CICS Integration & Optimization: Tales from the Trenches

(SHARE Anaheim)

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Original Abstract (it morphed)

CICS users are loyal to their apps – and for good reason! However, they also need to integrate these same applications with an ever widening array of web and cloud-based resources. And, if that weren't enough, every year they are under pressure to add new value, and reduce the cost of ownership. That's a tall order. This session will highlight ~~a few~~ of the tactics and strategies that customers can use to enhance the value of the existing CICS apps while lowering the cost of ownership.

One

Customer Context (why it morphed)

- **When the abstract was submitted, we had just been approached by a large CICS customer with some intriguing business/technical objectives**
- **Business Objectives**
  - **Respond to competitive pressures in their industry**
  - **Lower incremental cost of high-volume CICS application processing (i.e., marginal value > marginal cost)**
  - **Move new/additional workload to System z and reinforce CICS TS as the most cost effective platform for their business**
- **Technical Objective (at least their hope)**
  - **Reduce the CPU burn (GP) associated with socket applications and infrastructure**

Perfect R&D Situation

- **Well defined business objectives**
- **An initial theory as to what the technical issues might be**
- **Very strong in-house CICS talent**
- **Load testing infrastructure in place**
- **Good CICS tools on hand**
- **Test LPAR/region available**
- **Had a spare cubicle**

Timing Was Opportune

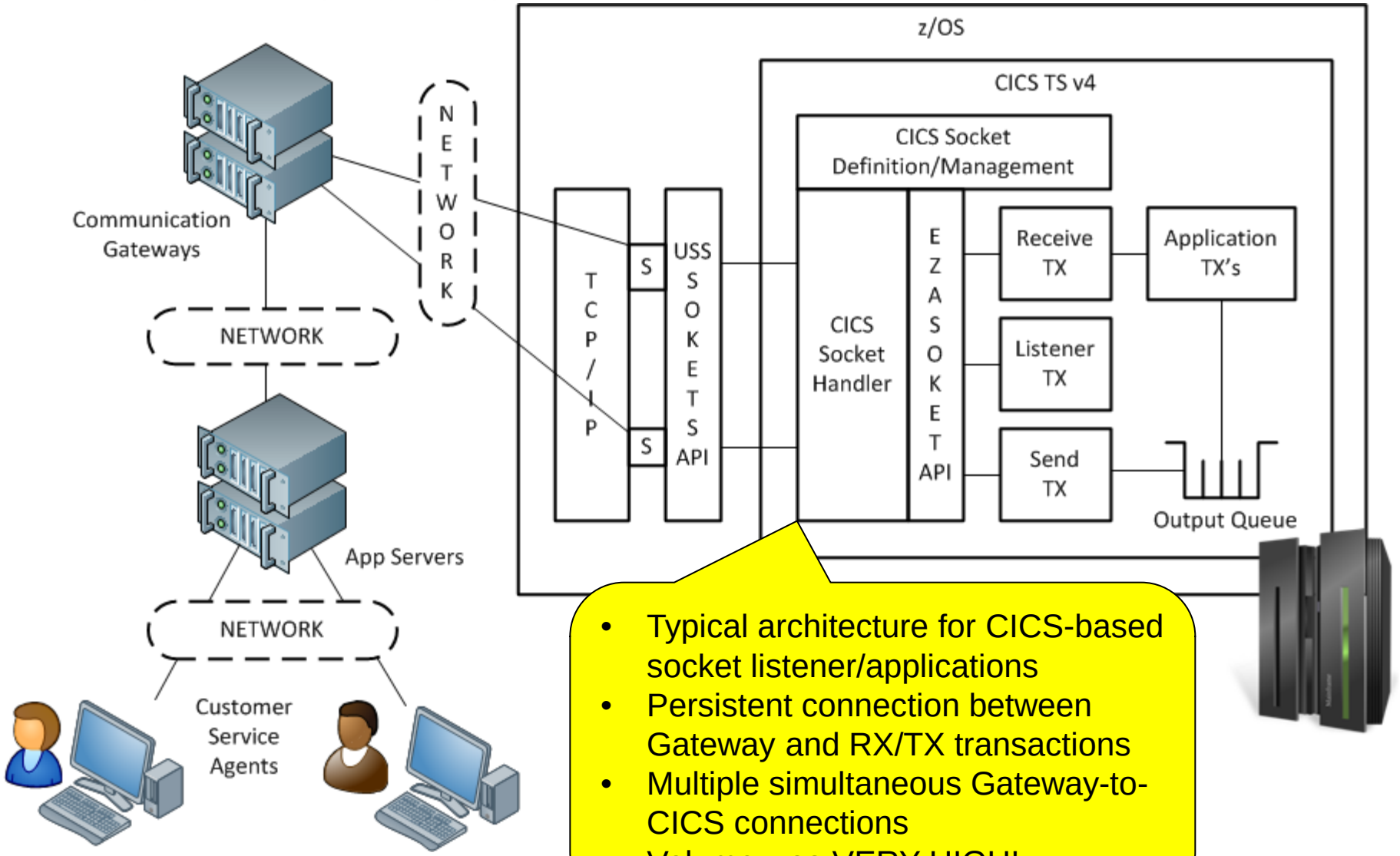
- **Customers were continuing to state their concern about doing more for less**
- **We had just delivered zIIP-enabled versions of our products, and our heads were filled with fun facts related to:**
  - **z/OS, USS, LE, WLM, SRBs, zIIP**
  - **CICS TS v4 Open Transaction Environment**
  - **Sockets**

- **Other factors:**
  - **We are zealots regarding integration of CICS apps/data as part of web/cloud-based infrastructure**
  - **We are committed to delivering functionality under CICS**
  - **I didn't want to stop writing code (zIIP project was too fun)**

