CICS Explorer Traveler's Guide
CICS EXPLORER THE "NEW FACE OF CICS"

SHARE 2013 – Boston

Session 13344

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www.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/explorer/

Session Objectives

NO.	DEPARTURES
1	What is it and Why do I care?
2	Installation and Configuration
3	Workspace Logistics
4	Deployment Considerations
5	CICS Explorer Navigation *(Live Demo)*
6	What's New in CICS Explorer v5.1?
7	Summary

What is it and Why do I Care?

- **IBM's "New Face of CICS"**
  - Eclipse Based graphical tooling interface for CICS
  - Connects to CICS via the CICSPlex Web User Interface (WUI) System Task
  - Utilizes the existing CICSPlex (CPSMOBJ) Security rules
- **Capabilities**
  - User friendly
    - Easy to find what you are looking for
    - Ability to dynamically/easily/quickly manipulate your screen, so that you are only a few clicks away from the information, you REALLY need
  - Expandable, via Plug-ins
    - For Shops that have CICS Tools, Explorer provides an integrated view
    - Even for Shops without CICS Tools, Explorer provides an integrated view of their CICS Environment
  - Currently CICS Explorer can be used to perform many, but not ALL Administration Functions
- **IBM Direction**
  - IBM has made a significant commitment to Explorer
    - New releases GA approximately every 90 days
    - IBM has set up a CICS Explorer Forum, for users to comment , ask questions, etc.
    - From a Changing workforce perspective, IBM feels that Explorer will help shorten the learning curve for new IT Professionals
    - Features like CICS Event Processing, CICS Application Bundling, etc. REQUIRE CICS Explorer

IBM has "No plans to make CICS Explorer a chargeable product"

Workspace Logistics

- **What is the CICS Explorer Workspace?**
  - As with a traditional Eclipse workbench, CICS Explorer stores all user specific information in the users CICS Explorer Workspace.

- **User Credentials**	- **Connections (Depends on Deployment)**
- **Last User display**	- **CICS Event Processing Projects**
- **Installation Perspectives**	- **CICS Application Bundle Projects**
- **Java OSGI Bundles (SDK)**	- **Etc.**

  - Default Location: "C:\Documents And Settings\username\.cicsexplorer"
- **Do I Care What's in the Individual User's CICS Explorer Workspace?**
  - When considering Deployment Options, you MUST consider if it's necessary to preserve the contents of Individual User Workspaces, and plan accordingly

Installation and Configuration

- **Download the Appropriate CICS Explorer Base and Plug-in(s)**
  - [www.ibm.com/software/htp/**cics**/**explorer**/](http://www.ibm.com/software/htp/cics/explorer/)
- **Starting CICS Explorer for the First Time**
  - The workbench starts and the Welcome View is displayed
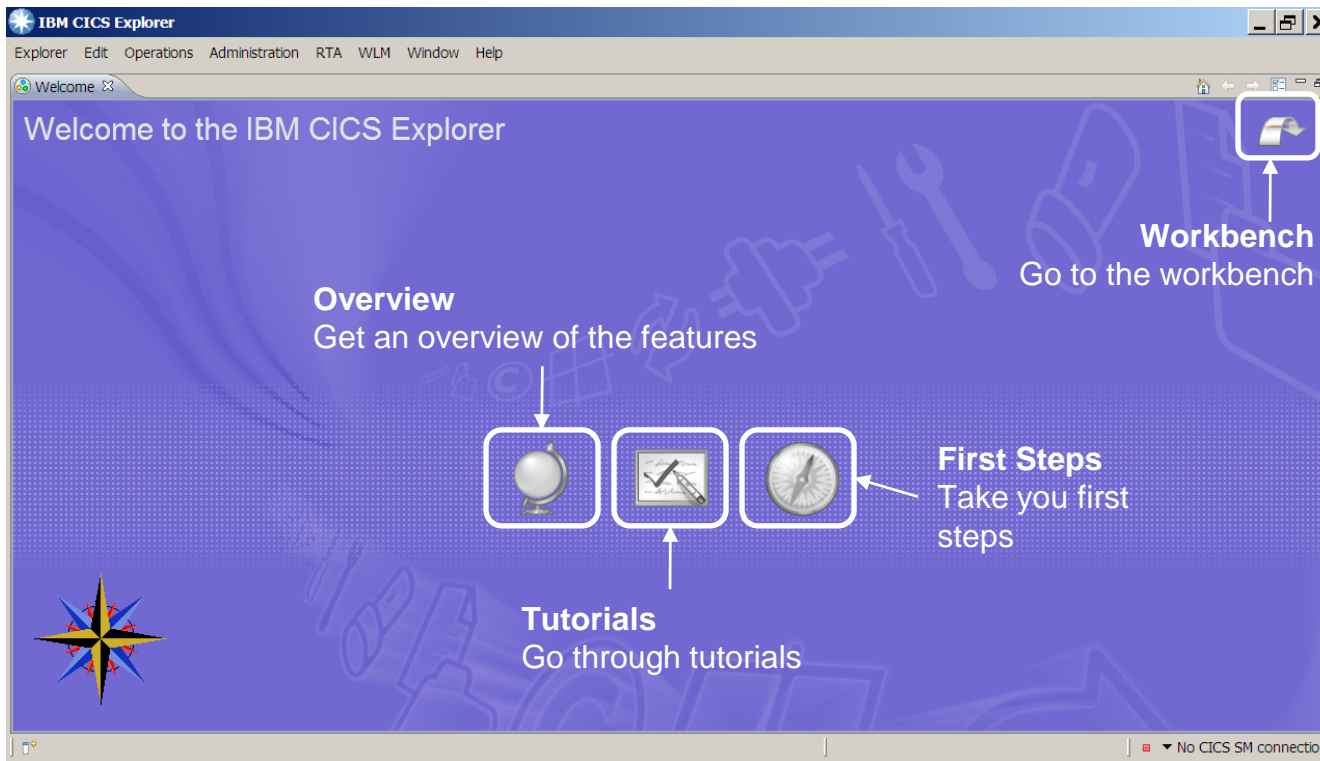
You can re-open the Welcome View at any time by Selecting

