



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, "Utilizing the Dojo Toolkit to create Web browser applications from CICS", and was presented by Stephen Mitchell, Managing Director of Matter of Fact Software Limited.

Stephen has over 27 years experience of the technology industry and has helped major companies in the UK, Europe, and the Middle East to exploit, enhance, and upgrade their core corporate technology systems. His technical specialism is CICS on z/OS.

A founder of Matter of Fact Software, his responsibilities include business administration, marketing, strategic planning and commercialisation of the company's software products.

Stephen told the user group that when his company was planning the evolution of its PlexSpy software, they recognized, as many other organizations must also be recognizing, a need to display graphical data in a Web browser. In their search for a way to display graphics, they learned about Javascript libraries such as JQuery and the Dojo Toolkit, and they decided to use Dojo.

Stephen informed us that Dojo is an Open Source Javascript Toolkit. It saves time and scales with Web development processes, using Web standards as its platform. It is the toolkit experienced

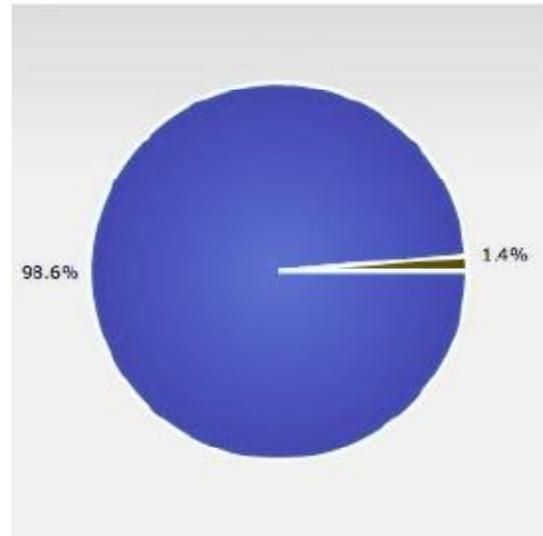
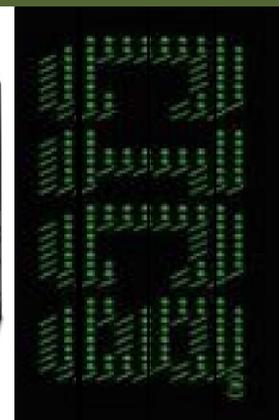
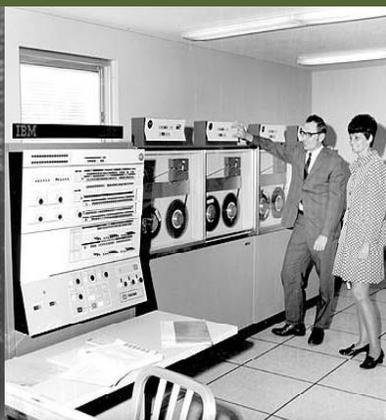
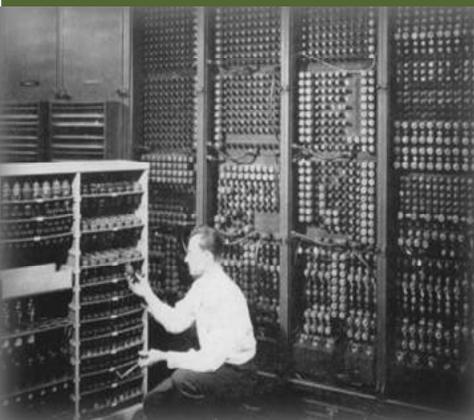


Figure 1: Pi chart produced using CICS data

Contents:

Virtual CICS user group presentation	1
Meeting dates	3
Recent CICS articles	3
CICS news	3
About the Virtual CICS user group	4



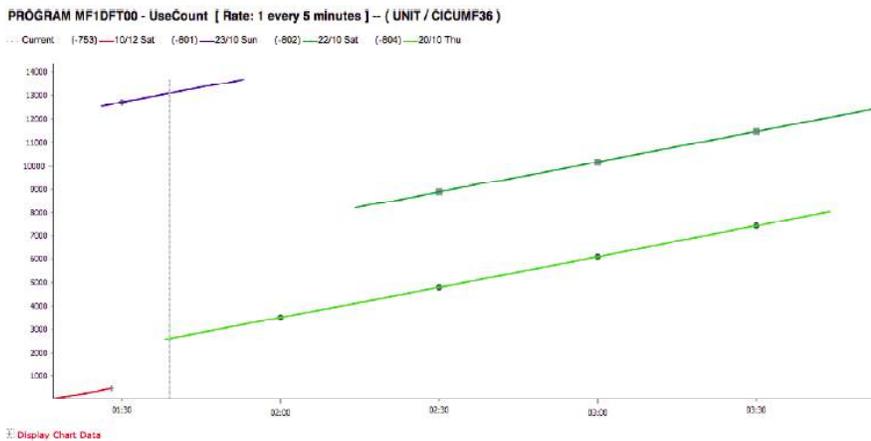


Figure 2: Example line graph

developers turn to for building high-quality Web applications.

The base functionality of the Dojo Toolkit is provided by just including dojo.js in the HTML for a Web page. It comes with plenty of features like CSS-based queries, event handling, animations, Ajax, class-based programming, and a package system that makes getting access to the rest of Dojo very easy.

Additional stable (but optional) components for advanced animations, I/O, data, drag-and-drop, and much more are available with Dojo Core. Dijit is Dojo's theme-able, accessible, easy-to-customize UI Library. Dijit requires the Dojo Base and various Dojo Core modules to be available.

For the more adventurous, there's DojoX, which contains a number of sub-projects based on Dojo Base. Each project has a varying states of

maturity – from very stable and robust to alpha.

