

L97-zOSConnect EE - CICS Provider API

Lab Version V30.05.zVA

July 17, 2023

Overview

This lab exercise has CICS acknowledging a RESTful JSON web service using z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition (zCEE). The JSON request is delivered to an existing CICS application and uses a bottom-up approach.

Cloud and mobile applications reshape the way enterprises and systems interact. RESTful APIs that use JSON message formats are the predominant standards for new application development. z/OS Connect EE provides a framework that enables z/OS-based programs and data to participate fully in the new API economy for mobile and cloud applications.

z/OS Connect EE can help deliver benefits for an enterprise in the following ways:

- Mobile and cloud application developers, inside or outside the enterprise, can incorporate z/OS
 data and transactions into their applications without the need to understand z/OS subsystems.
 The z/OS resources appear as any other RESTful API.
- z/OS application programmers can take advantage of published RESTful APIs to incorporate service and data into their business applications.

The CICS Explorer provides a facility called the z/OS Connect EE API toolkit which can be used to configure JSON services for z/OS Connect. You can expose an existing CICS COMMAREA or channel-based program (the bottom-up technique) written in COBOL, PL/I, C, and C++.

The z/OS Connect EE API toolkit helps you create a service, define the request and response service interfaces, and specify how the service can access and interact with CICS.

A *service interface* defines how the underlying program, COBOL copybook, or PL/I include can be accessed, which fields can be exposed, and how they are exposed. A service interface can be reused by multiple services. Service interfaces are stored as service interface files (.si files).

After a service is created, export the service as a service archive (.sar) file. The service archive file is required for REST API creation and service deployment.

This lab exercise utilizes a bottom-up technique. It starts with a copybook and generates a JSON schema (along with other artifacts). We wanted to expose the existing COBOL application using a RESTful approach (i.e. GET, PUT, POST, DELETE).

Scenario

In our scenario, you have an existing COBOL application that you will expose as a RESTful API. You want to expose this application with a RESTful interface where the data is sent in JSON format, and a HTTP GET method does a read, and POST does a create, a PUT does an update, and a DELETE does a delete.

You will use the z/OS Connect EE API toolkit to create a Service Archive (SAR) file, Request/Response schemas, and other artifacts. You will then build an API project that will interface with the existing COBOL application.

After deploying the new resources, you will test your new RESTful JSON service.

Lab Requirements

Please note that there are often several ways to perform functions. This lab exercise will present one of the ways. If you are familiar with z/OS Connect, you will notice that some of the statements are general, and not necessarily true for every situation.

This lab uses the CICS Explorer, ISPF under TSO, and CICS. If you are not familiar with these, please contact one of the lab instructors for assistance.

The following are other assumptions made in this lab exercise.

- CICS TS V6.1: This is where the backend application is hosted.
- Login: TSO userids are available with appropriate passwords.
- CICS Explorer V5.5: This lab exercise uses the CICS Explorer V5.5, with the z/OS Connect EE plug-in.

Lab Step Overview

Part 1: Configuring the CICS Explorer connection to CICS

In this part of the lab, you will configure the CICS Explorer.

Part 2: Understand the Existing COBOL copybook and resulting Program Interface

In this section we discuss the required parts to use the z/OS Connect EE API toolkit. We show you a COBOL copybook, a generated JSON schema, and SAR file.

Part 3: Create a service project in the z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition perspective

This part of the lab exercise we are starting with a COBOL copybook and creating the JSON schema files and the service XML file in the service project.

Part 4: Build the API Application

In this part of the lab exercise we will use the CICS Explorer (z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition perspective) to build a z/OS Connect EE API Project.

Part 5: Deploy API to z/OS Connect EE Server (running in CICS)

We will use the deploy function of the Explorer to deploy the API to z/OS Connect EE and deploy the SAR file to z/OS Connect EE.

Part 6: Test your new RESTful JSON Service

We will use the RESTClient plug-in that is installed into Firefox to test your RESTful JSON service.

Part 7: Summary

This is a recap of the steps performed in this lab exercise.

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Part 1: Configure the CICS Explorer Connection to CICS

In this part of the lab exercise you will configure the connection between the CICS Explorer running on your workstation to CICS running on z/OS.

