

CICS Transaction Server An Executive Overview



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Agenda

SHARE CICS Project opening

CICS TS

- Version 6 focus areas
- Upgrading
- CICS TS open beta
- Documentation

Learn more and help us improve CICS

SHARE CICS Project opening



Meet the team

Question

Question

What is your primary role?

SHARE CICS Project leads



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CICS track sessions

Monday, February 23

TIME	TYPE	SESSION / PRESENTATION	LOCATION	TAG	PLAN
10:30am - 11:30am EST	Technical Session	CICS An "Executive" Overview of 6.3	Salon 17	CICS Application Development Best Practices Session All Audiences	
1:15pm - 2:15pm EST	Technical Session	Technical Introduction to CICS	Salon 17	CICS zNextGen Career Toolkit Essentials: Skills for the Future Application Development Training Introductory	
2:30pm - 3:30pm EST	Technical Session	The All New CICS TS for z/OS 6.3!	Salon 17	CICS Application Development Technical Updates Session Intermediate	
3:45pm - 4:45pm EST	Technical Session	CICS 6.3 is AI Ready!	Salon 17	CICS Machine Learning/AI Application Development Technical Updates Session Introductory	

CICS track sessions

Tuesday, February 24

TIME	TYPE	SESSION / PRESENTATION	LOCATION	TAG	PLAN
8:00am - 9:00am EST	Technical Session	Beyond Monitoring: Unleashing Automated Operations for CICS Diagnostics	Salon 17	CICS Operations Management Performance and Capacity Management Systems Management and Automation Application Development Case Study All Audiences	
9:15am - 10:15am EST	Technical Session	CICS TS 6 - Journey to Zero Trust & DORA Compliance	Salon 17	CICS Security and Compliance Application Development Best Practices Session Intermediate	
10:30am - 11:30am EST	Technical Session	Profiling a CICS Transaction Using Trace	Salon 17	CICS z/OS Systems Programming Application Development Technical Updates Session Intermediate	
2:30pm - 3:30pm EST	IBM Session, Technical Session	CICS Debugging Essentials	Salon 17	CICS Databases Application Development Best Practices Session All Audiences	



CICS track sessions

Wednesday, February 25

TIME	TYPE	SESSION / PRESENTATION	LOCATION	TAG	PLAN
8:00am - 9:00am EST	Technical Session	z/OS 3.2 User Experiences	Salon 23	CICS Communications Server Databases Hardware Programming Languages z/OS Systems Programming Core Platform Training Intermediate	
9:15am - 10:15am EST	Technical Session	An Introduction to Leveraging AI to Increase Productivity in CICS	Salon 17	CICS Machine Learning/AI Application Development Technical Updates Session All Audiences	
1:15pm - 2:15pm EST	Technical Session	CICS Nuts, Bolts and Gotcha's	Salon 17	CICS Application Development Best Practices Session All Audiences	
2:30pm - 3:30pm EST	Technical Session	CICS TS 6 - Performance Update	Salon 17	CICS Application Development Best Practices Session All Audiences	
3:45pm - 4:45pm EST	Technical Session	Simplifying CICS Configuration - Harness the Power of Code	Salon 17	CICS DevOps Systems Management and Automation Application Development Best Practices Session All Audiences	

