IBM CICSPlex SM Web User Interface Now Available in CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3

Overview

The Web User Interface component of CICSPlex® System Manager, in CICS® Transaction Server for OS/390® Release 3, is now available. This easy-to-use interface to CICSPlex SM for use with a Web browser will be included in new shipments. It will also be shipped to customers who already have CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3.

In addition, information is provided on the following enhancements to CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3:

- e-business enhancements:
  - Java™ Hot Pooling
  - CICS Web Interface API enhancements
- Extended terms and conditions for OS/390 connectivity and application development

This information is in addition to that which was previously announced for CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3. Refer to Software Announcement 299-057, dated March 9, 1999.

Planned Availability Date

November 26, 1999

At a Glance

The CICSPlex SM Web User Interface is now available in CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3.

Also announced are new functions of CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3.

For ordering, contact:
Your IBM representative, an IBM Business Partner, or IBM Americas Call Centers at 800-IBM-CALL

Reference: YE001

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The CICSplex System Manager Web User Interface is provided as an alternative to the existing 3270 TSO-based End User Interface (EUI). This easy-to-use interface is intended for use by functions such as help desk and operations. This interface is not intended for administrator configuration of CICSplex SM. It provides a Single System Image (SSI), suitable for managing CICS resources from a single point of control. Based on the use of a Web browser, it can be accessed by a user running on virtually any client platform.

The CICSplex SM Web User Interface Server runs in a dedicated CICS region, and uses the CICS Web Interface. The Web browser can be connected without any intermediate system. Multiple Web User Interface Servers can be active simultaneously.

The Web User Interface allows you to customize the display of information, using an online Web-based view editor. The Web User Interface View Editor is based on a simple step-by-step form filling approach, and requires no knowledge of HTML. It allows you to:

- Structure data in any way for optimum convenience, for example by resource category, user task, or application.
- Use graphical representations of data, including color bar gauges and warning lights, which may be made to flash.
- Customize views of data — to use appropriate terminology or to add additional annotations (including use of National Language terms if required), and to hide irrelevant information.
- Use customized help pages written in HTML. These may provide information specific to the particular environment and the particular organization. Users can readily integrate an existing procedures manual. Links can also be included to a URL for information which is provided on a separate Web server.
- Provide menus to guide the user through a task.
- Tailor information which is displayed to the user. This can eliminate unnecessary or irrelevant data.
- Tailor which parameters may be changed by the user, or add confirmation panels, as a safety measure against user error.

The Web User Interface provides two basic forms of display:

- Tabular display of multiple records
- Detailed display of single records

Hyperlinks may be used between menus and views, with the option of shortcuts via a navigation bar.

Security uses an existing External Security Manager (ESM); passwords may be managed from the signon panel. Optionally, Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) line encryption can be employed for security between the Web User Interface Server and the Web browser being used. For PTFs required for SSL support, refer to the Technical Information section.

The Web User Interface includes National Language Versions for Japanese and Simplified Chinese. Language selection is made at configuration time.

Extensive online help is included in the CICSplex SM Web User Interface.

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**Delivery of CICSplex SM Web User Interface**

The Web User Interface component of the CICSplex SM element of CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3 is provided on an installable tape, which will be included in CBPDO shipments of the product for all orders placed after November 26, 1999.

In the case of ServerPac orders, the Web User Interface component will be delivered as part of the ServerPac beginning end of February 2000. For orders for ServerPac placed after November 26, 1999, but before the end of February 2000, customers will receive, in addition to the ServerPac tape, a tape containing the Web User Interface component, for separate installation.

Existing customers who already have CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3 will automatically receive a tape containing the Web User Interface component shortly after November 26, 1999.

**Installation**

Where the CICSplex SM Web User Interface is delivered on a separate installable tape, there are prerequisite PTFs which must be installed before installation of the Web User Interface.

A new Program Directory will be provided for the CICSplex SM Web User Interface. This will be delivered with all new shipments of CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3. It will also be delivered to existing customers who already have CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3.

**Year 2000**

This product is Year 2000 ready. When used in accordance with its associated documentation, it is capable of correctly processing, providing, and/or receiving date data within and between the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, provided that all products (for example, hardware, software, and firmware) used with the product properly exchange accurate date data with it.
Additional Information

New Functions in CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3

The following new functions or functional enhancements are provided as part of CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3.

