



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 Goes Mobile: Mobile Connectivity Architectures and Design Alternatives for System z", and was presented by IBM's Wilhelm Mild.

Wilhelm is an IBM Executive IT Architect in IBM Germany Research & Development Laboratory in Boeblingen, Germany. He's dedicated more than a decade to IT optimization projects worldwide. Addressing the global IT strategy and strategic direction, Wilhelm is working on projects to integrate workloads on multiple platforms and environments, focusing particularly on virtualized environments and mobile solutions on System z.



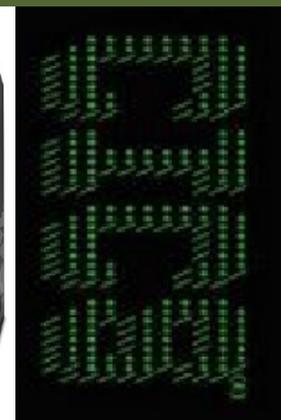
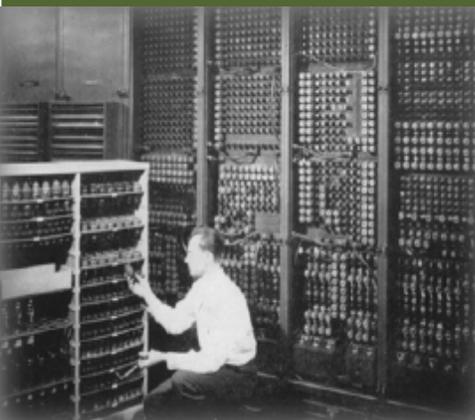
Figure 1: Modern business environment

Wilhelm started his presentation by showing us how the business environment is shifting and a new era of computing is emerging (see Figure 1). He went on to explain how Mobile is changing everything, giving examples from health care, financial institutions, and government.

Wilhelm gave the user group some figures. The average

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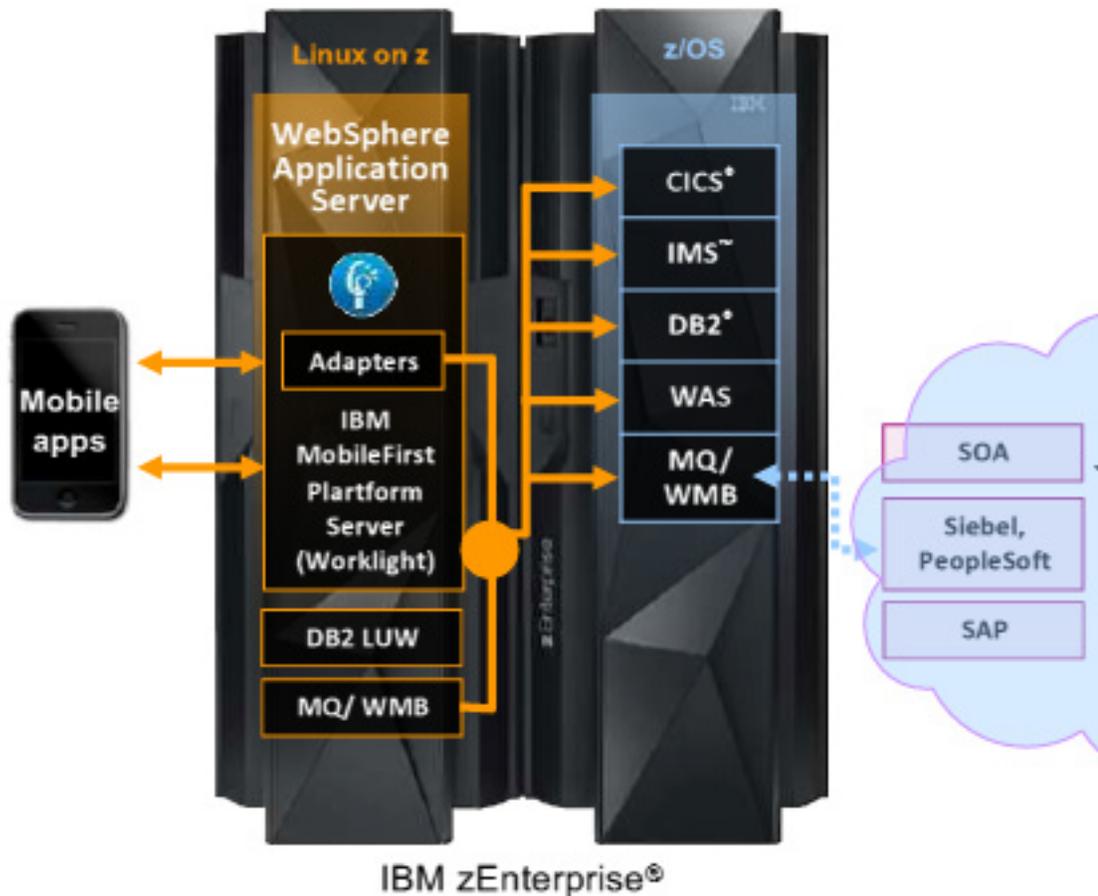