Start the CICS Explorer

1. From the desktop, double-click the CICS Explorer icon to start it, if it is not already running.



- **____2.** When you start the CICS Explorer, **<u>IF</u>** you are prompted for a workspace, click the **OK** button to use the default.
- ____3. If the CICS Explorer shows you a **Welcome page** click the **Workbench icon** in the upper-right corner to go to the workbench. Then **maximize** the Explorer window.



Verify that you have connections to z/OS and CICS in your CICS Explorer

- ____4. <u>If</u> you have connections defined from your CICS Explorer to z/OS, **start** them and then skip to **Part 2**.
- **5.** If you have not already created connections to the z/OS host system, follow the instructions in the **Connection Document** and then return here.

Part 2: Understand the Copybook and COBOL program interface

You can expose CICS-based programs to use JSON communications. We will use the tooling in the CICS Explorer to build the require artifacts. The CICS Explorer provides a facility called the z/OS Connect EE API toolkit which can be used to configure JSON services for CICS. You can expose an existing CICS COMMAREA or channel-based program (the bottom-up technique) written in COBOL, PL/I, C, and C++.

We want our CICS-based program to respond to REST requests (GET, PUT, POST, and DELETE). . Since we have an existing CICS application that uses a COMMAREA, we will build a service project (SAR) and a REST API application to interface with the main program of the application. The API will be deployed to z/OS Connect EE. z/OS Connect EE will compose the COMMAREA and LINK to the existing program.

Below is the COBOL copybook:

```
Catalogue COMMAREA structure
03 CA-REQUEST-ID
                             PIC X(6).
03 CA-RETURN-CODE
                             PIC 9(2).
03 CA-RESPONSE-MESSAGE
                             PIC X(79).
                             PIC X(911).
03 CA-REOUEST-SPECIFIC
Fields used in Inquire Single
03 CA-INQUIRE-SINGLE REDEFINES CA-REQUEST-SPECIFIC.
    05 CA-ITEM-REF-REQ
                                 PIC 9(4).
                                 PIC 9(4).
    05 FILLER
    05 FILLER
                                 PIC 9(3).
    05 CA-SINGLE-ITEM.
        07 CA-SNGL-ITEM-REF
                                 PIC 9(4).
        07 CA-SNGL-DESCRIPTION
                                 PIC X(40).
        07 CA-SNGL-DEPARTMENT
                                 PIC 9(3).
                                 PIC X(6).
        07 CA-SNGL-COST
        07 IN-SNGL-STOCK
                                 PIC 9(4).
        07 ON-SNGL-ORDER
                                 PIC 9(3).
    05 FILLER
                                 PIC X(840).
```

Interestingly, the target URL of the JSON service is not in the JSON Schema. Note also that WSDL and a SOAP request (for XML-based web services) can contain additional information about security and transactionality, which are not available when using 'JSON Services'. The way to secure JSON Services is using HTTP Basic Authentication, TLS, JWT's, etc. The other WS- extensions like WS-Security, WS-Coordination, etc, and, SAML and Kerberos, are not available.

Below is the JSON schema definition generated by the z/OS Connect EE API toolkit (there is also a response schema)

```
"type" : "object",
"properties" : {
  "DFH0XCP1" : {
     "type" : "object",
     "properties" : {
       "CA_REQUEST_ID" : {
         "maxLength" : 6,
         "type" : "string"
       "CA_RETURN_CODE" : {
         "minimum" : 0,
"maximum" : 99,
         "type" : "integer"
       "CA RESPONSE MESSAGE" : {
         "maxLength" : 79,
         "type" : "string"
       "CA_INQUIRE_SINGLE" : {
         "type" : "object",
         "properties" : {
           "CA_ITEM_REF_REQ" : {
             "minimum" : 0,
             "maximum" : 9999,
"type" : "integer"
 } }
}
```

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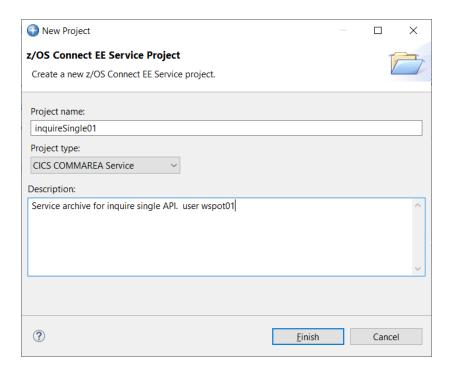
Part 3: Create a service project in the z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition perspective

We will start with a COBOL copybook and generate a Service Archive (SAR) file. The SAR file will be used by the API tooling in the CICS Explorer.

