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# 5 MINUTE BRIEFING: Data Center

January 3, 2005

**Welcome to 5 Minute Briefing: Data Center**, an information resource prepared by Database Trends and Applications Magazine and published in cooperation with SHARE, the IBM users group. 5 Minute Briefing: Data Center provides a weekly report on new products, trends and insight focused on the needs of professionals managing complex IT infrastructures. **To subscribe, go to [www.dbta.com/datacenter/subscribe.html](http://www.dbta.com/datacenter/subscribe.html).**

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**NEWS FLASHES**

**IBM Brings Web Services and SOA Technology to CICS**

IBM's venerable CICS transaction monitor has been around for 35 years, and is ready to assume the challenges of age of Web services and service-oriented architecture (SOA). IBM announced CICS Transaction Server for z/OS V3.1, which now

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supports Web Services, along with CICS Transaction Gateway V6, which fits into a J2EE environment. CICS has traditionally enabled companies to collectively process billions of transactions per day, and has been the platform of choice in many transaction-intensive environments, such as credit-card processing operations. The new releases will allow mainframes to process Web services in new ways.

According to IBM, CICS Transaction Server V3.1 enables customers to extend or integrate current CICS applications to an SOA while supporting the SSL security protocol. The new platform also supports IBM's WebSphere Studio Enterprise Developer, a toolset for transforming legacy applications. The platform also enables simplified administration through the extension of the CICSplex System Manager Web User Interface, improved workload throughput, and enhanced C/C++ programs performance. "The latest version of CICS Transaction Server continues the path of IBM's investment in the mainframe infrastructure and joins with the latest versions of WebSphere, DB2 and IMS, enabling companies to deploy Web services and participate in SOA," said Dibbe Edwards, director of CICS products for IBM.

IBM CICS Transaction Gateway, which provides access to CICS from multiple environments, enables data managers to use CICS applications in J2EE and Web services solutions hosted on application servers such as IBM WebSphere. According to IBM, Version 6.0 improves performance optimization to reduce CPU overhead and therefore improves scalability and availability on z/OS, and improves systems management and security through more functional and integrated administration interfaces and enhanced SSL support and z/OS security integration.

Some analysts say the new CICS products are a good fit for existing legacy CICS applications, which are mainly COBOL. "Although IBM will likely expand Java/J2EE and C++ support in subsequent releases of CICS, the product will remain primarily a platform for running established applications," according to Gartner analyst Massimo Pezzini. "IBM is striving to offer an alternative to COBOL and Java for CICS customers. Java is not an ideal fit for CICS, and the biggest challenge for CICS is its dependence on COBOL and the anticipated decline of COBOL skills in the market." For new applications, Gartner recommends IBM's WebSphere z/OS as a potential alternative to CICS. More information on CICS can be found at [www.ibm.com/cics](http://www.ibm.com/cics).

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## CA Joins Eclipse Foundation

Computer Associates (CA) has joined the Eclipse Foundation and will contribute code to the Eclipse Test and Performance Tools Platform (TPTP). Observing that Eclipse has become a leading environment for people who are doing Java development, Yogesh Gupta, senior vice president and chief technology officer at CA, told 5 Minute Briefing, "We recognize that the world of Java is a very important world for our customers." Because CA is a strong player in the application

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lifecycle management space and is active in the monitoring and availability of applications, said Gupta, "We wanted to make sure that our solutions not only worked within the Eclipse environment but that we actually contribute to it in a more substantive way."

The goal of the Eclipse TPTP Project is to provide open frameworks and services for software test and performance tools used throughout the development lifecycle. Jim Saliba, technology strategist for CA's AllFusion brand of application lifecycle management solutions, will represent CA as project lead for the TPTP Monitoring Tools Project. CA has been working closely with the Eclipse Project to fully integrate CA's AllFusion Harvest Change Manager with Eclipse 3.0. AllFusion is designed to provide a single point of control for changes, automate resource tracking, and help to satisfy requirements for record-keeping and management reporting. For additional information on the Eclipse Test and Performance Tools Platform Project, go to [www.eclipse.org/test-and-performance/index.html](http://www.eclipse.org/test-and-performance/index.html).

