

IBM Session Manager for z/OS, Version 2.1

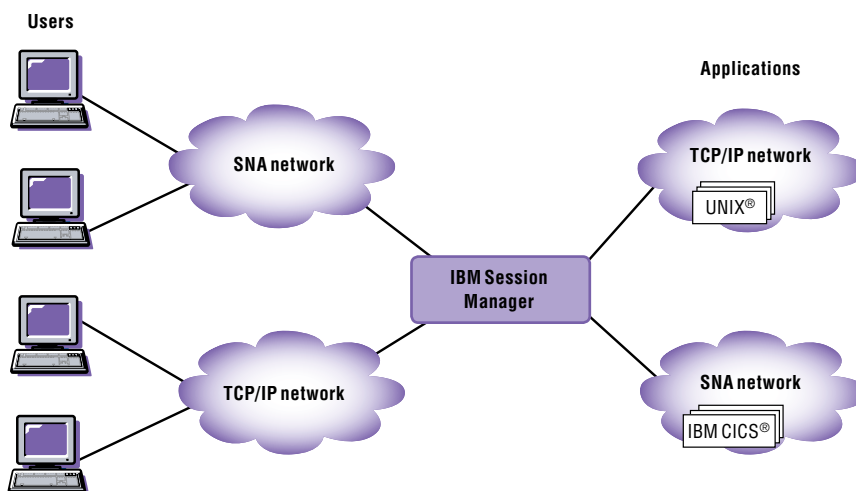
Highlights

- **Delivers high availability and near-continuous operations with application-session recovery following planned or unplanned outages in a Parallel Sysplex environment**
- **Offers batch-administration capabilities that enable mass updates on large sites to be run as batch jobs**
- **Enables dynamic application menus and users to be administered through definitions in an external security manager, including RACF**
- **Provides a system-management menu for authorized users with a range of new commands**
- **Includes further Parallel Sysplex enhancements, such as workload balancing, sysplex networking, automatic user reconnection and sysplex-wide messaging and auditing**
- **Provides online administration capabilities that enable authorized users to add, delete or update applications, profiles and users**
- **Delivers a help-desk facility that provides user display with rapid access to query, message, spy or cancel commands**
- **Includes usability enhancements throughout the product, such as national language support**

Many business tasks require users to switch among a variety of applications on different systems. For example, when taking orders, users need to validate client information, check client credit history and determine whether items are in stock and when delivery is possible. Users might also need to arrange client financing and payment schedules. And because users must keep track of all the applications and systems they work on, becoming proficient at completing complex transactions like these can be difficult and time-consuming.

Simple, efficient session-management capability

IBM Session Manager for z/OS, Version 2.1 provides IBM VTAM® software users, as well as TCP/IP users, with security-rich and user-friendly access to multiple IBM z/OS® systems from a single 3270 terminal. A password-protected, single menu means users are within a few keystrokes of any business application from multiple, concurrent virtual sessions. System details are transparent to users—they can access the information they need without having to know where the applications are or what system they run on.



IBM Session Manager connects users on any network with applications on any network.

IBM Session Manager provides a consolidated view of your business-application network from a single workstation, helping to reduce system administration time and provide quick access to a variety of applications. Because users work with applications from one easy-to-use menu, you can also minimize training requirements.