Create a service project using the API toolkit

Create a new z/OS Connect EE service project in the z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition perspective and define the request and response service interfaces.

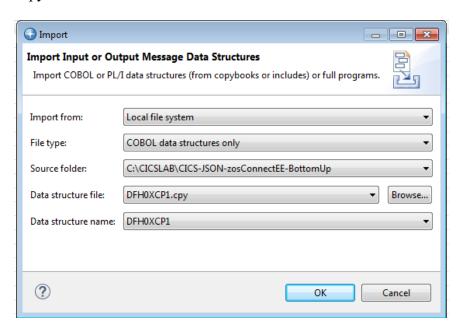
- ____6. From the CICS Explorer, the z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition perspective, the Project Explorer view, select File > New > z/OS Connect EE Service Project.
- _____7. From the New Project dialog, enter a Project name of inquireSingle.
- **8.** Enter a **Description** (see example below). Then click **Finish**.



- ____9. The inquireSingle Service opens in the service.properties editor.
- ____10. From the inquireSingle Service Project Editor, the Program tab, enter a Program of **DFH0XCMN**.

Create the request service interface

- ____11. From the Define Request and Response Service Interfaces section, click the Create Service Interface button and enter a Service interface name of inquireSingle request. Then click OK.
- ____12. From the Service Interface Editor dialog, right-click COMMAREA. Then click Import data structure.
- ____13. From the Import dialog, click the Browse button and select C:\CICSLAB\CICS-JSON-zosConnectEE-BottomUp\DFH0XCP1.cpy. Click Open. This will parse the supplied copybook.



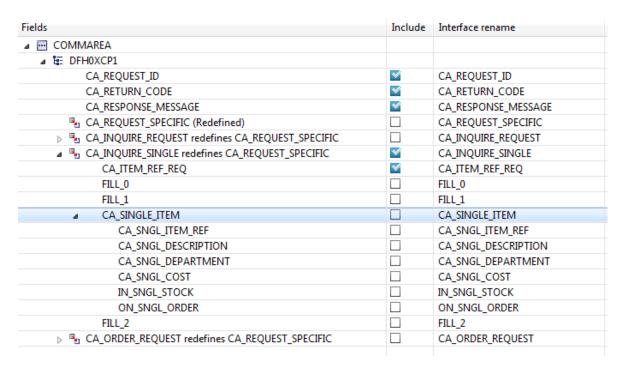
14. Click **OK**.

____15. Expand COMMAREA > DFH0XCP1. This will allow you to edit the Request service interface (input). Notice that there are three redefines visible (there are four in the structure). Fully expand the second one (CA_INQUIRE_SINGLE). This is used for an inquire single item, which we are building.

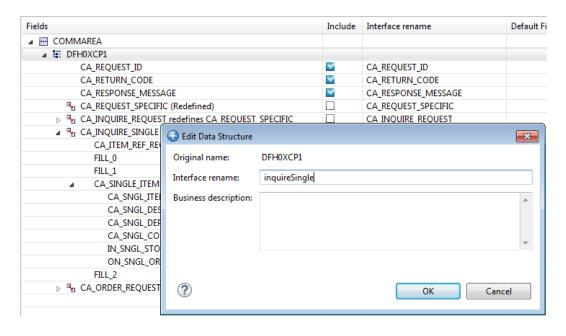
Using the Service Interface Definition dialog, you can define and customize request and response interfaces. You can copy a data structure, specify the order of the data structures, or add multiple containers or segments. You can also specify the fields to include or exclude, rename fields or data structures, change field value type, specify default field values, or add business descriptions.

We will do some editing in the Service Interface and additional editing when creating the API. The ability to do additional editing in the API is helpful, since you can use a Service project in multiple APIs.

- ____16. Uncheck the CA_REQUEST_SPECIFIC (Redefined) and check the CA_INQUIRE_SINGLE redefines CA_REQUEST_SPECIFIC.
- ___17. In the CA_INQUIRE_SINGLE structure, uncheck FILL_0, FILL_1, FILL_2 and CA_SINGLE_ITEM.