Cut to the Chase

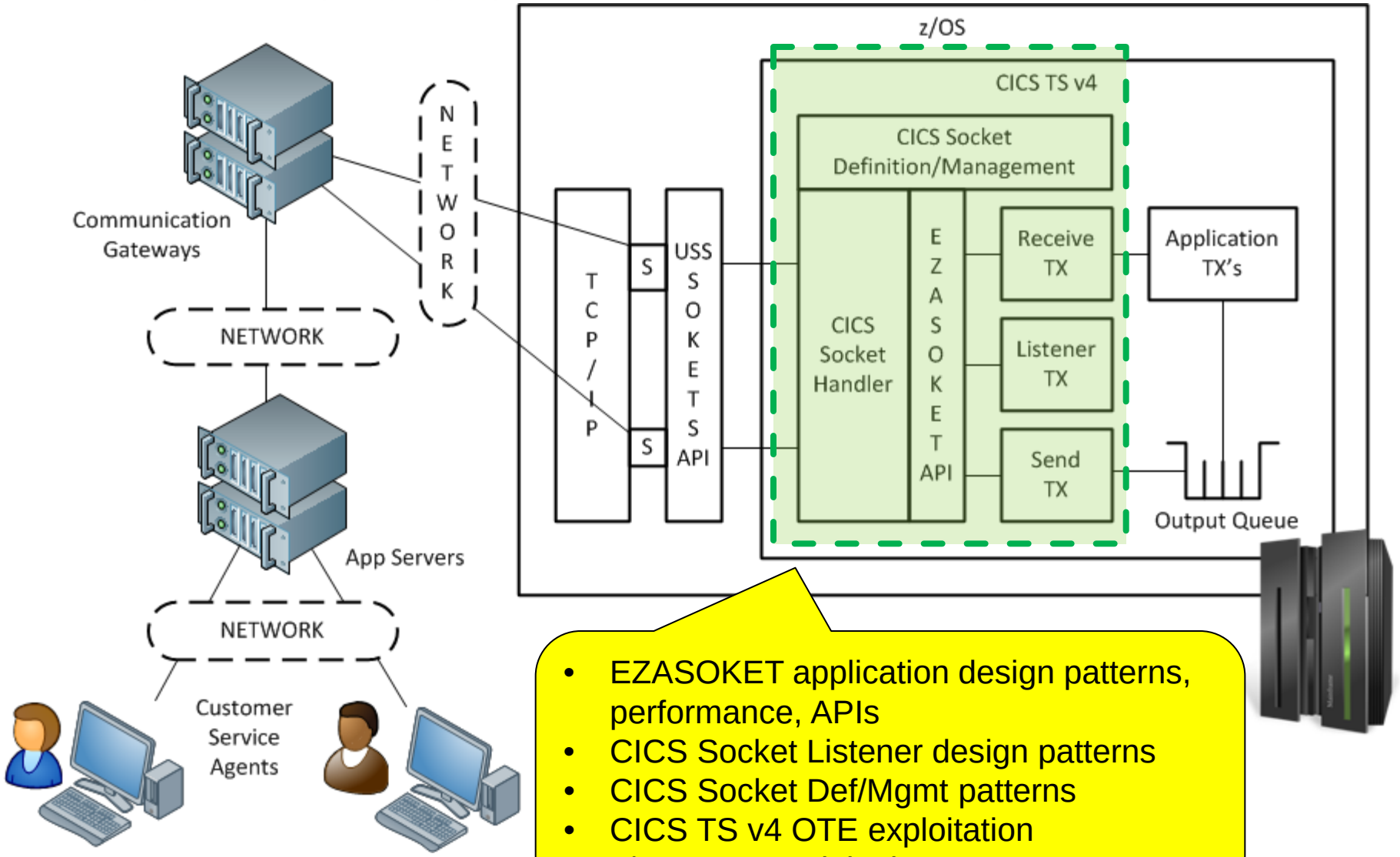
- **What we learned was surprising and the results were unexpected (in a good way)**
- **We ended up exploiting CICS TS v4 OTE and z/OS to create a solution**
- **I want this to be knowledge you can use:**
  - **The approach is generally applicable to any CICS customer who has socket apps**
  - **The higher your volume, the more it matters**
- **Yes… I'm "a vendor" but please forget that for now – I'm speaking as a CICS developer**

Initial Conditions



- Typical architecture for CICS-based socket listener/applications
- Persistent connection between Gateway and RX/TX transactions
- Multiple simultaneous Gateway-to-CICS connections
- Volume was VERY HIGH!

Research Focus



- EZASOKET application design patterns, performance, APIs
- CICS Socket Listener design patterns
- CICS Socket Def/Mgmt patterns
- CICS TS v4 OTE exploitation
- z/OS USS exploitation