CICS track sessions

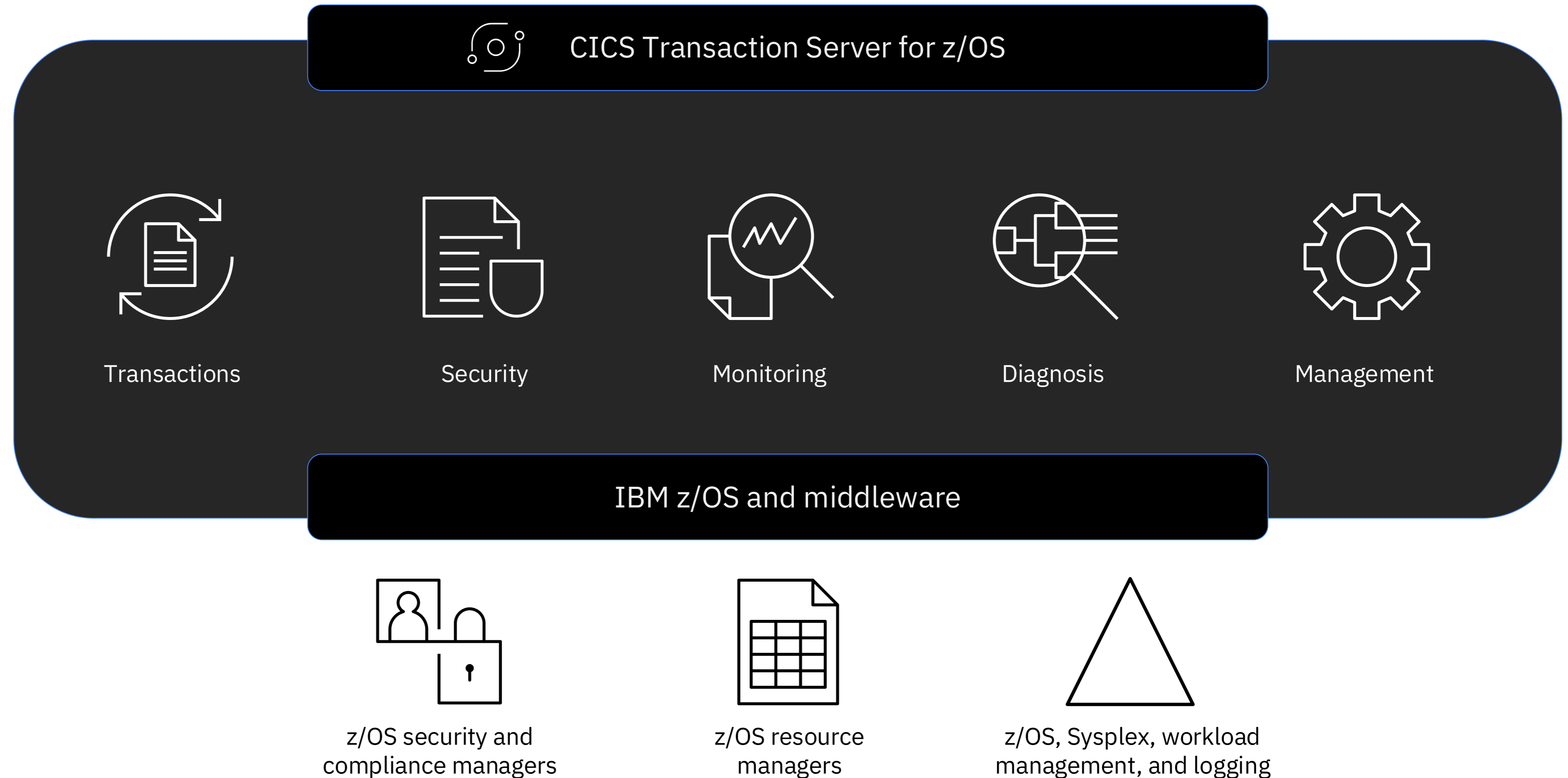
Thursday, February 26

TIME	TYPE	SESSION / PRESENTATION	LOCATION	TAG	PLAN
9:15am - 10:15am EST	Technical Session	Security Discovery in CICS	Salon 17	CICS Security and Compliance Strengthen Security & Access Controls Application Development Best Practices Session All Audiences	
10:30am - 11:30am EST	Technical Session	OpenTelemetry Tracing With CICS TS 6.3	Salon 17	CICS Hybrid Cloud Career Toolkit Essentials: Skills for the Future Application Development Technical Updates Session Intermediate	

