



IBM CICS Transaction Server for z/OS, V5.3 is enhanced with continuous delivery and the IBM CICS Transaction Server for z/OS, V5.4 open beta offering is introduced

Table of contents

1 Overview	11 Program number
3 Key prerequisites	12 Ordering information
3 Planned availability date	12 Terms and conditions
4 Description	14 Order now
10 Statement of direction	

At a glance

IBM CICS Transaction Server for z/OS (CICS TS) is a powerful, mixed language application server that is capable of processing hundreds of thousands of business transactions every second.

IBM^(R) is committed to a continuous delivery roadmap that delivers regular capability updates for current releases of CICS^(R) TS. The following key features are supported on this continuous delivery release of CICS TS V5.3:

- Support for Liberty JavaTM Enterprise Edition (EE) 7 Web Profile, in integrated mode
- Support for Liberty Java EE 7 Full Platform, in a new standard mode
- Remote development and testing of Java EE applications that use Java Connector Architecture (JCA) to call CICS programs
- Improved zIIP offload eligibility for Liberty workloads
- Support for embedding the separately licensed z/OS^(R) Connect Enterprise Edition V2.0
- Several other enhancements to CICS TS V5.3, including a new non- Java JSON parser and an updated CICS Explorer^(R)

Additionally, a CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering is announced for customers to provide feedback on potential future capabilities.

For ordering, contact your IBM representative or an IBM Business Partner. For more information, contact the Americas Call Centers at: 800- IBM -CALL (426-2255).

Overview

CICS Transaction Server for z/OS, V5.3 Continuous Delivery

IBM CICS Transaction Server for z/OS (CICS TS), V5.3 was made generally available in December 2015¹. It added a broad range of enhancements that included IBM WebSphere^(R) Liberty Java EE 6 Web Profile support, new DevOps capabilities, and a number of performance improvements. CICS TS V5.3 is adopting a continuous delivery model and is updated with a number of new and enhanced key capabilities, delivered using the standard CICS service channel.

Support for Liberty Java EE 7 Web Profile and Liberty Java EE 7 Full Platform

As the most advanced mixed language application server on IBM z[™]/OS, it is important to clients that CICS TS supports the latest Java Enterprise Edition (Java EE) standards to meet the modern needs of Java developers. This continuous delivery release adds support for the Liberty Java EE 7 Web Profile set of features to enable the integration of Java EE 7 web applications with CICS units-of-work, security, management, and APIs.

In addition, the complete Liberty Java EE 7 Full Platform is now supported in a new standard mode. This new mode uses Java EE transactions, security, and APIs, and enables the hosting of applications that do not require tight integration with CICS and will benefit from the performance and capabilities of Java on z/OS, the IBM z Systems[™] platform, and close proximity to data in IBM DB2[®].

CICS TS remote developer feature for Java

The new CICS TS remote development feature for Java enables the rapid testing of applications that use the Java EE Connector Architecture (JCA) to call CICS programs. Many Java EE developers use Java, Eclipse, and Liberty on their local workstation to test and debug Java EE applications. This new feature enables developers to develop local applications that call CICS programs on a remote CICS TS host by using the JCA interface over a TCP/IP network. As soon as the Java EE application is written and ready for use, it can be installed and run in Liberty in CICS without any changes.

Additional CICS Java support

- Includes improved z Systems[™] Integrated Information Processor (zIIP) offload eligibility for Liberty workloads in CICS.
- Java 8 is now supported by CICS TS V5.1 and CICS TS V5.2, in addition to CICS TS V5.3.
- Includes support for embedding the separately licensed z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition V2.0 in CICS TS V5.2 and CICS TS V5.3.

End-to-end non-Java JSON

Clients can now expose CICS assets as JavaScript[™] Object Notation (JSON) services without installing and configuring a CICS Java Virtual Machine (JVM) server. Additionally, the EXEC CICS TRANSFORM command is extended to provide conversion between JSON data and a language structure, removing the requirement to link to a separate program to provide this capability.

Enhanced filtering in CICS Explorer views

The quick filter capability in CICS Explorer operation and definition views is redesigned to be more powerful and offer a better user experience. Single and compound filters can now be added to these view quickly, allowing users to find the desired information easily.