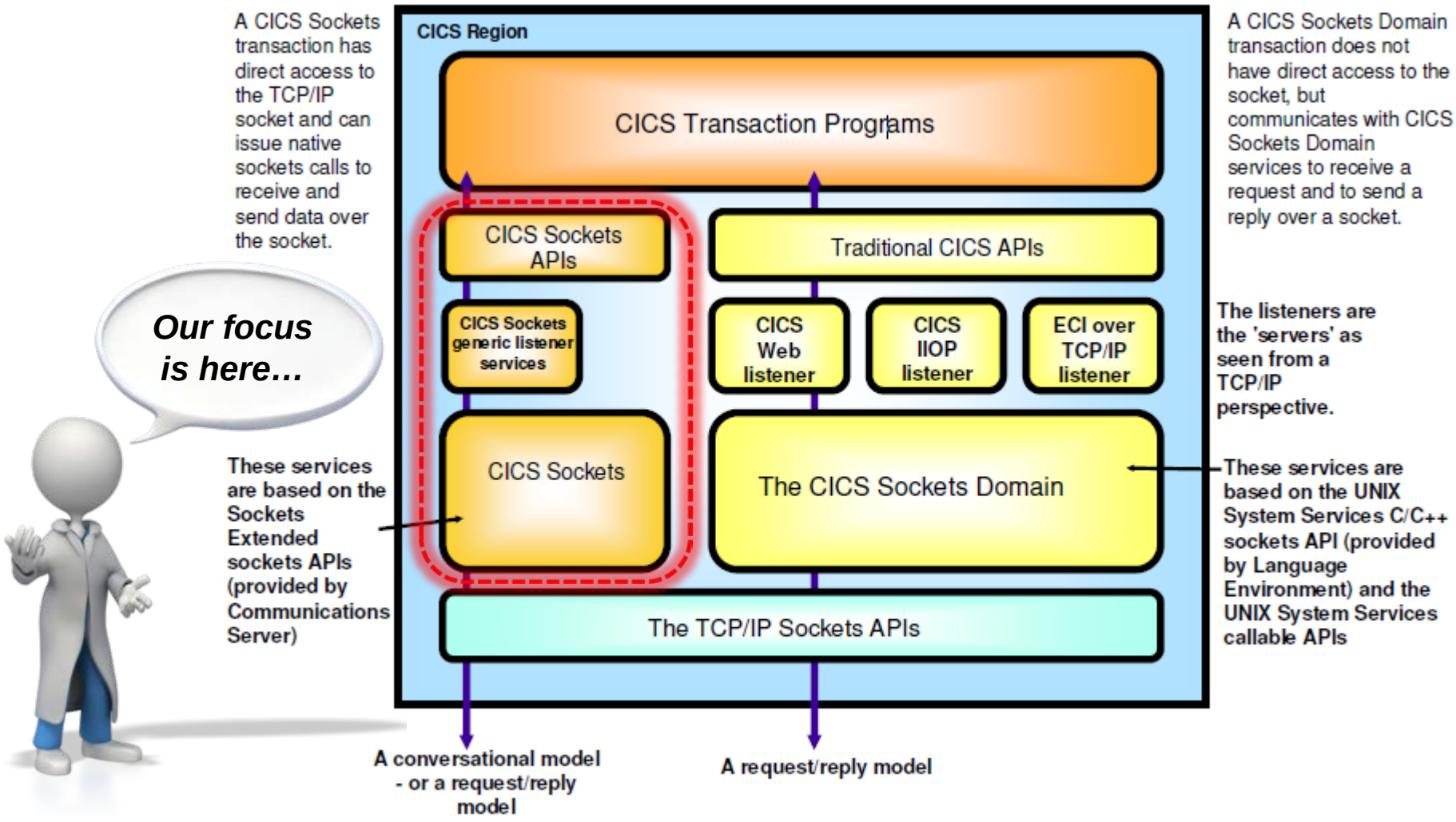
HOSTBRIDGE® TECHNOLOGY

CICS Socket Support

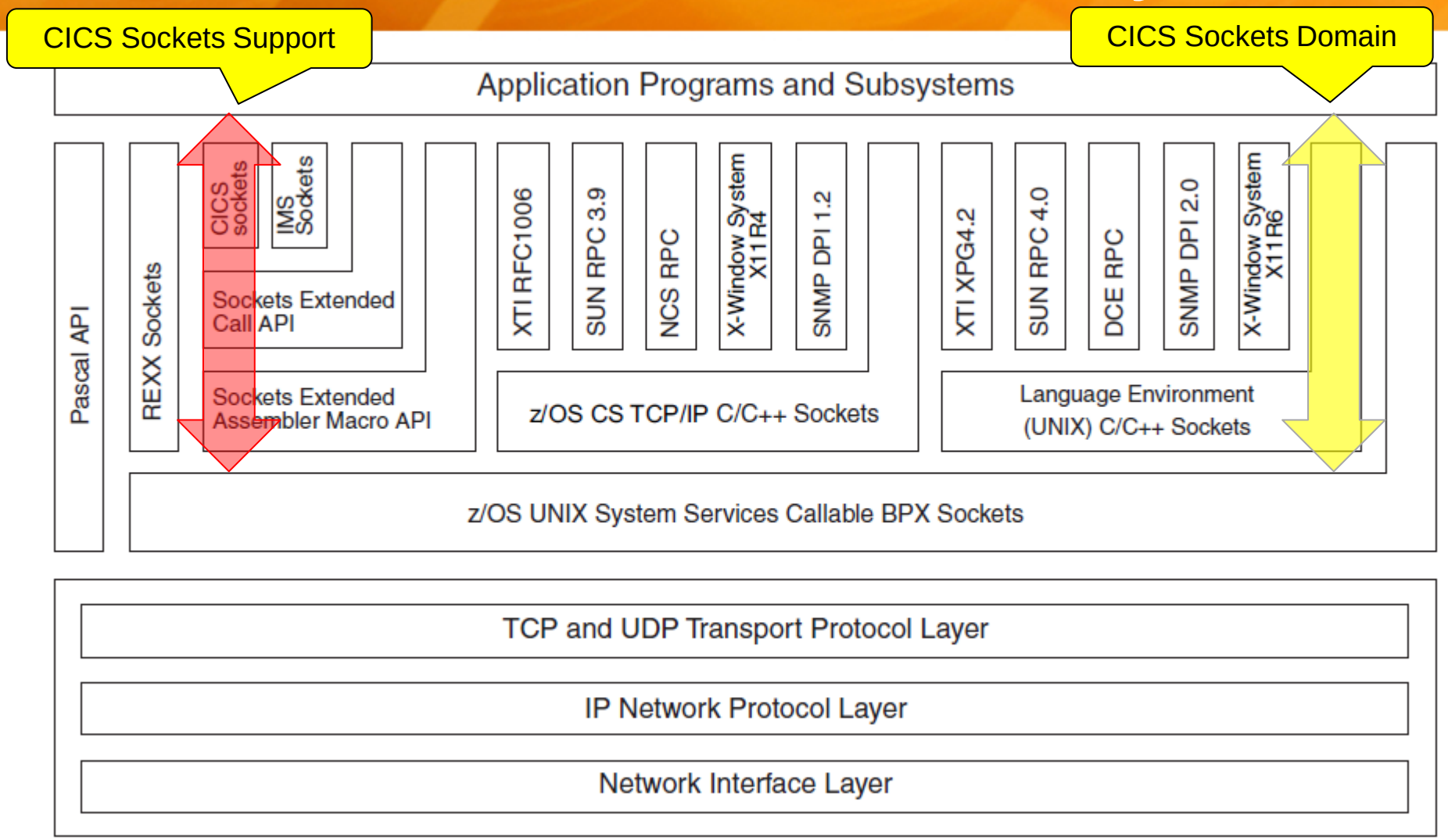
- **Provided as part of z/OS Communications Server**
- **What it includes:**
  - **Socket APIs**
    - **C language API**
    - **Sockets Extended API (aka, EZASOKET or EZACICSO)**
    - **Original COBOL API (aka, EZACICAL)**
  - **Listeners: standard and enhanced (i.e., CSKL); or user-written**
  - **Definition and management components (e.g., EZAO)**
- **A <u>well-documented workhorse</u>, but…**
- **It's been around a long time (circa 1992)**
- **Older than CICS OTE**
  - **Thus… much of it's original architecture**
- **Reengineered to support OTE**
  - **But… the general approach of the original architecture persisted**

Thus, I'm NOT referring to CICS TS features which use the CICS Sockets Domain.

CICS Sockets ≠ Sockets Domain

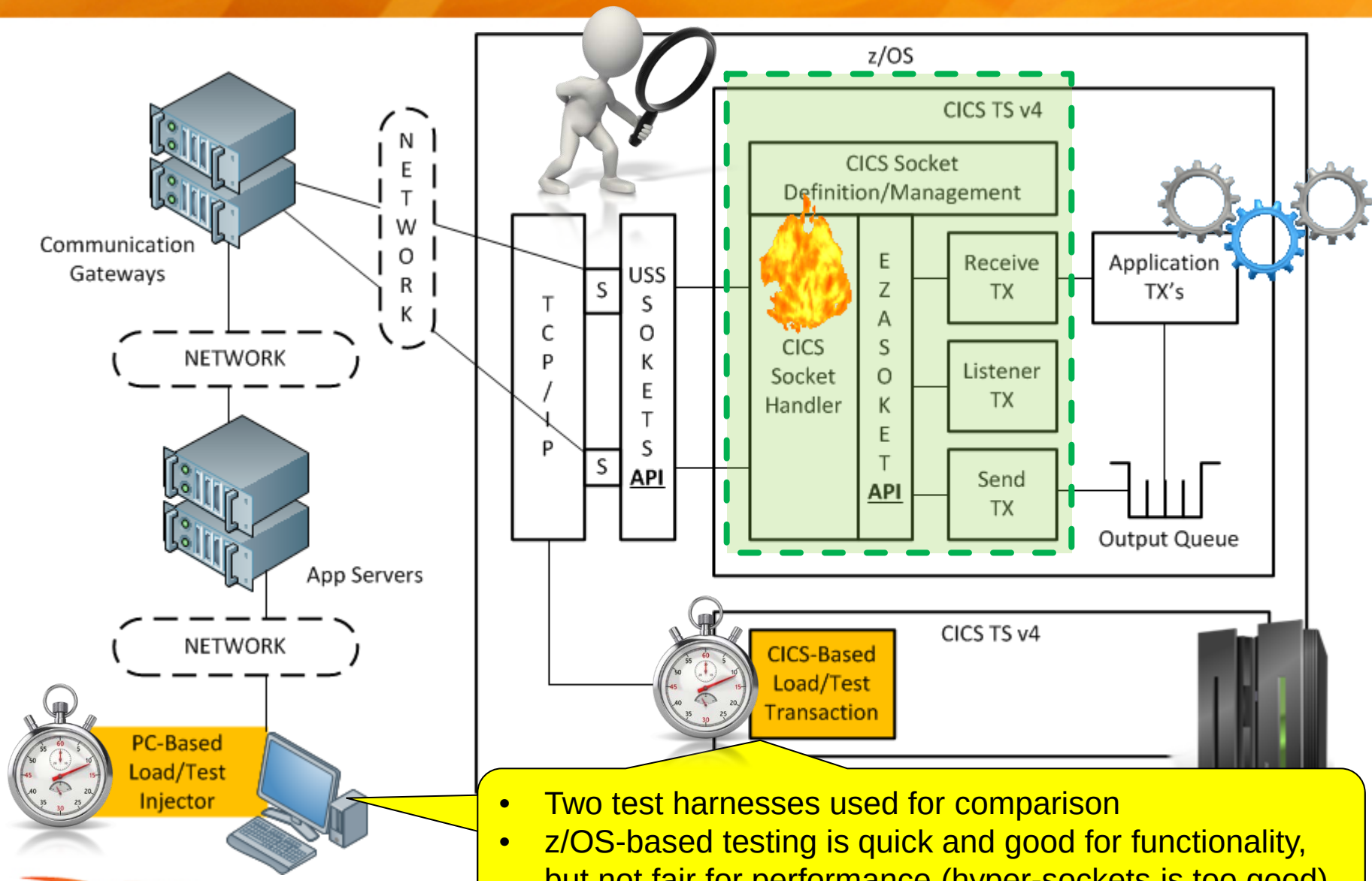


CICS Sockets Pathway



z/OS Communications Server, IP Sockets Application Programming Interface Guide and Reference