CICS TS is a secure and scalable platform for transactional enterprise applications in hybrid architectures

Runs your applications using the full power of the IBM Z platform

- Applications easily and efficiently access z/OS data with integrity and recovery
- Applications can be written in a choice of languages to suit skills and business needs
- Supports a stepwise, low-risk approach to application modernization over time
- Integrates with hybrid cloud using APIs, messaging, and events with observability
- Secure communications, applications, and resources using zero trust approach



CICS TS is a secure and scalable platform for transactional enterprise applications in hybrid architectures



Secure

Secure transactions, data, and networking in tandem with your z/OS security manager and compliance authority.

- Control access using Resource Access Control Facility (RACF)
- Compliance evidence automatically gathered for IBM Z Security and Compliance Center
- Protect system integrity with transaction isolation and Instruction Execution Protection Facility
- Tooling to help adopt zero trust



Scalable

Efficiently scale and prioritize workloads to deliver the full potential of IBM zSystems and Sysplex.

- Sysplex optimized workload transaction routing with CICSplex System Manager
- Optimized sharing of data with CICS coupling facility data tables and temporary storage
- Set goals for workloads using z/OS Workload Manager
- Distribute networking requests using Sysplex distributor



Flexible

A choice of familiar languages and frameworks to integrate and modernize applications and data.

- Languages – Java™, Node.js®, COBOL, PL/I, C/C++, Assembler
- Frameworks – Jakarta®, Spring Boot, Eclipse MicroProfile®, OSGi®, JavaScript
- Easy to write applications that use a mix of languages, optimizing for skills, business need, and compatibility. Code less by letting CICS handle transactional updates, security, and scaling

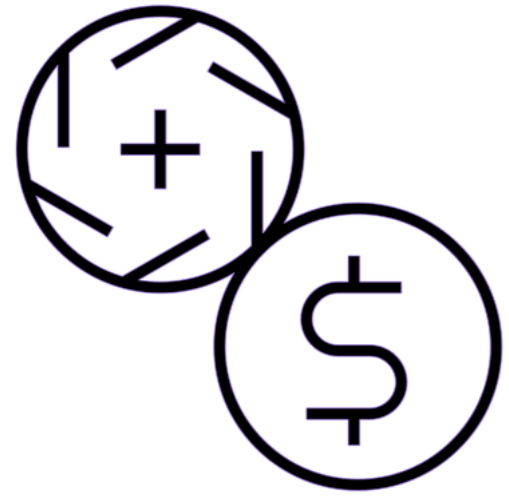


Fast

A highly tuned application server, right next to your data.

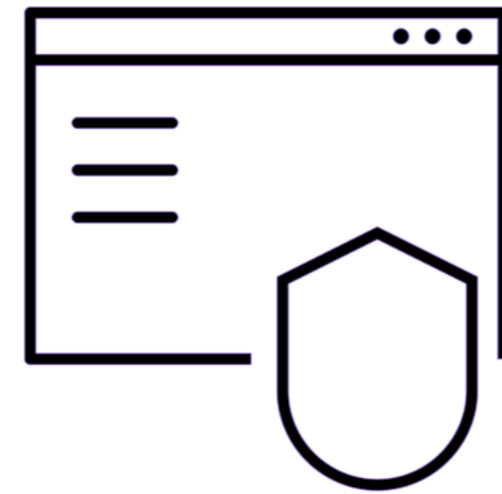
- Java workloads accelerated with IBM z Systems Integrated Information Processor
- AI inferencing accelerated on IBM z16
- Networking encryption accelerated with CP Assist for Cryptographic Functions

CICS TS 6



Reduced cost of management and resiliency

CICS Admins can solve problems faster using OpenTelemetry observability, reduce costs by optimizing thread-safe access to data tables, reduce volumes of data written to SMF, and simplify and automate routine work with CICS configuration tools, CICS policies and Ansible