Enhanced CICS TS build toolkit

The CICS TS build toolkit is enhanced to build CICS platforms, enabling automation systems to build all CICS projects from source and removing the need to manually export them from CICS Explorer.

DFHDPLOY utility in CICS TS V5.1 and CICS TS V5.2

Automation of the deployment and undeployment of CICS bundles and applications with the DFHDPLOY utility is provided in CICS TS V5.1 and CICS TS V5.2.

Availability of CICS TS V5.3 continuous delivery enhancements

The majority of CICS TS V5.3 continuous delivery enhancements are available now. The remainder of continuous delivery enhancements will be available no later than September 30, 2016.

CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering

IBM announces a new CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering for customers to assess and provide feedback on potential future CICS TS capabilities.

Key new features

The CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering includes all of the features in the CICS TS V5.3 continuous delivery release, and adds the following important new and enhanced capabilities:

- A new set of asynchronous API commands that allow CICS applications to issue requests in parallel. This minimizes the application idle time spent waiting for responses and managing success and failure conditions.
- A new utility for rapidly provisioning and deprovisioning CICS environments. This command line utility can automate the provisioning and deprovisioning of a CICS system running z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition V2.
- New and enhanced core foundational features, with a focus on improved IBM MQ for z/OS integration, better production debugging, and easier upgrades.

Availability of the CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering

The CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering is available for clients who want to explore potential new CICS capability and assess the value to their business. It can be downloaded free, direct from the [IBM CICS open beta website](#).

¹ Full details of CICS TS V5.3 are available in Software Announcement [215-363](#), dated October 5, 2015.

Key prerequisites

CICS TS V5.3 (including CICS TS V5.3 VUE and CICS TS V5.3 Developer Trial)

- The minimum required hardware prerequisite is IBM z Systems z9^(R) or subsequent 64-bit z/Architecture^(R) processors.
- The minimum required level of operating system is z/OS V1.13 (5694-A01) with APAR OA38409.
- The minimum required level of Java is IBM 64-bit SDK for z/OS, Java Technology Edition, V7.0 SR1.

CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering

- The minimum required hardware prerequisite is z Systems z10TM or subsequent 64-bit z/Architecture processors.
- The minimum required level of operating system is z/OS V2.1.
- The minimum required level of Java is IBM 64-bit SDK for z/OS, Java Technology Edition, V7.0 SR1.

Planned availability date

The majority of CICS TS V5.3 continuous delivery enhancements are available now. The remainder of continuous delivery enhancements will be available no later than September 30, 2016.

The CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering is available for clients who want to explore potential new CICS capability and assess the value to their business.

CICS TS V5.3 Continuous Delivery

CICS TS V5.3 is updated since general availability on December 11, 2015.

CICS TS is a powerful mixed language application server, which is capable of processing hundreds of thousands of business transactions every second, as described in IBM Redbook [IBM CICS Performance Series: CICS TS V5.3 Benchmark on IBM z13](#). IBM is committed to a continuous delivery roadmap for CICS TS, with regular capability updates made available on current releases. The following key features are supported on this continuous delivery release of CICS TS V5.3:

Support for Liberty Java EE 7 Web Profile

The Java EE 7 Web Profile provides the latest, standards-based features for hosting modern web applications. CICS TS V5.3 embeds a version of Liberty that supports this profile in an integrated mode that provides CICS units-of-work, security, and has direct access to the Java CICS (JCICS) APIs and the JCA local External Call Interface (ECI) resource adapter. The Java EE 7 Web Profile includes the following features:

- Servlet 3.1, for core HTTP interactions
- JavaServer Faces 2.2, for component-based user interfaces
- JavaServer Pages 2.3, for generating dynamic web content such as HTML and XML
- Java Transaction API 1.2, for transaction management
- Java Persistence Architecture 2.1, for storing state information
- Java API for RESTful Web Services 2.0 for lightweight web services, based on REpresentational State Transfer (REST) principles
- Java API for WebSocket 1.1, for interactive, event-driven responses
- EJB Lite 3.2 subset of the Enterprise JavaBeans™ (EJB) specification for writing portable transactional business logic
- Concurrency Utilities for Java EE 1.0, for safely using concurrency from Java EE applications
- Java API for JSON Processing, for processing JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) documents
- Expression Language 3.0, for web pages to use expressions to dynamically access data from JavaBean components
- Bean Validation 1.1 to provide an annotation based model for validating JavaBeans
- Contexts and Dependency Injection, for Java 1.2 to make it easier to integrate Java EE components of different types
- Java Database Connectivity 4.1, for the configuration of DataSources to access Databases
- Java Naming and Directory Interface 1.0, to access server configured resources such as DataSources
- Java EE Managed Bean 1.0, for common services such as resource injection, lifecycle management, and the use of interceptors

In addition, support for the Java Persistence Architecture feature is enhanced to allow use of the DB2 Java Database Connectivity (JDBC) type 2 driver to reuse existing CICS - DB2 adapter connections.

Support for Liberty Java EE 7 Full Platform in standard mode

Java Enterprise Edition extends the core Java Standard Edition (Java SE) by providing the APIs and environment for running multi-tiered, scalable, and secure network applications. Java EE 7 Full Platform includes the Web Profile and several

other features, such as Enterprise JavaBeans and Batch Applications for the Java Platform.

The IBM 64-bit SDK for z/OS is designed to be compliant with the Java SE 8 APIs. Furthermore, Liberty is Java EE 7 certified. CICS TS V5.3 embeds a version of Liberty that supports Full Platform in a new standard mode with no CICS integration by default. This provides a fast path to hosting applications that only require Java EE and Liberty services, management, and security. These applications will benefit from the performance and capabilities of Java on z/OS, the z Systems platform, and close proximity to data in DB2 by using the DB2 JDBC type 4 driver.

The CICS standard mode for Liberty is started using the existing, robust CICS JVM server technology, managing its creation, lifecycle, and configuration. Although applications running under this mode do not have access to CICS resources by default, they can submit work to the CICS ExecutorService by using the runAs CICS method. Work submitted to the CICS ExecutorService has full access to the J CICS API, and runs in a CICS unit-of-work under a CICS task.

CICS TS remote development feature for Java

The new CICS TS remote development feature for Java enables the rapid testing of applications that use the Java EE Connector Architecture (JCA) to call CICS programs. Many Java EE developers use Java, Eclipse, and Liberty on their local workstation to test and debug Java EE applications. This new feature allows developers to iterate round the write, test, and debug cycle without needing to deploy to a remote CICS TS runtime.

This feature provides a JCA CICS ECI resource adapter to enable JCA requests to connect to and interact with CICS programs on a remote CICS TS host over a TCP/IP network. Developers can quickly configure the connection to CICS in the local Liberty server.xml, including enabling tracing to the standard Liberty log to view information that is being flowed to and from CICS. Once the Java EE application is ready, it can be installed and run in Liberty in CICS without change.

The feature connects to CICS using IP interconnectivity (IPIC) that is defined by the TCP/IPSERVICE resource, and the TCP/IP port can be shared across the development team.

This feature is available in the Liberty repository, and can be installed by using WebSphere Development Tools when creating a Liberty server, or installed into an existing Liberty by using the Liberty install Utility command.

Improved zIIP offload eligibility for Liberty workloads

The ability to offload eligible workloads to zIIP engines is a key advantage for running Java on z Systems. CICS TS V5.3 is enhanced to optimize the threading model when starting and ending tasks related to Liberty workload. This can provide a reduction in overall CPU usage and a significant increase in the proportion of zIIP eligible workloads.

Support for Java 8

At general availability, CICS TS V5.3 introduced support for IBM 64-bit SDK for z/OS, Java Technology Edition, V8. Also introduced was the ability to run multiple JVM servers with different Java versions in a CICS system. This enables both IBM 64-bit SDK for z/OS and CICS TS upgrades to be scheduled independently.

Both Java 8 and the ability to run multiple JVM servers with different Java versions is now supported by CICS TS V5.1 and CICS TS V5.2.