Test Methodology



- Two test harnesses used for comparison
- z/OS-based testing is quick and good for functionality, but not fair for performance (hyper-sockets is too good)

Standard Test Cycle

- **Each test cycle caused the gateway to:**
  - **Open 2 sockets via Listener TX**
  - **Send/Receive TXs started to handle socket I/O**
  - **Generate 2,500 request-response iterations (no delays)**
  - **Each request caused a LINK to a customer program**
  - **Bytes in/out modeled for average production use case**
- **Benchmarks run:**
  - **1 concurrent test cycle**
  - **5 concurrent test cycles (10 sockets and 12,500 iterations)**
- **Objectives:**
  - **Measure region-level CPU burn for various configurations**
  - **Differentiate between CPU burn associated with Socket apps and Socket infrastructure**

Selected to keep total region-level CPU use to a manageable level on test LPAR

Tooling Developed

- **It's difficult to get a snapshot of a CICS region's total resource consumption that is:**
  - high-resolution (microseconds)
  - low-overhead
  - Immediate
  - Includes zIIP and zAAP
- **Ended up developing four tools:**
  - A CICS transaction to provide a summary of MVS ASSB timers (HBZT)
  - A CICS XMNOUT exit to log transaction metrics via WTO
  - A CICS-based test harness to generate socket activity
  - A PC-based test harness to augment the customer's
- **The combination allowed us to:**
  - drive testing fast
  - quickly assess results from all angles
- **Special thanks to:**
  - Larry Lawler (UNICOM)
  - Ed Jaffe (Phoenix Software)
  - Scott Glenn (HostBridge)
- **For info on HBZT, see me after session**

HBZT CPU Transaction

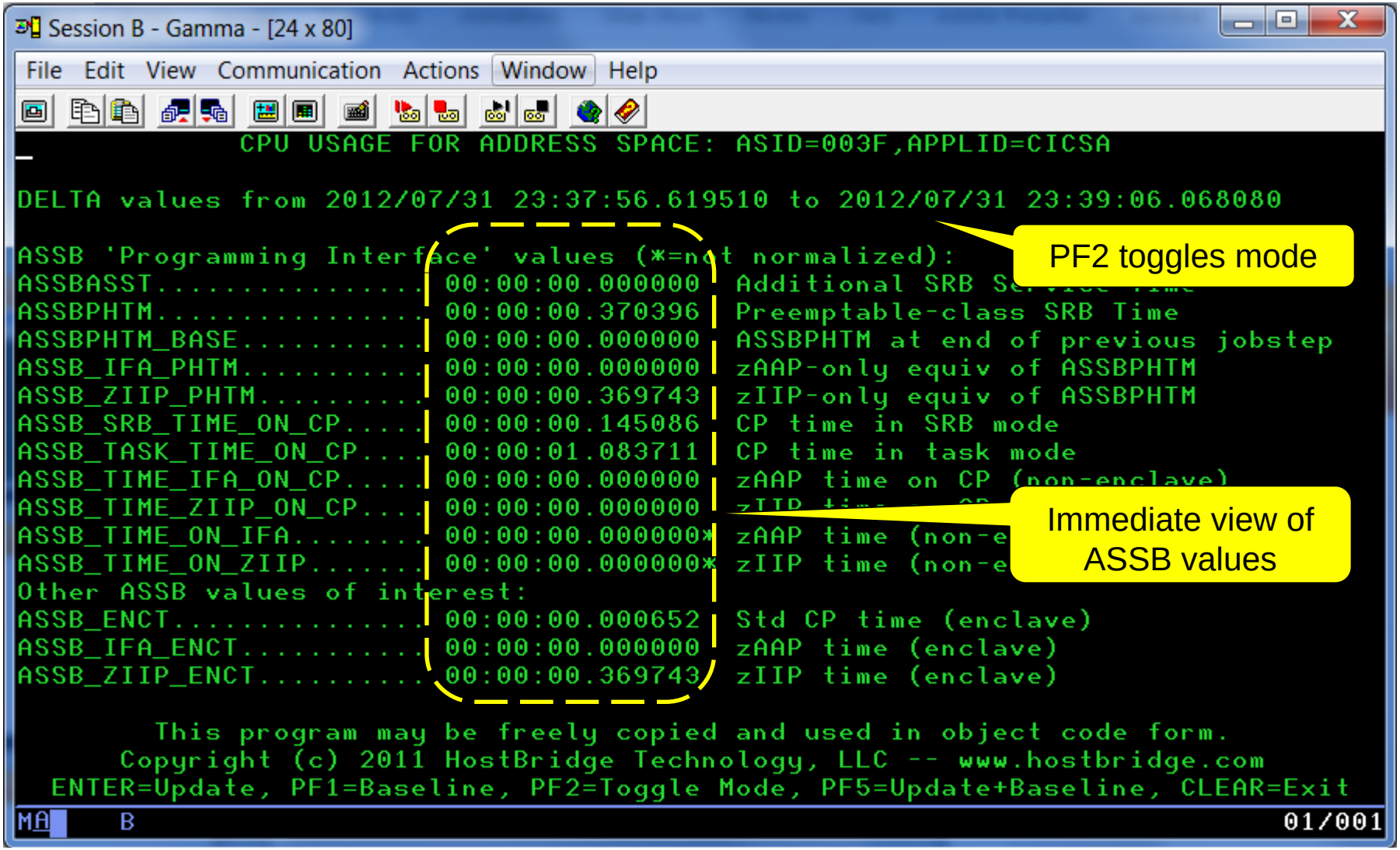
Session B - Gamma - [24 x 80]