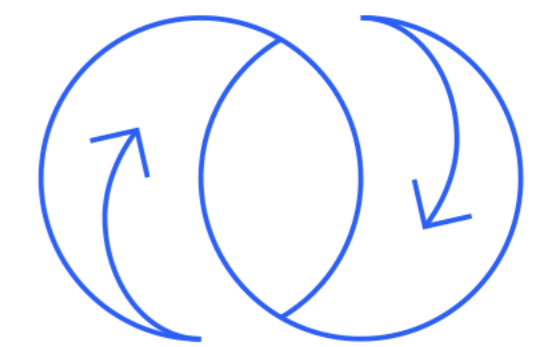
Improved security and compliance management

CICS and Security Admins can tighten security for valuable applications and data using CICS security recording and CICS Explorer tooling as part of a Zero Trust strategy, secure all connections with AT-TLS and TLS 1.3, and adopt best-practices with z/OS health checks



Enhanced developer productivity

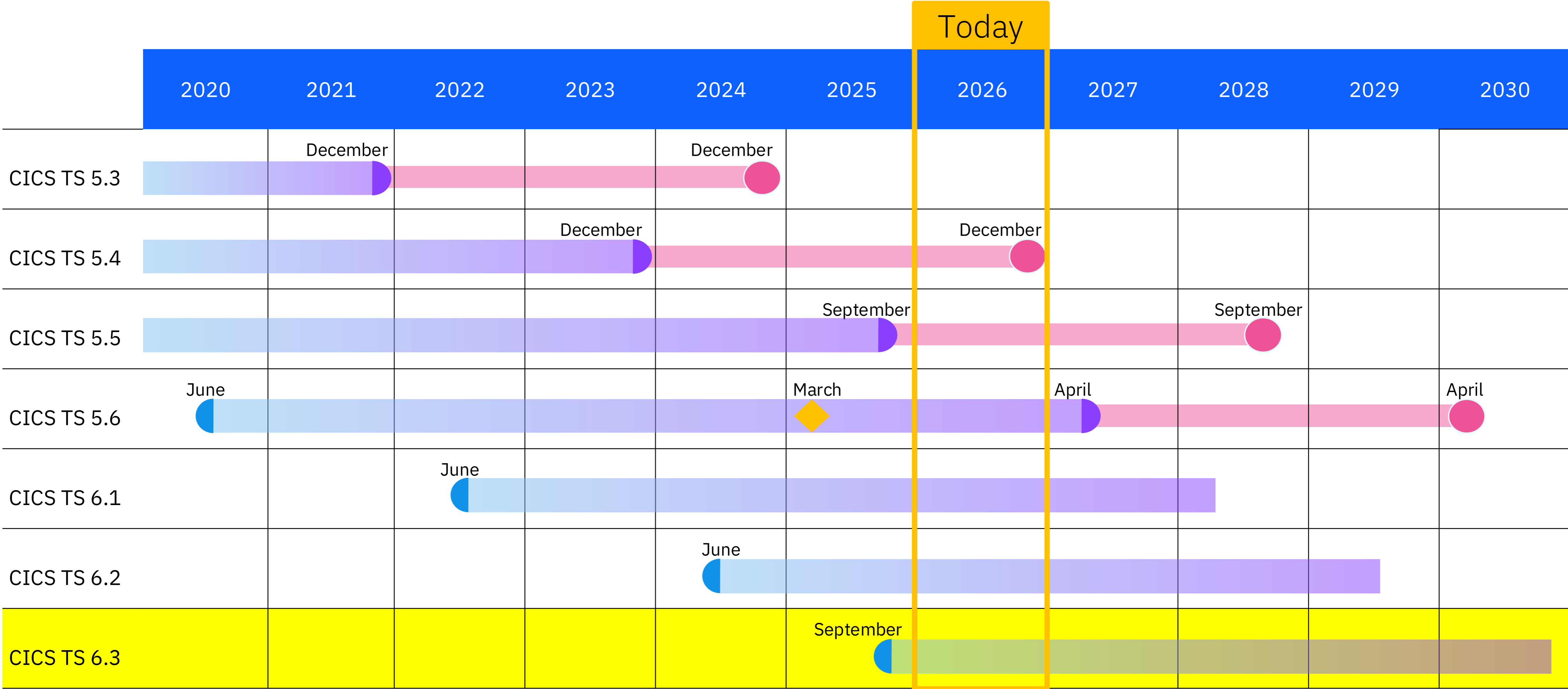
Developers can use familiar tooling in Eclipse or VS Code to develop CICS applications. Java developers have access to the latest versions of Java, Jakarta, Spring Boot and Node.js to extend applications, with fast local access to CICS programs and data



