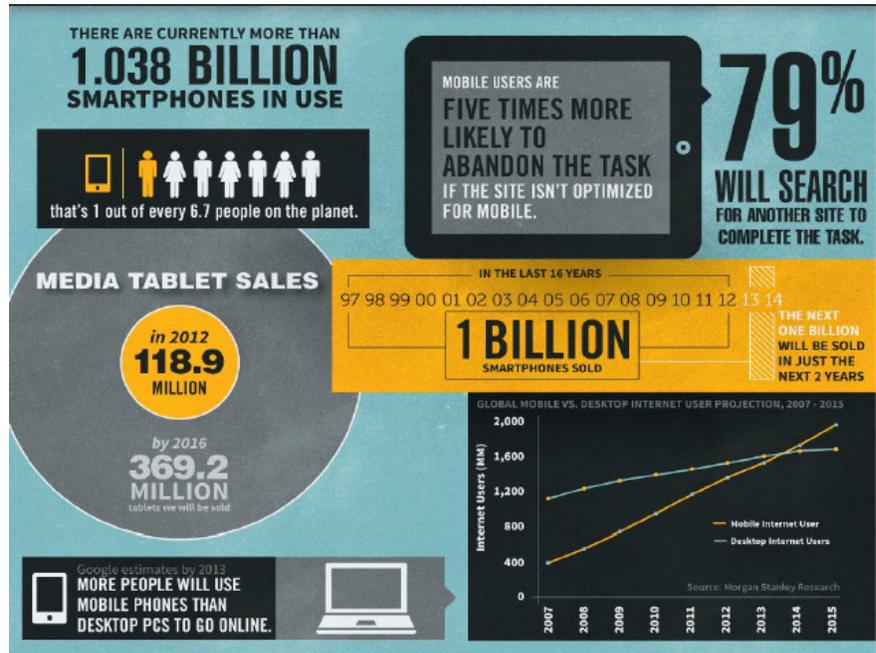
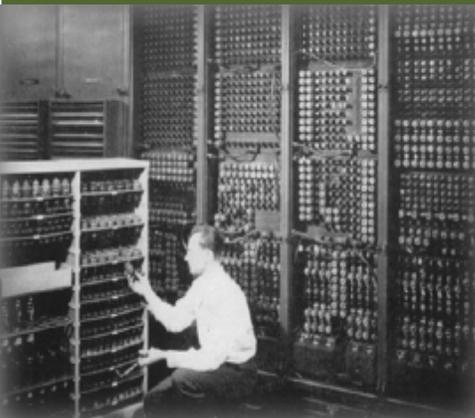


Figure 1: Mobile device usage

Inderpal started the session by showing the user group how much mobile computing was growing (see Figure 1), how much shopping/commerce occurred on mobile devices, and how much other market sectors such as health and financial

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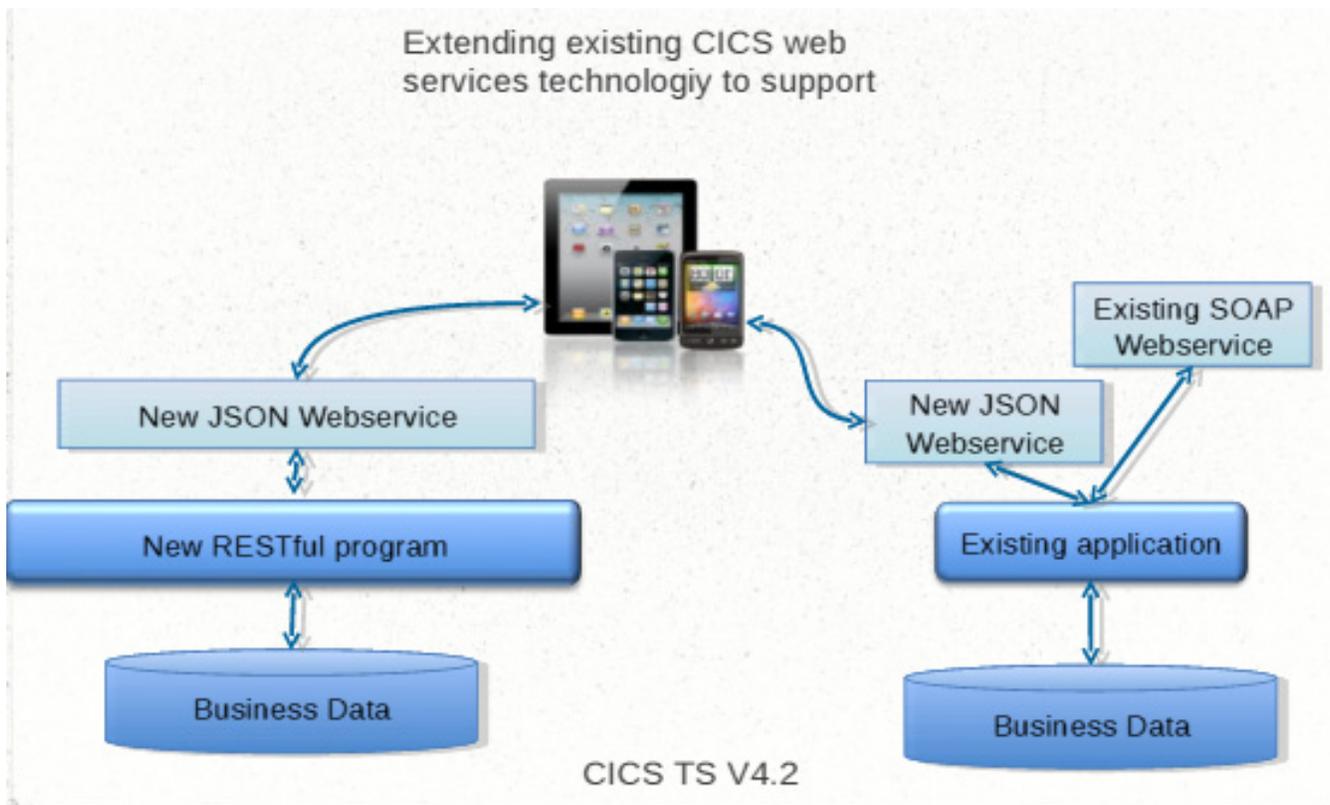


