

TITLE: Business Value of TXSeries for Multiplatforms V7.1

HOST: Hi, and welcome to the “Did you say Mainframe?” podcast series. This is where we regularly interview IBM technical experts who can help you to understand important IBM mainframe hardware and software issues. I'm your host Sherrie Abshire.

Today we're going to talk about the business value of the latest release of TXSeries – the CICS product for distributed platforms

Our guest today is Sharad Deshpande from TXSeries Marketing, in IBM India Labs, Bangalore. Sharad, it's great to have you here.

SME: I'm delighted to be here.

HOST: Before we begin, I'd like to mention to our listeners that there is a great opportunity to test drive the latest version of TXSeries. I'll be giving out more information at the end of this podcast.

HOST [Question 1]: So Sharad, remind us, what's TXSeries and why is it relevant to the mainframe?

SME [Answer 1]: TXSeries for Multiplatforms, IBM's premiere distributed OLTP (Online Transaction Processor) for traditional languages, has been a long standing member of CICS family. It is a CICS based online transaction processor designed to run on distributed platforms. TXSeries shares many of the same design principals as mainframe CICS Transaction Server whilst providing a carefully selected subset of functionality.

In fact many IBM mainframe customers will use TXSeries to support their mainframe solutions and their CICS implementations because of benefits such as common Application Programming Interfaces and extensive intersystem communications.

TXSeries typically gets deployed in one of the two scenarios – as a stand-alone Transaction Processor, and as an Integration Server. In the stand-alone Transaction Processor scenario, your business critical applications and data will be managed by TXSeries enabling you to quickly leverage your existing skill base and packaged applications. In the Integration Server scenario, TXSeries gets deployed between distributed independent line of business systems and corporate applications and master data on CICS, IMS and DB2. In this usage scenario, TXSeries can act as a gateway to CICS TS on zOS, providing the ability to run intelligent business logic using locally available business data whilst also integrating and communicating in a transactional manner with enterprise systems. This can increase the performance of CICS Transaction Server and protect it from client-originated disruption.

Also, TXSeries acts as a local development environment inside IBM

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Rational Developer for System z as its unit testing and debugging environment for CICS applications. This allows in many cases, production ready CICS applications to be completed on the desktop before deployment onto the mainframe hence increasing developer flexibility and speed to market.

The latest release, TXSeries for Multiplatforms V7.1 offers significant enhancements in integration and connectivity with CICS TS on zOS, system resilience, application development and problem determination tooling, Web administration console, and installation.

HOST: [QUESTION 2] So for the benefit of those who might be new to the product, can you give us a quick overview of the value it provides?

SME: [ANSWER 2] Sure. TXSeries is a robust and extensible distributed OLTP environment for mixed language applications and is available on AIX, Solaris, HP-UX and Windows platforms. It provides business critical transaction management and integration capabilities and as such is widely used for integrating data and applications between distributed solutions and enterprise systems. Transactions, as the fundamental part of your organisation can be processed with maximum performance and reliability. As we saw before, it is also designed to integrate well with CICS on the mainframe as well as IBM WebSphere SOA Foundation products.

Skilled developers in COBOL, C, C++, PL/I, or J2SE can leverage their talents to write enterprise applications focusing on solving business problem, on a secure, stable and manageable transaction-processing server.

TXSeries is an ideal companion product for mainframe CICS users with distributed application or integration requirements since it follows the CICS programming paradigm. TXSeries can be used to integrate between data and applications in distributed solutions and enterprise systems including mainframe CICS, IMS, and DB2. It is the only highly performing distributed transaction-processing solution designed to let your customers scale their applications to CICS Transaction Server (CICS TS) on the mainframe if their business requirements grow.

Using CICS TG, J2EE developers can build highly sophisticated Web and Web service front ends to TXSeries applications. Customers can also connect these applications to their enterprise service bus (ESB) to power their SOA deployments.

HOST: [Question 3] So, this is very much a part of SOA then?