Increased business agility

Architects can unlock access to CICS applications with API enablement, messaging event driven architecture, and AI in-transaction inferencing

CICS TS 6



Open beta
 Generally available
 End of marketing
 End of service
 End of service extension

[CICS TS announcements](#). IBM Lifecycle "Extended" = at least 5 years in service + 3 years service extension

CICS TS

continuous delivery

Continuous delivery

- Separate APAR for each feature
- Some flexibility of when to apply APAR or to roll back, until APAR become part of pre-req chain, and in some cases feature toggles used to selectively opt-in to new capabilities
- CICS TS 6.1 and above if there is demand
- CICS Explorer - CD features included with service in CICS Explorer 5.5 update

CICS TS open beta

- Early view of our next version
- Includes CD features and fixes from previous releases
- New features that cannot be made available via service - for example they not complete, or could be disruptive to other products or applications
- Some features may be removed
- [IBM Ideas portal](#) to submit your ideas and vote

New version

- Every 18 to 24 months
- Upgrade directly to the latest version
- Enhance lifecycle, meaning 5+ years in service, plus up to 3 years of paid-for extended service

Other

- New capability release elsewhere to improve DevOps and automation scenarios, for example, Ansible CICS Collection, and plug-ins for Maven, Gradle, UCD

Announcements

- [Announcements](#) of CD features and open betas at regular quarterly intervals

CICS TS documentation

CICS TS 6 documentation is together

- CICS TS 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, open beta
- What's new
- Upgrading
- Process to change edition such as developer trial to MLC, or MLC to VUE
- Links to license information
- Performance information
- ...

Typing in a question will run an AI search

The screenshot displays the IBM CICS TS 6.3 documentation page. The browser address bar shows the URL: `ibm.com/docs/en/cics-ts/6.x?topic=whats-new-in-cics-ts-63`. The page features a dark-themed navigation sidebar on the left with the following menu items: CICS Transaction Server for z/OS, Change version (6.x), Show full table of contents, Filter on titles, Welcome, What's new in CICS TS beta?, What's new in CICS TS 6.3? (highlighted), Changes to CICS externals in CICS TS 6.3, What's new in CICS TS 6.2?, What's new in CICS TS 6.1?, What is CICS Transaction Server for z/OS?, What documentation is available?, CICS fundamentals, Installing CICS TS, Upgrading, Planning to upgrade, Upgrading to the new release, Upgrading from CICS TS Developer Trial, Upgrading CICS Explorer, Upgrading CICSplex SM, Upgrading CICS regions, Upgrading security, and Upgrading the Java environment. The main content area is titled "What's new in CICS TS 6.3?" and includes a "Last Updated: 2026-01-16" timestamp with an AI icon. The text describes the capabilities of CICS TS 6.3, such as enabling development teams to create powerful mixed-language applications and allowing operational teams to manage these applications from a single point of control. It also provides links to related documentation, including the "CICS Transaction Server for z/OS Version 6.3 announcement letter" and "What's New for CICS TS 6.2" and "What's New for CICS TS 6.1". A "Release highlights" section follows, featuring two key areas: "Systems management and observability" (support for Open Telemetry distributed tracing and simplified configuration) and "Improved developer productivity" (support for Java 21, Jakarta 10 EE, MicroProfile 6, and Spring Boot 3, along with VS Code extensions and AI agent support). The right sidebar contains a "On this page" section with links to "Release highlights", "All the enhancements at a glance", and various "What's new" topics for developer experience, system management, security, resilience, and documentation.