File Edit View Communication Actions Window Help

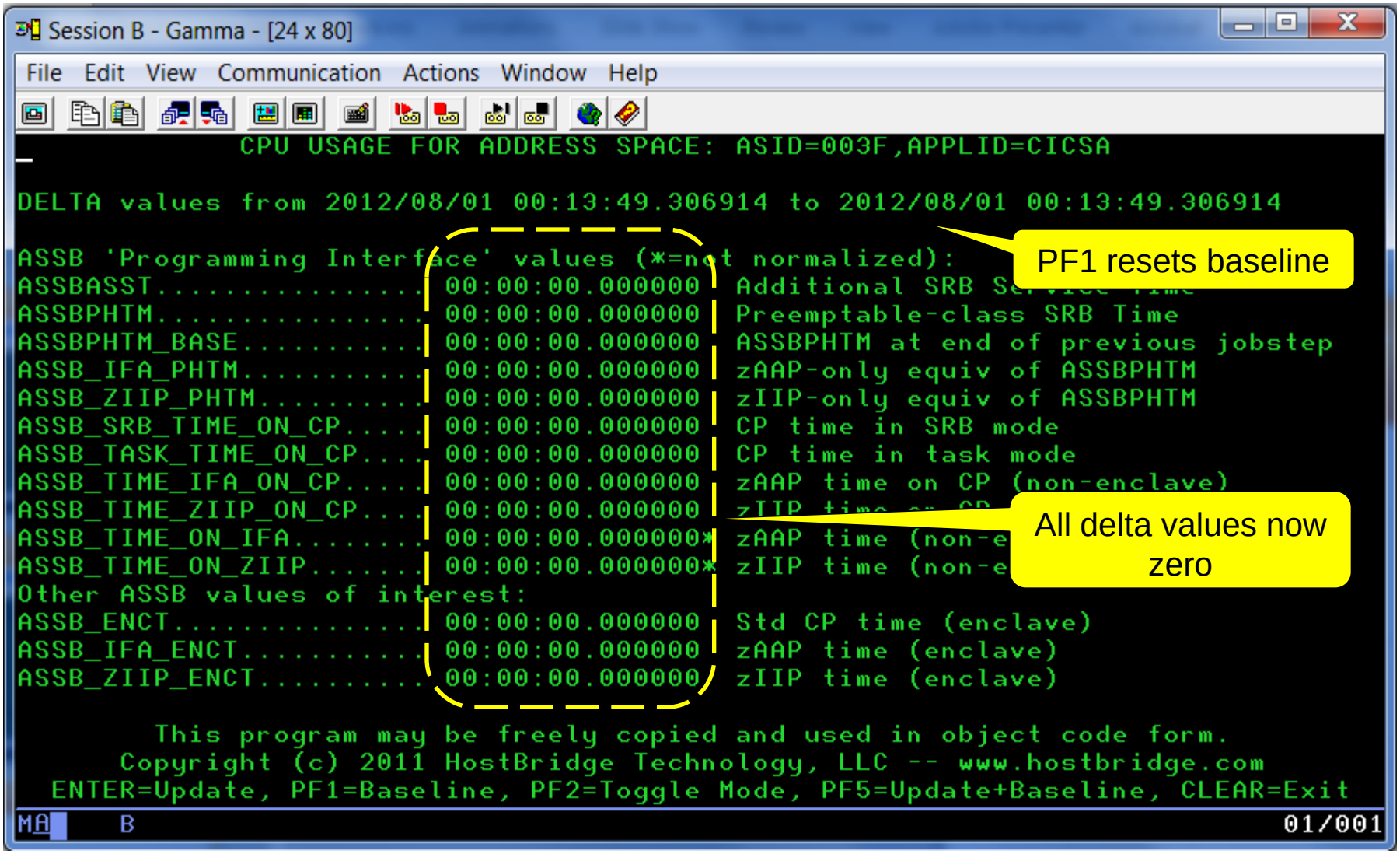
```
            CPU USAGE FOR ADDRESS SPACE: ASID=003F,APPLID=CICSA

ACTUAL values at 2012/07/31 23:39:06.068080

ASSB 'Programming Interface' values (*=not normalized):
ASSBASST................ 00:00:00.000000  Additional SRB Service Time
ASSBPHTM................ 00:00:00.385582  Preemptable-class SRB Time
ASSBPHTM_BASE........... 00:00:00.000000  ASSBPHTM at end of previous jobstep
ASSB_IFA_PHTM........... 00:00:00.000000  zAAP-only equiv of ASSBPHTM
ASSB_ZIIP_PHTM.......... 00:00:00.378829  zIIP-only equiv of ASSBPHTM
ASSB_SRB_TIME_ON_CP..... 00:00:00.288598  CP time in SRB mode
ASSB_TASK_TIME_ON_CP.... 00:00:02.473032  CP time in task mode
ASSB_TIME_IFA_ON_CP..... 00:00:00.000000  zAAP time on CP (non-enclave)
ASSB_TIME_ZIIP_ON_CP.... 00:00:00.000000  zIIP time on CP (non-enclave)
ASSB_TIME_ON_IFA........ 00:00:00.000000* zAAP time (non-enclave)
ASSB_TIME_ON_ZIIP....... 00:00:00.000000* zIIP time (non-enclave)
Other ASSB values of interest:
ASSB_ENCT............... 00:00:00.006224  Std CP time (enclave)
ASSB_IFA_ENCT........... 00:00:00.000000  zAAP time (enclave)
ASSB_ZIIP_ENCT.......... 00:00:00.378829  zIIP time (enclave)

        This program may be freely copied and used in object code form.
      Copyright (c) 2011 HostBridge Technology, LLC -- www.hostbridge.com
  ENTER=Update, PF1=Baseline, PF2=Toggle Mode, PF5=Update+Baseline, CLEAR=Exit
MA    B                                                          01/001
```

