

Automated CICS management

Improve the management and control of your CICS systems

Automated, simple, effective and unattended CICS systems management with a single point of control

Synchro is a powerful and effective automated operations solution that will simplify your CICS systems management across a CICSplex or distributed z/OS or z/VSE network from a single point of control. Through the use of Synchro you can:

- Manage your multi-platform CICS systems with ease, from a single point of control
- Increase system availability through dynamic and more flexible management of system resources
- Ensure that standardized operational procedures are implemented across your entire network landscape with ease
- Benefit from assured command security, complemented by comprehensive audit functionality
- Improve communication with end users through automated delivery of system and application notifications

CICS systems management

The demands placed on today's CICS environments has intensified interactive system activity. This has led to an increase of routine tasks carried out by operations staff, making it harder to respond quickly and effectively to situations that require action.

Management of the CICS environment therefore presents an ongoing challenge for many organizations as they battle to prevent lower system availability, missed service level quotas and a downturn in the quality of service offered to end users.

Increased system interoperability through the use of web services results in additional CICS processing activity and at the same time intensifies the need for higher levels of system availability.

Macro 4's Synchro is an automated operations solution that harnesses the power of REXX procedures, provides ready-to-use system variables and offers a comprehensive range of command functions through which a single or group of CICS systems can be managed.

Synchro controls CICS resources dynamically, executing standardized operational procedures as required. These procedures can be triggered by a local system event or an event that has occurred on a remote system within the network.

This seamless level of system interoperability, coupled with Synchro's ability to selectively make parts of a system online or offline when required, provides unprecedented operational efficiency, flexibility and precision.

Increase system availability
and uptime

Automation and control of
networked CICS resources

Online audit information

A central point of control

Synchro can be utilized from CICS, TSO/ISPF or batch processes and can communicate with any CICS system in a network, allowing unattended operations to be controlled from a remote system and location.

Synchro's centralized control mechanism allows you to take your business applications offline for a period of time on one CICS system, while bringing a duplicate version online on another system. This enables system maintenance to take place with little or no impact to the availability of your business applications.

Synchro streamlines user communication by allowing messages to be sent from a central point of control. A barring facility allows users to be informed when a transaction is unavailable; it can also provide a transfer to an alternative transaction if required.

Automated CICS operations

Synchro will run procedures with massive numbers of commands on single and multiple systems, or single and multiple CICS resources. Added flexibility can be gained by grouping CICS resources into logical 'sets' (by user or department as an example) so that one command acts right across that set.

Synchro allows CICS operations to be automated and unattended. This aids smooth system operation when managing backups, batch updates and scheduled maintenance, or when stopping and starting applications while keeping other parts of the system operational.

Synchro's automated operations capabilities help you manage CICS resources more effectively, resulting in increased application availability and system uptime.

Synchro's timer facility enables commands or groups of commands to be run on a daily, monthly or specific date/time basis.

Synchro has automated procedures at CICS startup and shutdown that will run scripts from the CICS PLT. This allows CICS resources and running programs to be handled before CICS has fully started or finally closed; for example, under emergency restart conditions.

Functions that can be automated include:

- Changing the status of CICS resources; for example, opening and closing files
- Grouping CICS resources
- Barring access to transactions (while resources are offline)
- Broadcasting messages safely to any part of a CICS system
- Automatically re-routing from one transaction to an alternative
- Running transactions or programs (including existing programs)
- CICS and console command execution
- Submitting jobs to batch

Synchro allows its commands to be issued by external applications. This is achieved through an interface program. Additionally, exit facilities are provided to allow full control over the security of Synchro resources and commands.

Automation through scripting

Synchro provides extremely effective process automation using scripting functionality that offers improved levels of efficiency and accuracy. Use of REXX as well as ready-to-use system variables and a full range of command functions, executing across single or groups of CICS systems, allow much greater operational flexibility and precision.

Online audit log

Synchro generates an online audit log of all commands issued and the responses that are provided to each individual command.

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