CICS TS betas



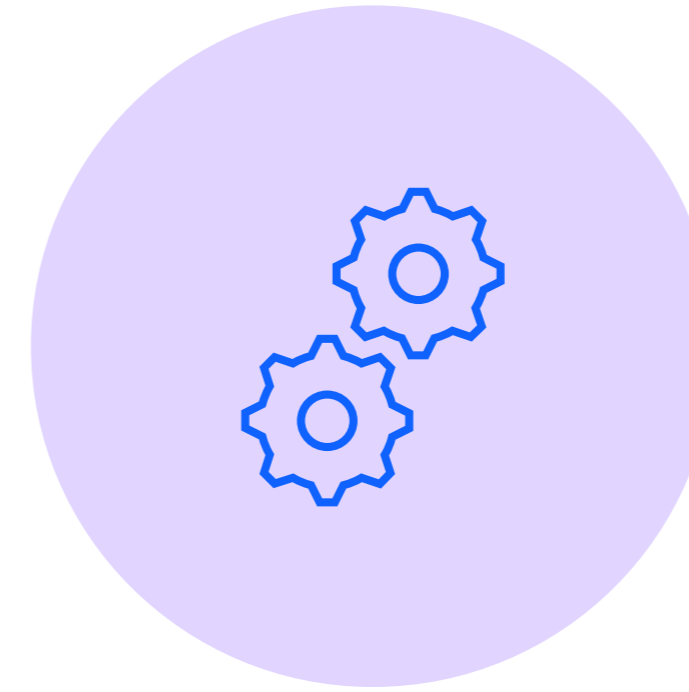
CICS
design partnership

- ✓ Leading clients



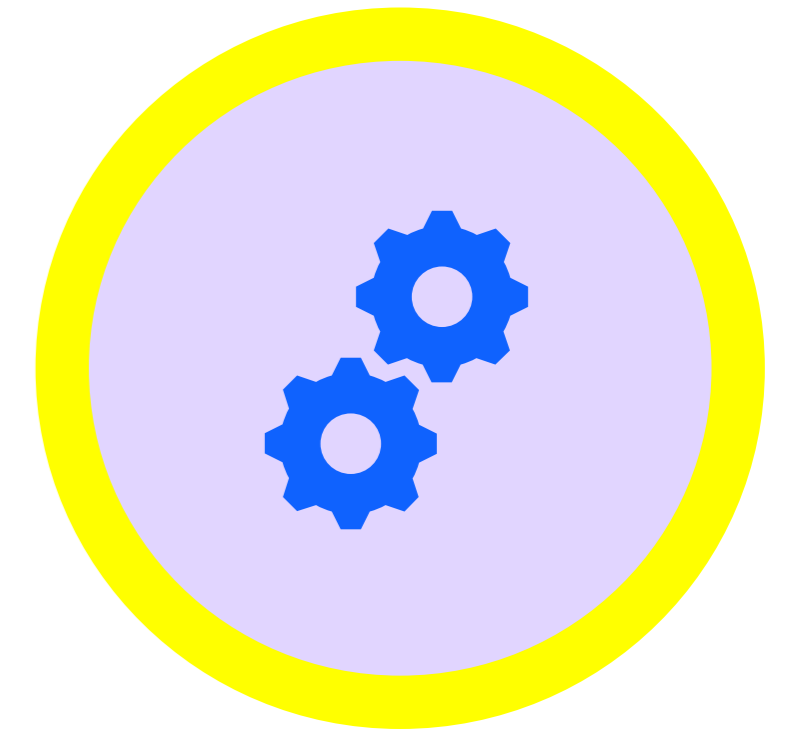
CICS TS
open beta

- ✓ Everyone



CICS TS
managed beta

- ✓ Leading clients
- ✓ Certain business partners



CICS
business partner
feedback program

- ✓ Certain business partners

CICS TS open beta

- ✓ Early feedback on new features
- ✓ Facilitate a smooth and timely upgrade experience for clients
- ✓ Includes continuous delivery (CD) and service from previous releases