Figure 2: Mobile environment on zEnterprise connecting to core systems

mobile phone is checked 150 times a day. 80% of apps are used once and deleted. By 2015, two thirds of the workforce will own a smartphone and 40% of the workforce will be mobile. Global mobile data traffic will increase 26-fold between 2010 and 2015 reaching 6.3 exabytes per month by 2015. Fewer than half of all companies have a mobile strategy, and this is despite the fact that 73% of strategy leaders have realized a return on their investments.

IBM's strategy is called the MobileFirst Platform. It's

an enterprise blueprint – a portfolio for Mobile industry solutions and a strategy.

The idea is to bridge the gap between 'systems of engagement', which are cloud-based, decentralized, and support rapid application development, and 'systems of record', which are well integrated and trusted repositories.

The MobileFirst Platform was formerly known as IBM Worklight, and includes:

- MobileFirst Platform Foundation

- MobileFirst Platform Quality Assurance
- MobileFirst Platform Application Scanning.

The core capabilities of the MobileFirst Platform Foundation are also available on SoftLayer through the MobileFirst Platform Foundation Private Cloud. There's also the MobileFirst Platform Foundation for iOS. An objective of the Apple and IBM partnership is to transform enterprise mobility through MobileFirst for iOS solutions.

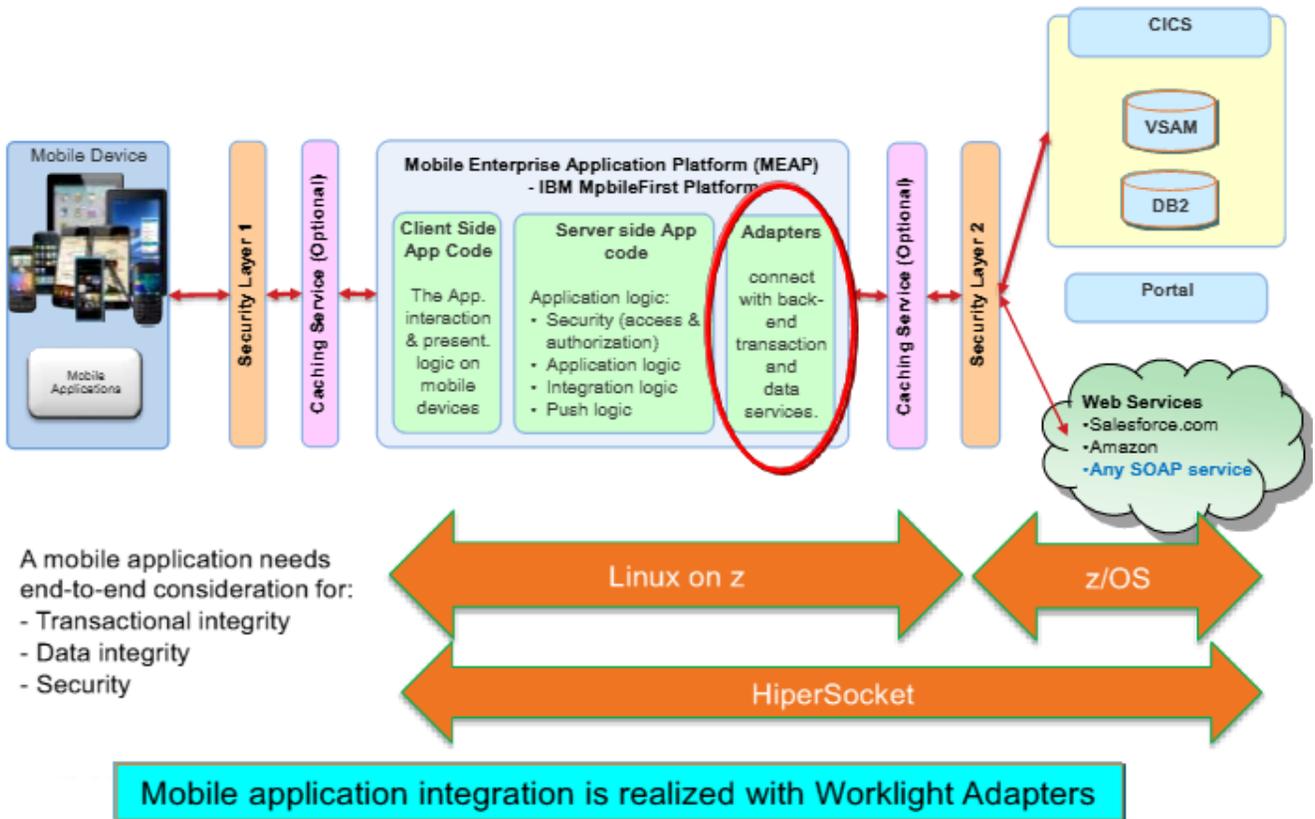


Figure 3: Mobile application overview

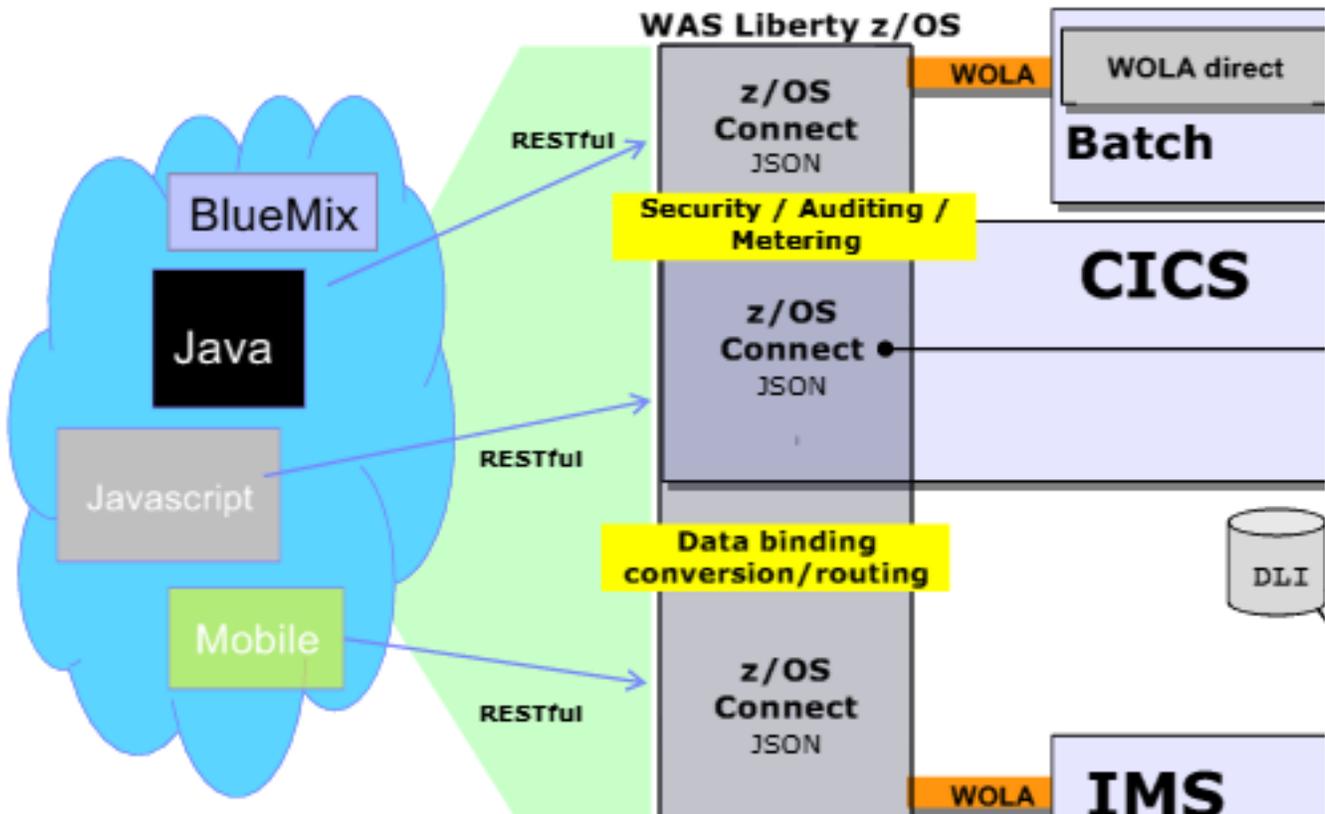


Figure 4: Access to z/OS via z/OS Connect with increased security

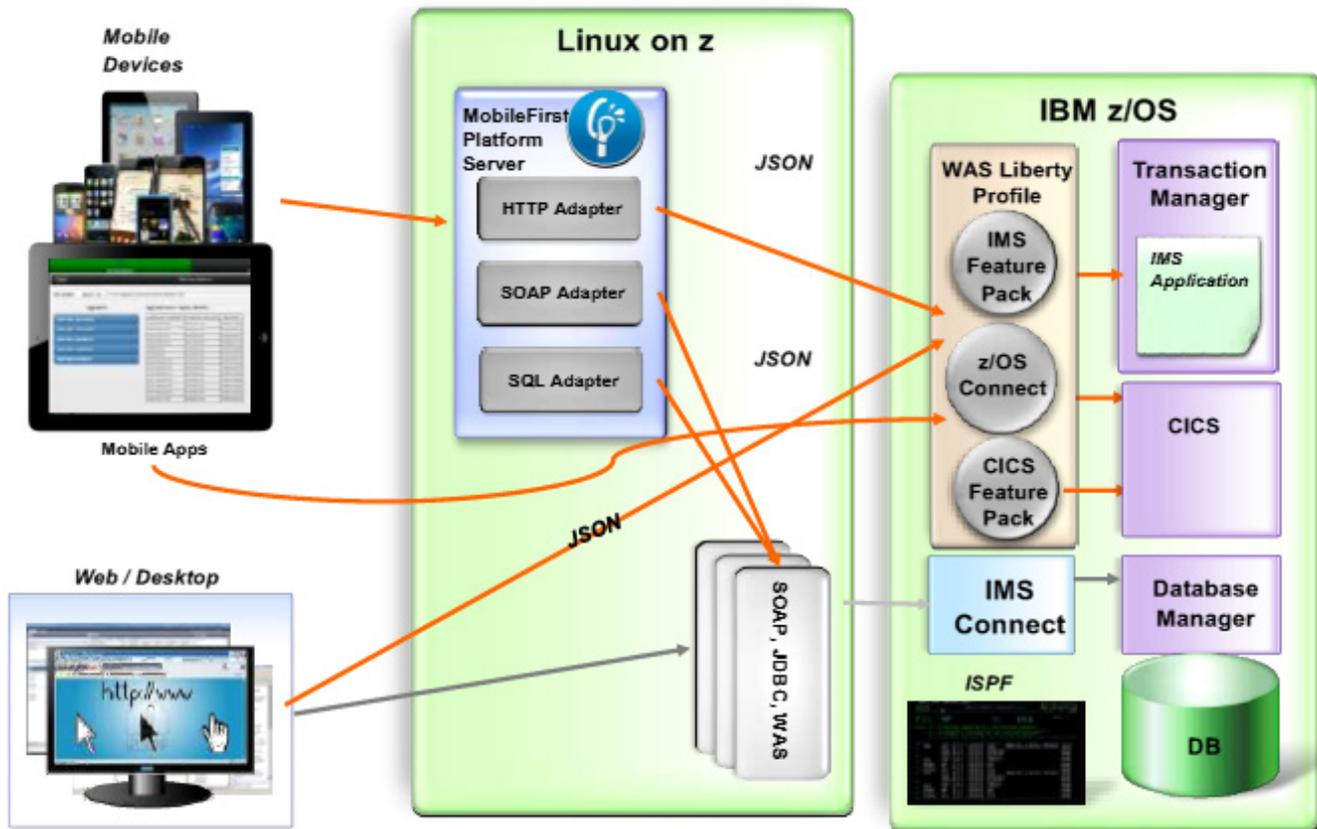


Figure 5: Mobile Enablement with z/OS Connect and Feature Packs

The IBM MobileFirst Platform is the control point for mobile access to enterprise transactional and data services, and provides caching, authentication, mobile application management, and push notifications

Mobile Environment on zEnterprise connecting to core systems is illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 3 shows Mobile application overview.

CICS Connectivity options with IBM MobileFirst Platform include SOAP, JSON, and REST using HTTP. Plus

there's messaging and MQTT with WebSphere MQ.

IBM WebSphere Liberty z/OS Connect:

- Provides a unified, shared component shipping with the latest levels of WAS, CICS, and IMS
- Is suitable for both on-premise and off-premise access
- Hides complexities for connecting with z/OS applications and data using REST services.