Help > Welcome

From the workbench menu bar.

Note: A CICS Explorer Workspace is Created the first time you launch Explorer

Note: Since Explorer is Eclipse based anyone could build a Plug-in for it
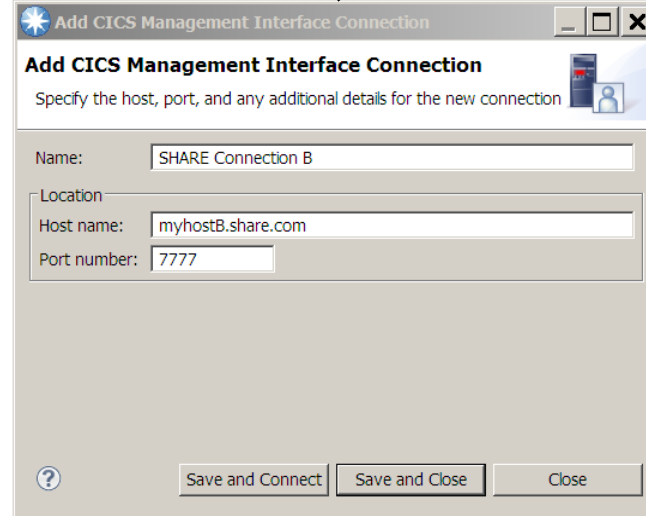
Installation and Configuration

- **Connections and Credential Administration *(CICS Explorer v1.1.1 +)***
  - The README file details the steps
  - Credentials contain user information that will be used by Connections
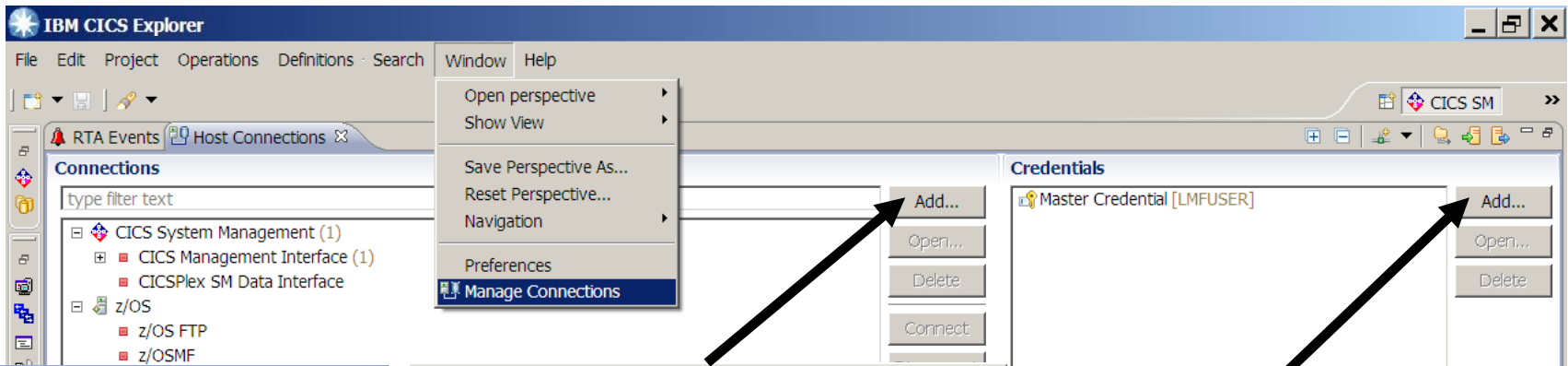
CMCI Connection Example
- **Name:** Change to anything you want

