

The New CICS Asynchronous API

Pradeep Gohil Async API Technical lead IBM UK

November 2018

Session GK





Please note...

IBM's statements regarding its plans, directions, and intent are subject to change or withdrawal without notice at IBM's sole discretion.

Information regarding potential future products is intended to outline our general product direction and it should not be relied on in making a purchasing decision.

The information mentioned regarding potential future products is not a commitment, promise, or legal obligation to deliver any material, code or functionality. Information about potential future products may not be incorporated into any contract.

The development, release, and timing of any future features or functionality described for our products remains at our sole discretion.

Performance is based on measurements and projections using standard IBM benchmarks in a controlled environment. The actual throughput or performance that any user will experience will vary depending upon many factors, including considerations such as the amount of multiprogramming in the user's job stream, the I/O configuration, the storage configuration, and the workload processed. Therefore, no assurance can be given that an individual user will achieve results similar to those stated here.



Agenda

- 1. Motivation for introducing the new CICS asynchronous API
- 2. Fundamentals of asynchronous processing for Application Developers
- 3. Control and management of asynchronous processing for System Programmers



Make better use of your time

Could you do something more useful than waiting for a service call to return?

- Growing number of callable services
- Pressures to reduce application response times
- Greater resilience against unreliable services





From this:



What are customers attempting today?





What are customers attempting today?

- No single clear solution
- Homegrown frameworks integrating different technologies together
- Difficulties with timing windows
- Require clean up transactions and ongoing management
- High cost of development and ongoing maintenance skills



What are customers attempting today?

"It would be difficult to implement my own solution..."

"Our current "solution in place" stinks but is just better than nothing. IBM's solution needs to be better than ours but little imagination is needed to believe that will be the case."

"Whilst a solution is in place, none are optimal. Plenty of room to reduce missed sales opportunities"

> "Asynchronous processing is quite alien to most application developers so you'll need a good way to handle this"



Features of the Asynchronous API





Parent – Child relationship





Aspects of asynchronous processing

Three Key Aspects

- 1. Run transaction asynchronously
- 2. Fetch child completion
- 3. Pass data safely





Features of the Asynchronous API





Run transactions asynchronously

RUN TRANSID (transaction) CHILD (identifier)

"I need a credit check but I can get on with some other work whilst I wait for the results"





Fetching child completion – Two new commands



FETCH CHILD(in-identifier)

"I cannot continue processing the parent coordinator, until I have received confirmation from CHILD3"



FETCH ANY (out-identifier)

"I want to maximise the response time savings"

"I only need the first one to reply"



Use case: Extending applications whilst minimizing impact to response time

Existing business logic:

Extend with new service provider:





Use case: Extending applications whilst minimizing impact to response time

Typical solution:

Logic added asynchronously:



"Adding an outgoing call without affecting response time? Sounds impossible."



Passing data

CICS Channels and Containers

(not COMMAREA)





Use case: Extending applications whilst minimizing impact to response time – Revisited!

Typical solution:

Logic added asynchronously:



"Adding an outgoing call without affecting response time? Sounds impossible."



Use case: Extending applications whilst minimizing impact to response time – Revisited!

+	2 ACCTPTNR-CONTAINER	PIC X(16) VALUE 'ACCTPTNRCONT	14
	1 MYCHANNEL	PIC X(16) VALUE 'MYCHANNEL	۰.
	2 ACCTPTNR 2 GETLOAN	PIC X(8) VALUE 'ACCTPTNR'. PIC X(8) VALUE 'GETLOAN '.	
+	1 TRANSIDS.		
+	2 ACCTPTNR-TRAN	PIC X(4) VALUE 'PTNR'.	
+			
+	1 CHILD-TOKENS.		
+	2 ACCTPTNR-TKN	PIC X(16).	
+			
+	2 ACCTPTNR-CHAN	PTC X(16).	
+			
+	*		
+	* Asynchronously	run PNTR to get account de	tail
+	<pre>* from the partne</pre>	r bank	
+	*		
+	EXEC CICS RU	N TRANSID (ACCTPTNR-TRAN)
+		CHANNEL (MYCHANNEL)	

E

PE

KEC CICS RUN TRANSID	(ACCTPTNR-TRAN)	
CHANNEL	(MYCHANNEL)	
CHILD	(ACCTPTNR-TKN)	
RESP	(COMMAND-RESP)	
RESP2	(COMMAND-RESP2)	
D-EXEC			
RFORM CHECK-COMMAND			