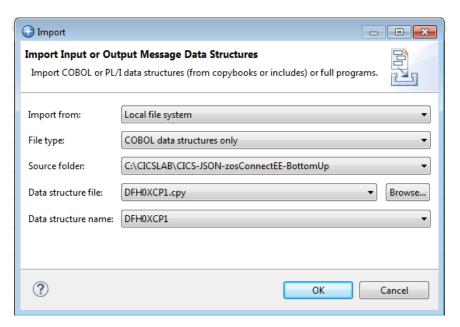
- _18. Right-click on **DFH0XCP1** and select **Edit data structure**.
- ____19. Enter an Interface rename of inquireSingle and click OK.



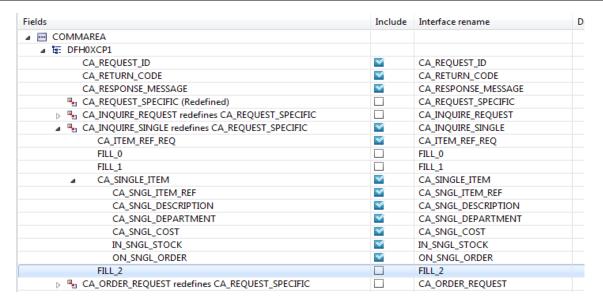
___20. Save and close the **inquireSingle_request** editor.

Create the response service interface

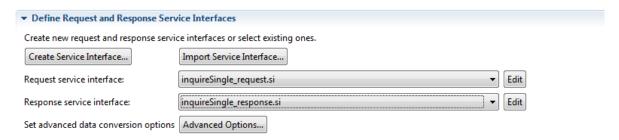
- ____21. From the Define Request and Response Service Interfaces section, click the Create Service Interface button and enter a Service interface name of inquireSingle_response. Then click OK.
- _____22. From the Service Interface Definition dialog, right-click COMMAREA. Then click Import data structure.
- 23. From the Import dialog, click the **Browse** button and select **C:\CICSLAB\CICS-JSON-zosConnectEE-BottomUp\DFH0XCP1.cpy**. Click **Open**. This will parse the supplied copybook.



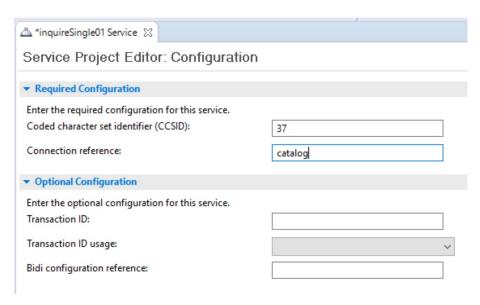
- **24.** Click **OK**.
- _____25. Expand COMMAREA > DFH0XCP1. This will allow you to edit the Response service interface (output). Notice that there are three redefines visible (there are four in the structure). Expand the second one (CA_INQUIRE_SINGLE) fully. This is used for an inquire single item.
- _____26. Uncheck the CA_REQUEST_SPECIFIC (Redefined) and check the CA_INQUIRE_SINGLE redefines CA_REQUEST_SPECIFIC.
- **___27.** In the CA_INQUIRE_SINGLE structure, uncheck FILL_0, FILL_1, FILL_2.



- 28. Save and close the inquireSingle response editor.
- 29. Using the drop-down, select inquireSingle response.si for Response service interface.



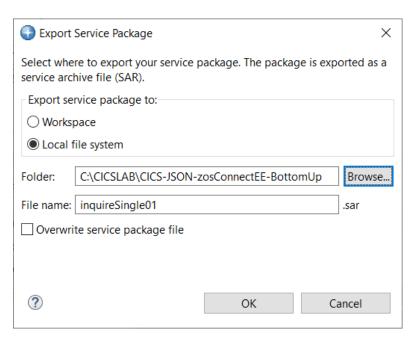
From the **inquireSingle Service** editor, select the **Configuration** tab across the bottom. Enter a Connection reference of **catalog**.



_30. Save and close the inquireSingle Service editor.

Export the SAR file.