Running z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition V2.0 in CICS

IBM z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition (EE) is a separately licensed product that enables z/OS-based programs and data to fully participate in the new API economy, with easy consumption by mobile and cloud applications. It delivers RESTful APIs as a discoverable, first-class resource with Open API descriptions and supports the

JSON message format and translation to native language structures used by z/OS applications. z/OS Connect EE V2.0 comes with intuitive, graphical tooling for creating APIs.

z/OS Connect EE V2.0 can be run in Liberty in CICS TS V5.3 and CICS TS V5.2. Co-location in CICS brings benefits through tighter integration using a direct link to the target CICS program, CICS managed security, and the ability to use CICS workload management to route requests from z/OS Connect EE to multiple AORs. Furthermore, as z/OS Connect EE runs in CICS, there is no need to configure and manage a standalone z/OS Connect EE address space.

End-to-end non-Java JSON

CICS TS V5.3 is extended to support processing of JSON messages in CICS regions with no Java configuration. This benefits clients who do not yet have z/OS Java skills by enabling them to expose CICS assets as JSON services without installing and configuring a CICS JVM server. In addition, the EXEC CICS TRANSFORM command is extended to provide conversion between JSON data and a language structure by removing the requirement to LINK to a separate program to provide this capability.

Enhanced filtering in CICS Explorer views

The quick filter capability in CICS Explorer operation and definition views is redesigned to provide more power and a better user experience. When a view is opened, a user can easily set filters by selecting a cell within the table and quickly adding a filter. Multiple quick filters can be added and a full set of equality operators are available, allowing users to find easily the desired information. Users can remove quick filters individually or as a set in a single operation.

CICS Explorer is also enhanced to separate permanent view configurations from temporary quick filters and settings. Permanent view configurations are now accessed within the Preferences dialog. For example, a system administrator might have a permanent configuration view for suspended tasks that is configured to show Tasks with Run Status set to SUSPENDED.

The default view configurations are always stored in Preferences and can be copied, modified, and recreated at any point.

Enhanced CICS TS build toolkit

The CICS TS build toolkit provides a command line interface for build automation of CICS projects. It is enhanced to build CICS platforms, enabling automation systems to build all CICS projects from source and removing the need to manually export them from CICS Explorer.

CICS event processing

CICS event processing now supports the Decision Server Insights Event format to emit CICS events to the Decision Server Insights component of IBM Operational Decision Manager. This enables CICS to contribute event information to the rich and intuitive event-driven capability of Decision Server Insights by assisting with the detection of business situations and allowing more detailed business analytics and informed decision making.

Enhanced Kerberos support

CICS now supports mutual authentication for Kerberos by using extensions to the VERIFY TOKEN command. New options OUTTOKEN and OUTTOKENLEN are added to allow Kerberos output tokens that are returned from z/OS Integrated Security Services to be passed back to a client. The client can authenticate the server with which it is communicating.

Additional DFHDPLOY utility support

DFHDPLOY is a new batch utility introduced in CICS TS V5.3 to support the automated deployment and undeployment of CICS bundles, Java applications within

CICS bundles, and CICS applications. The DFHDPLOY utility is also now available for CICS TS V5.1 and CICS TS V5.2.

Availability of CICS TS V5.3 continuous delivery enhancements

The majority of CICS TS V5.3 continuous delivery enhancements are available now. The remainder will be available no later than September 30, 2016. The following table provides details on how these new capabilities are made available:

Capability	Availability method
Support for Liberty Java EE 7 Web Profile	For CICS TS V5.3, use APAR PI63877 .
Support for Liberty Java EE 7 Full Platform in standard mode	For CICS TS V5.3, use APAR PI58375 .
CICS TS remote development feature for Java	This feature is available from the Liberty repository for use with CICS TS V5.3.
Improved zIIP offload eligibility for Liberty workloads	For CICS TS V5.3 use APAR PI54263 .
Support for Java 8 and for running JVM servers at different supported Java levels	CICS TS V5.3 includes this support. For CICS TS V5.1 and CICS TS V5.2 use APAR PI30532 and APAR PI52819 .
Running z/OS Connect EE V2.0 in CICS	For CICS TS V5.2 use APAR PI59303 . For CICS TS V5.3, use APAR PI59304 .
End-to-end non- Java JSON	For CICS TS V5.3, use APAR PI56897 .
EXEC CICS TRANSFORM for JSON	For CICS TS V5.3, use APAR PI54841 .
Enhanced filtering in CICS Explorer views	For CICS Explorer V5.3.0.5, refer to the IBM developerWorks ^(R) mainframeDevelopment download and update website.
Enhanced CICS TS build toolkit	Refer to the IBM CICS Transaction Server build toolkit download website.
CICS Event processing support for the Decision Server Insights Event format	For CICS TS V5.1 and CICS TS V5.2, use APAR PI55133 . For CICS TS V5.3, use APAR PI55134 .
Enhanced Kerberos support	For CICS TS V5.3, use APAR PI56774 .
DFHDPLOY utility	CICS TS V5.3 includes this support. For CICS TS V5.1 and CICS TS V5.2, use APAR PI56706 .

CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering

A new CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering for clients is available to assess and provide feedback on potential future CICS TS capabilities. It includes all of the features in the CICS TS V5.3 continuous delivery release, and adds the following important new and enhanced capabilities:

- Asynchronous API

CICS applications often involve calls to external services, and have to wait on their responses. These calls are traditionally made sequentially, despite not being dependent on each other. Also, service requests frequently block an application until a response is returned; both of which prevent the execution of other business logic.

In the CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering new asynchronous service API commands are introduced. These enable easier, smoother, application execution while calling external services, without the need for additional user-created infrastructure to maintain state. By issuing service calls simultaneously, overall response time for an application can be greatly reduced.

An application developer can utilize the new EXEC CICS RUN TRANSID and EXEC CICS FETCH commands to:

- Run new child transactions that execute asynchronously to the issuing parent application logic.
- Maintain execution of business logic in the parent application while awaiting the child transactions to complete.

- Consume the responses of child services when appropriate for the parent application logic.

These new API commands allow CICS application developers to take advantage of a simple, CICS-supported, asynchronous programming model to run service requests and later name the service to fetch the results of the service call.

- Microservices

An application that follows a microservices architectural style is comprised of a suite of services representing separate business capabilities which can be deployed independently using automation. These microservices are typically accessed using a language-agnostic API, such as REST. Clients who want to create such an API can use a number of solutions, including z/OS Connect EE V2.0.

A new utility is provided as part of the CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering for rapidly provisioning and deprovisioning CICS environments. The utility uses z/OS Management Facility to run workflows that can automatically create or remove an environment in a few minutes. Furthermore, this new utility also provides support for setting up a CICS region running z/OS Connect EE V2.0.

- CICS-MQ enhancements

A new RDO-defined resource MQMONITOR is provided to complement the existing MQCONN resource. This new resource has the ability to configure an MQMONITOR, which could be a trigger monitor, an MQ bridge monitor, or a user-written monitor. Configuration options include the ability to configure the transaction ID used by a monitor, the userid under which a monitor task runs, and the userid under which user tasks started by a monitor run. An autostart option provides the ability to automatically start monitors when the CICS - MQ connection is started and to stop monitors when the CICS-MQ connection is stopped. Any number of MQMONITORs can be defined and installed and it removes the need to use the CKQC transaction to start and stop monitors manually.

Java Applications that use the MQ Classes for Java or the MQ Classes for JMS to access IBM MQ for z/OS can gain a performance benefit from reduced task control block (TCB) switching. The CICS -MQ task-related user exit is modified to take advantage of an enhancement to the RMI that allows TRUEs to run on any key 8 TCB, not just an L8 TCB. This means that the call to MQ remains on the T8 TCB running the Java thread and will not switch to an L8 TCB.