*				
* Get	t the customer	s current a	account details from the	
* pai	rtner bank			
*				
	EXEC CICS FET	CH CHILD	(ACCTPTNR-TKN)	
		CHANNEL	(ACCTPTNR-CHAN)	
		COMPSTAT	TUS (CHILD-RETURN-STATUS)	
		ABCODE	(CHILD-RETURN-ABCODE)	
		RESP	(COMMAND-RESP)	
		RESP2	(COMMAND-RESP2)	
	END-EXEC			
	PERFORM CHECK	-COMMAND		
	PERFORM CHECK	-CHILD		
	EXEC CICS GET	CONTAINER	(ACCTPTNR-CONTAINER)	
		CHANNEL	(ACCTPTNR-CHAN)	
		INT0	(PARTNER-ACCOUNTS)	
		RESP	(COMMAND-RESP)	
		RESP2	(COMMAND-RESP2)	
	END-EXEC			
	PERFORM CHECK	-COMMAND		
	PERFORM PRINT	-PARTNER-AC	CCOUNTS-DETAILS	

https://github.com/cicsdev/cics-async-api-redbooks/compare/start-of-3...end-of-3



Features of the Asynchronous API



ansaction Tracking



FREE CHILD: Useful for long-running parents

We keep child state information (just in case you ask for it later)



Ability to disassociate parent from child

App dev can DELETE CHANNEL for already FETCHed results



FREE CHILD: Sets of service calls





FREE CHILD: Sets of service calls





FREE CHILD: Sets of service calls





Features of the Asynchronous API



Don't want to wait forever!







Don't want to wait forever!



* TIMEOUT(0) means that timeout is not being set



Use case: Developing robust CICS applications with unreliable service providers





Use case: Developing robust CICS applications with unreliable service providers





RUN TRANSID



RESP CODES:

CHANNELERR INVREQ TRANSIDERR NOTAUTH DISABLED



FETCH CHILD



COMPSTATUS:

RESP CODES:

ABEND NORMAL SECERROR NOTFINISHED INVREQ



FETCH ANY



COMPSTATUS:

RESP CODES:

ABEND NORMAL SECERROR NOTFINISHED INVREQ NOTFND



Features of the Asynchronous API



32



JCICS variant of Asynchronous API commands

To complement a Java style of coding

Reference > Application development > Je	CICS Javadoc information $>$							
Overview Package Class Tree Deprecated In	dex Help							
Prev Class Next Class Frames No Frames								
Summary: Nested Field Constr Method Detail: Field C	Overview Package Class Tree Deprecated	d Index Help						
com.ibm.cics.server	Prev Class Next Class Frames No Fram	es						
Interface AsyncService	Summary: Nested Field Constr Method Detail: Fie	eld Constr Method						
	com.ibm.cics.server	Overview Package Class Tree Deprecated Index Help						
All Known Implementing Classes:	Class ChildResponselmpl	Dray Class Novt Class Frames No Frames						
AsyncServiceImpl	iovo long Object	Prev Class Next Class Frames NO Frames						
public interface AsyncService	com.ibm.cics.server.ChildResponseImpl	Summary: Nested Field Constr Method Detail: Field Constr Method						
This class provides the Java interfaces to three of the	All Implemented Interfaces:	Class CICSFuture						
EXEC CICS BUN TRANSID	ChildResponse							
EXEC CICS FETCH ANY EXEC CICS FREE CHILD Since CICS TS version:	<pre>public class ChildResponseImpl extends java.lang.Object implements (childResponse</pre>	java.lang.Object com.ibm.cics.server.API com.ibm.cics.server.CICSFuture						
5.4		All Implemented Interfaces:						
Since package version:	Implementation of ChildResponse.	java.util.concurrent.Future <childresponse></childresponse>						
1.700	Since CICS TS version:							
	5.4 Since package version:	public class CICSFuture						
	4 700	extends API implements java.util.concurrent.Future <childresponse></childresponse>						
		This class, part of the CICS Asynchronous API, implements Future. Its objects are returned by AsyncService.runTransactionId(String).						
		Since CICS TS version:						
		5.4						



```
import java.util.concurrent.Future;
import com.ibm.cics.server.AsyncService;
import com.ibm.cics.server.AsyncServiceImpl;
```

```
AsyncService async = new AsyncServiceImpl();
```

...

```
Future<ChildResponse> loanRate = null;
loanRate = async.runTransactionId(getLoanTran, myChannel);
```



JCICS Implementation

- Standard Java: Future interface
- Familiar to Java programmers
- Complete EXEC CICS functionality
- Interfaces and implementations to allow for mocking