- **Host name:** TCP/IP host name of your CICSPlex SM WUI server or your stand-alone CICS region

- **Port number:** CMCI port Number you configured
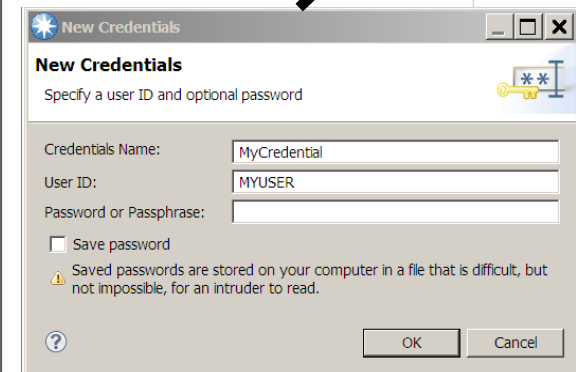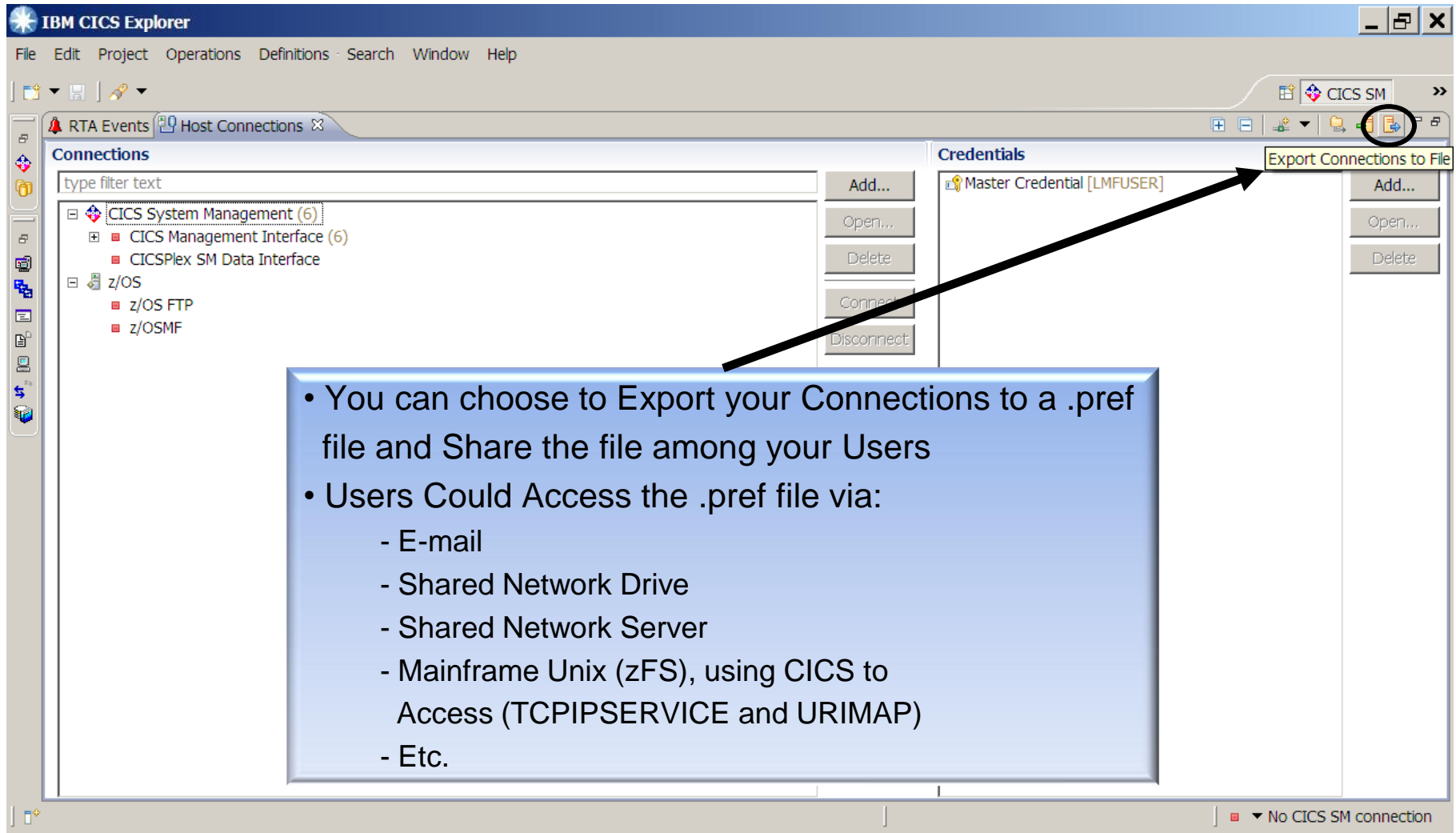
If your Passwords change periodically, you may want to leave the "Save password" box unchecked.