ACTUAL mode upon entry

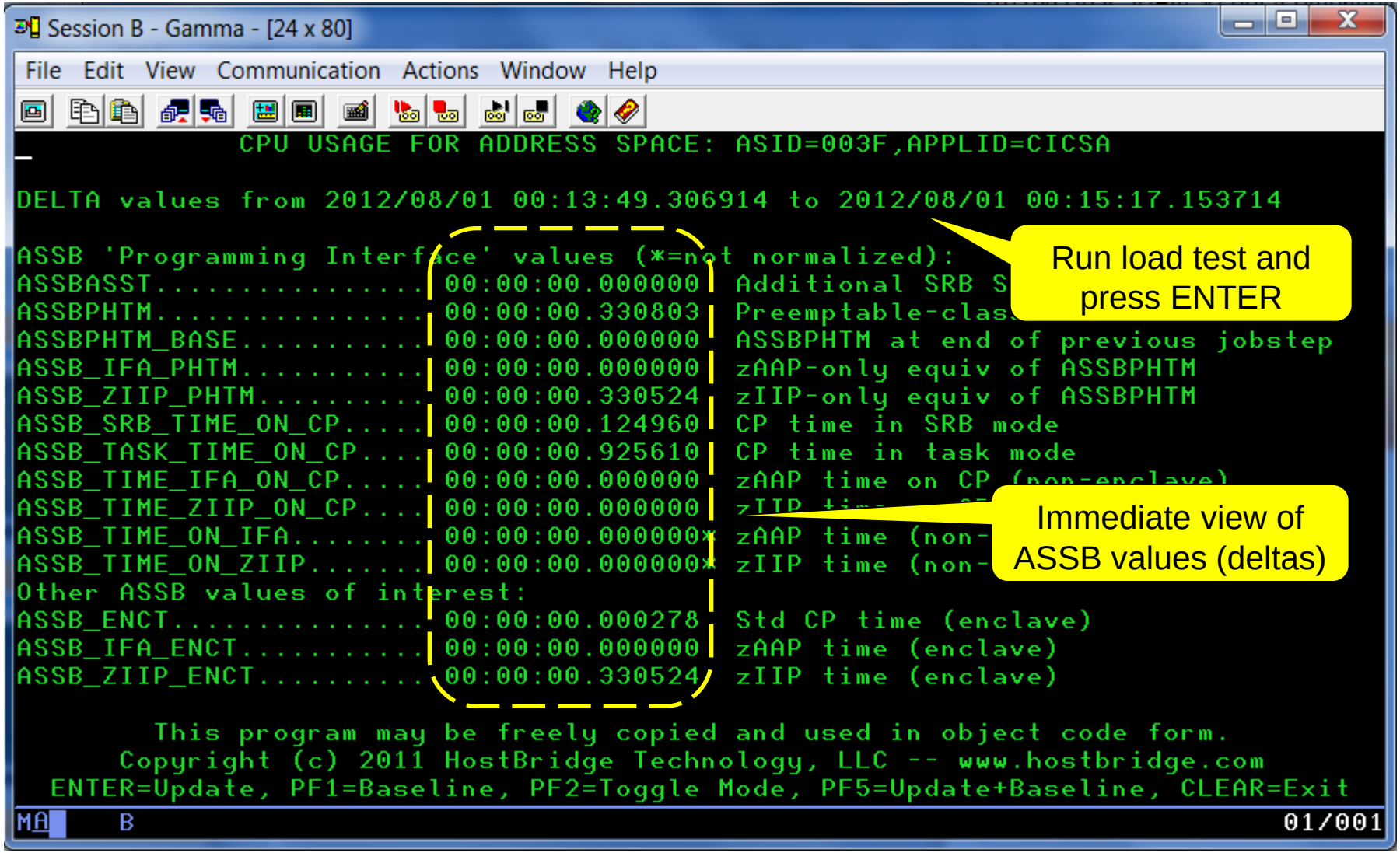
HBZT CPU Transaction



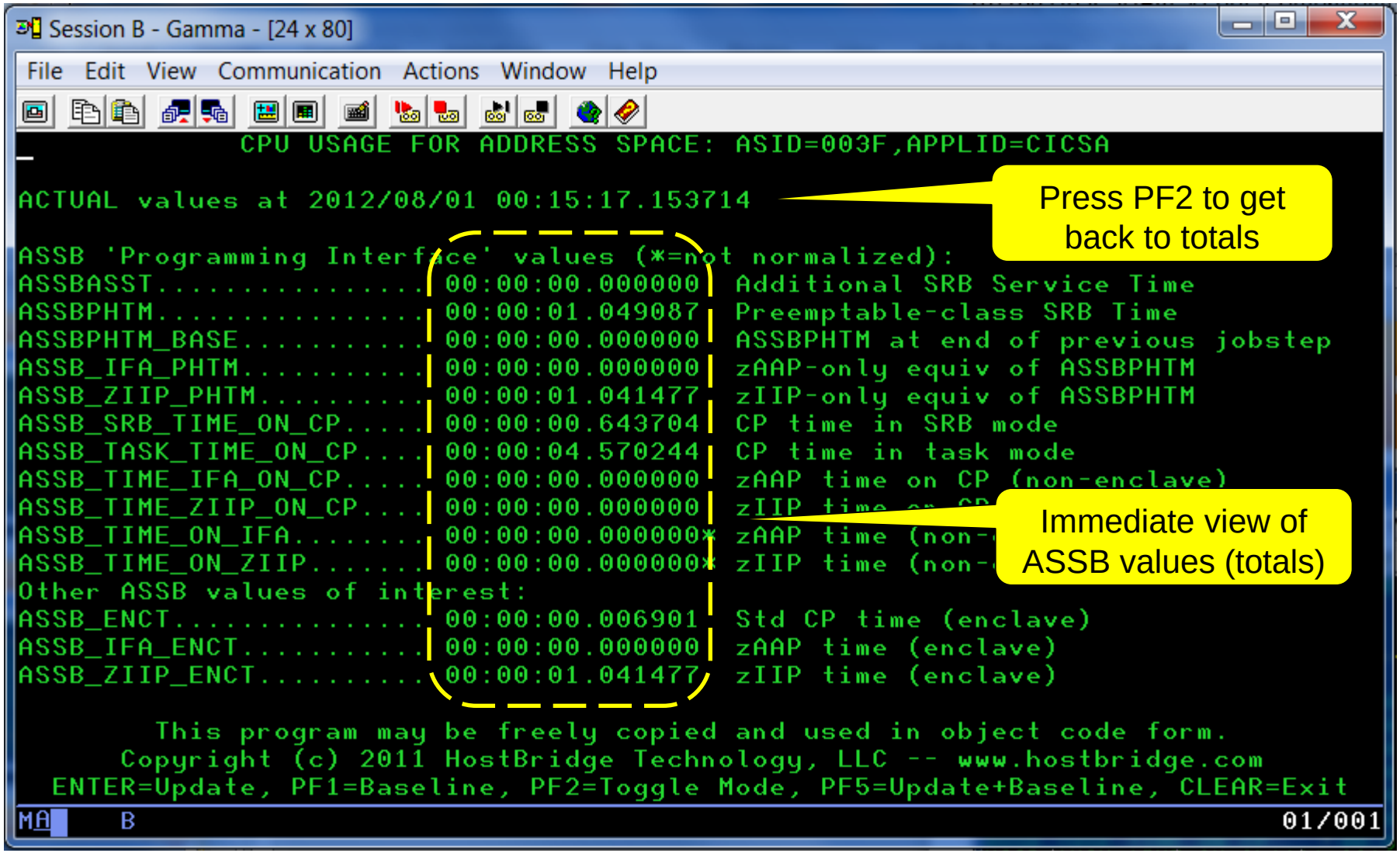
HBZT CPU Transaction



HBZT CPU Transaction



HBZT CPU Transaction



XMNOUT Exit Metrics

```
T0000162 ================================================================
T0000162 TRAN=HBSR,PGM=HBZCSRCM,TERM=,USERID=CICSA,CPU=270422 (usec)
T0000162 ----------------------------------------------------------------
T0000162 SCUGETCT -        1  USER GETMAINS BELOW
T0000162 TMRSCUGA -    10013  USER GETMAINS ABOVE
T0000162 TDTOTCT  -       11  TD REQUESTS
T0000162 TSTOTCT  -    20010  TS REQUESTS
T0000162 ICTOTCT  -        2  IC REQUESTS
T0000162 SPSYNCCT -        1  SYNCPOINT REQUESTS
T0000162 PCLINKCT -    10001  LINK REQUESTS
T0000162 PCLOADCT -        1  LOAD REQUESTS
T0000162 TOTAL    -    40040  (DOMAIN COUNTERS, ABOVE)
T0000162 EICTOTCT -    40048  EXEC CICS REQUESTS
T0000162 ================================================================
T0000160 ================================================================
T0000160 TRAN=HBSS,PGM=HBZCSSNM,TERM=,USERID=CICSA,CPU=337755 (usec)
T0000160 ----------------------------------------------------------------
T0000160 SCUGETCT -        1  USER GETMAINS BELOW
T0000160 TMRSCUGA -    10014  USER GETMAINS ABOVE
T0000160 TDTOTCT  -       11  TD REQUESTS
T0000160 TSTOTCT  -    30009  TS REQUESTS
T0000160 ICTOTCT  -        2  IC REQUESTS
T0000160 SPSYNCCT -        1  SYNCPOINT REQUESTS
T0000160 PCLINKCT -    10002  LINK REQUESTS
T0000160 PCLOADCT -        1  LOAD REQUESTS
T0000160 TOTAL    -    50041  (DOMAIN COUNTERS, ABOVE)
T0000160 EICTOTCT -    60052  EXEC CICS REQUESTS
T0000160 ================================================================
```

Immediate view of Receive TX from CICS perspective

Immediate view of Send TX from CICS perspective

Program Metrics

- **In order to triangulate all views of resource consumption, we included instrumentation in our code (provided it would not bias the results):**
  - **Simple activity & data counters**
  - **WLM Enclave metrics**

