HostBridge® Version 6.5
New Capabilities in Mainframe Integration/SOA

HostBridge version 6.5 adds new capabilities to the HostBridge mainframe integration/SOA product suite. Customers leveraging these capabilities can improve performance, gain new Web services functionality, and lower the costs of integrating CICS® applications and mainframe data with distributed systems. Version 6.5 enhancements, which include HostBridge for zIIP, build on the new v6 HostBridge Process Automation Engine and improved support for lightweight services.

HostBridge for zIIP

With version 6.5, HostBridge introduces HostBridge for zIIP (HBzIIP), bringing zIIP benefits to your integration/SOA workloads. HostBridge for zIIP executes as an Enclave SRB. This means that both HostBridge and any scripts or Web services you write with it are zIIP-eligible.

Using HBzIIP, customers can shift significant portions of integration/SOA workloads and all HostBridge scripts/services from the general purpose processor to the zIIP. Doing so, they can reduce the costs of mainframe integration/SOA processing, lower mainframe TCO, and maintain or – whenever the zIIP has a higher capacity than the GPP – increase processing performance levels.

HostBridge Technology is a licensed zIIP ISV.

Process Automation Engine

With the new v6 HostBridge Process Automation Engine, application developers, process designers, and integration architects can use industry-standard ECMAScript Edition 3/JavaScript 1.8 to write scripts that integrate mainframe resources with distributed systems and uniquely orchestrate and automate complex CICS transaction processes.

The new code base improves performance, functionality, efficiency, ease of use, and extensibility.

Note: HostBridge continues to support the v4/v5 engine, but we encourage you to learn how HB v6.5 can help you improve mainframe integration/SOA.

Lightweight Services

HostBridge v6/v6.5 supports a range of new lightweight service technologies, giving users more flexible choices for Web services/SOA by offering simpler, more concise alternatives to formal SOAP/

WSDL services. RESTful Web services, focused on point-to-point communication over HTTP using XML, typically require less human planning and machine processing from both sides of the connection. They are appropriate for medium to high volumes and intra-company connections.

- Atom, a RESTful protocol for publishing Web resources, is ideal for real-time data feeds. HostBridge allows existing CICS applications to contribute to such feeds without application changes. With v6.5 Atom support, existing high-value CICS resources can now be accessed as standard Web resources.

- E4X (ECMAScript for XML) adds native XML support to ECMAScript/JavaScript. Our E4X support makes it easier for programmers to access XML documents within scripts. HB Process Automation scripting will require even less developer time, skill, and specialized knowledge. Net results will be reduced code complexity, tighter revision cycles, and faster time to market.

CICS and System z Support

HostBridge continues to support a wide range of CICS application types, data resources, system tools, and technologies. Newly supported in CICS TS v4.1 are CICS Explorer and Event Processing.

Security

HostBridge supports leading System z and Web security technologies. HB v6/6.5 adds support for IP address host name inclusion and exclusion lists, allowing control over which IP addresses and host names are given access to an inbound TCP connection. This feature allows limited, secure access to certain databases or servers.

The list outlines HostBridge components as well as support for CICS Transaction Server, IBM System z, and services technologies. Italics indicate support added in HostBridge versions 6 and 6.5.

HostBridge Tools and Support

SERVICES TYPES AND PROTOCOLS
- XML
- SOAP/WSDL (formal) services
- *SOAP 1.2, via HB SOAP stack or IBM SOAP for CICS*
- *REST/RESTful (informal) services*
- JSON (JavaScript Object Notation), lightweight data interchange format commonly used with ECMAScript; part of the ECMAScript standard, provides for simpler CICS interaction with Ajax/object-based Web applications
- *Atom*
- *HTML*

HOSTBRIDGE BASE PRODUCT
- Prerequisite for all other HB components and features
- Auto-converts CICS BMS applications to XML

HOSTBRIDGE PROCESS AUTOMATION ENGINE
JavaScript-based integration scripting/Web services; orchestration/automation of transaction micro flows as Web services
- *Built on new ECMAScript Edition 3/JavaScript 1.8 code base*
- *HB v4/v5 scripts still supported*
- *E4X (ECMAScript for XML), simplifies consumption and production of XML*

HOSTBRIDGE FOR ZIIP
- *HB v6.5 running as an Enclave SRB*
- *HostBridge and all HB scripts/services are zIIP-eligible*

HOSTBRIDGE ECLIPSE IDE
- Includes CICS Transaction Explorer, enabling CICS application navigation/orchestration
- Independent IDE

- IBM Rational Developer for System z plug-in
- *CICS Explorer plug-in*

CONNECTIVITY
- HTTP Interface
- LINK/EXCI Interface
- MQ Interface

APPLICATION ACCESS
- CA Ideal™, CA Telon®, CA ADS™/IDMS™, CA Gener/OL™
- Fidelity/ALLTEL
- CSC Vantage (VIDD)
- Many others

DATA ACCESS MODULES
- DB2
- VSAM
- DL/I
- DDA for Datacom

SPECIALTY CONNECTORS
- Pega
- Siebel
- IVR
- Batch to CICS
- eTransX

HB WIRE – WEB INTERFACE RULES ENGINE
- Supports XML from HostBridge, *TN3270 from IBM mainframe*
- Rapid development/deployment of Web interfaces for CICS
- Classic, standard, enhanced modes
- .NET facility, XSLT Stylesheets, ASP.NET custom controls, etc.

CICS Transaction Server Support
- Terminal-oriented (visual) transactions
- BMS, non-BMS, 3270, CA types
- COMMAREA (non-visual) programs
- Data resources: DB2, VSAM, DL/I, Datacom
- Connectivity: HTTP, LINK/EXCI, Enhanced WebSphere MQ
- Enhanced Multi-Region Operation (MRO)
- SOAP/WSDL
- *REST, Atom, other Web 2.0*
- *CICS Event Processing*
- Channels and containers
- Link with channels
- CICS resources: TSQueues; TDQueues; ENQ/DEQ; TWA, TCTUA, CWA, EIB, etc.; commit/rollback; many others
- *CICS Explorer*
- *XML Toolkit for z/OS: DOM, XSLT (Stylesheets), Validating Parser*

System z Support
- *System z Integrated Information Processor (HostBridge for zIIP)*
- Rational Developer for System z
- SFM Plugin for creating invocable CICS services

Security
- HostBridge leverages existing mainframe security, e.g., RACF, ACF/2, TopSecret
- *Services treatable as SAF resources*
- SSL
- Digital certificates
- *IP Address/Host Name inclusion/ exclusion lists*

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