

CICS INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

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Dear readers, these **CICS Interview Questions** have been designed specially to get you acquainted with the nature of questions you may encounter during your interview for the subject of **CICS**. As per my experience good interviewers hardly plan to ask any particular question during your interview, normally questions start with some basic concept of the subject and later they continue based on further discussion and what you answer:

What's the CICS command used to access current date and time?

ASKTIME command is used to access current date and time.

How do you dynamically set the CURSOR position to a specific field?

MOVE -1 to FIELD + L field. Mention CURSOR option in the SEND command.

Which command is used to release a record on which exclusive control is gained?

EXEC CICS UNLOCK END-EXEC.

What are the attribute values of Skipper and Stopper fields?

For Skipper field use ASKIP and for stopper field use PROT.

How do you set the MDT option to 'ON' status, even if data is not entered?

Mention FSET option in DFHMDF or set it dynamically in the program using FIELD+A attribute field.

Which CICS service transaction is used to gain accessibility to CICS control tables?

CEDA transaction is used to gain accessibility to control tables.

Into which table is the terminal id registered?

Terminal Control Table.

What is a mapset?

Mapset is a collection of maps which are linked edited together to form a load module. It should have a PPT entry. It can have name from 1 to 7 chars.

What is the function of the CICS translator?

The CICS translator converts the EXEC CICS commands into call statements for a specific programming language.

What are the differences between an EXEC CICS XCTL and an EXEC CICS LINK command?

The XCTL command transfer control to an application program at the same logical level and do not expect to control back, while the LINK command passes control to an application program at the next logical level and expects control back.

What is EIB? How it can be used?

CICS automatically provides some system-related information to each task in a form of EXEC Interface Block *EIB*, which is unique to the CICS command level. We can use all the fields of EIB in our application programs right away.

What information can be obtained from the EIBRCODE?

The EIBRCODE tells the application program if the last CICS command was executed successfully or not.

What is the effect of including the TRANSID in the EXEC CICS RETURN command?

The next time the end user presses an attention key, CICS will start the transaction specified in the TRANSID option.

What is the function of the EXEC CICS HANDLE CONDITION command?

To specify the paragraph or program label to which control is to be passed if the “handle condition” occurs.

What is the difference between the INTO and the SET option in the EXEC CICS RECEIVE MAP command?

The INTO option moves the information in the TIOA into the reserved specified area, while the SET option simply returns the address of the TIOA to the specified BLL cell or “address-of” a linkage section.

What is the function of DFHMDf BMS macro?

The DFHMDf macro defines fields, literal, and characteristics of a field.

What is the difference between getting the system time with EIBTIME and ASKTIME command?

The ASKTIME command is used to request the current date and time. Whereas, the EIBTIME field have the value at the task initiation time.

What is the function of the Terminal Control Table?

The TCT defines the characteristics of each terminal with which CICS can communicate.

What is a deadlock?

Deadlock occurs when a task is waiting for a resource held by another task which, in turn, is waiting for a resources held by the first task.

Explain the term Multi Region Operation?

MRO is the mechanism by which different CICS address spaces with in the same CPU can communicate and share resources.

What is meant by program reentrance?

A program is considered reentrant if more than one task can execute the code without interfering with the other tasks execution.

What is the common work area?

The common work area is a storage area that can be accessed by any task in a CICS system.

What is the meaning and use of the EIBAID field?

EIBAID is a key field in the execute interface block; it indicates which attention key the user pressed to initiate the task.

What is BMS?

BMS is Basic Map Support. It allows you to code assembler level programs to define screens.

In which system user interaction is not possible?

In batch system, user interaction is not possible. All the inputs are given before starting the batch execution.

Which component in CICS maintains control functions to manage the allocation or de-allocation of resources with in the system ?

System services are responsible for managing allocation and de-allocation of resources.

Which component in CICS interfaces with telecommunication access methods such as BTAM, VTAM and TCAM for handling data communication requests from application programs?

Data Communication Services interfaces with telecommunication access methods such as BTAM, VTAM and TCAM for handling data communication requests from application programs.

Which component in CICS interfaces with data access methods such as BDAM, VSAM?

Data Handling Services interfaces with data access methods such as BDAM, VSAM, etc. Data Handling Services interfaces with database access methods such as IMS/DB, DB2, etc. and facilitate servicing of database requests from application programs.

How many characters can be displayed on a CICS CRT monitor?

A CRT monitor is capable of displaying 1920 characters *24Rowsand80Columns*.