Java™ Hot Pooling: Delivered in April 2000, as the PTF for APAR PQ31328, this new function offers improved performance of Java applications, which have been compiled using the VisualAge® for Java Enterprise Toolkit for OS/390 (ET/390) byte-code binder (known as high-performance compiler). This is achieved by maintaining a pool of high-performance compiler environments ready for allocation to transactions, which use Java programs compiled with the high-performance compiler. High-performance compiler environments are used for many transactions before being reinitialized. This results in improved average transaction path length and response time because the initialization overhead is shared. Applications written to use the CORBA Client support in CICS TS 1.3 may exploit this new function.

It is intended that applications, which use the high-performance compiler, can be developed and tested in a normal Quasi-Reentrant TCB, and then moved to the Hot Pooling environment for production.

CICS Web Interface API Enhancements: The CICS Web Interface has been enhanced by the introduction of new API commands to facilitate the processing of HTML forms data. These new API commands improve the handling of HTTP requests processed by CICS Web applications. They remove the need for CICS Web applications to parse the HTTP request in order to extract HTML forms select fields, and input fields of type “text”, “password”, “radio”, “submit”, and “hidden”. The addition of the querystring to the parameters returned on the existing EXTRACT command removes the need for applications to extract this themselves. Customers writing new applications for the CICS Web Interface are recommended to use this API instead of the parser utility DFHWBPA.

The new API commands provide a means to:

• Retrieve the value for a specific input field from an inbound HTTP request
• Start a browse of the set of name/value pairs in the HTML forms data of an inbound HTTP request
• Read the next name/value pair in the HTML forms data of an inbound HTTP request
• End a browse of the name/value pairs in the HTML forms data of an inbound HTTP request
• Use the existing EXEC CICS WEB EXTRACT command to get the QUERYSTRING from an inbound HTTP request

CICS Transaction Gateway for OS/390: The CICS Transaction Gateway for OS/390 Version 3.1 has now been shipped. It runs directly on OS/390 Version 2.5, or higher, using OS/390 UNIX® services, enabling customers to provide support for end-users using Web Browsers in a two-tier configuration.

The CICS Transaction Gateway (5648-B43) runs on multiple platforms, which now include OS/390. It is shipped on a CD-ROM as part of all new shipments of CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3, or it can be downloaded from the Internet. For further information, refer to Software Announcement 299-277, dated September 21, 1999.

Hardware and Software Support Services

Product Affinity Services

In addition to the services described in the referenced announcement, the following is offered:

• IBM Installation Services for CICS Web Enablement

This offering has been enhanced to include assistance with installation and implementation of your CICS Web Enablement solution for existing or new CICS applications. You can take advantage of Web enablement and e-commerce using the most suitable of the various IBM CICS Web Enablement technology alternatives:

- CICS Web Interface
- CICS 3270 Bridge
- NetCICS
- CICS Transaction Gateway
- CICS Native IIOP Interface
- Host On-Demand

Assistance will help to confirm that the proposed CICS Web Enablement solution is valid and most suitable, to provide an Installation Plan for your CICS Web Enablement solution, to install and implement the CICS Web Enablement solution, and to provide basic skills instruction and project management.

Engaging IBM to perform this service reduces the need for you to acquire additional CICS Web Enablement skills and relieves you from performing the CICS Web Enablement work, thus enabling you to focus your resources on other activities.

This service is available now, in all geographies.

For general information on IBM Global Services, go to:
http://www.ibm.com/services/

For services for CICS, go to:
http://www.software.ibm.com/ts/cics/service/installServ.html

Reference Information

• Software Announcement 299-057, dated March 9, 1999 (CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3)

• Software Announcement 299-277, dated September 21, 1999 (CICS Universal Clients Version 3.1 and CICS Transaction Gateway Version 3.1)

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Technical Information

Specified Operating Environment

Software Requirements: CICSPlex® SM Web User Interface

Browsers: The CICSPlex SM Web User Interface supports any Web browser, which supports HTML 3.2, with Frames and Cookies. However:

- For use of bar gauge and warning lights, the browser must support Java™.
- Additional usability features are available with a browser which supports JavaScript.
- For use of SSL security, a browser which supports SSL is required.

The product has been tested with Netscape Communicator Version 4.5 and Microsoft™ Internet Explorer Version 5.0.

CICS® Web Interface: Any prerequisites of the applicable level of CICS Web Interface must be applied.