IBM

[Public announcement](#) and community engagement

Everyone

Learn about and try new capabilities

CICS TS open beta typically drops each quarter

- Code on download site
- Education webinars and replay on download site
- Documentation merged with 6.x on IBM Documentation
 - Aim to have code and doc in sync
 - See topic [What's new](#)
- CICS configuration tool → is now included in the z/OS middleware configuration tool beta

CICS TS Business Partner Feedback Program

- ✓ Build relationships across CICS eco-system
- ✓ Facilitate a smooth and timely upgrade experience for clients
- ✓ Provide clients with value-add solutions

IBM

Invites sent to business partners

CICS business partner conference

- Detailed education of potential changes from dev teams
- Advanced notice of some planned upcoming features
- Best practice to improve quality and security

1-1 meetings to understand requirements

Business partners

Program is IBM confidential: subject to online agreement **Feedback Program Agreement**

Engage IBM to understand CICS TS changes and give timely feedback

Support clients using CICS TS open beta

Aim to support new CICS TS releases around GA date to help clients plan upgrades

CICS TS open beta

Maintain a strong and stable foundation

• *Application developers* can write CICS applications using the latest COBOL, Java, C, C++, PL/I, Assembler compilers, enterprise frameworks, and APIs to fully utilise language features, use open source, and port applications into CICS

Application owners and system programmers can meet demanding SLAs, business resiliency, and scale efficiently and fully utilising the IBM Z stack and middleware

Site Reliability Engineers can observe all CICS workloads using OpenTelemetry distributed tracing, and together with CICS system programmers quickly resolve problems

Secure CICS applications and data

System programmers, security administrators and Chief Security Officer can adopt zero trust principles, audit compliance to industry regulations, guard against insider threats, and secure data and communications with quantum safe algorithms

Streamlined experience in VS Code for developers onboarding to CICS application development

Application developers can easily diagnose CICS code bugs and resource configuration issues through clear, concise, and easy-to-understand error descriptions

Early tenure application developers can easily onboard to CICS development in VS Code through clear and concise documentation that simplifies the setup process

Early tenure application developers can quickly get started and implement CICS code changes with ease by having the right information available in context

Modern administration experience

System programmer can discover all configuration for a single CICS TS region and migrate to YAML

System programmer can use the z/OS Collection Program scripts to collect configuration for CICS TS

System programmer can manage and apply configuration incrementally

Application developers and business partners can package a CICS application, data, runtime, and dependencies in a container image

System programmers can run CICS container images effectively using with z/OS Container Platform

Learn more and help us improve CICS

Here at the conference

In sessions, conversations, and later via email when you've had time to digest presentation material