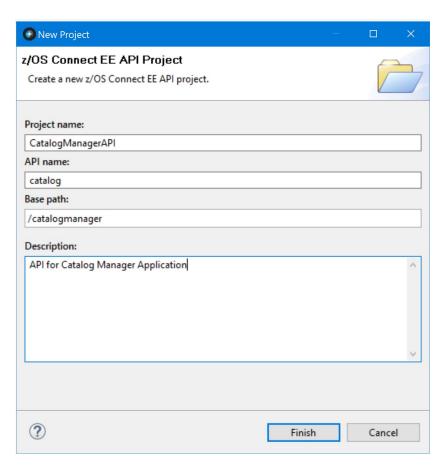
- ___31. Right-click on your inquireSingle project. Select z/OS Connect EE > Export z/OS Connect EE Service Archive.
- ____32. From the Export Service Package dialog, select Local file system. Use the Browse button to select folder C:\CICSLAB\CICS-JSON-zosConnectEE-BottomUp and click OK.



Part 4: Build the API Application

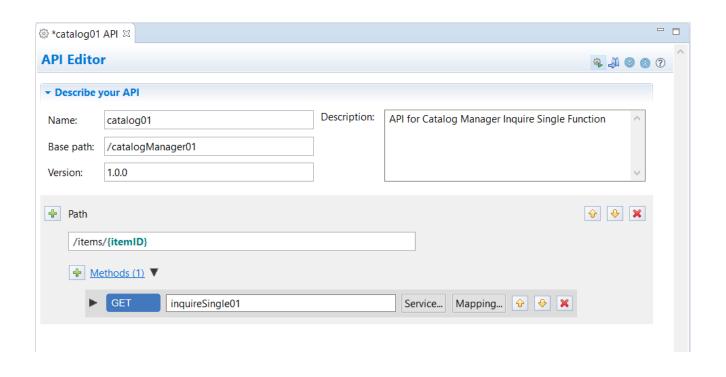
Build the API application

- ____1. From the CICS Explorer, the z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition perspective, the Project Explorer view, select File > New > z/OS Connect EE API Project.
- 2. From the New Project dialog, supply the Project name, API name, Base path, and Description, based on the sample below.
- 3. Then click Finish.



- 4. This will place you in the z/OS Connect EE API Editor.
- _____5. We will only configure the **GET** method for our API. This will invoke the **inquireSingle** service.
- 6. Remove the **POST**, **PUT**, and **DELETE** methods by clicking the red "X" on the right.

Enter a Path of /items/{itemID}, replacing /newPath1 (See screen capture below).

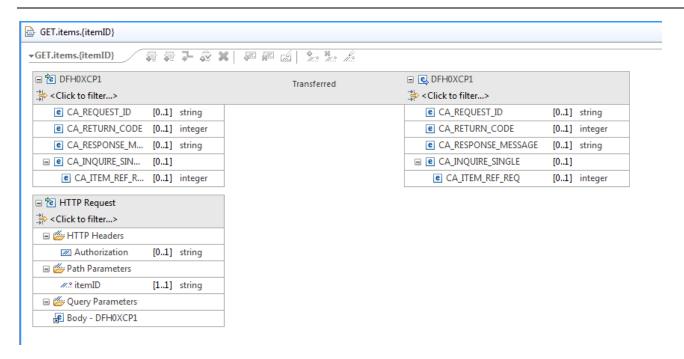


- 8. In the Select a z/OS Connect EE Service dialog, click File System.
- 9. Navigate to C:\CICSLAB\CICS-JSON-zosConnectEE-BottomUp.
- 10. Click C:\CICSLAB\CICS-JSON-zosConnectEE-BottomUp\inquireSingle.sar, then click Open. Click OK and OK on the next two panels. This will import the inquireSingle SAR file into your project. This is the SAR file that you created and exported in the prior steps.
- ___11. Use Ctrl-S to save your API project.

Create request mapping

- 12. For your GET method click Mapping > Open Request Mapping.
- 13. Right-click in the open area and select Expand All from the request editor.

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For a **request** map, three sections of fields are represented:

Right side: This section represents the COMMAREA fields seen in the COPYBOOK when the Service project was created to produce the SAR file.