Required PTFs

- For the CICSPlex SM element of CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3:
  - PTF for APAR PQ30882
  - PTF for APAR PQ31033
  - PTF for APAR PQ30883
  - UQ32146 (APAR PQ28438)
- For the CICS element of CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3:
  - UQ29716 (APAR PQ25887)
  - UQ32182 (APAR PQ23421)
  - PTF for APAR PQ31485
- For CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 2 to be used as the Web User Interface server:
  - UQ23078 (APAR PQ14302)
  - UQ22452 (APAR PQ19996)
- For CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 1 to be used as the Web User Interface server:
  - UQ19747 (APAR PQ08480)
  - UQ20297 (APAR PQ18045)
- For CICS/ESA® Version 4.1 to be used as the Web User Interface server:
  - UQ16024 (APAR PQ08890)
  - UQ20294 (APAR PQ17259)

For full information, refer to the Program Directory.

Software Requirements: Java Hot Pooling

- High-performance compiler PTFs:
  - UQ90022 (APAR PQ31292)
  - UQ90023 (APAR PQ31294)
- For an application to use this, it must be rebuilt using the byte-code binder (high-performance compiler).

CICSPlex SM Support for VSE-based CICS Systems

The following statements clarify previous announcements:

- Agent capabilities for managing CICS/VSE Version 2.3 are provided in CICSPlex SM Versions 1.2 and 1.3. CICSPlex SM Version 1.3 is available as a stand-alone product, and was provided as part of CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 2. For more information and considerations on migration, refer to CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 V1R3 Migration Guide (GC34-5353).

Publications

The new publication CICSPlex SM Web User Interface Guide (SC34-5403) is introduced.

From November 26, 1999, this publication can be ordered in hardcopy through the publications ordering system. Also from this time, hardcopy of this publication is included in the Optional Hardcopy Unlicensed Publications, which may be ordered for a fee of $250 by specifying feature number 8149 (5655-147).

Customers who have ordered the Optional Hardcopy Unlicensed Publications for CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3 at an earlier date will now be sent this publication.

This publication will also be delivered in BookManager® softcopy form as part of the product from November 26, 1999, and will be part of the delivery of the CICSPlex SM Web User Interface to customers who have received the product before this date.

This publication will be available in softcopy PDF format from November 26, 1999, on the publications Web site at:

http://www.software.ibm.com/ts/cics/library/books/os390/

This publication will also be included (in BookManager form) in the March 2000 issue of the Collection Kit for Transaction Processing and Data products (SK2T-0730).

This announcement is provided for your information only. For additional information, contact your IBM representative, call 800-IBM-4YOU, or visit the IBM home page at: http://www.ibm.com.
This publication will be available in BookManager form in the second quarter of 2000 on the OS/390 Software Publications Web site at:


For the new functions in CICS, the applicable publications will be updated at the first opportunity following availability, as delivered in softcopy in PDF format on the publications Web site (refer to URL above); in BookManager format on the OS/390 Software Publications Web site (refer to above); and in BookManager format in the Collection Kit for Transaction Processing and Data products (SK2T-0730).

Additional Information

Terms and Conditions for CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 Release 3

To give customers more flexibility in using and in connecting to CICS Transaction Server for OS/390, IBM extends its terms and conditions as follows.

Connectivity: Customers with a CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 license may copy free of charge the following connectivity code to any S/390® machine to enable communication with the licensed CICS Transaction Server for OS/390:

- CICS External Communication Interface (EXCI — Load Library SDFHEXCI)
- CICS Transaction Gateway for OS/390 (OS/390 component of 5648-B43)

The service and support entitlement under the license for the CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 extends to copies of this code when it is running on a different S/390 machine for this purpose.

This is in addition to the permission which already applies to the CICS inter-region communication SVC (module DFHIRP). For more information, refer to the referenced announcement.

Application Development: To assist developing, testing, or analyzing their applications off-line from their production CICS systems, customers with a CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 license may copy the following utilities, free of charge, to any S/390 machine within the same enterprise:

- The CICS Translator (modules DFHEAP1$, DFHEDP1$, DFHECP1$, and DFHEPP1$, which are to be found in SDFLOAD)
- The Statistics utility program (DFHSTUP)
- The Trace utility program (DFHTUP)
- The Dump utility program (DFH Dup)
- The Monitoring utility program (DFHMDUP)
- The System Definition File utility program (DFHCS DUP)
- The CICS Transaction Affinities utility program (5696-582)

The service and support entitlement under the license for the CICS Transaction Server for OS/390 extends to copies of these utilities when they are running on a different S/390 machine within the same enterprise.

CICS Transaction Server for OS/2® Warp, Version 4.1

Program services for CICS Transaction Server for OS/2 Warp, Version 4.1 are extended, and will now be available until January 31, 2003.

The program package of this product has been refreshed. It now includes the CICS Universal Clients Version 3.1 and the CICS Transaction Gateway Version 3.1, instead of the CICS Clients Version 2 previously shipped.

Order Now

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