- Other CICS foundational items

A number of other new and enhanced core CICS foundational features are added to the CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering, such as:

- New transactions CEDG and CEDY are introduced. These are read-only equivalents of CEDF and CEDX, allowing clients to examine application programs safely when debugging in a production environment.
- CICS now uses system autoinstall to install program definitions for Language Environment^(R) as required, removing the need to maintain definitions in the CEE CSD group.
- The CICS XPTKT SIT parameter now defaults to YES. CICS will make a RACF^(R) check before generating a passticket. For applications that generate passtickets using the EXEC FEPI REQUEST PASSTICKET, EXEC CICS REQUEST PASSTICKET, or EXEC CICS REQUEST ENCRYPTPTKT commands, it is necessary to create RACF definitions to allow regions (and optionally userids or groups) to generate passtickets.
- Enhancements have been made to TCP/IP statistics to give insight into the effects of the SOTUNING option. This implements changes to protect CICS from unconstrained resource demand. New fields illustrate the persistence of

connections, together with details of the socket backlog, and details of when connections are dropped.

- A new transient data queue (TDQ) event processing adapter is introduced that writes CICS event objects to a TDQ.

Availability of the CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering

The CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering is available for clients who want to explore potential new CICS capability and assess the value to their business. It can be downloaded free of charge, direct from the [IBM CICS open beta website](#).

To register your interest in future managed CICS TS beta programs contact, by email, the [CICS Early Programs coordinator](#).

IBM software beta programs

IBM software beta programs allow clients to sign up for and acquire early releases of a product for the purposes of testing, before it is made commercially available. Open beta programs do not usually require clients to register before taking part in the program. Typically, product offerings provided by a beta program:

- Are free of charge.
- Are not warranted.
- Have no support of any kind.
- May not be used for productive purposes.
- Contain a disabling device that will prevent it from being used after the test period ends.

Details of the terms and conditions of the software beta program are found in the supplied license files for the offering.

Participants in the beta program gain insight into IBM strategy and direction. They may also afford earlier benefit and payback from new function, and may gain competitive edge and the opportunity for public recognition as a technology leader. Participants are encouraged to provide feedback and articulate their own requirements to IBM, with the potential to help influence and shape future IBM products.

Withdrawal from marketing and discontinuance of support

Effective on the dates shown, IBM will withdraw from marketing and discontinue support for the following programs, licensed under the IBM International Program License Agreement:

Product name/ version	Product number	Withdrawal from marketing date	Discontinuance of support date
IBM CICS Transaction Server Feature Pack for Dynamic Scripting V1.0.0 ²	CS0F	October 10, 2016	September 30, 2017
IBM CICS Transaction Server Feature Pack for Dynamic Scripting V1.1.0 ³	CS0F	October 10, 2016	September 30, 2018

Both IBM CICS Transaction Server Feature Pack for Dynamic Scripting V1.0 (CS0F) and IBM CICS Transaction Server Feature Pack for Dynamic Scripting V1.1 (CS0F) are replaced by IBM CICS Transaction Server Feature Pack for Dynamic Scripting V2.0⁴ (5655-Y47).

² For details of CICS TS Feature Pack for Dynamic Scripting V1.0, refer to Software Announcement [210-144](#), dated April 30, 2010.

³ For details of CICS TS Feature Pack for Dynamic Scripting V1.1, refer to Software Announcement [212-325](#), dated October 3, 2012.

⁴ For details of CICS TS Feature Pack for Dynamic Scripting V2.0, refer to Software Announcement [213-323](#), dated August 13, 2013.

Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act

CICS TS V5.3 is capable, when used in accordance with associated IBM documentation, of satisfying the applicable requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, provided that any assistive technology used with the product properly interoperates with it. A US Section 508 Voluntary [Product Accessibility Template \(VPAT\)](#) can be requested.

Statement of direction

IBM makes the following statements of general direction:

- IBM intends in a future release of IBM CICS Transaction Gateway (CICS TG), to add support for IBM PowerLinux™ little endian operating system.
- IBM intends in a future release of CICS TG, to withdraw support for the following operating systems and platforms:
 - SUSE Linux™ Enterprise Server (SLES) and SUSE Linux Enterprise Desktop (SLED) on Linux on x86 and IBM z Systems
 - Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) server and SLES on IBM PowerLinux big endian
- IBM intends in a future release of IBM TXSeries^(R) for Multiplatforms, to withdraw support for SLES on Linux on x86 and HP-UX on Itanium™ operating systems.