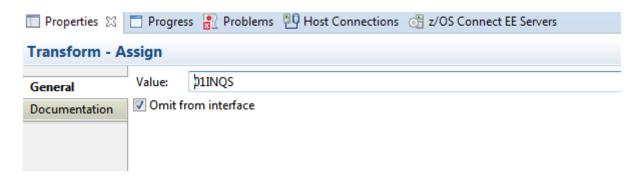
Upper-left side: This section represents the fields exposed to the REST client. Initially there is a one-to-one mapping; that is, initially all the COMMAREA fields are exposed to the REST client. But you control which fields are exposed and which are hidden by your actions in the API Editor.

Lower-left side: This section represents the information fields available on the HTTP request, such as authorization headers, path parameters, query parameters, or information in the body of a request.

____14. On the right side of the screen, right click on CA_REQUEST-ID and select Add Assign transform.

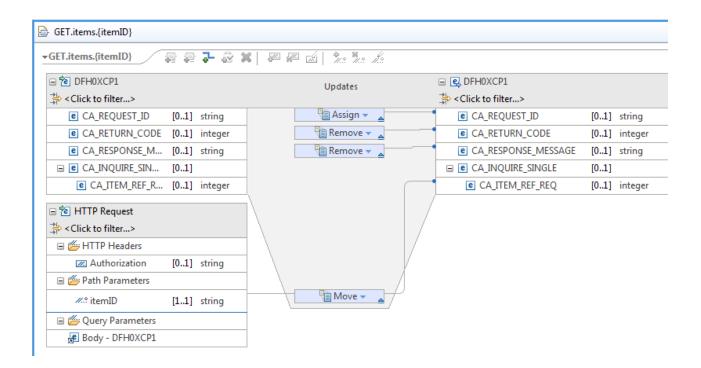
Note: based on our knowledge of the Catalog Manager application, we know the **ca_request_id** field for **inquireSingle** is **01INQS**. So we are going to assign that field the static value of **01INQS** in the API Editor. z/OS Connect EE will populate that field with **01INQS** whenever this API is called. (This can also be added when creating the service)

____15. Click the **Assign** tag, then in the **Properties** view (near the bottom of the screen). Enter a value of 01INQS.



This assigns the static value to the field. The checkbox **Omit from interface** means the REST client does not see this field as part of the API.

- ____16. On the right side of the screen, right-click on CA_RETURN_CODE and select Add Remove transform. (This just show the flexibility of the tooling)
- ____17. On the right side of the screen, right-click on CA_RESPONSE_MESSAGE and select Add Remove transform.



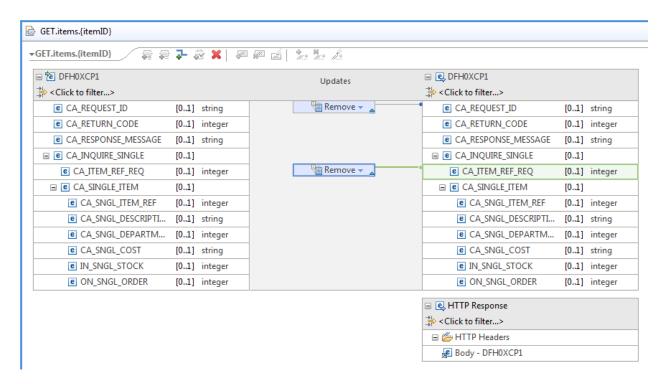
____19. Save then close the request mapping dialog.

Create response mapping

- 20. For your GET method click Mapping > Open Default Response Mapping.
- 21. Right-click in the open area and select Expand All from the popup dialog.

This mapping allows us to determine what information is to be sent back to the REST client. The right side represents the COMMAREA fields, and the left side represents the fields that will be provided in the JSON response.

- ____22. On the right side of the screen, right-click on CA_REQUEST_ID and select Add Remove transform.
- ____23. On the right side of the screen, right-click on CA_ITEM_REF_REQ and select Add Remove transform.
- **24.** You have removed two fields and allowed the rest to map over to the JSON that will flow back to the client.



