WAVV 2002

CICS/TS User Experiences

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WAVV 2002

First a Review

CICS/TS User Experiences

Volusia County Schools

DeLand, FL

WAVV 2000

Review of Last Presentation

Status in March

- VSE 2.4
  - Installed and tested in November
  - migrated to all VSE guests in late January
- Security
  - CA Top Secret 3.0 conversion in Fall, 1999

Status in March

- CICS 2.3
    - 1 Production TOR
    - 4 Production AORs
    - 1 Programmers TOR
    - 4 Programmers AORs
    - 1 Systems Testing CICS

Current Status

- VSE 2.4.1
- CICS 2.3
  - 1 Production TOR
  - 4 Production AORs
  - 1 Programmer TOR
  - 3 Programmer AORs
- CICS/TS
  - 1 Programmer AOR
  - 1 Systems Testing CICS

Why not Done?

- IBM problems
  - DFHIRP
    - 4 Month delay
      - CICS Command Level programs with ASRA would crash CICS region
      - Restarted CICS (after a crash) could not communicate to TOR without an IPL being performed
  - We had to have a stable CICS 2.3 before we could do any CICS/TS testing

Why not Done?

- Vendor problems
  - CA Datacom/DB
    - 6 Month wait/delays for CICS/TS support code
  - Other CA
    - 2 Months of delays
  - Other Vendors
    - 2 Months wait for CICS/TS support code

Why not Done?

- VTAM
  - 2 Month Delay
  - VTAM requires MDLTAB B BOOK
  - VTAM PU/LU requires MDLTAB=
  - Must use the DFH Autoinstall program instead of the IES version in a mixed CICS environment

Vendors and CICS/TS

- In January, 2000 all the vendors were contacted about CICS/TS support

- One vendor had us change products
  - Macro 4 CICS/Print to VTAM/Print
    - Conversion painless

- One vendor "Not till 1st Quarter 2001"
  - Landmark TMON/CICS
  - We converted to CA Explore/CICS

Vendors and CICS/TS

- CA
  - Group 1 (Dynam, Top Secret, Explore, Faver/2)
    - Good response to problems
    - Were ready with code (although not all code was client tested yet)

Vendors and CICS/TS

- Group 2 (Datacom)
  - Were not ready
    - New version with CICS/TS support was not even ready for beta
    - After a delay, back ported CICS/TS code to current version

In-house Programs

- Only 7% (7) Online programs are COBOL
  - Cobol was converted manually
  - Due to some of our standard copybooks, we have to translate using XOPT SP
    - EXEC CICS SET TERMINAL() UCTRAN

In-house Programs

- 93% are CPG-2 (looks like RPG)
  - CPG-2 was suppose to be Command Level
    - Was NOT due to compile JCL "INCLUDE"
    - Command Level acted a little different
      - Resolved with option settings once the problem was identified.
  - In-house Assembler subroutine was using CICS areas (netname, terminal id, etc.)
    - Changed to use "legal" areas
  - In-house Assembler subroutine modifying itself

In-house Programs

- In-house SESN program requires two versions
  - CICS 2.3 calls Macro Assembler IBM interface
    - Command Level Interface is not available
  - CICS/TS uses EXEC CICS SIGNON interface
    - Macro Level Interface is not available

DMF

- New methodology for statistics
- Requires it's own partition
- Requires correct PLT Shutdown entry to capture CICS statistics
- Also used by the IBM optional JOBEXIT

Terminal Entries

- REXX and Third Party software require unique "console" terminals

Security

- New entries for a lot of new stuff
- CEMT Security
  - INQ only lists things you have access to

Pitfalls

- Assembler table macros
  - Watch Library Search Order
  - EXIT(LIBEXIT(EDECKXIT(ORDER=AE)))
  - DFHFCT.A
    - PRD1.BASE
    - PRD2.CICSOLDG (generation feature library)
  - DFHFCT.E
    - PRD2.CICSOLDP

Pitfalls

- Assembler table macros
  - DFHPCT.A
    - PRD1.BASE
    - PRD2.CICSOLDG
    - PRD2.CICSOLDP
      - DFHPCT macro in the base library?????

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Current Status

- VSE 2.5
  - (VSE 2.6 semi-tested, waiting on new fixes from CA)
- CICS 2.3
  - 1 Production AOR (old frozen system used for archive retrieval)
- CICS/TS
  - 1 Production TOR
  - 3 Production AORs
  - 1 Programmer TOR
  - 4 Programmer AORs
  - 1 Systems Testing CICS

After WAVV 2000

- We were so close at WAVV 2000
- We expected production during the winter break

Winter Break

- Programmer CICS's were converted just after WAVV 2000

- Everything looked good for a production cutover

- Rolled production during the winter break

- Programmers came in and tested

- Everything looked good

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WRONG!