Which keys are known as function keys and allows transfer of data from terminal to CICS?

PF keys are known as function keys. PF keys allows transfer of data from terminal to CICS. PF Keys are ENTER and PF1 to PF24.

What is the length of transaction identifier in CICS?

Transaction identifier which is 1 to 4 character long is used to do the identify the transaction which user want to do.

Which CICS program is used to receive messages from terminal?

TCP is known as Terminal Control Program. TCP is used to receive messages from terminal. TCP maintains hardware communication requirements.

Which CICS program is used to simultaneously control the execution of tasks and its related properties?

KCP is known as Task Control Program. KCP is used to simultaneously control the execution of tasks and its related properties. KCP handles all issues related to multi-tasking.

Which CICS program is used to provide application programs with services like read, insert, update or delete records in a file?

FCP is known as File Control Program. FCP is used to provide application programs with services like read, insert, update or delete records in a file. FCP manages exclusive control over the records in order to maintain data integrity during record updates.

Which table contains the Transaction IDs *TRANSID* and the corresponding program names or program IDs?

PCT is known as Program Control Table. PCT contains the Transaction IDs *TRANSID* and the corresponding program names or program IDs. *TRANSID* is unique in PCT table.

Which command is used for debugging the program step by step, which helps in finding the errors?

CEDF is known as CICS Execute Debug Facility. Type CEDF and press enter in CICS region. The terminal is in EDF mode message will be displayed. Now type the transaction id and press the enter key. After initiation, with each enter key, a line is executed. Before executing any CICS command, it shows the screen in which we can modify the values before proceeding further.

Which macro is used to generate Mapset definition?

DFHMSD macro generates Mapset definition. It is macro identifier which shows that we are starting a mapset.

What is the value of MODE parameter you will use for input & output map in DFHMSD macro?

MODE = INOUT

What is the position of Modified Data Tag in the attribute byte?

Modified Data Tag is the last bit in the attribute byte. MDT is a flag which holds single bit, it specifies whether the value is to be transferred to the system or not.

Which field in EIB stores the value of Terminal Identifier?

EIBTRMID stores the value of Terminal Identifier.

What type of programs have no human intervention and all the necessary inputs are provided when the program is started?

While executing Non conversion programs no human intervention is required. All the necessary inputs are provided when the program is started. They are similar to batch programs that runs in the batch mode. So in CICS they are rarely developed.

What type of program system sends a message to the screen and waits for the user's response?

In Conversion Programs, the system sends a message to the screen and waits for the user's response. The time taken by user to respond is known as Think Time. This time is considerably high, so this is a major drawback of conversion programs. The user provides the necessary input and presses a AID key

Which CICS copybook we must include to override the attributes of a field?

To override the attributes of a field, we must include DFHATTR in the application program. It is provided by CICS.

What option to use when we do not know the complete key to read a record in CICS?

GENERIC is used when we does not know the complete key value. For example, we want a record whose primary key starts with '10' and the rest of the key can be anything. Although the key length is 3 characters, we are mentioning only 2. It is important to mention the key-length which gives the length for which it needs to do the matching. The first record that satisfies the criteria will get picked up.

Which command is used to transfer the control of program to a paragraph or a procedure label when the specified exception block arises?

Handle condition is used to transfer the control of program to a paragraph or a procedure label. If the condition name specified in the exception block arises the particular para will be given control and then we can handle that condition.

Which command is used to pass the control from one program to another at same level and does not expect the control back?

XCTL command is used to pass the control from one program to another at same level. It does not expect the control back. It is similar to GO TO statement.

What error code you will get for File is not open?

File is not open and you are using it then you will get AEIS error cpde.

What error code you will get for Map Fail condition?

For Map Fail condition you will get AEI9 error code.

It is possible to have 2 or more CICS regions at the same time as CICS runs as a batch job in the operating system at the back-end. State whether true or false?

This statement is correct.

CICS cannot manage requests from concurrent users in an application. State whether true or false?

This statement is incorrect as CICS manage requests from concurrent users in an application.

What is Next ?

Further you can go through your past assignments you have done with the subject and make sure you are able to speak confidently on them. If you are fresher then interviewer does not expect you will answer very complex questions, rather you have to make your basics concepts very strong.

Second it really doesn't matter much if you could not answer few questions but it matters that whatever you answered, you must have answered with confidence. So just feel confident during your interview. We at tutorialspoint wish you best luck to have a good interviewer and all the very best for your future endeavor. Cheers :-)

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