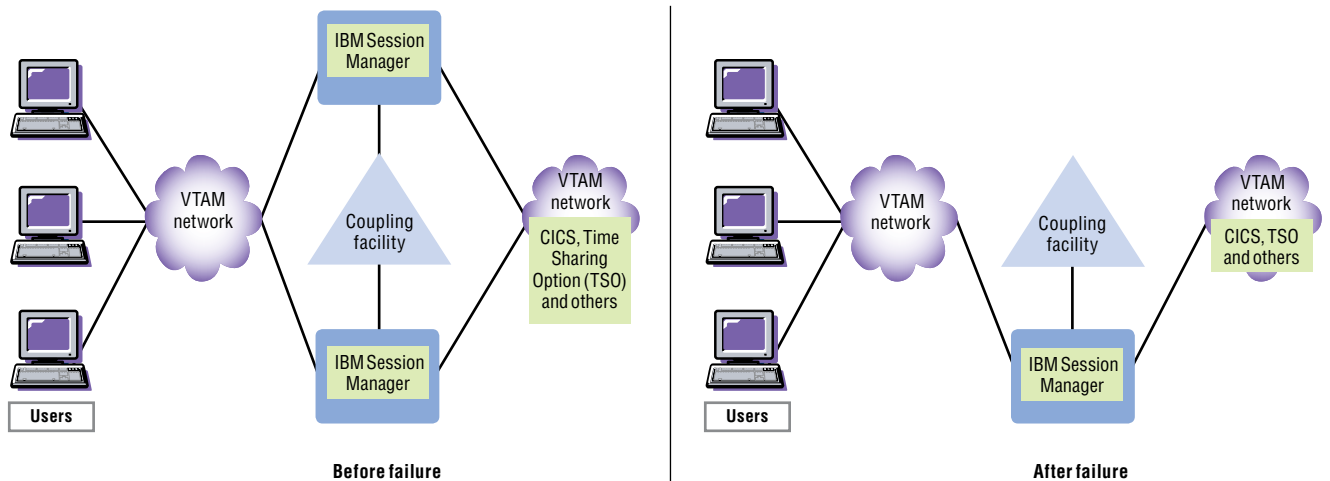
Significant new features and enhancements in this release

As part of a continual process of product improvement, IBM Session Manager for z/OS, Version 2.1 delivers important new features and enhancements, including robust session-recovery options using the coupling facility in an IBM Parallel Sysplex® environment.

Parallel Sysplex support

Even with the superior reliability of the IBM System z™ platform, chance failures can occur, however infrequently. Previously, if a failure occurred to the system hosting IBM Session Manager, or if the system needed to be quiesced for maintenance, your users would need to reestablish their application sessions. Now, the new high-availability and near-continuous operations support in IBM Session Manager, Version 2.1, together with the coupling facility in an Parallel Sysplex environment, means your users simply reconnect to IBM Session Manager and all application sessions can be recovered automatically, helping to minimize lost time and reduce the risk of data loss.

Multiple IBM Session Manager instances operating in a Parallel Sysplex environment can use IBM Session Manager sysplex networking to enable a number of facilities, such as automatic user reconnection, sysplex group-wide BROADCAST and MSG commands. A sysplex menu provides a single-system view across the sysplex group. New sysplex panels are provided to enable you to display users and nodes within a sysplex group, to enter sysplex-group commands, and to view and navigate the sysplex group audit log.



IBM Session Manager recovers VTAM applications in a Parallel Sysplex environment.

Other enhancements supporting operations in a Parallel Sysplex environment include workload balancing, configuration sharing and the sysplex-group audit log.

Help desk

The help-desk facility provides help-desk and service-desk personnel with quick access to information about IBM Session Manager users. The help-desk facility displays a list of users that can be selected individually with rapid access to IBM Session Manager commands, such as query, message, spy or cancel. The spy function, which enables help-desk and operations personnel who can easily view user problems, can help to reduce cost and effort associated with incident management. Also, it offers centralized user ID administration and the ability to broadcast messages to users.

Other enhancements

A wide range of other enhancements are included in IBM Session Manager for z/OS, Version 2.1, such as:

- *Support for mixed-case passwords and a password-change facility that help simplify the task of managing security compliance*

- *Major improvements to the IBM Session Manager scripting language, with many new statements, parameters and variables, to provide even more flexible session-management automation*
- *Usability improvements, such as session auto-start, virtual terminal masking, command and response token (CART) support and so on*
- *The implementation of a variety of other customer requirements*

Other robust features

IBM Session Manager includes a number of other features to meet your business needs:

- *Self-administration capabilities that enable authorized users to customize the appearance of their IBM Session Manager menus.*
- *Dynamic menus based on definitions in an external security manager, such as IBM RACF®. You can use these menus to move users from other session-management solutions more easily, using existing security-manager profiles. The ability to leave undefined resources hidden enables IBM Session Manager resources to be defined in advance, but not exposed to potential users until required. The ability to use the VTAM application identifier (APPLID) in resource authorization provides a consistent naming convention within VTAM and IBM Session Manager.*
- *The ability to hide menu entries so that they are invisible to unauthorized users.*
- *Batch administration that enables you to administer IBM Session Manager through a batch job, using the same application programming interfaces (APIs) provided for online administration.*
- *Multiple-logon capabilities that enable users to access several IBM Session Manager terminals, and that use a four-character qualifier to uniquely identify the user accessing each terminal.*
- *Command and application exit programs that process all inbound commands and data streams before they are acted upon or displayed at your users' terminals. These exits enable users to seamlessly switch between applications within the IBM Session Manager environment.*
- *The CLEAR key, which can be used as a menu escape through the IBM Session Manager network data minimizer (MISER) function.*
- *An escape sequence that can be passed to an application. When a menu escape key is pressed twice within a predefined time, the first escape returns to the menu as normal. The second escape returns the screen display to the session, and sends the escape command to the application.*

- *Support for capabilities that enable an individual, authorized user to disable the session start-script function.*
- *An escape sequence or program function key that enables users to switch directly from a current active session to the previous active session. This capability optimizes efficiency by helping to reduce the number of keystrokes necessary to move between sessions.*
- *Associating a user with multiple profiles that can be useful, for example, for hierarchical roles. A manager might have access to all profiles, a supervisor to a select few and a worker might have access only to the profile related to his or her specific job function.*
- *Support for eliminating sessions with the same session type from the user's menu, which complements the multiple-profile capability.*
- *The ability to translate all panels, scripts, text and messages to Canadian French, German and Japanese, provided in the form of language packs (LPs).*
- *A list of user-authorized commands, which is now optionally available on the system-management menu, enabling them to be accessed in the same way as any other session.*

A choice of supported networks

Most session-management solutions provide access only for VTAM networks through Systems Network Architecture (SNA). IBM Session Manager also delivers consistent, security-rich entry to multiple, simultaneous mainframe applications for TCP/IP networks. Server support for TCP/IP uses a Telnet application server through the TN3270 protocol. Client support is available through the Telnet TN3270, VT100 and VT200, American National Standards Institute (ANSI) protocols or the network virtual terminal (NVT) service.

Telnet and TN3270 support provides access to remote applications running on any host connected over a TCP/IP network. It enables an IBM Session Manager user to have one or more TCP/IP Telnet client connections that display as conventional, configurable IBM Session Manager sessions to coexist with any other conventional sessions. A TN3270 session is displayed as identical to a conventional IBM Session Manager session. For users of IBM Session Manager with TCP/IP interfaces,

TN3270 server support provides a more-efficient, alternative method that also makes it possible to operate outside the VTAM environment. With this support, TCP/IP users running TN3270 can connect directly to an IBM Session Manager logon or menu panel. IBM Session Manager then acts as a TCP/IP Telnet server.

Access your entire network from a single station

The IBM Session Manager networking component permits communication among tasks running on two or more IBM Session Manager systems. To take advantage of the single-menu monitoring function, you must define each system in the network as a node and have IBM Session Manager running in each node. Then, you can access all applications running on any z/OS system in your network. Network communication is possible using intermediate nodes, as well as adjacent nodes. If there is a choice in routing, the shortest route is always used. As soon as a link to another system is activated, the initiating system automatically determines whether other systems are accessible in the network.

Optimize data-stream transmission

With the IBM Session Manager MISER function, you can compress both inbound and outbound data streams. Because it transmits only changes made to the data, this function helps reduce the amount of data traffic to and from applications. By eliminating the transmission of unchanged data, MISER can significantly increase network throughput, decrease network congestion and resolve bottlenecks — all helping to optimize network performance.

