



Welcome to the Virtual CICS user group newsletter. The Virtual CICS user group at [www.fundi.com/virtualcics](http://www.fundi.com/virtualcics) is an independently-operated vendor-neutral site run by and for the CICS user community.

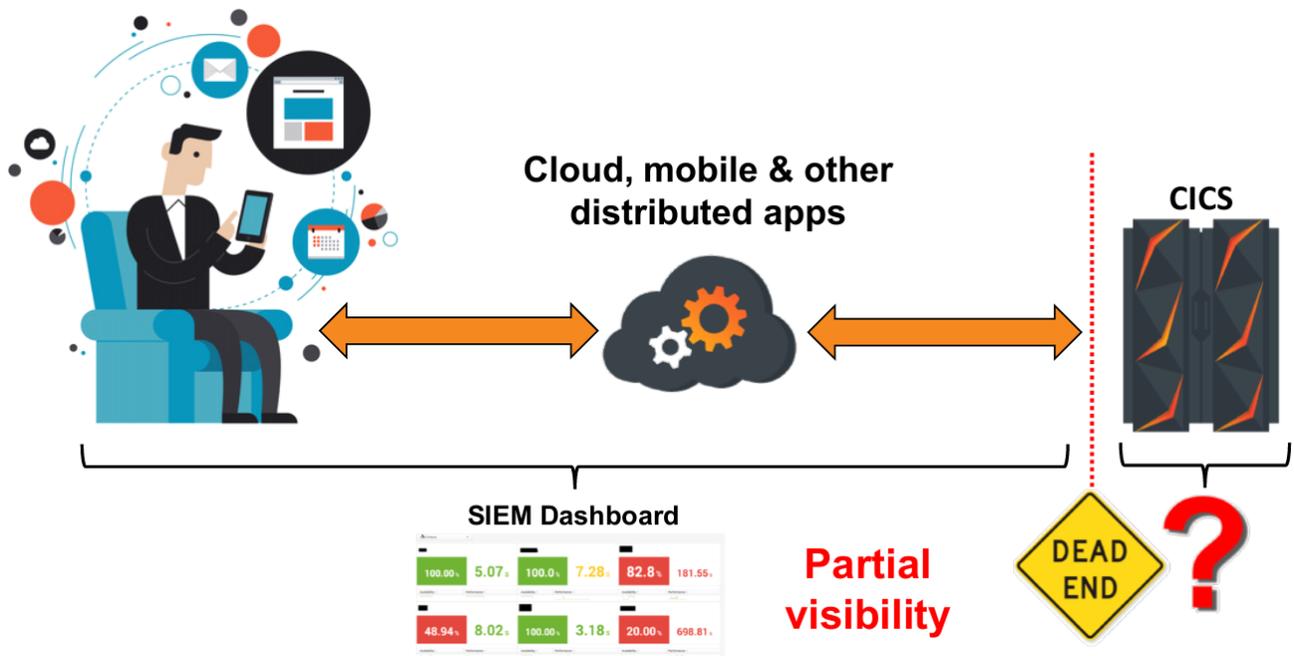


Figure 1: The need for HTAC

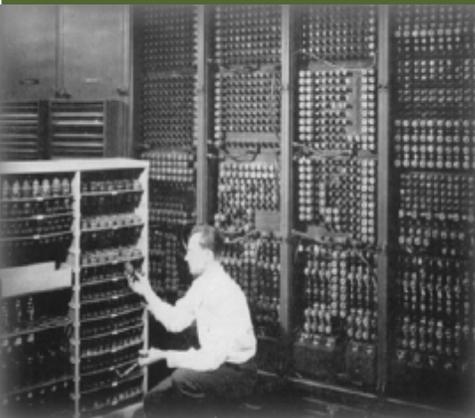
## Virtual CICS user group presentation

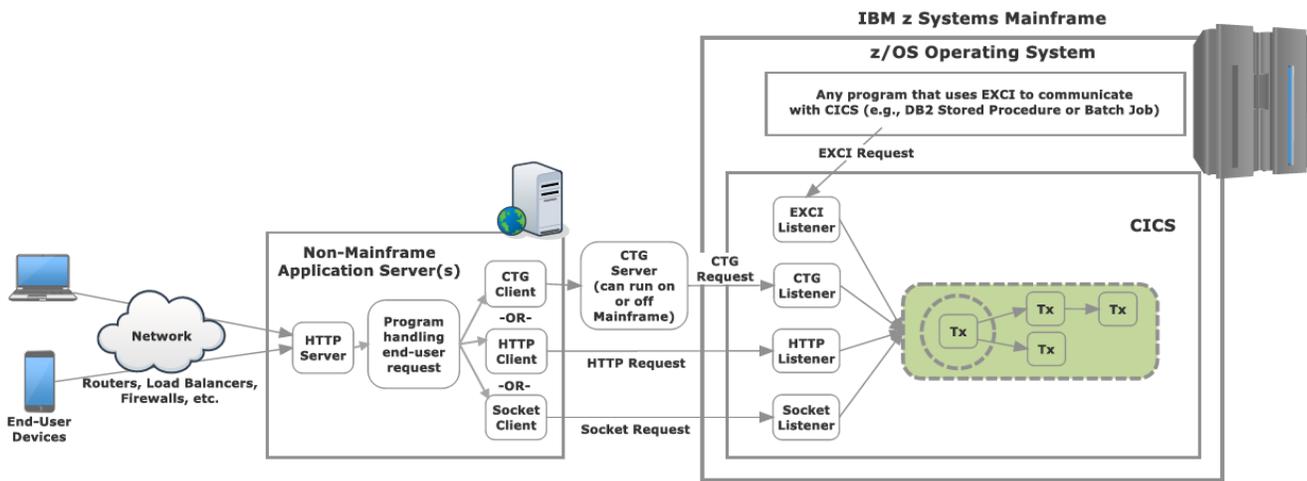
The latest webinar from the Virtual CICS user group was entitled, "Putting CICS on the SIEM Radar Screen", and was presented by Russ Teubner, co-founder and CEO of HostBridge.