After Winter Break

- Everything looked good Day 1
- We felt great!
- Mid morning, Day 2, VSE went to 100% of CPU
- CICS was in a loop
- Maybe just a one time thing
- Re-IPL
- CICS in loop within 5 minutes
- Take a Stand-alone dump
- Back-out CICS/TS

Blame game

- CA-Faqs?
- CA-Datacom?
- CICS?
- VTAM/Print (CICS side)?
- Other Vendor product?
- In-house code seeing a new condition?

Blame game

- January to March
  - Send dump to IBM
  - They say send to CA
  - Send dump to CA
  - Not our problem
  - Back to IBM

IBM: CICS

(March to May)

1. IBM "We see something strange"
2. Task chain is chained to itself
3. IBM "Not Good"
4. Need more info
5. Changes to trap program to narrow possibilities
6. Turn on internal trap dumps
7. Put into production and get new dumps
8. Roll back to CICS 2.3
9. Send Dump
10. Go back to step 4 (MANY, MANY times)

IBM: VSE
(May to June)

- IBM:CICS "We know who is doing it, and it's not CICS, it's in the VSE MVS support code" aka "the family API SVC's"

- Problem transferred to VSE support

- Late June, received PTF from IBM ($ijbfmdb)

- Rolled CICS/TS into production

- NO LOOP

- BUT, by now school is out for summer

- Fixed? Or just not enough load on CICS?

- Leave CICS/TS in production till school starts in mid-August and hope for the best
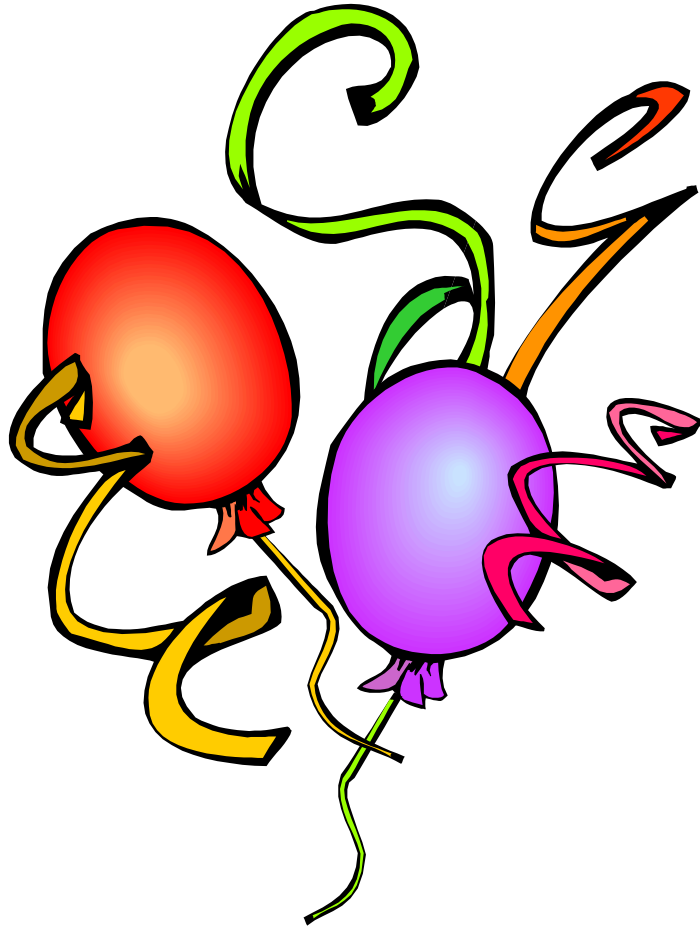
Will it loop?

- Load increases in mid-August as faculty return
  - Looks ok so far
- Largest load is Day 2 of school
  - Will it loop?
- Day 1 looks good but it's a light load day
  - Pins and needles as Day 2 approaches
  - Back out jobs ready

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NO LOOP

Follow through

- Contact IBM to tell them fix resolved problem

- We found they had already put it on the newest 2.5.x update even without our feedback

VSE 2.5

- VSE 2.5 was available
- We had postponed it as we did not want to change the conditions while working out the loop problem
- VSE 2.5 was installed on our systems test machine while waiting on IBM.
- After fix installed (but not verified) 2.5 was put into our development VSE
- Once loop verified, VSE 2.5 was moved into production within a few months.

VSE 2.5

- New minor security issues with CICS/TS
  - Easily resolved (CA-Top Secret)
- By WAVV 2001, we are current and agreed to participate in this follow-up session
- But it did not happen
- November, 2001: Tony parted ways with Volusia Schools

Review

- Started getting ready in Fall, 1999
  - CA-Top Secret
  - VSE 2.4 in wings if needed for Y2K
- VSE 2.4 installed early 2000
- Many Vendor and in-house issues
- Thought it was ready Fall, 2000 (by WAVV)
- Heavy debugging till Summer, 2001
- Finally settled Fall, 2001 (by WAVV)
- 1.5 years (2.0 if you count getting ready with 2.4)
- Delayed 2.5, but so what ☺

Information

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