Figure 2: Extending CICS Web services

services were making use of mobile computing.

He explained that with Service Oriented Architecture, CICS users could use SOAP Web services and Axis2 Web services. With Resource Oriented Architecture CICS users could use Atom services.

Indi went in to inform the group that for mobile solutions, there were two choices: REST Architectural designs and JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) data format. Representational State Transfer is great for ROA

requests, but it's a design principle not a protocol. JavaScript Object Notation is easy to generate and parse and provides lightweight data interchange.

REST Architectural designs are resource oriented, not service oriented.

JSON is not as verbose as XML. It's easy to read and parse. It uses Name-Value pairs. It has a simple structure, and creates a lightweight data package.

CICS Transaction Server Feature Pack for Mobile Extensions V1.0 is available at no extra cost, and extends

existing CICS Web services technology to support mobile working (see Figure 2).

There is a CICS LINKable interface for JSON to/from high-level language conversion (see Figure 3).

Linking mainframe CICS to mobile computing is a five-stage process (see Figure 4). IBM's Indi Singh went through the stages with the group.

The first stage, at the mobile end is to declare a new Worklight project. The second stage, at the mainframe end is to write a (or utilize and existing) COBOL application.

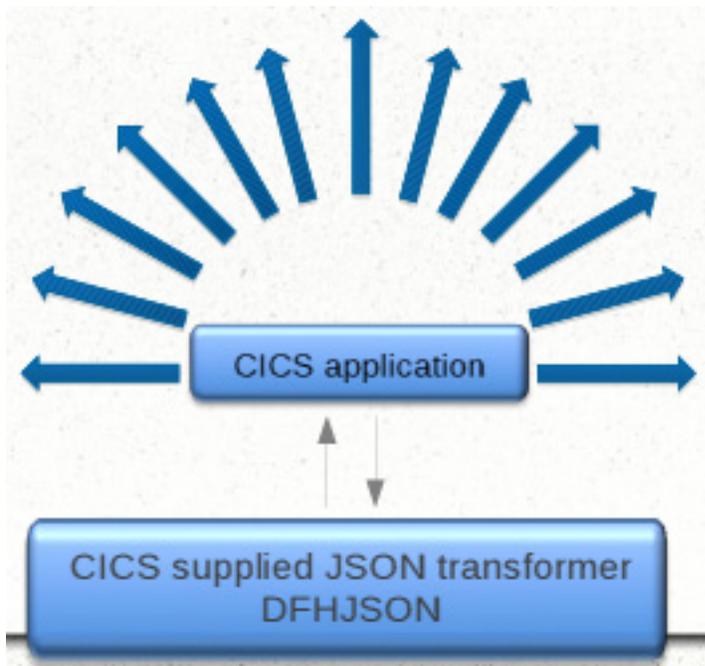


Figure 3: The stages to building a mobile application

Stage three is to communicate from the mainframe to Worklight. You need to install TCPIPSERV, JVMSEV, and PIPELINE (Axis2 is

configured with WSBINDIR pointing to WSBIND from JCL). PIPELINE install automatically creates WERBSERV and URIMAP resources required to make

JSON Web service requests to your CICS applications.

PIPELINE_CONFIG points to the pipeline configuration file on zFS. PIPELINE_WSBINDIR points to the WSBIND path specified in JCL. JVMSEV is required with a name matching <jvmserver> in the PIPELINE configuration.

Stage four lets Worklight do most of the work. And stage five connects all this to the mobile device. Now you can run the application from the mobile device and the results will come back to the mobile device.

A copy of Inderpal Singh's presentation can be found at <http://fundi.com/virtualcics/presentations/WorklightMar14.pdf>.

