

# CICS-WINDOWS

## INTRODUCTION

CICS-Windows is a CICS transaction that acts as a multiple session manager. This functionality enables users to be active in more than one application or transaction at the same time. It accomplishes this by creating pseudo terminals for the user. These pseudo terminals are treated as distinct terminals by CICS but each is displayed on the user's physical terminal one at a time. A designated "hot key" toggles between the pseudo terminals (i.e. sessions).

Because CICS-Windows runs within the CICS environment, it works no matter how you gain access to Radar (the Mainframe system on which CICS runs). You can use a "dumb" terminal (3179, 3192) or a desktop computer (Mac or PC) using MacMainframe, Rumba, tn3270 or any other terminal emulator software.

This software is geared for users who want to run different transactions at the same time without having to log in and out of them each time they switch applications. For example, a user can have AFIN and AHRS or SAM and SIS active at the same time. FOCUS users can have MSO active along with the transaction that accesses the files they are writing reports against. They can then toggle back and forth to verify the results on their reports. The CICS-Windows transaction will be an optional one and will not automatically be started for all users.

## USING CICS-WINDOWS

Signon to CICS as usual. At the NEWS screen enter "**wnon**" in the top left corner of the screen. This command only needs to be entered one time. CICS-Windows creates 3 pseudo terminals (i.e. sessions) between which you can toggle using the default PF22 (shift PF10) key. The NEWS screen will initially display in each session. Notice the terminal ID is slightly different for each session. (CICS-Windows uses lowercase letters and special characters to generate the different terminal Ids) You may now enter your usual transactions in any of the sessions. Each session can run another transaction. For instance, you could run SIS in one session, SAM in another and AFIN in the last. Use PF22 to toggle forward and PF23 to toggle backward through the sessions circularly.

When you logoff any one of the sessions, CICS-Windows automatically purges your other sessions, then CICS logs off your userid. You can exit CICS-Windows without logging off CICS. In one of your sessions, back out to the NEWS screen, enter "**clr**" to get a blank screen, and then enter "**wndo,off**" at that blank screen. CICS-Windows automatically purges your other sessions and displays a clear screen. At the clear screen, press "**ENTER**" again to reach the NEWS screen (outside of CICS-Windows).

## CICS-WINDOWS PROFILE

There are default settings for defining the "hot key" and the total number of sessions but these items can be modified to create your own personal profile. You may use an application or transaction that uses the PF22 key, MSO for example. If you enter MSO from a CICS-Windows session, you will be unable to view the event log, as CICS-Windows will intercept the PF22 key and toggle to the next session instead of MSO displaying the event log. You can change the toggle keys by modifying your CICS-Windows profile. CICS-Windows stores configuration information (such as toggle keys) in a unique profile for each userid. To modify your

profile enter "**wnit**" in any one of your CICS-Windows sessions. Update the toggle key fields as necessary. (You cannot increase the number of sessions.) Press **PF4** to save the changes to your profile. The changes are effective immediately. Press **PF3** and then **‘ENTER’** in order to return back to your original session.

## **INACTIVITY TIMEOUT**

CICS-Windows provides its own inactivity timeout interval. When all of your sessions become inactive, CICS-Windows "locks" your physical terminal by displaying its own signon screen. When you sign back on at the CICS-Windows signon screen, your sessions will resume. Only the userid that was "locked" can signon to CICS-Windows at that terminal. If another user must use the "locked" terminal, CICS must first release the terminal either through the normal inactivity timeout or by resetting the terminal emulation session. Whenever CICS releases a terminal on which CICS-Windows was used, all sessions are purged.