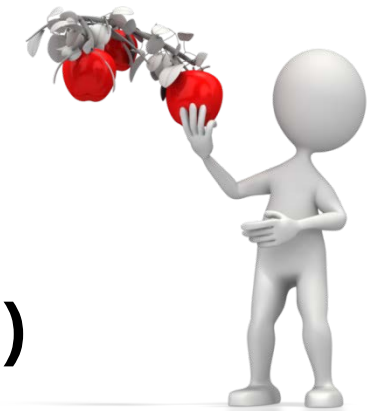
```
SEND      OPER=10001,MSGS=10001,DATA=10001
RECEIVE   OPER=20001,MSGS=10001,DATA=1280000
SELECT    OPER=10001
TOTAL     OPER=40003,MSGS=20002,DATA=1290001
STATS     TOTL=1541505:221854,INIT=207:33,PROC=1541298:221821,TERM=0:0 (usec)
ENCLCPU   HBZCSRCZ:CPU=221930,ZIIP=221714,ZIIPQUAL=221907,ZIIPONCP=192 (usec)
ENCLRPT   HBZCSRCZ:CPU=221957,GP=243/0%,ZIIP=221714/99%,ZAAP=0/0% (usec)
TERMINATION REQUESTED: CONNID=AAOS,TASK=0000160
SEND      OPER=10001,MSGS=10001,DATA=2560001
RECEIVE   OPER=0,MSGS=0,DATA=0
SELECT    OPER=0
TOTAL     OPER=10001,MSGS=10001,DATA=2560001
STATS     TOTL=1535853:108306,INIT=362:31,PROC=1535491:108275,TERM=0:0 (usec)
ENCLCPU   HBZCSSNZ:CPU=108419,ZIIP=108307,ZIIPQUAL=108376,ZIIPONCP=68 (usec)
ENCLRPT   HBZCSSNZ:CPU=108441,GP=134/0%,ZIIP=108307/99%,ZAAP=0/0% (usec)
```

Immediate view of Receive TX from WLM perspective

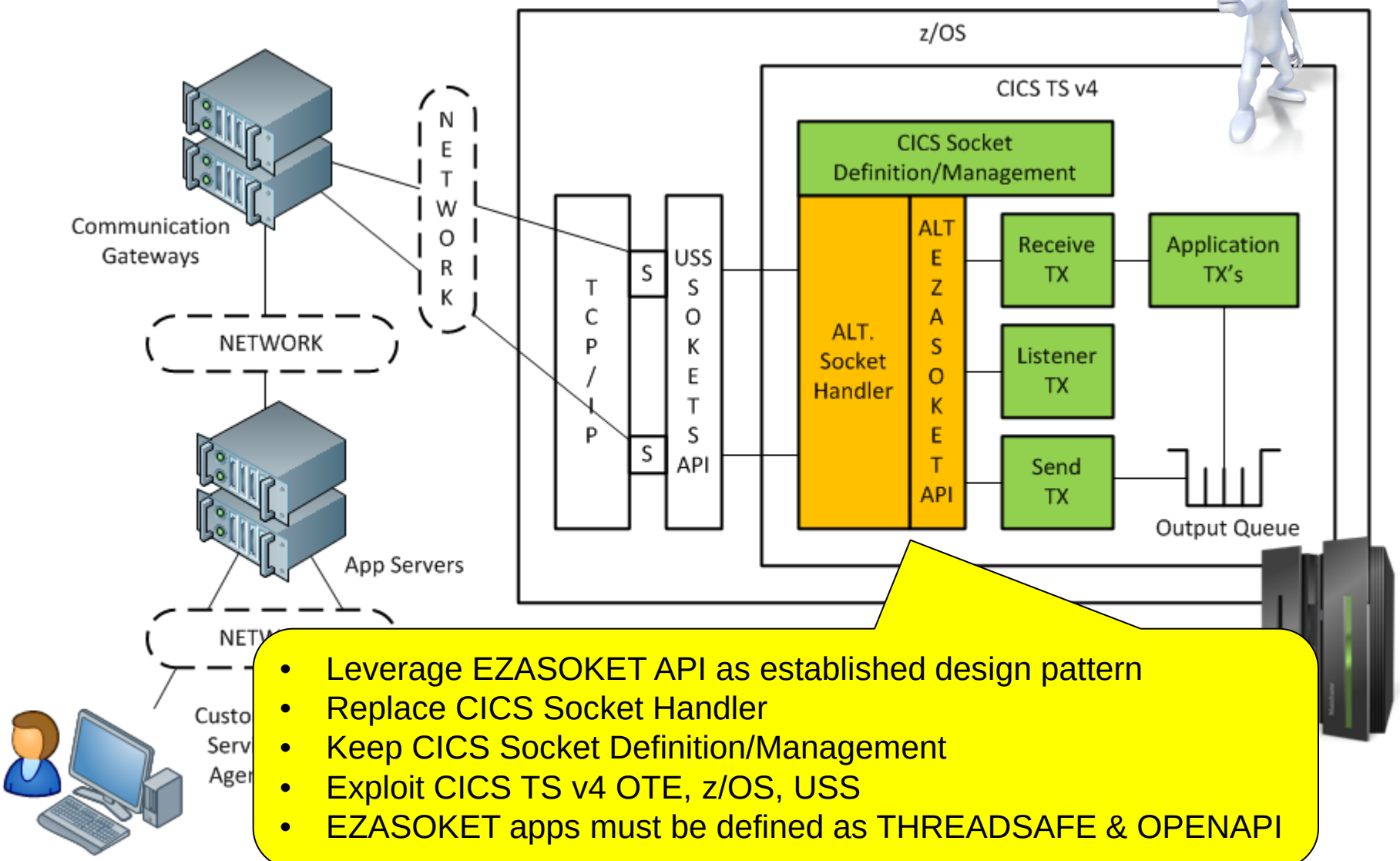
Immediate view of Send TX from WLM perspective

Where the Data Led Us

- **Under volume testing, the CPU burn associated with the CICS Sockets Support was measurable and linear (confirmed customer's theory)**
- **I won't characterize it as "high" or "low" because the only thing that mattered was whether it could be lower (or not so linear)**
- **Thus, we began to:**
  - **Isolate various components and their impact**
  - **Consider how to provide alternative functionality (but complimentary to CICS TS)**
- **Low hanging fruit seemed to be CICS Socket Handler (via EZASOKET API)**



Solution 1



- Leverage EZASOKET API as established design pattern
- Replace CICS Socket Handler
- Keep CICS Socket Definition/Management
- Exploit CICS TS v4 OTE, z/OS, USS
- EZASOKET apps must be defined as THREADSAFE & OPENAPI

Solution 1 Assessment

- **Good…**
  - **The Alt. Socket Handler lowered GP CPU burn associated with Socket I/O**
  - **All it required was a re-link of apps that used EZASOKET API (with alternate load module)**
  - **Transparent to existing user-written Listeners, Sender and Receiver TXs**
- **However…**
  - **EZASOKET API emulation seemed to be a bit of needless overhead (e.g., parameter marshaling and transformation)**
  - **zIIP enablement opportunity wasn't optimal due to task switching**
- **But wait…**
  - **The design patterns for CICS-based Listeners, Receivers and Senders are fairly common**