Features of the Asynchronous API





CICS automated control

• Emergency Brake

- Control dispatching of asynchronous tasks
- Protect CICS rather than to optimise throughput
- Prevent flooding the CICS system
- Managed by the CICS system



Security

Security context for child inherited from parent

				Demo	- B - IYCW	T174				
File Ec	lit View	Commu	nication	Actions	Help					
🖥 🖬 📭	🛃 🛼 🖣) 🖻 🖷 🖣	b 💥 📖	📩 📩 💼	1 🗐 🔛 E	Þ 🕐				
RUN STATI EXEC < (CH)	TRANSID(JS: COM CICS CHAnnel(Ild('	ASCH) MAND EXE RUn Tran) >	CUTION hsid('f	COMPLET SCH'))	E			NAME	E=	
RESI	YUNSE: N	UTHUTH		E	IBRESP=-	-000000	90070 EI	SRESPZ=+0	00000000	7 U C
PF 1 H	HELP 2 H	EX 3 ENI) 4 EIB	5 VAR 6	USER 7	SBH 8	SFH 9 MS	SG 10 SB	11 SF	
PF 1 H	HELP 2 H	EX 3 ENI) 4 EIB	5 VAR 6	USER 7	SBH 8	SFH 9 MS	SG 10 SB	11 SF	23/00
PF 1 H	PF2	PF3	PF4	5 VAR 6	USER 7	SBH 8 Enter	PA1	Attn	11 SF	23/00 NewLin
PF 1 H MA PF1 PF1 PF7	PF2 PF8	PF3 PF9	PF4 PF10	5 VAR 6	PF6 PF12	SBH 8 Enter Clear	PA1 PA2	Attn SysReq	11 SF Insert Delete	23/00 NewLine NextPa



Transaction Classes

Control your systems!

- ✓ **DO** have transaction classes
- **X** DO NOT put parents and children in the same transaction class



Dumps

- New CICS 'AS' domain provides enhancements to
 - Systems dumps



• Transaction dumps

ASYNCHRONOUS CHILD SUMMARY FOR THE CURRENT TRANSACTION
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN CREATED : 00000005
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN FREED : 00000001
ASYNCHRONOUS CHILD LIST
Child_Trannum(00046) Child_Tranid(TRB2) Child_State(ABENDED) Child_Token(00000050_41800048 , 0000046C_00000001)
Child_Trannum(00047) Child_Tranid(TRB3) Child_State(ACTIVE) Child_Token(00000050_418000C8 , 0000047C_00000002)
Child_Trannum(00048) Child_Tranid(TRB4) Child_State(COMPLETED) Child_Token(00000050_41800148 , 0000048C_00000003)
Child_Trannum(00049) Child_Tranid(TRB5) Child_State(NOTSTARTED) Child_Token(00000050_418001C8 , 0000049C_00000004)
This transaction is rupping as an ASYNCHPONOUS child task
This transaction is running as an Astronouous child task
Child_Token(0000050_41800048 , 0000046C_00000001)
Parent_Trannum(00045)Parent_Tranid(TRB1)Parent_State(ACTIVE)



Monitoring and Statistics

 Clocks and timings 		
AS Fetch Wait Time	ASFTCHWT	0000:00:10.651358
AS Run Delayed Time	ASRNATWT	0000:00:00.000000
A Request counts		
EXEC CICS FETCH Count	ASFTCHCT	21
EXEC CICS FREE CHILD Count	ASFREECT	7
EXEC CICS RUN TRANSID Count	ASRUNCT	18
Total Asychronous API Commands	ASTOTCT	46





Transaction Tracking



PTCOUNT(data-area) PTSTARTTIME(data-area) PTTASKID(data-area) PTTRANSID(data-area)