Russ has been solving the difficult problems associated with integrating large-scale IBM systems and various emerging technologies for over four decades. His pioneering work spans the integration of IBM mainframes and applications with UNIX

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**Figure 2: The HTAC operating environment**

systems, TCP/IP networks, facsimile transmission networks, the World Wide Web, and service-oriented architectures. He is the co-author of US Patent No. 6,981,257 pertaining to XML enablement of CICS applications, and has other patents pending.

Russ Tuebner started the session by describing the HostBridge product, which is called HostBridge Transaction Analytics Connector (HTAC). This can be used for enterprises with mobile, Web, or cloud applications that are supported by CICS on the back-end. HTAC allows SIEM platforms to capture end-to-end analytic data from the point-of-origin up to and including CICS transactions. The product addresses the SIEM 'visibility gap' when CICS is involved and puts CICS on the SIEM radar screen!

The SIEM platform that HTAC connects to is Splunk, and that's because it is a leading SIEM software platform for searching, monitoring, and analyzing machine-generated big data, using a Web-style interface. Splunk captures, indexes, and correlates real-time data in a searchable repository from which it can generate graphs, reports, alerts, dashboards, and visualizations. Splunk is used for application management, security and compliance, as well as business and Web analytics. Splunk is used by a significant number of HostBridge's customers. However, for most of them, Splunk and CICS have never 'met'!

The SIEM dashboard provides complete end-to-end visibility for cloud, mobile, and other distributed apps. But, typically, there's a blindspot when the

application connects to CICS (see Figure 1). This is the problem that HTAC is designed to solve.

CICS Transaction Tracking (TT) provides a 'framework' for correlating work that occurs inside CICS, but there is no way to associate with a Transaction Group information:

- from an HTTP request;
- sent via a CTG/EXCI request;
- received with a socket request.

CICS TT is, therefore, a partial solution that doesn't let CICS workloads get on the SIEM radar. HTAC exploits CICS TT infrastructure to solve this problem!

HTAC also has Syncsort Ironstream® support for highly-scaled CICS environments.