Separately, CA announced that Southwest Airlines is standardizing on CA's mainframe management software to reduce IT costs and optimize system performance. CA's AllFusion, BrightStor and Unicenter solutions replace a combination of mainframe products from other vendors. According to CA, Southwest Airlines has made a strategic decision to focus its IT procurement on a limited number of vendors where possible in order to help it streamline operations, improve resource utilization, avoid paying for redundant functionality, and more tightly integrate the systems that support its business. For more information about CA, visit [ca.com](http://ca.com).

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## IONA Releases Orbix 6.2

IONA Technologies has announced a new version of Orbix, its CORBA-based integration technology, which emphasizes support for high availability, security, configuration and management. The new release represents the result of a full year's work by IONA's CORBA engineers, Neil Kenealy, a senior product manager for CORBA, told 5 Minute Briefing from IONA's headquarters in Dublin, Ireland.

A key feature in Orbix 6.2 is its ability to create a single logical server, which increases the transparency and simplicity of load balancing and failover mechanisms. Version 6.2 also adds more efficient and high-performance database support to improve availability. The new version also supports clustered security services, centralized authorization policies, and enhanced access control lists.

Orbix 6.2 also features extensible configuration capabilities that keep pace with evolving customer systems. "We have customers who have very large deployments of our current product," said Kenealy, observing that the time available to make changes to a production system may be as little as two

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hours in the middle of the night, and that such changes often must be implemented by an administrator, rather than a CORBA developer. This enhancement ensures that making changes to runtime environments is as non-disruptive as possible, and that administrators can manage and configure complex Orbix deployments. Orbix 6.2 also supports new platforms, including Sun Solaris 8 & 9 (32 & 64 bit), HP-UX 11 & 11i (32 bit & 64-bit), Linux Red Hat AS 3.0, HP-UX 11i on Itanium, and IRIX 6.5. For additional information about IONA, go to [www.iona.com](http://www.iona.com).

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### **Troux Announces Toolkit for IT Governance**

Troux Technologies announced the availability of its Troux Software Development Kit (SDK), which enables users to extend the value of the vendor's Enterprise Baseline and IT Governance Solution Suite. SDK developers can create custom "information collectors" that gather IT asset and relationship data from throughout the enterprise. Used in conjunction with the Troux platform, the SDK can be used to create new solutions, bring additional information to existing solutions, and create new user roles and capabilities.

The purpose of Troux's Enterprise Baseline is to provide "a living repository" of a company's business architecture and IT infrastructure, as well as all the root relationships and dependencies that exist between those assets, Scott Bils, vice president of marketing for Troux, told 5 Minute Briefing. The SDK will help customers extend Enterprise Baseline "to collect more and deeper information about their IT infrastructure." Plus, Bils added, many customers "wanted to have the capability on their own to go out and develop their own collectors that can help populate the Enterprise Baseline." Future releases of the Troux SDK will support development of workflow, business rules, and greater user interface customization. For more information on Troux, visit [www.troux.com](http://www.troux.com).

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### **IBM and NYSE Achieve Close to 100 Percent Uptime**

In a joint announcement, IBM and the New York Stock Exchange recently described how they built a new order management and messaging system to support more than 1.6 billion daily trades, valued at \$14 billion. zSeries servers running DB2 on z/OS form the backbone of NYSE's system. HP servers running Linux and WebSphere form the middleware layer, and mobile handhelds and Linux Java workstations serve as the front-end clients. Traders, brokers and clerks will use the workstations to relay real-time market intelligence from the Exchange floor to upstairs trading desks.

While reliability is important to every company, NYSE is among the handful of organizations that require uninterrupted availability--as close to 100 percent as possible. Along with a billion and half trades a day, brokers collectively send and

receive an average of 75,000 messages a day. That's why the system underwent an entire year of testing before going live. "This system is one of the most tested systems that we had done, not unlike the space program," said Steve Mills, senior vice president and group executive for IBM Software. "It's one of the most exhaustive tests that we have done."