Installation and Configuration

- **Connection Sharing (CICS Explorer v1.1.1 +)**

- You can choose to Export your Connections to a .pref file and Share the file among your Users
- Users Could Access the .pref file via:
  - E-mail
  - Shared Network Drive
  - Shared Network Server
  - Mainframe Unix (zFS), using CICS to Access (TCPIPSERVICE and URIMAP)
  - Etc.

Complete your sessions evaluation online at SHARE.org/BostonEval

Installation and Configuration

- **Connection Sharing *(Using zFS Example)***
    - Use CICS Explorer to Export your current Connections to a .pref file
    - Upload the .pref file to zFS (XMIT ASCII)
        - Permissions for the zFS (.pref) file must allow the CICS Region Userid READ Access
        Example zFS Location: /explorerconn/
        Example File Name: CICS_Explorer_Connections.pref
    - Create a CICS TCPIPSERVICE definition, using an Open Port and your defaults
        Example TCPIPSERVICE Name: LMFCONN
        Example TCPIPPORT: 8888
    - Create a CICS URIMAP with the following Attributes Specified
        Example URIMAP Values:
        - **HOST   : ***
        - **PAth   : /ciceconn/***   (Any Name you choose. Used in the URL)
        - **Tcpipservice   : LMFCONN**   (See Example TCPIPSERVICE Name Above)
        - **Mediatype   : text/xml**
        - **HFsfile   : /explorerconn/CICS_Explorer_Connections.pref** (See Above)
    - Install the TCPIPSERVICE and URIMAP in Your CICS Region

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Installation and Configuration

- **Connection Sharing** *(Using zFS Example - Continued)*
  - Based on the Example Attributes, you can now open a web browser and type the following URL address to Test the Setup:

  http://myhostA.share.com:8888/ciceconn/CICS_Explorer_Connections.pref

Host Address	TCPIPSERVICE Port	URIMAP Path	zFS .pref File Name
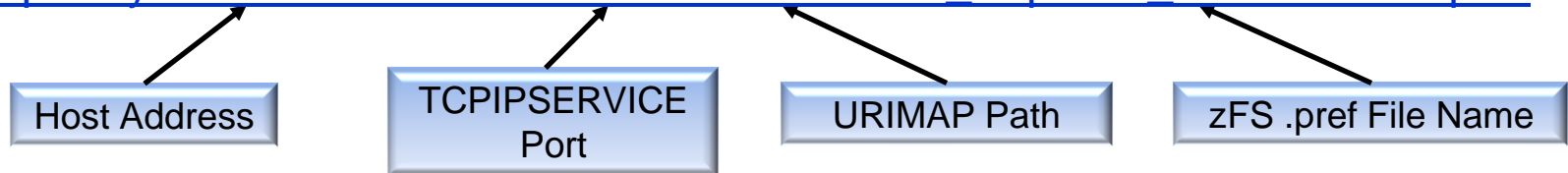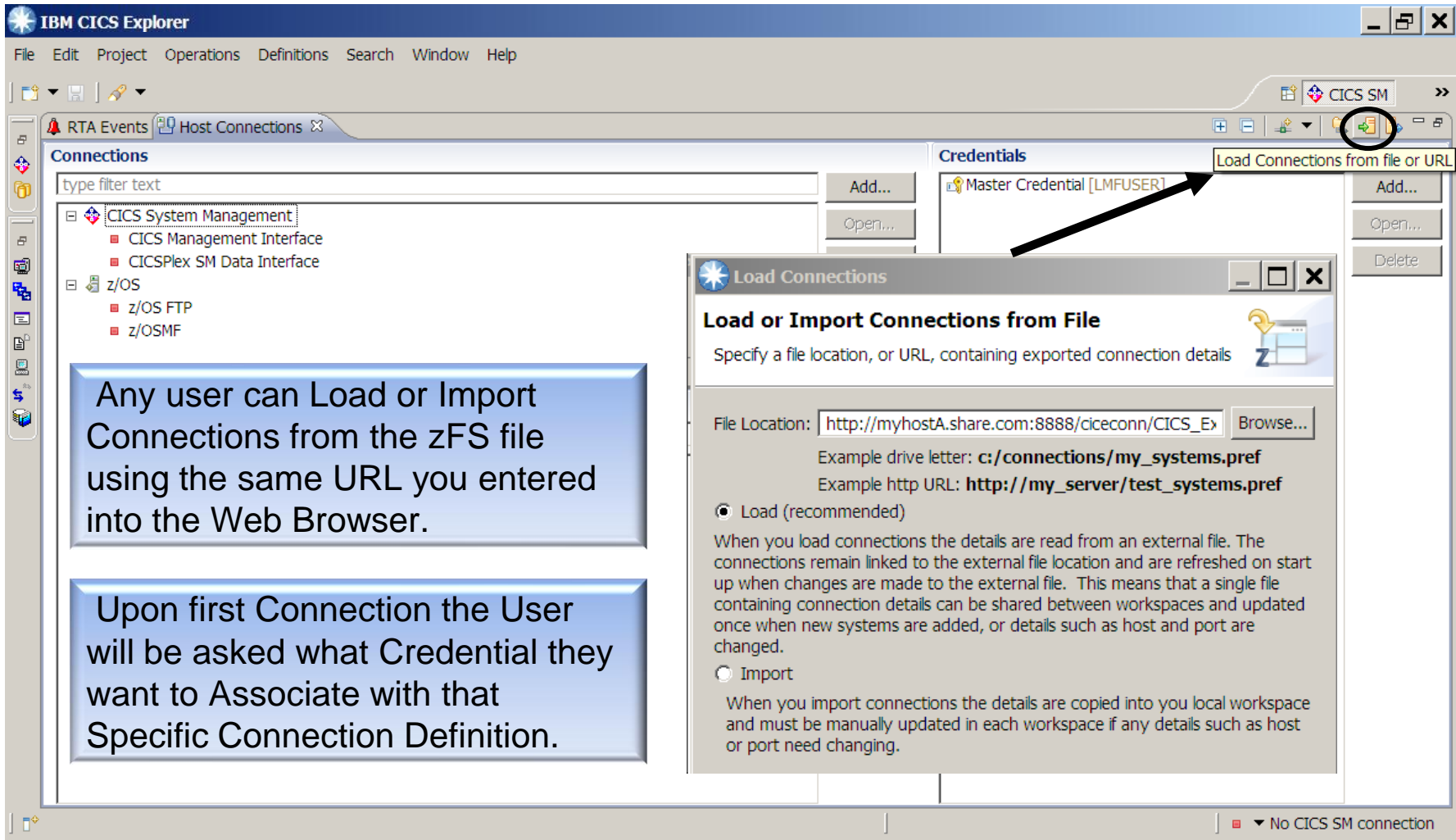
  - The following is an example of what should be Returned in the Web Browser

