**Overview**

*z/VSE sites need monitoring solutions to effectively and quickly tune their CICS systems before service levels are impacted. Performance monitors must highlight problems and trigger automatic actions to keep CICS systems up and running optimally.*

CA Explore PM for CICS is a comprehensive online monitor that can be used to effectively tune CICS systems. Proactive facilities help take corrective actions before problems degrade CICS system performance.

**Benefits**

CA Explore PM for CICS is a comprehensive performance monitor that:

- Quickly identifies bottlenecks and helps tune CICS
- Takes proactive actions before problems degrade CICS performance
- Provides post-problem analysis (online and batch) for problem analysis and detection
- Provides tools for performance reporting, trend analysis, chargeback statistics and capacity planning

**CA Advantage**

CA Explore PM for CICS provides the ability to organize and isolate critical operational data, reduces the time and effort required to tune CICS and monitors critical performance areas for optimum performance. It offers extensive batch reporting tools for performance reporting, chargeback statistics, trend analysis and capacity planning.

As part of CA’s vision for Enterprise IT Management (EITM), it contributes to your organization’s ability to unify and simplify overall IT management.
CA Explore PM for CICS establishes operational threshold values for CICS resources and defines automated responses to be triggered when a threshold is exceeded — correcting problems before they degrade your CICS performance. This ability to set threshold traps in critical performance areas and take proactive actions to correct the problems, helps maintain effective CICS resource utilization and optimum performance.

For example, a threshold can be set in CA Explore PM for CICS and trigger an automatic action to cancel a transaction if its CPU time value exceeds 20 seconds. A message can be sent to the console and logged to the CA Explore PM for CICS history files for online flashback problem determination. Batch reports can then be run for performance and trend analysis.

To help identify a problem in a multiple CICS environment, CA Explore PM for CICS provides a single panel that displays a quick status overview of all CICS systems. The CICS region identified by the status of ‘Problem’ can be selected to display a detailed breakdown of its resource usage. For example, selecting the resource RESPTIME will drill down to a detailed resource usage of the transactions that exceeded a given threshold value. If the degradation analysis indicates that 60% of the response time is taken up by File and Journal writes, the tuner may decide to move the two files from a heavily used volume to a different volume thereby reducing the file I/O wait times.

**Key Capabilities**

**REAL-TIME CICS SYSTEMS AND TRANSACTION MONITORING** Real-time monitoring from CA Explore PM for CICS can be used for on-the-spot diagnosis when a problem occurs or to identify potential bottlenecks before they degrade system performance. Detailed resource usage monitoring is provided at both the CICS and transaction level.

**MULTIPLE CICS STATUS OVERVIEW** Real-time summary information can be displayed from multiple CICS systems in a single panel. This enables you to quickly drill down into any CICS region and investigate problem areas.

**FLASHBACK FEATURE FOR POST-PROBLEM DETERMINATION** CA Explore PM for CICS uses the Flashback feature to display historical data in real time. Past activity (over days, weeks, or even months) can be viewed online and problems identified, if any.

**THRESHOLDS AND PROACTIVE MONITORING** System and task-level thresholds can be dynamically defined and automatic responses can then be triggered when a threshold is reached. For example, a transaction can be canceled when it exceeds a certain CPU time value and then a message would be sent to the console and/or logged to the history files for performance reporting.
EXTENSIVE AND FLEXIBLE BATCH REPORTING Tabular and graphical reports may be used to provide CICS performance and tuning information. Examples of detecting bottlenecks using the batch reports include the following:

• List of top five transactions that used the highest CPU time or performed over 50,000 file reads.
• Detailed analysis of resource usage for the “rogue” transactions.

Response Time Degradation Analysis Transaction response time may be broken down into its resource usage component parts and tuning adjustments made accordingly. CA Explore PM for CICS provides this feature in real time as well as in batch mode.

Chargeback Capabilities CA Explore PM for CICS can be used to develop a chargeback system around relevant parameters including terminal connect time, CPU time, file I/O, storage utilization and program usage level.

Trend Analysis and Capacity Planning Batch reports from CA Explore PM for CICS (using the historical database of CICS utilization data) can be used to identify trends in CICS as well as assess the impact from adding new transactions, files or users to the CICS system.

Interface with Other Products Support includes collection of relevant values to identify resource consumption within NATURAL, SAP and CA Datacom® CICS Services. CA Explore PM for CICS provides facilities to monitor resource consumption in other CICS applications as well.

Online Help Facility Useful help facilities include information about all panels and fields.

What’s New in r7?

• Support for CICS TS 1.1.1
• Modular design approach to provide support for future releases of CICS and z/VSE and to expand the capability in a timely manner
• Dynamic start and stop data collection
• Enhanced support for DL/I data collection
• Enhanced security exit interface via CA Top Secret® for z/VSE

CA Advantage

CA continues to have a strong commitment to developing, enhancing and supporting its z/VSE solutions. CA Explore PM for CICS has been developed and enhanced to provide day-one support for new releases of z/VSE. In addition, CA delivers unparalleled and excellent technical and customer support worldwide to its z/VSE customers.
CA will continue to maintain its leadership role by developing and enhancing its z/VSE solutions by exploiting new technology and responding to customer needs and requirements. By addressing important customer mission issues such as day-one support and by delivering core customer enhancements, CA remains strongly committed to the z/VSE market place.

**The Enterprise IT Management Vision (EITM)**
As a key component in performance management, CA Explore PM for CICS is also an integral part of the CA’s EITM vision to unify and simplify enterprise IT management. To maximize the performance, reliability and efficiency of your overall IT environment means tightly integrating the control and management of additional functions, including operations, storage, security, life cycle and services management. CA’s comprehensive portfolio of modular IT management solutions helps the enterprise unify, simplify and secure IT to better manage risk, costs and service — helping ensure that IT meets the business needs of the enterprise.

**Next Steps**
CA Explore PM for CICS improves the performance of your CICS systems. CA continues to advance this product as a comprehensive online monitoring solution, delivering new enhancements and integration with other CA products, continuing to seek opportunities to add value for our customers and partners.

To learn more, and see how CA software solutions enable organizations to unify and simplify IT management for better business results, visit ca.com/products.