asks associated with task	"0000207" in region	"IYK2ZIG1" - 18 r	esults -							
Tasks	Trans ID	Appl ID	Star							
No 0000202	G1A1	IYK2ZIG1	201							
4 🍢 0000203	G2A1	IYK2ZIG1	201							
No00181	CSMI	IYK2ZIG2	201							
0000204	G2B1	IYK2ZIG1	201							
0000205	G2C1	IYK2ZIG1	201							
0000207	G3A1	IYK2ZIG1	201							
% 0000209										
5 0000178		percies 🚽 Er			is N search 23	Remote Syste	em Detalis			
0000180	Tasks as	sociated with tas	k "0000205" in r	egion "IYKzziG1"	- 18 results - 15:37:28					
∞ 0000182	Tasks			Trans ID	Appl ID	Prev H	Prev Hop T	Prev Tr	Prev Transa	Start
0000183		0000202		6141	1/(27161	0		0	0000000	2017
0000184		4 🎭 0000202		GIAI	11K22101	0	0000000	1	0000000	2017
0000186		4 🍫 0000203		GZAI	11622101		000000	1	0000202	2017-
0000187		A \$ 0000181		CSMI	11622162	1	0000203	U	000000	2017-
A 0000188		▲ 🎭 0000184		G2A2	IYK2ZIG2	0	0000000	1	0000181	2017-
0000191		0000187		G3A2	IYK2ZIG2	0	0000000	2	0000184	2017-
0000192		a 🗞 0000204			IYK2ZIG1	0	0000000	1	0000202	2017-
w		0000201	7	G3A1	IYK2ZIG1	0	0000000	2	0000204	2017-
		No00205 🛼		G2C1	IYK2ZIG1	0	0000000	1	0000202	2017-
	🔺 🍢	Orphaned Tasks								
	4	la 0000208		G4A1	IYK2ZIG1					0000-
		0000209	9	G5A1	IYK2ZIG1	0	0000000	4	0000208	2017-
	4	0000177		CSMI	IYK2ZIG2					0000-
		A . 0000178	2	6142	IYK27162	1	0000000	1	0000177	2017-
		4 8. 00	, 19183	6242	17/22162	-	0000000	2	0000178	2017.
		but	0000196	6242	111(22102	0	0000000	2	0000192	2017
			0000100	GSAZ	11 K22102	•	000000	3	0000105	2017-
	-	- 00001/9		CSIMI	11622102					0000-
		▲ 🎭 0000180)	G1B2	IYK2ZIG2	1	0000000	1	0000179	2017-
		⊿ 👟 000	0182	G282	IYK2ZIG2	1	0000000	2	0000180	2017-
		4 🍢	0000185	G3B2	IYK2ZIG2	1	0000000	3	0000182	2017-
			No 0000188 🗞	G4B2	IYK2ZIG2	1	0000000	4	0000185	2017-
	- 4	No 0000189		G4A2	IYK2ZIG2					0000-
		No00193		G5A2	IYK2ZIG2	0	0000000	5	0000189	2017-
	4	No 0000190		G4A2	IYK2ZIG2					0000-
		0000192	2	G5A2	IYK2ZIG2	0	0000000	4	0000190	2017-0



Features of the Asynchronous API



Transaction Tracking



Async Requests Policy

💡 *AsyncRuns.;	oolicy 🛿				- e	7	
Policy O	verview				(?	D	
General Infor Name: Description: User Tag:	mation AsyncRuns A policy to I comands th	limit the number of RUN TRANSID le application can safely issue	Actions You ca 1. 4 2. 4 3. \oplus	n perform the following actions on this policy Create system rules to identify changes in sy Create task rules to identify changes in an ap Edit the bundle containing this policy.	: rstem behaviour oplication's beh	1	
Name					New	1	
	New Rule	Ne	w Rule		Copy Delete]	
	Name: *	Excessive_calls			-		
	Description:	Guard against loopping when running c	hild transa	actions			
	Rule Type: *	type filter text		Asune requests			
		▼System Rules ↓↓ AID threshold ↓ Bundle available status ↓ Bundle enable status ↓ DB2 connection status		Perform an action when the number of EXEC CICS RUN TRANSID requests that are performed by a user task exceeds a threshold.			
		Ele enable status		Ŷ *AsyncRuns.policy \			- <i>e</i>
		崎 IPIC connection status 🖂 Message					0
		MRO connection status	- 11	Rules 🕂 🖶 🗮	General Info	ormatio	on
		Transaction abend Transaction class tasks User tasks		type filter text	Rule type:	Pe a	₪ Async requests Perform an action when the number of EXEC CICS RUN TRANSID requests that are performed by a user task exceeds threshold.
		Task Rules Async requests Database requests EXEC CICS requests			Description:	: 0	Guard against loopping when running child transactions
		Eile requests			Condition		
					This rule w	/ill trigg	ger when the following condition is met:
					RUN TRA	NSID c	commands 📀 greater than 0 requests 📀
Overview Rules							This rule requires CICS TS 5.4 or later



Articles, IBM Knowledge Center, Example code Search CICS Asynchronous API

github.com/cicsdev

cics-async-api-fetch-child-example

A basic example demonstrating the passing of information from a parent to a child program using the CICS asynchronous API.

C Updated on 5 Oct 2016

cics-async-api-credit-card-application-example

An example application that compares calling services sequentially versus asynchronously, using the new CICS asynchronous API.

