Gain a competitive edge by providing timely updates of batch data while CICS remains available to online users

SYSB-II is mainframe software that allows CICS and batch to have concurrent access to VSAM files. This means you can process batch during the business day, while CICS applications and data remain fully available.

SYSB-II doesn't require application source-code changes, additional hardware, data migration, or rearchitecting your existing IT infrastructure. With SYSB-II, you can add batch into the information-on-demand equation with minimal effort. This helps your organization's employees make better business decisions using up-to-date information and make more timely decisions.

Features of SYSB-II improve CICS data availability, extend mainframe life

SYSB-II provides these essential capabilities.

Increase data and application availability

Batch can run anytime, so users and customers of online applications receive updated information from batch on demand.

- CICS applications remain available during batch processing, so users and customers have uninterrupted read, write, and update access to application data.

- SYSB-II makes batch jobs run like all other CICS transactions, so your technical staff can rely on proven techniques to tune and manage your CICS regions.

- Although batch is running during the day, it runs without affecting terminal response time for CICS users.

- Implementing syncpointing minimizes the time that locked records are held from other CICS transactions, so you can preserve the response time of CICS applications. You can selectively set syncpoint frequency based on need.

Extend the life of your mainframe

SYSB-II is a superior data-center solution that benefits your IT organization and extends your mainframe's life by:

- Allowing you to avoid the "rip and replace" risks of other solutions by leveraging your existing investment in your mainframe hardware, application software, and file systems.

- Integrating easily with existing skill sets to eliminate retraining.

- Working with current processes to avoid lengthy installation time and testing, as well as streamlining current procedures.

- Using existing staff skills without extensive retraining.

Easily implement and integrate

SYSB-II's architecture takes advantage of long-established CICS concepts and integrates into existing processes.

- SYSB-II uses existing data and security standards.

- SYSB-II eliminates the need to make application source-code changes.

- You don't have to migrate to other file structures.

- You can continue to use current support tools.

- SYSB-II can be implemented one job step or one file at a time.

How SYSB-II works

SYSB-II uses the documented MVS subsystem interface to intercept batch VSAM requests, translate the input/output (I/O) requests into CICS I/O protocol, and then allow CICS to perform the VSAM operation on behalf of the batch job. SYSB-II uses TCP/IP, VTAM, and cross-memory services to communicate between the batch job and CICS. This architecture ensures that SYSB-II is upwardly compatible with future releases of CICS Transaction Server and z/OS.

SYSB-II runs as a legitimate command-level CICS transaction, following CICS rules and standards. Batch jobs appear to CICS as any other CICS transaction. With SYSB-II, the data integrity and recovery tools of CICS are extended to batch, along with CICS' file record locking and updating capability.

SYSB-II is present only in the CICS address space when file-sharing batch jobs are processing and intercepts only the I/O requests for the specific batch files that you request. The end result is greater control and preserved terminal response time.

SYSB-II supports but doesn't require RLS, CICSPlex, sysplex, coupling facilities, and TCP/IP and VTAM protocols.

Online batch performance

You control CICS cycles available to SYSB-II batch jobs by setting the priority of the SYSB transaction. SYSB-II also offers user-controllable buffering and performance-enhancing features that can be selectively implemented on the batch jobs that need them. This provides you the control you need to address or control batch run times and to react to your changing processing needs.

Additional SYSB-II features

SYSB-II includes many other valuable features such as the ability to issue sync points without program modifications, backward recovery, and local and remote file access. Also available with SYSB-II is the support of reuse processing in a shared environment.

In addition to VSAM file-sharing capabilities, SYSB-II has a powerful batch CEMT interface; high-level CICS file open and close capabilities; the ability to start transactions from batch; support of links to CICS programs from batch; and the ability to run CICS programs containing EXEC CICS commands in batch. SYSB-II allows your programmers to use familiar CICS EXEC statements in batch, eliminating the need to learn new languages and protocols.

Installation and implementation

SYSB-II typically takes only one to four hours to install. Once installed, you simply choose to implement SYSB-II 100 percent at the JCL level, 100 percent through control tables, or any combination of the two.

Additionally, H&W provides implementation and installation services to ensure your project goes from installation to production quickly. Companies can realize their return on investment in as little as 3 to 60 days.

Software and hardware requirements

- z/OS with CICS Transaction Server for z/OS 2.2 or later
- z/VSE with CICS Transaction Server for VSE/ESA 1.1 or later

Ready for more information or a Web-based demo? Call 1-800 338-6692, visit www.hwcs.com, or e-mail webtrack@hwcs.com.