IBM's statements regarding its plans, directions, and intent are subject to change or withdrawal without notice at IBM 's sole discretion. Information regarding potential future products is intended to outline our general product direction and it should not be relied on in making a purchasing decision. The information mentioned regarding potential future products is not a commitment, promise, or legal obligation to deliver any material, code, or functionality. Information about potential future products may not be incorporated into any contract. The development, release, and timing of any future features or functionality described for our products remain at our sole discretion.

Hardware and software support services

SmoothStart/installation services

[IBM Services](#) has the breadth, depth, and reach to manage your services needs. You can leverage the deep technical skills of our [WebSphere lab-based services](#) and the business consulting, project management, and infrastructure expertise of our IBM Global Services team. Also, IBM Services extends our reach through [IBM Business Partners](#) to provide an unmatched portfolio of capabilities. Together, IBM provides the global reach, intellectual capital, industry insight, and technology leadership to support any critical-business need. Further information about [CICS services](#) is also available.

Reference information

IBM Software Announcements

For information on CICS TS V5.3, CICS TS Developer Trial V5.3, and CICS TS Value Unit Edition (VUE) V5.3, refer to Software Announcement [215-363](#), dated October 5, 2015.

The following software announcement is relevant to CICS TS V5.3 and includes information on each of the following CICS Tools:

- CICS CM V5.3
- CICS DA V5.3
- CICS IA^(R) V5.3
- CICS PA V5.3

Refer to Software Announcement [215-364](#), dated October 5, 2015.

For information on CICS TG V9.2, refer to Software Announcement [216-035](#), dated March 8, 2016.

For information on IBM Explorer for z/OS, V3.0, refer to Software Announcement [215-373](#), dated October 5, 2015.

CICS web pages

For up-to-date information on CICS, refer to the [CICS home page](#).

For the latest information on CICS TS V5.3, refer to the [CICS TS for z/OS home page](#).

The [CICS support web page](#) can be used to search for terms, phrases, error codes, and APAR numbers.

CICS SupportPacs

[CICS SupportPacs](#) that extend and complement CICS TS are available, free of charge.

Program number

Program number	VRM	Program name
5655-Y04	530	CICS Transaction Server for z/OS
5722-DFJ	530	CICS Transaction Server for z/OS Value Unit Edition
5722-DFK	110	CICS Transaction Server for z/OS Value Unit Edition S&S
5655-Y30	530	CICS Transaction Server for z/OS Developer Trial
5655-Y15	110	CICS Transaction Server for z/OS Developer Trial S&S
5655-BTA	540	CICS Transaction Server for z/OS open beta

Business Partner information

If you are a Direct Reseller - System Reseller acquiring products from IBM, you may link directly to Business Partner information for this [BP Attachment for](#)

Ordering information

Unlicensed documentation

Product documentation

For CICS TS 5.3, IBM Knowledge Center includes the changes to product documentation as a result of the enhancements described in this announcement. These changes are not provided in other formats or other languages. For details of the product documentation that was provided at general availability of CICS TS 5.3, see the relevant [IBM Knowledge Center product pages](#).

For the CICS TS V5.4 open beta offering, product documentation is provided in IBM Knowledge Center. This open beta documentation is provided in English only.

Additional information, presented as articles, samples, and other downloads, is available in the [CICS Developer Center](#).

Subsequent updates (technical newsletters or revisions between releases) to the publications shipped with the product will be distributed to the user of record for as long as a license for this software remains in effect. A separate publication order or subscription is not needed.

Customized Offerings

Product deliverables are shipped only via CBPDO and ServerPac. These customized offerings are offered for Internet delivery in countries where Shopz product ordering is available. Internet delivery reduces software delivery time and allows you to install software without the need to handle tapes. For more details on Internet delivery, refer to the [Shopz help information](#).

You choose the delivery method when you order the software. IBM recommends Internet delivery. In addition to Internet and DVD, the supported tape delivery options include:

- 3590
- 3592

Most products can be ordered in ServerPac the month following their availability in CBPDO. z/OS can be ordered via CBPDO and ServerPac at general availability. Many products will also be orderable in a Product ServerPac without also having to order the z/OS operating system or subsystem.

Shopz and CFSW will determine the eligibility based on product requisite checking. For more details on the product ServerPac, see the Help section on the [Shopz website](#).

