IBM
A world of choice
CICS
Application Server

Can your business reach as far as your vision?

Now, with CICS it can.

CICS:A World of opportunity

The world of business has never been more exciting and demanding. Opportunities for success go to those who can reach their customers quickly, supply the most up-to-date information, and provide the best service.

To profit from these opportunities, the modern business enterprise uses the power of its information systems to gain a competitive edge. New technologies such as client/server computing, distributed processing, object-oriented and right- sizing are constantly evolving in response to changing business needs. But integrating these approaches creates new challenges for forward- looking management - you need confidence that your information strategies will be durable enough to carry you onward to the next century.

CICS is the solution.

CICS takes advantage of evolving technologies, to enable you to implement client/server solutions across multiple hardware platforms and operating systems, stretching from the central computing facility as far as your customer′s notebook computer. CICS frees you from the complexities of the underlying technologies, and lets you concentrate on business solutions.

With CICS you can make information and applications immediately available where they are most needed - on the desktop of the end-user. This offers unparalleled opportunities to capitalize on the value of your corporate and local information, making people more productive, and thereby providing better service and faster answers to your customers.

CICS turns opportunities into reality.

CICS:The business application server

Whatever your current business environment - dramatic growth, new applications, integration of new platforms - CICS can help you get the different parts of your enterprise to communicate and cooperate.

From extending your LANs into your corporate network to enhancing your business applications, CICS transaction processing is an indispensable part of business life.

Yet CICS is much more than a transaction processor. CICS provides such comprehensive client/server support that - whatever the size of your business and whatever technology you have chosen - CICS can deliver application power to your users and customers, wherever they may be.

With the distribution of computing power to local systems and the desktop, the ability of CICS to distribute application function is more valuable than ever. With the power of CICS you can assure access to data and delivery of applications across system boundaries - whether separated by hallway, or hemisphere.

CICS allows you to design your business applications to fit your business. CICS client applications exploit desktop power, enabling users to become productive quickly through easy- to-use graphical interfaces. Servers running CICS applications may also request shared resources from other servers, allowing a totally flexible approach to application operation.

CICS servers span a whole range of platforms, and are designed to take advantage of the characteristics of each system, so that you can always provide the same full CICS service.

Choosing CICS as your application server means that you can design your business applications to fit the exact needs of your business, develop them on the system of your choice, and deploy them wherever your business needs dictate.

CICS Application Server

. . . . is far-reaching

- All major IBM and many non-IBM platforms supported
- Dependable, high integrity platform interoperability
- Transparent use of applications across LANs and WANs
- Multiple network protocols supported, including SNA and TCP/IP

. . . . is empowering

- Powerful client/server application support
- Scalable application environments from 10′s to 1000′s of users.
- Comprehensive business transaction management
- Integration of modern solutions like voice and image processing

. . . . is reassuring

- Software fault-tolerance ensuring availability and recoverability
- Consistent, dependable performance
- Optimum usage of system resources
- Concurrent sharing of data with complete integrity

. . . . is all-embracing

- Multiple RDBMSs and data systems supported
- Broad range of industry-specific terminals and devices supported
- Common API for many programming languages
- Productive programming environment and application portability

CICS:a world of difference

CICS has become so much a part of transaction processing - from getting cash from a bank teller machine, to checking inventory on the factory floor - that it is easy to think of CICS only as a transaction processor, without realizing its true potential.

Some RDBMSs would claim to provide transaction processing functions in addition to being database managers. For growing businesses those transaction processing functions are not enough. CICS is more, far more.

Rather than just data,

CICS manages all the system resources needed by business applications.

Rather than just handling data calls,

CICS views the application - and all associated service requests - as a whole, to ensure completeness and integrity.

Rather than just affording remote data access,

CICS provides powerful client/server support that works across platforms from many suppliers, and interfaces to databases from many vendors.

CICS is unique - one of a kind. CICS removes the technological barriers, and liberates the potential of your applications to interoperate across your systems, wherever and whatever they are. CICS is a true application server.

CICS:Value for your business

CICS priorities are driven by your business priorities. CICS works on your behalf to promote those values and goals that you set to maintain your competitive advantage.

CICS makes your business future-proof

CICS thrives on new technology. It is, and always has been, a leader in the information systems industry, and has become a true open systems enabler, spanning platforms of all sizes and architectures. It has universal acceptance in the marketplace, and a vast range of supporting business applications and productivity tools. In whatever way your business develops - increasing the numbers of users, moving to new platforms, or broadening your application base - CICS will continue to develop with you.

CICS protects your investments

With CICS you can enhance the value and and extend the usefulness of your existing hardware and software. You can modernize the presentation of existing applications by using a graphical user interface - without having to rewrite the business logic.

In addition, valuable CICS applications will port easily onto distributed platforms, leveraging the value of your network, while your current CICS skills move you forward into new computing environments like client/server.

CICS makes people more productive

Many of your users may not be aware that it′s CICS that is making them so effective, even though they appreciate the fast, consistent and reliable response that CICS applications provide. In addition, workstation applications can be written to make use of a graphic interface that can significantly improve users′ operations with its consistent ′look and feel′.

CICS has your security at heart

CICS complements industry-standard security managers with its own security features that coordinate your different databases, protect you against network failures, and ensure the integrity of your business data and application software, end- to-end. Almost all of the Fortune 500 companies recognise that the proven pedigree of CICS ensures their vital business resources are safe.

CICS adapts with your business

Just as business must restructure in response to market change, your CICS systems can adapt to meet your evolving needs. The flexibility and modularity of CICS lets you distribute business functions, use servers as clients in requesting services, and port applications to any platform that best meets the needs of your users.