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" ?>
- <connections providerID="1234567892894-1">
  - <type type="com.ibm.cics.sm.comm.sm.connection">
      <configID CONFIG_NAME="SHARE Connection A" CREDENTIAL_ID="1234567896008-0"
       PORT_NAME="7777" SERVER_NAME="myhostA.share.com" configID=" SHARE Connection A     "
       host="myhostA.share.com" name=" SHARE Connection A " port="7777" />
      <configID CONFIG_NAME="SHARE Connection B" CREDENTIAL_ID="1234567896008-0"
       PORT_NAME="7777" SERVER_NAME="myhostB.share.com" configID=" SHARE Connection B     "
       host="myhostB.share.com" name=" SHARE Connection B " port="7777" />
      <configID CONFIG_NAME="SHARE Connection C" CREDENTIAL_ID="1234567896008-0"
       PORT_NAME="7777" SERVER_NAME="myhostC.share.com" configID=" SHARE Connection C     "
       host="myhostC.share.com" name=" SHARE Connection C " port="7777" />
   </type>
  </connections>
```

Installation and Configuration

- **Connection Sharing** *(Using zFS Example – Continued)*

 Any user can Load or Import Connections from the zFS file using the same URL you entered into the Web Browser.

 Upon first Connection the User will be asked what Credential they want to Associate with that Specific Connection Definition.

Deployment Considerations

- **Intended Users**
  - Number of users
  - Current WUI Users
  - User Type (Admin, Read, Mixed)
  - Will certain groups use Plug-ins?
  - User Support
- **Upgrade Administration**
  - Frequency (GA Every 90 Days)
  - Upgrade method
    - Full Replacement
    - Automatic Update
    - Archive Site File
  - Plug-in Upgrades

- **Installation Specific Audit Requirements**
  - Change Control
  - Processes and Procedures
  - Service Level Agreements
- **Workspace Administration**
  - Is it important to preserve today?
  - Will it be important to preserve?
    - CICS Event Processing, Application Bundling, etc. Project Administration
  - Backup
  - Recovery
  - Connection Administration

Deployment Considerations

- **Option One - Local on Each User Workstation**
    - Each user has an individual copy installed on their workstation
    - Very little Administrative Control
- **Option Two - Shared Network Drive**
    - Installed/Accessed from a Shared Network Drive