Gain more-flexible functions through the script facility

The IBM Session Manager script facility performs a wide variety of functions. Scripts can fall into one of the following categories:

- *Session scripts relate to a specific application session or session parameter, and can communicate data streams to an application automatically.*
- *Exit scripts can run in place of many of the exit points of the IBM Session Manager user-exit routine.*
- *Command scripts can run in place of commands defined by IBM Session Manager or in place of IBM Session Manager logic to initiate a command.*

- *Windows scripts are not session-specific, and you can view several active sessions simultaneously.*
- *Application-builder scripts have special parameters that enable you to selectively combine output from multiple sessions and present the output on a single panel. Or you can use output from one or more sessions as input to any other sessions.*

IBM Session Manager variables are used extensively in panels and scripts. Many variables are supplied, and a user can also install and define personal variables. The panel and scripting language includes commands that allow you to add logic to the scripts. You can pause a script until certain output is received from an application. You can make continuation of the script conditional. You can also map input from the terminal into variables and pass it on to an application or to another script.

Integrate 3270 applications

With IBM Session Manager, different applications — even on different operating systems — can share and exchange data. The application-builder facility enables you to build a new application by combining the output from one or more applications. Output from one or more sessions can be collected selectively and displayed on user-defined panels — in effect, creating a new application.

Users can start a session, terminate any specific session, run a specific script on a particular session and halt a script in progress. They can also copy virtually any part of an application panel to a variable, send variable data to a script running on another session and receive variable data from a script running on another session.

Increase user productivity

IBM Session Manager can help users work more efficiently. Users can easily connect to a critical application or switch between applications with a single keystroke or simple command. With the windows facility, you can view several sessions simultaneously — and position, move or resize windows anywhere on the screen. IBM Session Manager also helps improve communication efficiencies. Messaging capabilities enable users to send messages to other users and groups, or to another terminal. Users can also copy and paste data from one session into the same or another session, save screen images for later reference with the push-pull facility and create a permanent copy of the current screen image by entering the specified hardcopy command to help save time and effort.

Improve user support and training

IBM Session Manager includes a unique monitoring function, the “spy” facility, which allows an authorized user to simultaneously view the screen contents currently displayed at the terminal of another user. Designed for users with high security clearance — such as system administrators, network controllers or technical support staff — the spy facility also enables service-desk and help-desk personnel to troubleshoot and diagnose application problems. This facility is particularly helpful when your technical support personnel and users are at different locations. Your technical support staff can use the spy facility to view a screen display of the network to improve problem determination.

With the demonstration facility, you get the education and conferencing capabilities to allow up to 999 users to participate in a single, centralized session whereas the record-replay facility enables users to capture session details for future viewing and use them as educational tools. With additional commands available to help monitor terminals on which users are viewing the demonstration, IBM Session Manager gives you a simple, cost-effective method to train employees in new skills.

Support staff can use captured sessions to solve problems, particularly when helping users in remote locations. The dump and data-stream analysis replay format can be particularly helpful in solving complex problems. Detailed examination of buffer control and attribute bytes enables you to pinpoint problems more accurately so you can fix them faster the first time.

A security-rich, user-friendly session-management solution

IBM Session Manager for z/OS, Version 2.1 provides a password-protected, single menu from which users can access virtually all applications running on any z/OS machine in your network. New support in this release enables mixed-case passwords and a password-change facility to simplify the task of managing security compliance. With IBM Session Manager, you can help reduce the cost and effort associated with highly available system access for your users, assist help-desk and operations personnel to view and resolve problems more effectively, and increase user productivity and efficiency in the process.

For more information

To learn more about IBM Session Manager for z/OS, Version 2.1, contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit:

ibm.com/software/http/cics/smanag

IBM Session Manager for z/OS, Version 2.1 at a glance

Hardware requirements

- Any IBM S/390®, or IBM eServer™ zSeries® or IBM System z9™ machine on which the applicable operating system and software will run

Software requirements

- IBM z/OS, Version 1.7 or later, including IBM z/OS.e
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