CICS works to make your customers happy

Today, customers of any enterprise have higher and higher expectations of the service that they receive. CICS helps to meet those expectations by delivering predictable and reliable responses, with current, accurate information, through innovative and friendly applications.

CICS serves clients across the enterprise

With CICS your applications can reach across local and wide area networks, mainframe, client/server and desktop architectures, to all of your users. CICS clients can be mixed and matched to suit your business, providing a valuable foundation for company-wide application standards, and ensuring software compatibility throughout the enterprise.

Sprint

Sprint, using CICS, seamlessly linked two separate applications running on two seperate platforms to provide an integrated application for processing customer orders.

″As the United States′ only nationwide , all-digital, fibre optic network, we see CICS evolving into a major application gateway - by reusing existing applications to build new applications, even when they are on different machines, different platforms and different programming languages - giving us the interoperability that so many managers are seeking these days.″

George Fisher, Sprint′s Director of Sales and Marketing Systems

CICS:a world of choice

No matter how big or small your enterprise, CICS will fit. Whichever environment you choose - desktop, open, host or mixed - CICS offers robust and easy-to-use application enablers that can be used individually or together to provide application solutions your business can rely on.

CICS for enterprise computing

World-wide, tens of thousands of enterprise sites hold their key business applications on System/390s, where the advantages of massive data storage and capacity, large numbers of users and a robust application platform give the capability and value that industry and government require. With CICS, System/390 becomes a leading- edge client/server environment that is powerful enough to handle the largest of business situations, and has the tools for managing the most advanced.

CICS runs on both of IBM′s mainframe operating systems, MVS/ESA and VSE/ESA, either stand-alone or connected to other systems in client/server configurations. CICS supports all major data systems such as VSAM, IMS, DB2 and non-IBM databases, and programming languages including C and COBOL.

Continuing its investment in the future, and support for leading edge architectures, CICS is already exploiting parallel systems to give even better price/performance, continuous availability and state-of-the-art reliability.

CICS for business computing

The AS/400 computer system′s ease-of-use and cost-effectiveness are due to the integration of important services into the operating system. CICS/400 is designed to exploit these integrated services, and can offer a very low cost per transaction.

CICS supports DB2/400, which is also integrated in the AS/400, allowing complete portability of existing applications, and full interoperability with other systems. CICS/ 400 allows you to integrate your AS/400s with your other computers as part of an enterprise-wide solution.

CICS for open systems computing

CICS fits naturally onto those platforms that are generally categorized today as open systems, like IBM′s RISC System/6000 with AIX, and other UNIX systems.

CICS has every capability needed to exploit the new flexibility of open client/server computing by conforming to the open standards of X/Open and DCE (Distributed Computing Environment), and the commonly accepted communications protocol, TCP/IP. CICS gives all the advantages of interoperability that open systems demand. By teaming support for DB2/6000 and other RDBMSs such as Ingres, Sybase, Oracle and Informix, with a wide range of development tools and end- user interfaces like Motif, CICS is truly the system for an open future.

CICS for desktop computing

The client/server strengths of CICS make it the perfect tool to leverage the potential of your desktop workstations and LANs. You can use CICS as your application manager, allowing you to access data and other applications transparently across LANs and beyond. You can also run applications from CICS clients on the smallest of workstations, from a wide and growing number of systems including DOS, OS/2, Apple Mac, Sun SPARC and Windows.

As your business grows you can either distribute processing to your workstations, or move to a larger server without having to reprogram. In addition, your application programmers can use workstations to develop and test CICS applications before moving them into production, without disruption to larger machines.

Just as CICS runs on many different platforms, so does DB2, IBM′s flagship RDBMS. CICS supports DB2/2 on the desktop, allowing both data and application function to be distributed where they can best co-operate, and making the workstation and mainframe an even more potent client/ server combination. CICS is more than just a set of products and tools - it is a software and services industry in its own right.

IBM

Worldwide Olympic Sponsor

″The evolution of CICS to encompass all the different platforms with different tools and different protocols has been very important to us. The investment in people and the investment in CICS makes it secure.″

Kuba Sliwinski,

Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games.

CICS has been at the heart of the information systems supporting the Olympic Games since 1976, and the International Olympic Committee has announced IBM as the information systems partner to the year 2000.

CICS:Now,more than ever

CICS is more than just a set of products and tools - it is a software and services industry in its own right.

CICS is part of a wide and integrated range of IBM's enabling software that removes the complexity from technology and allows you to focus on your business.

Enterprises using CICS have access to a unique development resource of over 300,000 CICS application programmers around the world. They also have a continuous supply of CICS products from IBM and from 2000 independent software and systems suppliers.

IBM offers a comprehensive range of software, tools, services, and experience to help customers with everything from CICS systems design through to CICS systems management - and it offers a complete solution, from a choice of operating systems to relational database managers, applications development tools, and extensive networking systems.

CICS is a true application server. It provides total application design flexibility. It gives you more choices of system platform, database access, and interoperability than any other client/server environment.

This flexibility and choice adds up to business value for you and your company.

If you are a...

Business manager

- Enjoy user-friendly, robust and speedy application delivery
- Gain access to a world of application packages

Information Systems director

- Face the future with confidence and a rock-solid information systems strategy based on CICS
- Protect and enhance your investment in existing software and hardware

Information Systems strategist

- Build a durable strategy for leading you into the next century
- Integrate new technologies easily, using the CICS framework

Development manager

- Give new life to your existing applications with GUI front-ends
- Develop portable applications on workstations, using existing skills

Systems programmer

- Evolve into full client/server, building on your current skills
- Manage critical systems environments using sophisticated toolsets

CICS works for you

When you invest in CICS, you invest in the future.

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