CICS Smart Seminar is offered at no charge to customers as a full day of technical presentations/education. Since our speakers have to travel to present at the seminar, we like to make sure that we are reaching a significant number of the customer's CICS staff. We really like to speak with application programmers and architects as well as the systems programmers & operations staff. Managers are also welcome to attend {{grin}}.

The agenda for the CICS Smart Seminar is very flexible. We typically start off the day with an overview of the most current release of CICS. The rest of the agenda offers the opportunity to select topics that are pertinent to the developers, applications, and architecture. We can pull together several presentations on the newest technologies for CICS applications such as: Service Enablement and APIs, Java in CICS, and Events Processing. Or, we might focus on application coding such as Channels & Containers, Threadsafe, and Modernization of legacy applications.

A typical Smart Seminar agenda will include 5 or 6 topics. With two topics reserved by IBM, the customer and/or the IBM account team can select the other topics to meet current requirements/projects/initiatives, etc.

Here's a sample agenda:

08:30 AM - 10:15 AM - CICS TS V5.3 Technical Overview
10:30 AM - 12:00 Noon - It's all about the API
12:30 PM - 01:30 PM - Migrating VSAM data to DB2
01:45 PM - 03:15 PM - Optimizing CICS application performance: Threadsafe Applications in CICS
03:15 PM - 04:00 PM - Cloud Computing and CICS

Again, we are happy to adjust the topics for your particular needs. Here are some short abstracts for topics we are prepared to offer.

CICS TS Technical Overview
-- An overview of CICS TS with emphasis on new features that contribute to integration, availability, and scalability.

It's all about the API
-- An exploration of the API Economy and z/OS. Focus on z/OS Connect as well as native service support in CICS and other z/OS subsystems. Will touch on API enablement, API discovery, security, and other aspects of API delivery.

Java Applications in CICS
-- CICS applications can be coded in Java. This topic discusses how CICS supports Java and the types of Java applications that can be run in CICS.

CICS and the Liberty Profile
-- This topic covers the addition of support for the Liberty Profile in CICS TS V5. Description of the Liberty Profile in CICS and the types of Java applications enabled through the Liberty Profile. Discussion of the benefits of running Liberty within CICS.

The CICS Asynchronous API
-- Covering the new CICS API commands introduced in CICS TS V5.4, enhancing asynchronous transaction processing.

Introducing the CICS Explorer
-- This topic is a survey of the capabilities of the CICS Explorer and the configuration in which it can be used. This topic only lightly brushes the CICS tools. CICS Tools capabilities are discussed in a separate topics.

Event Processing
-- This topic explains the need for Event Processing with CICS-based applications along with details for using non-invasive configuration, the SIGNAL EVENT command, event adapters, tools to configure events, and the event binding file.

CICS and Parallel Sysplex
-- CICS applications in a data sharing environment
-- Achieving high availability for CICS applications
-- The Highly Available CICSPlex - Why does it matter?
-- Sysplex Ready Applications - Removing Affinities

Securing CICS Applications
-- CICS and Network Security
-- Web Services Security and CICS

CICS Connectivity – Securely open up your business transactions
Strategic Connectivity and Integration Options
-- Based on Redbook SG24-5466, this topic covers strategic connection options for CICS integration and interoperability. A survey of the many connectivity options provided by CICS which enable a high degree of integration between CICS and applications executing on other platforms.

Mobile and CICS – the Perfect Marriage
REST and JSON Services
-- An introduction to the support provided in CICS for communication using REST and JSON, whether to Mobile applications. Includes information on both native support and z/OS Connect.

CICS and Web Services
-- An introduction to SOAP/XML processing function introduced in CICS TS V3. This topic will provide background on Web services as a technology for integration and highlight specific capabilities provided to the CICS system and its applications.

Programming with Containers and Channels
-- A discussion of CICS services which provide an enhanced mechanism for passing data between and among CICS applications. The presentation will introduce the new data passing facility, the API changes which support its use, and recommended application patterns.

Threadsafe Applications in CICS
Saving Resources - Making applications Threadsafe
-- An overview of threadsafe dispatching in CICS for DB2 and WMQ applications

Focus on CICS Scalability
-- An in-depth look at recent enhancements to CICS TS V4 and V5 which improve the scalability of CICS systems and the applications which execute in them.

Accessing CICS via HTTP
-- This topic discusses of CICS's support for HTTP, allowing the use of standard web browsers for presentation.

Introduction to CICSPlex SM
-- CICSPlex Systems Manager is an integral component of CICS Transaction Server. This topic provides an overview of the systems management functions provided in CICSPlex SM.

CICS Transaction Gateway
-- There are a couple of options. This session could provide an introduction to the CICS Transaction Gateway and its use in integrating J2EE applications with CICS. For an existing user of the CICS TG, this presentation could provide an overview of recent enhancements.

Cloud Computing and CICS
-- A detailed session covering new facilities introduced in CICS TS V5.1 which enable the packaging and deployment of CICS applications in a manner consistent with emerging practices for Cloud Computing. Focus on CICS Platform as a Service (PaaS) and Software as a Service (SaaS).

Using XML and/or JSON in CICS applications
-- Everything you need to know about facilities provided in CICS for developing applications which process XML data

Web 2.0 and CICS
-- This topic is a description of Web 2.0 and a survey of the CICS Web 2.0 technologies (Note that this topic has the overview level of the Atom Feeds, Event Processing, and Dynamic Scripting presentations. You may not want to include this presentation if you have selected one of the other integration presentations because of the repetition of information.)

ATOM Feeds
-- In addition to covering what ATOM feed is, this topic details CICS's ATOM Feed support include configuration, and examples of its use.

Managing VSAM data
-- VSAM tools

Sharing VSAM files between CICS and batch
-- Increasing the availability of VSAM data

Migrating from VSAM to DB2
-- The CICS VSAM Transparency product

In reality, you may request that we present on just about any aspect of CICS. If we don't have a ready-to-go presentation on a particular topic, it might take the speaker a little bit more time to pull together charts.