SME: [Answer 3] Oh absolutely. Using CICS Transaction gateway, you can integrate your business assets on TXSeries into your bigger SOA environment with WebSphere ESB, WebSphere Application Server and Process Server. You

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can integrate TXSeries with WebSphere Message Broker and any other product that provides native MQSeries transport capability.

HOST: [Question 4] The latest Version, V7.1 was released in March 2009. Can you give an overview of the major enhancements that went into this release and how customers can benefit from this?

SME: [Answer 4] Sure. TXSeries Version 7.1 delivers significant enhancements in integration and connectivity, system resilience, application development and problem determination tooling, web administration console and installation. TXSeries can now interoperate with CICS TS over standard Internet Protocol (IP) for Distributed Program Links (DPL), thus reducing administrative overheads. Data Exchange between program components is simplified with the support provided for a more flexible and structured method using containers and channels. This reduces program complexity and boosts developer productivity. Apart from these, a host of additional enhancements like transaction mapping, error logging, memory usage segregation and WLM updates to improve throughput have gone into Version 7.1. The Web Administration console has also been significantly upgraded to provide a more simplified administration experience to users. All these features will tremendously benefit end customers helping them boost their productivity.

HOST: [Question 5] Tell me more about the interoperability and data exchange enhancements that are available in the latest release.

SME: [Answer 5] Data exchange has been simplified with the introduction of the Channels and Containers functionality. This is a group of new APIs providing enhanced options for transmission of data within the enterprise. The restriction of a maximum of 32 KB of data that can be passed between programs by using a COMMAREA has been removed, giving application programmers greater flexibility for taking program design decisions.

Channels provide a more flexible and structured method of passing data between program components. Variations in the size and number of containers can be conveniently accommodated to allow easier evolution of the interfaces between programs. The size of a container is limited only by the amount of storage available. There is no limit to the number of containers that can be added to a channel. This mechanism also removes the need for programs to sense the exact size of the data returned. When containers go out of scope, they are automatically destroyed, so that the programmer is relieved of storage management concerns.

Version 7.1 enables TXSeries regions and CICS TS regions to interoperate over Internet Protocol (IP) for Distributed Program Links (DPL). With this new functionality, networks can be standardized on IP, resulting in simplification of configuration and administration and thus making the system robust. Existing connection definitions can continue to route work between TXSeries and CICS TS systems using ISC over SNA. SNA and IP interconnectivity networks and

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definitions can now coexist, with existing IP-based protocol support across
TXSeries regions continuing to function as in the previous releases.

HOST: [QUESTION 6] That’s great, thanks Sharad. It seems like there are some really great enhancements delivered in version 7.1. So if I wanted to know more specific details about the functionality delivered in V7.1, where can I find that information?

SME: [Answer 6] You are right Sherrie, Version 7.1 does come with significant enhancements in multiple aspects. If you want to know more details about the functionality delivered in V7.1, I suggest you take a look at our website, www.ibm.com/software/cics/txseries/.

An interesting change that has happened to the TXSeries product in this release is in the documentation. The TXSeries product documentation is now available in a task oriented form. The online information center has a wealth of information on the new features as well as details on how to do most common tasks with TXSeries.

Another valuable resource for keeping up to date with what has been delivered is the CICS Newsletter, which comes out around every month. You can find out about what events are coming soon, latest development news from the CICS Director as well as details of how to obtain the latest technology drops we have made from CICS. To register please go to www.ibm.com/cics/eneews/register.

To get full and detailed information about TXSeries you can also request a TXSeries on demand Seminar from your local account representative or send an email to txserv@us.ibm.com. This seminar is an all day customized agenda of TXSeries technical content delivered by TXSeries technical specialists.

HOST: Thank you Sharad, that was really interesting.

SME: Thanks for giving me the opportunity to talk about **The Business Value of the latest release of TXSeries**.

HOST: Well, that wraps up this podcast discussion. To find out how you can access the TXSeries Trial download image, please go to the description for this podcast at: <http://www.ibm.com/software/os/systemz/podcasts/websphereonz/>

Join us next time as we talk about another important mainframe topic. For now, this is Sherrie Abshire saying “Thanks for listening”.