CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

CICS TS 3.1 Enhancements Installed

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CICS TS 3.1 Enhancements Installed

The newest IBM CICS Transaction Server for z/OS V3.1 (CICS TS 3.1) has been installed and is being migrated into all CICS regions at CNS. This CICS migration is an upgrade from CICS TS 2.3, which has been running at this site since the end of 2003. CICS TS 3.1 went GA (General Availability) on March 25, 2005. For more information, review the CICS TS 3.1 Release Guide which is available at the softcopy links noted at the end of this article.

This newest version of CICS will provide increased ease of integration with such features as Web Services, which extend CICS applications to a Service Oriented Architecture or SOA, and support for the industry-leading enhanced Secure Socket Layer (SSL) security protocol. CICS can now easily be a Web service provider, Web service requestor, or both.

For the University’s CICS programmers, the new and enhanced CICS WEB API commands enable them to more quickly and easily code Web-based applications. The new commands will also improve the speed of those applications while providing a more secure environment, via SSL, in the CICS environment. IBM also included a new development tool and a set of "best practices" guidelines to assist in writing web-based applications.

This version also strengthens application development capabilities and extends CICS applications to a Services Orientated Architecture. It also provides an efficient and effective environment for applications written in Assembler, COBOL, PL/I, C, C++ and Java.

The use of the DOCUMENT API and the new Channels and Containers API should provide enhanced functionality for CICS applications and performance improvements for large web pages by reducing the number of subroutine calls.

To ensure that all existing CICS applications are running correctly in CICS TS 3.1, we want to verify the installation before any new or enhanced applications and/or functionality are tested. At the present time, everything we’ve tested is working correctly in CICS TS 3.1.

CICS TS 3.1 can be tested in CICSDEV1, CICSDEV2, CICSTEST, CICSTST2, CICSTST4 and CICSTST5. CICSPRD2 and CICSPRD4 have already been migrated to CICS TS 3.1. The remaining production CICS regions are scheduled to be converted in late August, 2006.

For More Information

Listed below are some useful links to find out more detailed information about CICS TS 3.1.

- The authoritative IBM CICS TS 3.1 Information Center is available at: http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/cicsts/v3r1/index.jsp
- The authoritative IBM CICS TS 2.3 Information Center is available at: http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/cicsts/v2r3/index.jsp
- An IP restricted local copy of the IBM CICS TS 3.1 Information Center is available at: http://softserv.cns.ufl.edu:31000/
- An IP restricted local copy of the IBM CICS TS 2.3 Information Center is available at: http://softserv.cns.ufl.edu:23000/
• The IP restricted local z/OS softcopy documentation is available at:
  http://booksrv.cns.ufl.edu/

Select "CICS Collection" at the above site local CICS softcopy publications, and then "CICS Transaction Server for z/OS V3.1 Bookshelf" for CICS TS 3.1 documentation.

Your Comments are Welcome

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

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