Stephen's company recognized a need to control the Dojo Toolkit being used by their PlexSpy product and decided that if it was an issue for them, it could be a general concern. So they took control of the Dojo Toolkit and created a generic server solution that could be used by anyone with CICS on z/OS. Their product is the CICS JS/Server.

As a consequence, the Dojo Toolkit has been taken into the mainframe environment and is served from CICS out of PDSs. This brings the strengths of the mainframe to the use of the Dojo Toolkit and gave them the control over it they needed.

Stephen then gave a number of live demonstrations of what can be done with Dojo from CICS. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate some of the many graphical outputs that can be produced. He also showed that it could be called from Google (or other online sources) from the mainframe.

Stephen Mitchell assured the user group that the Dojo Toolkit facilitates the creation and operation of modern Web applications. Google, IBM, and other big players are committed to it, so it has an evolving future.

He summarized the benefits of using the Dojo Toolkit as:

CICS JS/Server: IVP Menu

CICS Server/JS IVP samples

Instructions
Select which example for which you would like to see more detail. Next click the URL link within the pane (if available) to see an example of the Dojo Toolkit object.
Note: This screen is showing two methods of presenting the same data.

Examples	Instructions
Dojo Line Chart	Select which example for which you would like to see more detail. Next click the URL link within the pane (if available) to see an example of the Dojo Toolkit object.
Dojo Column Chart	Note: This screen is showing two methods of presenting the same data. Such as this example, an "IVP" menu.
Dojo Pie Chart	In other words the examples on the LEFT are presented (almost) the same as those on the RIGHT, except they are presented in two different dojo containers and have some subtle differences to facilitate their better presentation. Or, as in the Sparkline sample, is showing the same graphic but with a different data source.
Fx Events	The examples on the RIGHT of the page have more samples coded as the presentation space is less crowded. Not all have a sample URL link as the panel itself is the sample (e.g. the calendar is one example).
DataGrid	
Fx Wipe	
NodeList-Fx	
Fx Animate	
Add Checkbox	
Embedded HTML (iframe) page	
Embedded Sparkline	
Embedded TabContainer	
Calendar	

Figure 3: CICS JS/Server IVP

- Secure and reliable – RACF, SSL, etc.
- Scalable – port sharing / Sysplex Distributor.
- Operational processes that are well understood and trusted for business-critical systems can now be applied to the use of the Dojo Toolkit.
- PDSs – simple and well understood. No need for ZFS file structures and all that they imply.

An example of the CICS JS/Server menu for controlling the Dojo Toolkit from a mainframe can be seen in Figure 3.

More information about the Dojo Toolkit can be found at <http://dojotoolkit.org/>. Details of the Dojo Foundation are at <http://dojofoundation.org/>. And you can find out about the Dojo Campus at <http://dojocampus.org/>.

If you have any questions about this presentation, you can contact Stephen Mitchell at stephen.mitchell@matteroffactsoftware.com

A copy of Stephen's presentation is available for download from the Virtual CICS user group Web site at www.fundi.com/virtualcics/presentations/DojoMay12.pdf.

You can see and hear the

whole user group meeting by downloading the WMV file from www.fundi.com/virtualcics/presentations/2012-05-08meeting.wmv.

Meeting dates

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

- 10 July 2012 – Ezriel Gross, Managing Member, Circle Computer Group LLC, will be discussing "Web services". To register for this meeting you need to go to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/458587913>.

Other meeting dates for the year are:

- 11 September
- 6 November

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

All meetings start at 10:30am Central Time (4:30pm GMT in the winter and 3:30pm GMT during daylight saving time).

Recordings of meetings are available for download from our Web site for people who were unable to attend the meeting.

Recent CICS articles

CICS Serviceability: Past, Present and Future by Bill Bulfin, Ed Addison in *IBM Systems Magazine* (May 2012). You can find the article at www.ibmssystemsmag.com/mainframe/administrator/cics/cics_serviceability_history/.

CICS 101: Multi-Region Operation by Phyllis Donofrio in *z/Journal* (May 2012). You can find the article at www.mainframezone.com/article/cics-101-multi-region-operation.

CICS Serviceability: An Ever-Evolving Process by Bill Bulfin, Ed Addison in *IBM Systems Magazine* (April 2012). You can find the article at www.ibmssystemsmag.com/mainframe/administrator/cics/cics_servicability_process/.

CICS news

Nastel Technologies has announced Version 6.5 of AutoPilot, which monitors and manages applications end-to-end across the enterprise by automating the analysis of complex issues. This unified platform manages multiple middleware technologies.

The new version simplifies monitoring and management, automates the analysis of complex issues, improves IT

staff efficiency, and reduces risk and overall costs – they claim.

AutoPilot 6.5 now monitors CICS, WebSphere MQ and DataPower, TIBCO RV and EMS, Solace, and homegrown middleware. There's a new Web-based GUI for ease of use and simplicity in management.

A unified middleware management strategy can be beneficial in removing some of the duplicate tools or at least funnelling their events into a single view and analysis engine and thus reduce both cost and error.

Full details can be found at www.nastel.com/nastel-technologies-delivers-autopilot-65-the-industrys-first-unified-platform-to-manage-multiple-middleware-technologies_387_87.html.



IBM plans to make the CICS Transaction Server for z/OS V5.1 open beta available on 13 July. It introduces cloud-style CICS development, deployment, and operations.

Full details can be found at www-304.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=swg21591891.

Don't forget that you can stay up-to-date with all that's happening in the CICS world and with what's happening with the Virtual CICS user group by following us on Twitter or finding us on Facebook or joining our group on LinkedIn.

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.