- Integrates tightly with z/OS qualities of service – security, auditing,

chargeback, metering, and workload balancing.

z/OS Connect is a service that encapsulate calling z/OS target applications using REST calls. zConnect will support JSON payloads for calls from external cloud or mobile-based clients and will enable the conversion of the payload to the target program's expected format (WOLA – WebSphere Optimized Local Adapters). It will also provide the response payload conversion from a byte array into JSON format before returning the response to the caller. (See Figure 4.)

Putting it all together, Figure 5 illustrates Mobile Enablement with z/OS Connect and Feature Packs.

A copy of Wilhelm's presentation is available for download from the Virtual CICS user group Web site at www.fundi.com/virtualcics/presentations/MobileconnectivityNov4.pdf.

You can see and hear the whole user group meeting by downloading the WMV file from www.fundi.com/virtualcics/presentations/2014-11-25meeting.wmv.

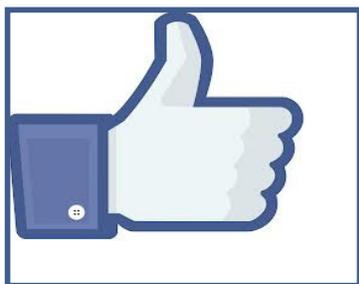
Meeting dates

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

- On 13 January 2015, we have an IBM speaker talking about CICS and the cloud.

The meeting after that will be on 3 March, when we have Russ Evans from the Evans Group speaking.

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



Recent CICS articles

Opening the CICS Diagnostic Toolbox by Steve Burghard, Mark Willey, and Andy Wright in the October/November issue of *Enterprise Tech Journal*. You can find the article at <http://enterprisesystemsmedia.com/article/opening-the-cics-diagnostic-toolbox>.

CICS news

HostBridge Technology is licensing its HBZT CPU Monitor Software (HBZT) to IBM mainframe users at no cost and no obligation. HBZT is a CICS transaction that provides an interactive, real-time view of the timer information contained within the MVS ASSB control block. It provides CPU usage statistics for a CICS region since the region began or during a dynamically-defined interval of time. The statistics can be used to ascertain how much CPU time was used by a particular workload. HBZT was designed to facilitate rapid testing and performance assessment of software that exploits IBM specialty engines like the zIIP. Full details can be found at <https://www.hostbridge.com/index.php/products/hbzt>.

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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.