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New Features in IPCP 5.0

Faster processing turnaround. The chief improvement of IPCP 5.0 is improved performance of IPCP command requests in large enterprises. Enhanced notification processing between IPCP batch and IPCP in CICS significantly reduces the time it takes for a batch step to complete. This enhanced notification scheme requires a new IPCP program, IPCP0062, which functions as a Task Related User Exit.

Send commands to more CICS regions at the same time. New Resource List options for the CICS CC command allow users to enter CICS CC ONLYLIST, ADDLIST, and NOTLIST commands to build a composite target group of CICSIDs to process the command list. This feature allows a single IPCP batch job step to route commands to more than seven CICSIDs.

Better serialization of batch jobs. Enhanced Serialization of the IPCP command dataset means that IPCP batch job steps process in FIFO order according to their execution sequence. This new serialization requires a new sub-task (IPCPBTNQ) added to the IPCPBTCH program to manage the dataset serialization.

A unified IPCM menu item to manage your resources. A new online IPCM option, the IPCP Resource Manager, combines the functions of IPCM options 1, 4, and 5 into a single display. Further, the display supports advanced search and filtering features to quickly zero-in on target resources.

Improved self-maintenance of restart data. A new automatic purge feature (Auto-Purge) for IPCP restart records means that restart records that have not experienced a status change in a specified period of time can be removed from the command dataset without manual intervention. This will help to eliminate restart data for CICS resources that have been retired from users' systems.

Better control of the optional IPCP SVC. The IPCP user SVC number is now configurable in users' IPCP systems. In version 4.x of IPCP, IPCP would scan the user SVC table to locate its SVC number. Occasionally, this led to problems that could cause the CICS to fail. IPCP 5.0 requires specification by the user of the SVC number before IPCP attempts to access the SVC, and IPCP verifies the status of the SVC before it attempts to invoke it.

More control of the user ID that IPCP will use in CICS. In version 4.x of IPCP, when the IPCI transaction was used to manually start the IPCP process, the IPCPMAIN task would inherit the SAF security profile of the user issuing the IPCI transaction. Depending upon the authorizations of that user, IPCPMAIN could be activated without the necessary authorizations to perform its tasks. In IPCP 5.0, administrators can assign the security profile to IPCP when it is started manually.

Define up to three transaction IDs for IPCP to initiate after CICS startup.

Improved handling of file allocations. A new ALLS command parameter (LOC=) is available to control at the command level where the DD is to be allocated, above the 16-Meg line in the Extended-TIOT or below the 16-Meg line in the TIOT, when requesting IPCP to do SVC 99 allocations.

Ability to verify integrity of the IPCP command dataset. An IPCP batch recovery utility will analyze, restore, or repair a damaged IPCP command dataset while IPCP remains deployed in your production system.