z/OS Function Registry

z/OS data collection program

Join the CICS Design Partnership or business partner program

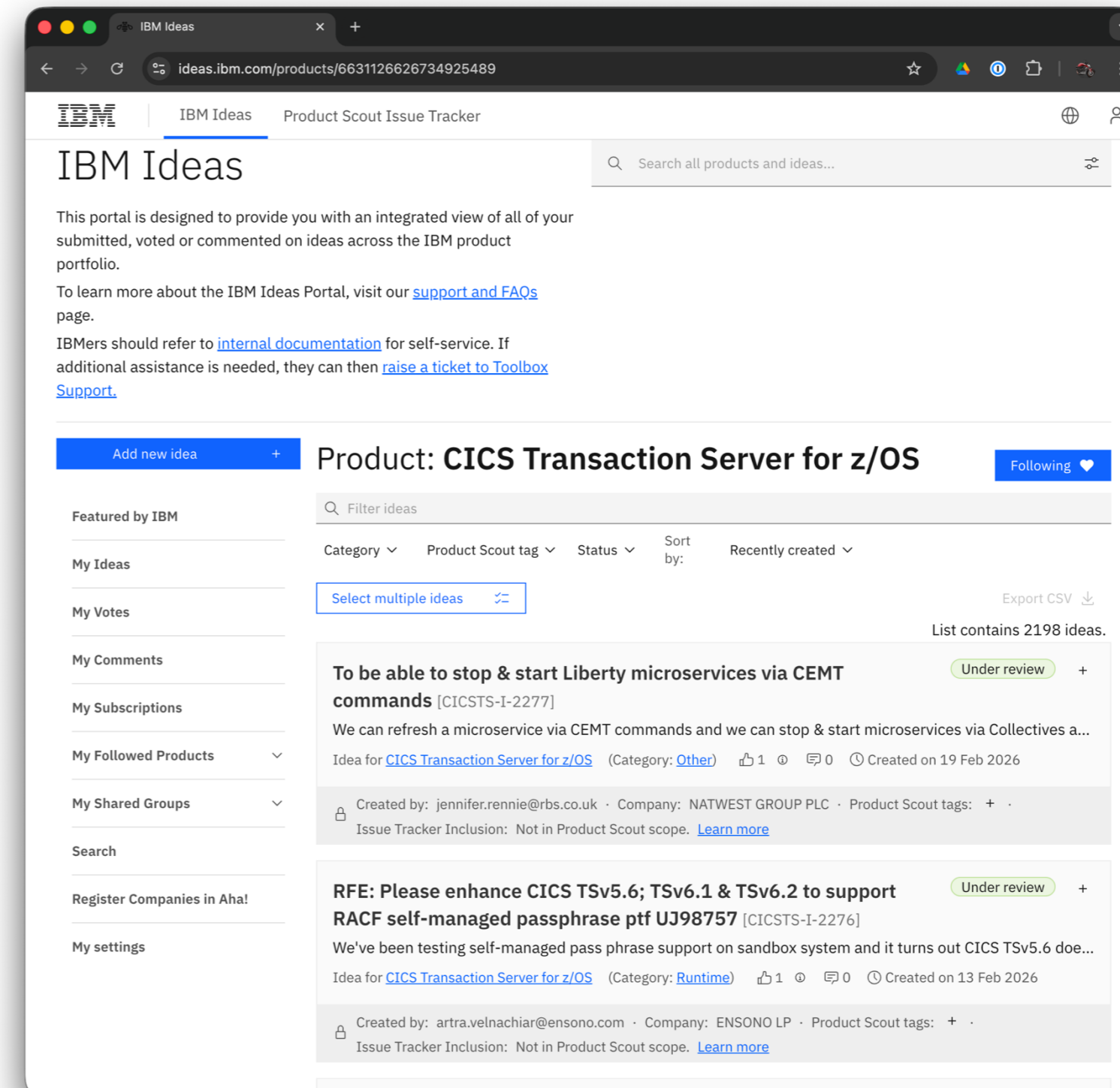
Learn about upcoming features from our design and development teams.

Give your feedback during presentations, polls, 1-1 interviews

[CICS Community](#) in TechXchange: blogs, threads, materials, events
[IBM CICS TS](#) group on LinkedIn: recent announcement, events, and though-provoking posts
[CICS](#) tag on StackExchange: Q&A about CICS
[CICS-L](#) list forum: a non-IBM, moderated community of experienced CICS users asking each other questions

Raise an Idea!

Search, add your vote, subscribe to updates, discuss alternatives, add your use cases in the comments, raise new ideas, feedback from CICS team – all on the [IBM Ideas Portal](#)



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