25. Save and close the Response Mapping dialog.

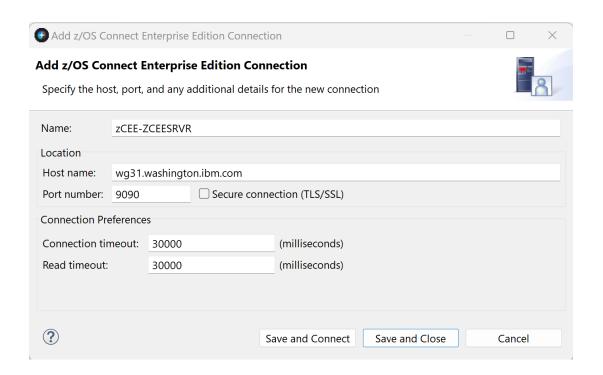
26. Close the catalog **API editor**.

Part 5: Deploy API and Service to z/OS Connect EE Server

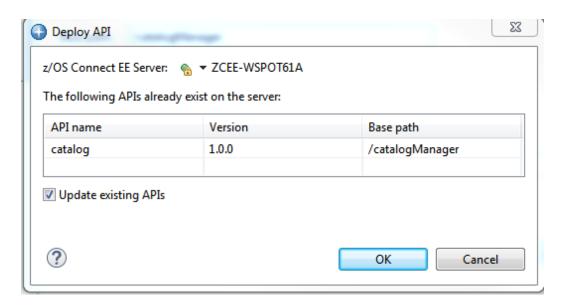
Deploy API to z/OS Connect EE Server

___27. We have defined the connection for you, so skip to Step 30. If you do not have a connection, continue to next step.

Hint: If you do not have a connection, go to the **Host Connections** view to create a connection for z/**OS Connect Enterprise Edition**.



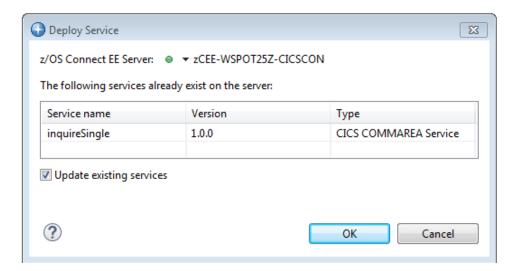
- 28. Right-click on your new connection and select Set Credentials > USER1.
- **29.** From the **z/OS** Connect Enterprise Edition perspective, the **z/OS** Connect EE Servers view, right-click your z/OS Connect Server and select Connect.
- __30. From the z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition perspective, the Project Explorer view, rightclick your CatalogManagerAPI project and select z/OS Connect EE > Deploy API to z/OS Connect EE Server.
- ____31. If you are redeploying an API, ensure that you check the Update Existing APIs box and click OK.



32. If your API was not successfully deployed, contact a lab instructor.

Deploy Service (inquireSingle) to z/OS Connect EE Server

- 33. From the z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition perspective, the Project Explorer view, rightclick your inquireSingle project and select z/OS Connect EE > Deploy Service to z/OS Connect EE Server.
- ____34. If you are redeploying a service, ensure that you check the Update existing services box and click OK.



_35. If your Service (inquireSingle) was not successfully deployed, contact a lab instructor.

Part 6: Test Your Work

We will be testing with the RestClient Firefox plug-in as a generic REST client.

Note: Screen shots are just examples.

Open Firefox browser, and on the URL line type

http://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9090/zosConnect/services/inquireSingle

From the **Firefox browser**, press the button in the upper-right corner.

If you hover over the button, it says "RESTClient".

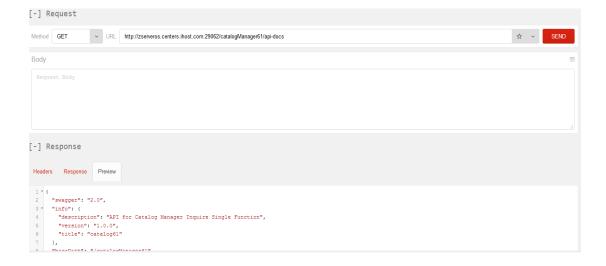
Get the Swagger document.

The Swagger (OpenAPI) document represents the API. The API package includes Swagger 2.0 definitions to make it easier for developers to incorporate the APIs into their applications

36. From the **REST Client**, select the Method **GET**, and enter a **URL** of

http://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9090/catalogmanager/api-docs

- ___37. Then press the SEND button.
- **38.** Select the **Preview** tab in the RESTClient.