COBOL Updated on 5 Oct 2016

cics-async-api-channel-usage-example

Async API channel usage example

Assembly %1 Updated on 20 Oct 2016

developer.ibm.com/cics/category/asynchronous-api/

-ii• Asynchrono	sus API Archives - (X					Pradeep		x
e → c	Secure https://developer.ibm.com/cics/category/asynchronous-api/						ର 🕁] :
IBM	developerWorks $>$ Developer Centers	Marke	tplace			0,	• =	^
CICS Devel	oper Center	About	Blogs	Videos	Podcasts	Samples	Support	t
Cat	egory: Asynchronous API							
Ð	How does the CICS asynchronous API perform? By Jenny He · on May 22, 2017 · in Asynchronous API, CICS application development, CICS TS Using the CICS asychronous API enables you to make the most of asynchronous processing in a flexi way – but how does the API's Continue reading	ible, supp	ported	Catego Asyr CICS CICS CICS	ries Inchronous AF 8 application 8 Explorer 8 TG	१ development		
U	Transaction tracking and the CICS Asynchronous API	V5.4, Con running t	e CICS asks.		8 Tools 8 TS 8 TS V5.1 & V5 8 TS V5.3	5.2		
R	How to use the CICS Asynchronous API Commands By chrispoole · on Jul 25, 2016 · in Asynchronous API, CICS application development, CICS TS V5.4 Get straight down to business with the new CICS asynchronous API commands in the open beta. We simple pair of programs to Continue reading	e develop	a very	 CICS CICS CICS CICS CICS 	S TS V5.4 S z/VSE SPlex SM d			
9	Introducing the New CICS Asynchronous API! By PradGohi - on Jul 22, 2016 - in Asynchronous API, CICS TS V5.4 This article explores the benefits of asynchronous programming patterns in CICS and the new asynch commands that have been added in the CICS TS	hronous /	API	 Debi Devolution Educe 	ugging Dps cation			Ŧ



Available NOW!

edbooks IBM CICS Asynchronous API **Concurrent Processing Made Simple** Pradeep Gohil Julian Horn Jenny He Anthony Papageorgiou Chris Poole IBM edbooks Fully detailed examples on how to achieve:

- Enhanced functionality
- Reduced Response Times
- Greater Robustness

Examples in COBOL and Java on GitHub https://github.com/cicsdev/cics-async-api-redbooks

Tips and Tricks on interesting ways to use the API

Detail about performance and monitoring

Download here: http://www.redbooks.ibm.com/abstracts/sg248411.html? Open



Made with

Processing in Seconds made with Z story



Walmart enhance their complex search capabilities by harnessing asynchronous processing to achieve large-scale I/O in minimal time. The result is a transformed response time from 2 minutes, to only 1 second.



Made with Z Stories: Walmart, North America



THE BIG IDEA

Walmart's customer-facing application provides search results for key events from big data. Their challenge is to reduce an average 2 minute response time, to meet an SLA of ... just 1 second!

Walmart's global distributed platform generates and records 500M events per day, driving over 1000 tps on Z. This large data is interrogated by a sophisticated search mechanism with response time averages of 2 minutes.

Harnessing the I/O processing capabilities on Z, Walmart undertook a project to transform a serially-executing search algorithm and utilized asynchronous programming techniques to dramatically reduce the response time.



TAKING ACTION

Walmart's serially executing search algorithm was benchmarked at 5,000 file reads/sec. Using native VSAM on Z saw an increase to 60,000 reads/sec. Though this still wasn't good enough.

Appreciating the bottleneck on File I/O, Walmart leveraged the CICS Asynchronous API to spread the file operations across numerous tasks. Run concurrently, these tasks were able to achieve truly high volume transaction rates and increase I/O capabilities.

Employing the CICS Asynchronous API, Walmart greatly simplified the complexity of writing their own homegrown asynchronous patterns. Reducing the maintenance overhead and lines-of-code, they also improved the application's fault tolerance and resilience.



RESULT!

Walmart were very impressed with their enhanced complex-search capabilities. They transformed an application capable of 5,000 reads/sec to 700,000 reads/sec, by employing asynchronous processing techniques.

They remarked "It just would not have met the SLA doing it serially". Coupled with the CICS Asynchronous API, they added:

"This is really a cool service... all we're doing is using what CICS has given us; we're just doing it in a creative way."

In a sentence? Using asynchronous processing to achieve large scale I/O in minimal time

Last update: July 2018



We want your feedback!

- Please submit your feedback online at
 >http://conferences.gse.org.uk/2018/feedback/gk
- Paper feedback forms are also available from the Chair person
- This session is **GK**





