CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

CICS Upgrade to Enhance Web Support and Web Development Tools

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NERDC's CICS system group has taken additional steps toward integrating more Web tools into IBM's Customer Information Control System. The upgrade to CICS Transaction Server 2.2 will allow more and more applications to be accessed via the Web.

The upgrade includes support for Rexx, Java, Enterprise Java Beans, Java 2 Enterprise Edition, and other object-oriented languages (including Enterprise COBOL); better interaction and performance with DB2; and Secure Socket Layer.

The upgrade also includes a feature called 3270 Bridge. This allows applications that used to be accessible only through "green-screen" terminals or PC computers using 3270-type emulation to be presented as a modern Web-based interface.

While NERDC has provided Web-enabled CICS regions for more than four years, the new release will potentially make programming easier for application program developers.

"We also needed to upgrade to continue defect support for CICS from IBM. The current production version is only supported until the end of this calendar year," said Steve Ware, NERDC systems coordinator.

"People have also been asking for the Java and Web enhancements for CICS for a while now. We're happy to be moving in a direction where they'll get to integrate these tools into their existing CICS applications and develop new applications designed from 'the ground up' to exploit these new capabilities."

So far, out of the 12 CICS regions, five have been running the upgrade in test mode. In order to provide the reliability that's expected of CICS, the upgrade is applied first into the test regions. Then when they're sure that everything works as it should the production regions are converted.

The target date to finish upgrading all CICS regions is mid-June, Ware said.

For more information about CICS, please see http://cics.ufl.edu or you can e-mail them at cicsgrp@cns.ufl.edu.

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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