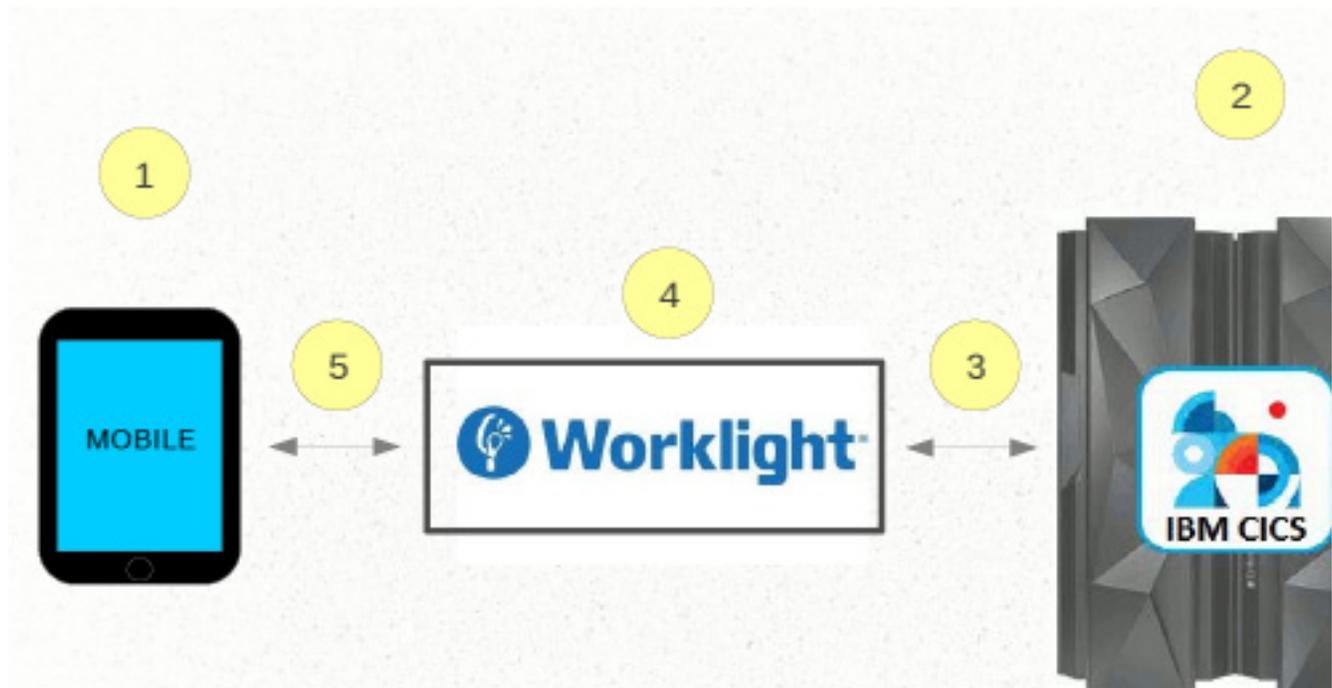


Figure 4: The stages to building a mobile application

You can see and hear the whole user group meeting by downloading the WMV file from www.fundi.com/virtualims/presentations/2014-03-12meeting.wmv.

Meeting dates

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

- On 13 May, we have a presentation from Colin Pearce entitled “CICS Transaction Debugging”. That starts at 10:30 CDT or 16:30 BST.
- On 8 July we’re hoping to welcome back Ezriel Gross, who will be talking about, “CICS Web

Services as a Provider and Requestor”. That starts at 10:30 CDT or 16:30 BST.

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

Recent CICS articles

CICS and the Open Transaction Environment: Are You Sure That Program Is Threadsafe? by Russ Evans in the March/April 2014 edition of *Enterprise Tech Journal*. You can find the article at <http://enterprisesystemsmedia.com/article/cics-and-the-open-transaction-environment-are-you-sure-that-program-is-thre>.

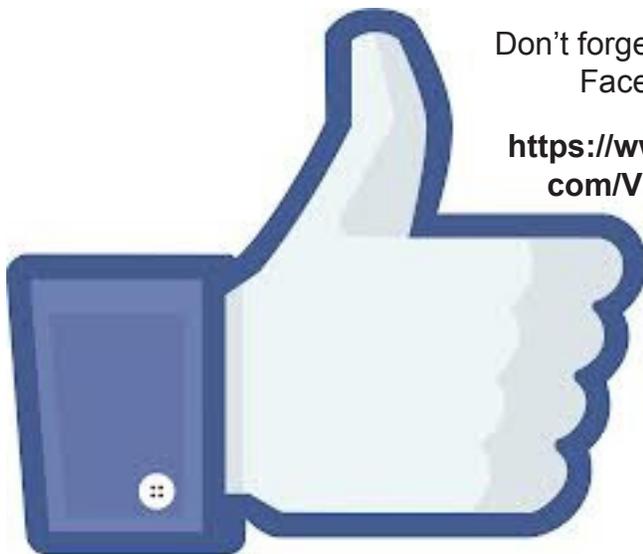
About the Virtual CICS user group

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.



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