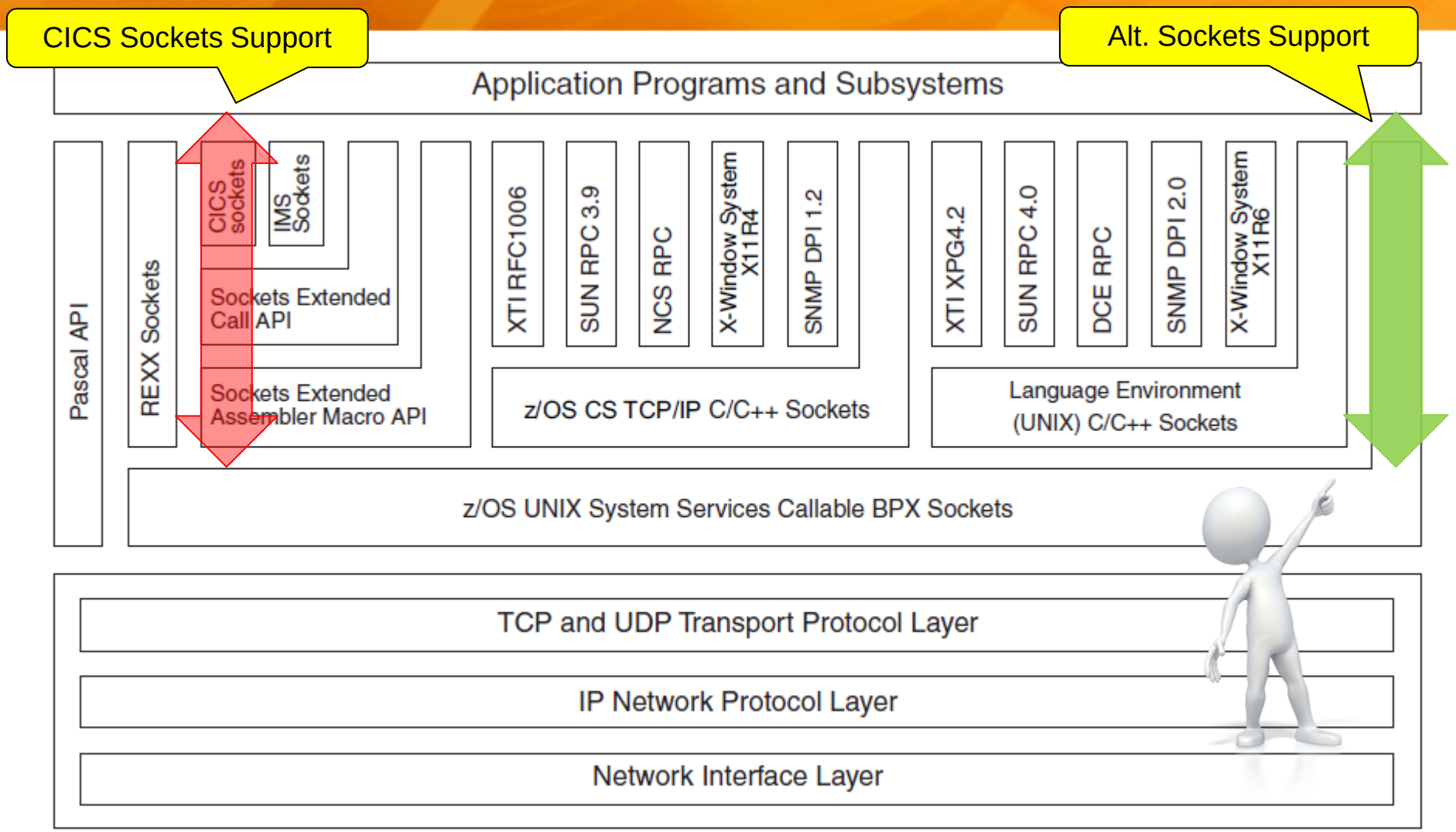
Solution 2

- Replace Listener, Receive, Send TX with equivalent/generic alternatives
- Eliminate EZASOKET API as a design pattern
- Keep CICS Socket Definition/Management
- Exploit CICS TS v4 OTE, z/OS, USS, zIIP

Solution 2 Assessment

- **Very Good…**
  - **GP CPU burn associated with Socket I/O went down further**
  - **EZASOKET API emulation eliminated (all components use native sockets)**
  - **Transparent to the customer's applications**
  - **CICS Socket definition/management leveraged**
    - **EZAO still used to Configure, Start, or Stop Listeners**
- **zIIP enablement potential maximized**
  - **Minimal task switching**
  - **Customer application code not zIIP enabled (per IBM-ISV T&C's)**

Pathway - Old vs. New



z/OS Communications Server, IP Sockets Application Programming Interface Guide and Reference

Test Results

TEST: concurrent instances=1; total requests=2500

Standard Socket Infrastructure (EZA-based)

	Send TX (GP)	Recv TX (GP)	Total
1	140714	332702	
2	138355	317988	
3	141509	336017	
Avg	140193	328902	469095

All times in microseconds

Alt. Socket Infrastructure (ziip=n)

	Alt Send TX (GP)	Alt Recv TX (GP)		
1	128676	285711		
2	125736	271014		
3	119938	240784		
Avg	124783	265836	390620	-17%

% reduction - Old vs. New w/o zIIP

Alt. Socket Infrastructure (ziip=y)

	Alt Send TX (GP)	(zIIP)	Alt Recv TX (GP)	(zIIP)			
1	94956	48131	165486	114161			
2	94766	48759	165751	114349			
3	94049	47391	159752	111208			
4	94522	47390	155531	107856			
Avg	94573		161630		256203	-34%	**-45%**

% reduction - New w/o zIIP to New w/ zIIP

% reduction - Old vs. New w/ zIIP

Test Results (w/ Concurrency)

TEST: concurrent instances=5; total requests=12500

Standard Socket Infrastructure (EZA-based)

	Send TX (GP)	Recv TX (GP)	Total
1	609880	1226658	
2	614881	1234086	
3	617669	1259704	
Avg	614143	1240149	1854293

All times in microseconds

Alt. Socket Infrastructure (ziip=n)

	Alt Send TX (GP)	Alt Recv TX (GP)		
	491684	782429		
	496651	780384		
	502901	804619		
Avg	497079	789144	1286223	-31%

% reduction - Old vs. New w/o zIIP

The TCP/IP stack seems to get more efficient the harder you load it

Alt. Socket Infrastructure (ziip=y)

	Alt Send TX (GP)	(zIIP)	Alt Recv TX (GP)	(zIIP)		
	417841	198962	657107	424739		
	417388	194910	613641	401113		
	409281	194758	618252	399555		
	410077	193542	600015	397736		
Avg	413647		622254		1035901	-19%

% reduction - New w/o zIIP to New w/ zIIP

% reduction - Old vs. New w/ zIIP

-44%

Summary

- **CICS Socket Support has been a workhorse for a long time -- it's earned it's keep!**
- **CICS TS Open Transaction Environment continues to evolve and permits new opportunities for customers and ISV's -- thank you Hursley Lab**
- **An example is the Alternate Socket Handler described in this presentation**
- **This approach is applicable to any customer who relies heavily on CICS Socket Support**
  - **zIIP support can only be provided by a licensed ISV**
- **The final estimate was that the solution would reduce the customer's CPU usage (GP) associated with CICS Sockets I/O by:**
  - **20% without zIIP-enablement**
  - **40% with zIIP-enablement**
- **They were pleased**