For additional information on the Product ServerPac option, refer to Software Announcement [212-272](#), dated July 31, 2012.

Production of software product orders will begin on the planned general availability date.

- CBPDO shipments will begin one week after general availability.
- ServerPac shipments will begin two weeks after general availability.

Terms and conditions

The terms are unaffected by this announcement.

Statement of good security practices

IT system security involves protecting systems and information through prevention, detection, and response to improper access from within and outside your enterprise. Improper access can result in information being altered, destroyed, or misappropriated or can result in misuse of your systems to attack others. Without a comprehensive approach to security, no IT system or product should be considered completely secure and no single product or security measure can be completely effective in preventing improper access. IBM systems and products are designed to be part of a comprehensive security approach, which will necessarily involve additional operational procedures, and may require other systems, products, or services to be most effective. IBM does not warrant that systems and products are immune from the malicious or illegal conduct of any party.

IBM Electronic Services

Electronic Service Agent™ and the IBM Electronic Support web portal are dedicated to providing fast, exceptional support to IBM Systems customers. The IBM Electronic Service Agent tool is a no-additional-charge tool that proactively monitors and reports hardware events, such as system errors, performance issues, and inventory. The Electronic Service Agent tool can help you stay focused on your company's strategic business initiatives, save time, and spend less effort managing day-to-day IT maintenance issues. Servers enabled with this tool can be monitored remotely around the clock by IBM Support, all at no additional cost to you.

Now integrated into the base operating system of AIX® V5.3, AIX V6.1, and AIX V7.1, Electronic Service Agent is designed to automatically and electronically report system failures and utilization issues to IBM, which can result in faster problem resolution and increased availability. System configuration and inventory information collected by the Electronic Service Agent tool also can be viewed on the secure Electronic Support web portal, and used to improve problem determination and resolution by you and the IBM support team. To access the tool main menu, simply type `smitty esa_main`, and select [Configure Electronic Service Agent](#). In addition, ESA now includes a powerful web user interface, giving the administrator easy access to status, tool settings, problem information, and filters.

The IBM Electronic Support portal is a single Internet entry point that replaces the multiple entry points traditionally used to access IBM Internet services and support. This portal enables you to gain easier access to IBM resources for assistance in resolving technical problems. The My Systems and Premium Search functions make it even easier for Electronic Service Agent tool-enabled customers to track system inventory and find pertinent fixes.

Benefits

Increased uptime: The Electronic Service Agent™ tool is designed to enhance the Warranty or Maintenance Agreement by providing faster hardware error reporting and uploading system information to IBM Support. This can translate to less wasted time monitoring the symptoms, diagnosing the error, and manually calling IBM Support to open a problem record. Its 24x7 monitoring and reporting mean no more dependence on human intervention or off-hours customer personnel when errors are encountered in the middle of the night.

Security: The Electronic Service Agent tool is designed to be secure in monitoring, reporting, and storing the data at IBM. The Electronic Service Agent tool is designed to securely transmit either via the Internet (HTTPS or VPN) or modem to provide customers a single point of exit from their site. Communication is one way.

Activating Electronic Service Agent does not enable IBM to call into a customer's system.

For additional information, refer to the [IBM Electronic Service Agent](#).

More accurate reporting: Because system information and error logs are automatically uploaded to the IBM Support Center in conjunction with the service request, you are not required to find and send system information, decreasing the risk of misreported or misdiagnosed errors. Once inside IBM, problem error data is run through a data knowledge management system and knowledge articles are appended to the problem record.

Customized support: Using the IBM ID entered during activation, you can view system and support information in the My Systems and Premium Search sections of the [Electronic Support website](#).

My Systems provides valuable reports of installed hardware and software using information collected from the systems by Electronic Service Agent. Reports are available for any system associated with your IBM ID. Premium Search combines the function of search and the value of Electronic Service Agent information, providing advanced search of the technical support knowledgebase. Using Premium search and the Electronic Service Agent information that has been collected from your system, you are able to see search results that apply specifically to your systems.

For more information on how to utilize the power of IBM Electronic Services, see [their website](#), or contact your IBM Systems Services Representative.

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