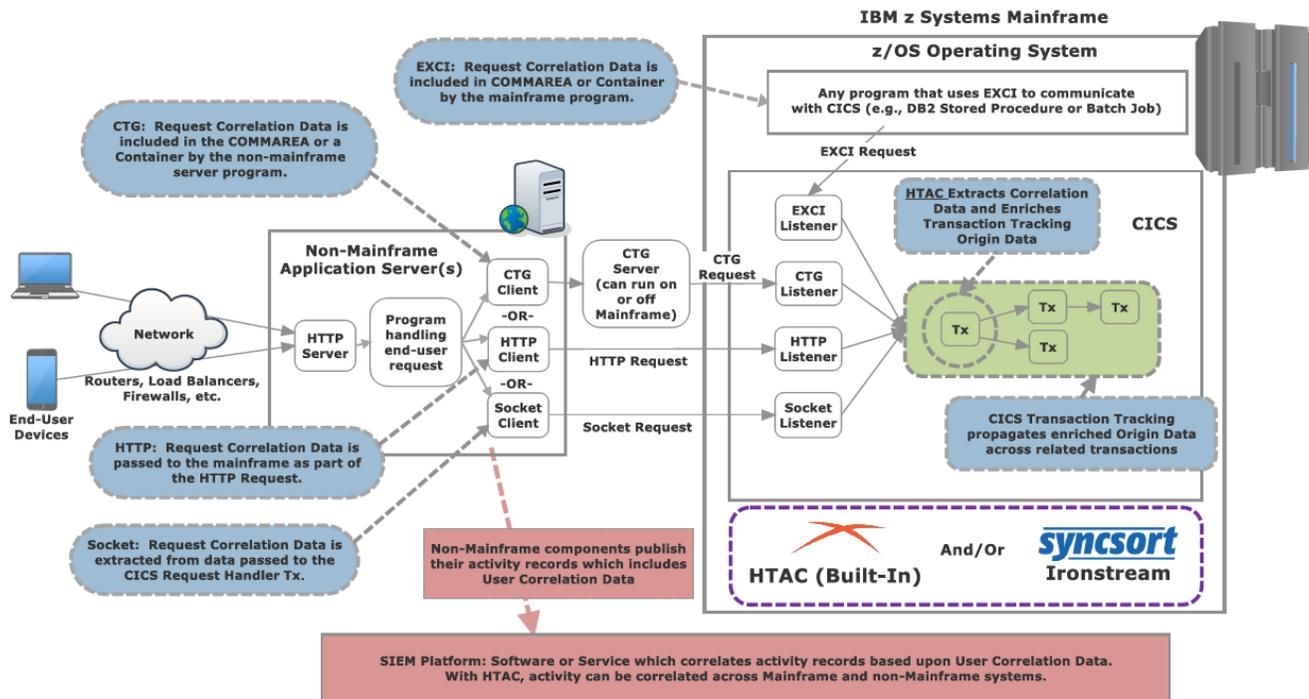


Figure 3: The HTAC operating environment in detail

The HTAC operating environment is shown in Figure 2. Figure 3 shows more details of how that environment works.

Russ Tuebner went on to demonstrate how HTAC could be used.

A copy of Russ Tuebner's presentation is available for download from the Virtual CICS user group Web site at [www.fundi.com/virtualcics/presentations/CICSSIEMMay18.pdf](http://www.fundi.com/virtualcics/presentations/CICSSIEMMay18.pdf).

You can see and hear the whole user group meeting by downloading the mp4 file from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDgBtHsYmEk>.

## Meeting dates

The following meeting dates have been arranged for the Virtual CICS user group:

- 10 July 2018, when Glenn Schneck, senior solutions engineer at GT Software, will be discussing "From Legacy to Leading Edge – Creating CICS APIs Easily Without Coding".
- The following meeting is on 11 September 2018, when we have a presentation from Unicom.

We will be using Citrix GoToMeeting for the user group meetings.

## Recent CICS articles

*Want important communications from IBM Support? Subscribe to IBM My Notifications! by Theresa Hamilton on CICS DevCenter (23 May 2018).* You can find the article at: <https://developer.ibm.com/cics/2018/05/23/want-important-communications-ibm-support-subscribe-ibm-notifications/>

*What are feature toggles doing in CICS Transaction Server? by Colin Penfold on CICS DevCenter (4 May 2018).* You can find the article at: <https://developer.ibm.com/cics/2018/05/04/feature-toggles-cics-transaction-server/>

*CICS CM continues to provide additional capabilities to address customer requirements* by Satish Tanna on CICS DevCenter (27 April 2018). You can find the article at: <https://developer.ibm.com/cics/2018/04/27/cics-cm-continues-provide-additional-capabilities-address-customer-requirements/>

*CICS Performance Analyzer continues to provide new capabilities to address customer requirements* by Satish Tanna on CICS DevCenter (27 April 2018). You can find the article at: <https://developer.ibm.com/cics/2018/04/27/cics-performance-analyzer-continues-provide-new-capabilities-address-customer-requirements/>

*Workload Management Map in CICS Explorer* by Ben

Cox on CICS DevCenter (26 April 2018). You can find the article at: <https://developer.ibm.com/cics/2018/04/26/cics-explorer-v5-5-open-beta-wlm-map/>

*Using MQMONITORs to simplify the administration of CICS-MQ trigger monitors and MQ message consumers* by Shuai Cao on CICS DevCenter (10 April 2018). You can find the article at: <https://developer.ibm.com/cics/2018/04/10/using-mqmonitors-simplify-administration-cics-mq-trigger-monitors-mq-message-consumers/>

*CICS Support for Eclipse MicroProfile 1.2* by Alexander D Brown on CICS DevCenter (10 April 2018). You can find the article at: <https://developer.ibm.com/cics/2018/04/10/cics-support-for-eclipse-microprofile-1-2/>

## Sponsorship opportunity

Are you missing a great opportunity to advertise your CICS software?

The Virtual CICS user group is now offering software vendors the opportunity to advertise their products in a number of ways. You could have an advert on the home page of the Web site (at [www.fundi.com/virtualcics](http://www.fundi.com/virtualcics)), you could advertise in the newsletter, and/or you could advertise in the monthly e-mails sent to members of the user group.

E-mail [trevor@itech-ed.com](mailto:trevor@itech-ed.com) for full information about marketing opportunities with the Virtual CICS user group.

## About the Virtual CICS user group

The Virtual CICS user group was established as a way for individuals using IBM's CICS TS systems to exchange information, learn new techniques, and advance their skills with the product.

The Web site at [www.fundi.com/virtualcics](http://www.fundi.com/virtualcics) provides a central point for coordinating periodic meetings (which contain technically-oriented topics presented in a webinar format), and provides articles, discussions, links, and other resources of interest to IBM CICS practitioners. Anyone with an interest in CICS is welcome to join the Virtual CICS user group and share in the knowledge exchange.

To share ideas, and for further information, contact [trevor@itech-ed.com](mailto:trevor@itech-ed.com).

The Virtual CICS user group is free to its members.