NYSE's system, called TradeWorks, is now live, said Roger Burkhardt, chief technology officer for the New York Stock Exchange. "We've been working closely with IBM over the last couple of years to put together a highly available system using different layers," he related. "In addition to wireless handhelds and Java Linux clients at the front end, we have WebSphere running in a number of stateless middle tiers, and a back-end DB2 database. A new approach is development of a "dual stack," which enables the Exchange to "run release n and release n+1 in parallel with live trading data, and that protects us against the consequences if we ever have to roll back." For more information on IBM, visit [www.ibm.com](http://www.ibm.com).

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### **Mainframe Supports Distance Learning**

For many colleges and universities, the potential pool of students may no longer come from across the region, but from across the world. Such is the case at the University of Northern Colorado, with more than 12,000 students from 45 states and 48 nations. To provide off-campus students better access to its zSeries-based registration and grade-reporting system, the university turned to middleware that modernized its Advantage CA-IDMS applications.

The university deployed NEON's Shadow z/EnterpriseWeb as a solution to modernize the university's mainframe-based student information systems. Prior to the Web-enablement of the student registration and grade reporting applications, students registered for classes and accessed grades through a touch-tone phone system. Shadow z/EnterpriseWeb enabled application developers to rapidly Web-enable old ADS dialogs, part of the university's legacy system, to produce a more friendly online environment for students, faculty and staff. By enabling developers to dynamically discover and publish mainframe mapsets, maps and transactions, Shadow z/EnterpriseWeb extends screen-based applications and legacy data using a COM, .NET or JavaBean programming interface. For more information, go to [www.neonsys.com](http://www.neonsys.com).

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### **NEWS FROM SHARE**

#### **IBM to Keynote SHARE's USERblue Forum**

Karl Freund, vice president of pSeries product marketing for IBM, has signed on to deliver the opening keynote at USERblue, a

user-run forum, tailored to systems administrators and technical managers in Unix environments. This four-day training experience, to be held in Chicago starting March 13, features a wealth of in-depth education and user experiences from front-line practitioners, insight into IBM and other vendors' technologies, and provides a direct gateway to product developers. Discounted professional certification testing opportunities, peer networking events, and a comprehensive products and services expo complement the educational program. Education focus areas include: applications, architecture and infrastructure, performance tuning and capacity planning, distributed storage, Linux, system administration, and security. Convenient online registration is now available at [w3.userblue.org/chicago](http://w3.userblue.org/chicago).

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### **The Main Event**

Register today for SHARE User Events, February 27 to March 4, 2005, at the Anaheim Convention Center, for the opportunity to network with thousands of other users, speakers and IBM product managers and developers; attend full-day, user-presented seminars before the conference to dissect products and technologies, and prepare you for the week to come; and participate in hands-on labs that allow you to learn and immediately apply your knowledge using the actual products you have installed at your shop. Secure online registration is at [anaheim.share.org/registration](http://anaheim.share.org/registration). Be sure to register today to take advantage of early discount registration options.

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### **KEY FACTS**

#### **Linux Keeps Growing**

Fresh numbers in from IDC show that the annual growth rate of Linux server unit shipments has been increasing over the past three years from 15 percent in the second quarter of 2001 to 40 percent in the second quarter of 2004. Linux also represents about half of the worldwide server blade market, in terms of unit shipments, compared to 20 percent of all rack-optimized servers and 11 percent of all standalone servers. For more key facts, subscribe to 5 Minute Briefing: Data Integration at [www.dbta.com/5minutebriefings.html](http://www.dbta.com/5minutebriefings.html).

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### **THINK ABOUT IT**

#### **It was 50 Years Ago Today...**

This year marks the 50th anniversary of SHARE's founding, and throughout the year, we will be taking glimpses back to see how things have changed--or haven't changed--over the past half

century of computing. Fifty years ago, as the first charter for SHARE was being drafted, there were 100 computers in the world. IBM had begun selling its Series 650 as well as the 702, the first commercial machine completely constructed from transistors. Some things never change, however, as SHARE president Robert Rosen points out. Data center managers in 1955 were challenged with "getting good requirements statements from customers and understanding their needs," just as they are now. For insight into successful large-scale data management projects, subscribe to Database Trends and Applications magazine at [www.dbta.com/subscribe.html](http://www.dbta.com/subscribe.html).

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