Read (GET) a record

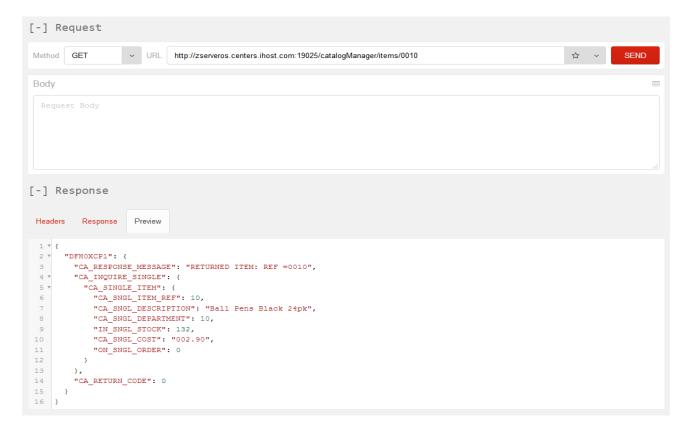
We only implemented the GET function. See the "Getting Started Guide" to implement the other functions.

http://www-03.ibm.com/support/techdocs/atsmastr.nsf/WebIndex/WP102724

39. From the REST Client, select the Method GET, and enter a URL of

http://wg31.washington.ibm.com:9090/catalogmanager/items/0010

40. Then press the SEND button and select the Preview tab to see results.

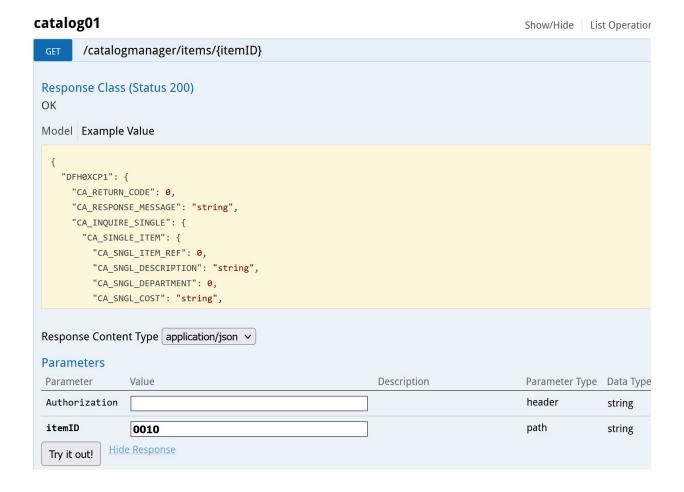


Test using API Explorer

- ____41. From the CICS Explorer, the z/OS Connect Enterprise Edition perspective, the z/OS Connect EE Servers view, right-click on your catalog API and select Open In API Explorer from the pop-up dialog. A Browser/REST API Documentation window will open.
- ____42. Click List Operations, then click GET. This will expand your GET method.
- 43. Enter 0010 in the itemID field, then click Try it out!.

Liberty REST APIs

Discover REST APIs available within Liberty



44. Scroll down to see your results.

```
Response Body

{
    "DFH0XCP1": {
        "CA_RESPONSE_MESSAGE": "RETURNED ITEM: REF =0010",
        "CA_INQUIRE_SINGLE": {
        "CA_SINGLE_ITEM": {
        "CA_SINGL_ITEM_REF": 10,
        "CA_SNGL_DESCRIPTION": "Ball Pens Black 24pk",
        "CA_SNGL_DEPARTMENT": 10,
        "IN_SNGL_STOCK": 135,
        "CA_SNGL_COST": "002.90",
        "ON_SNGL_ORDER": 0
      }
    }
    "CA_RETURN_CODE": 0
    }
}

Response Code
```

Contact a lab instructor if you have any questions.

Part 7: Summary

Congratulations, you have just exposed a CICS application as a RESTful JSON service using z/OS Connect EE. You used the bottom-up approach which means that your JSON service conforms to the copybook of your CICS COBOL program.

- You created a service project using your COBOL copybook.
- You built a z/OS Connect EE API Project (API application) using the CICS Explorer.
- You deployed the service (SAR) file to z/OS Connect EE.
- You deployed the API application to z/OS Connect EE.
- You tested your new JSON service.

If you have any questions about anything you did in this lab exercise, please contact one of the lab instructors.