    - Depending on Network Configuration may have response time issues
- **Option Three - Citrix Server**
    - Installed on a Network (Citrix) Server
    - Full Administrative Control
    - Allows you to leverage Citrix Scripting

Other Resources

For any Deployment option where the .exe file is shared you should review the Eclipse guidelines for multi-user installations

http://help.eclipse.org/indigo/index.jsp?topic=/org.eclipse.platform.doc.isv/reference/misc/multi%255Fuser%255Finstalls.html

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Deployment Considerations

- **Option Four – JWS (Java Web Start)**
  - An IBM developerworks article, "Deploy CICS Explorer using Java Web Start" was published, on April 19, 2012
  - IBM officially announced JWS at the IBM IMPACT 2012 conference, in conjunction with an IBM United States Software Announcement (ALET 212-119), dated April 24, 2012
  - JWS is an industry standard solution for deployment of Java applications from the web, not a component of CICS Explorer.
    - A CICS Explorer Installation Administrator would:
      - Download a version of CICS Explorer
      - Customize it to the Installation standards.
      - Package the customized version as a JWS JNLP (Java Network Launching Protocol) file.
      - The JNLP file is then stored in an accessible installation location.
      - The first time a user points their browser to the JNLP file, a copy of CICS Explorer is loaded into the user's browser cache.
      - If a new JNLP file is deployed, the Installation user's copy is updated at the next execution.
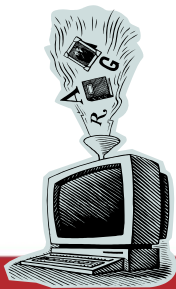
Download **Customize** **Package** **Store** **Use**
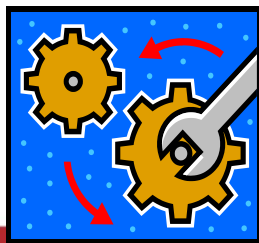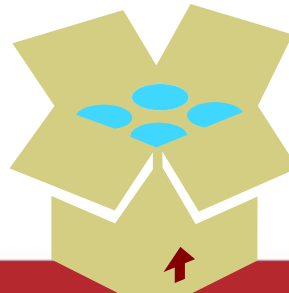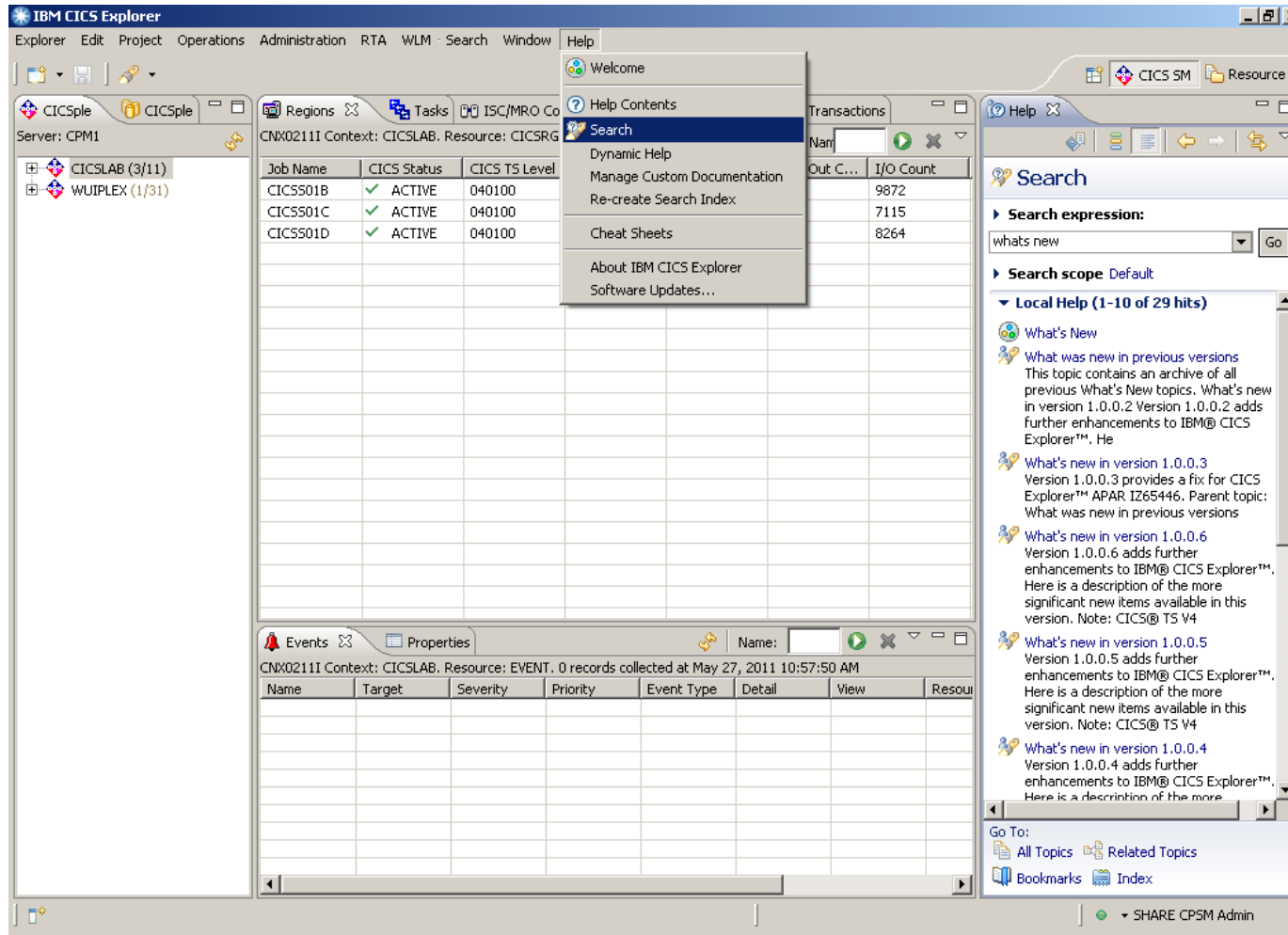
CICS Explorer Navigation *(Live Demo)*

- **Accessing Help and What's New**

The frequency of New CICS Explorer Releases makes the Internal Help function a great (UTD) information source.

Each New Release includes a "What's New" section, detailing new functionality

Complete your sessions evaluation online at SHARE.org/BostonEval

CICS Explorer Navigation *(Live Demo)*

- **Screen Layout**

Explorer View - Only View that can't be moved

Individual Resource Tabs
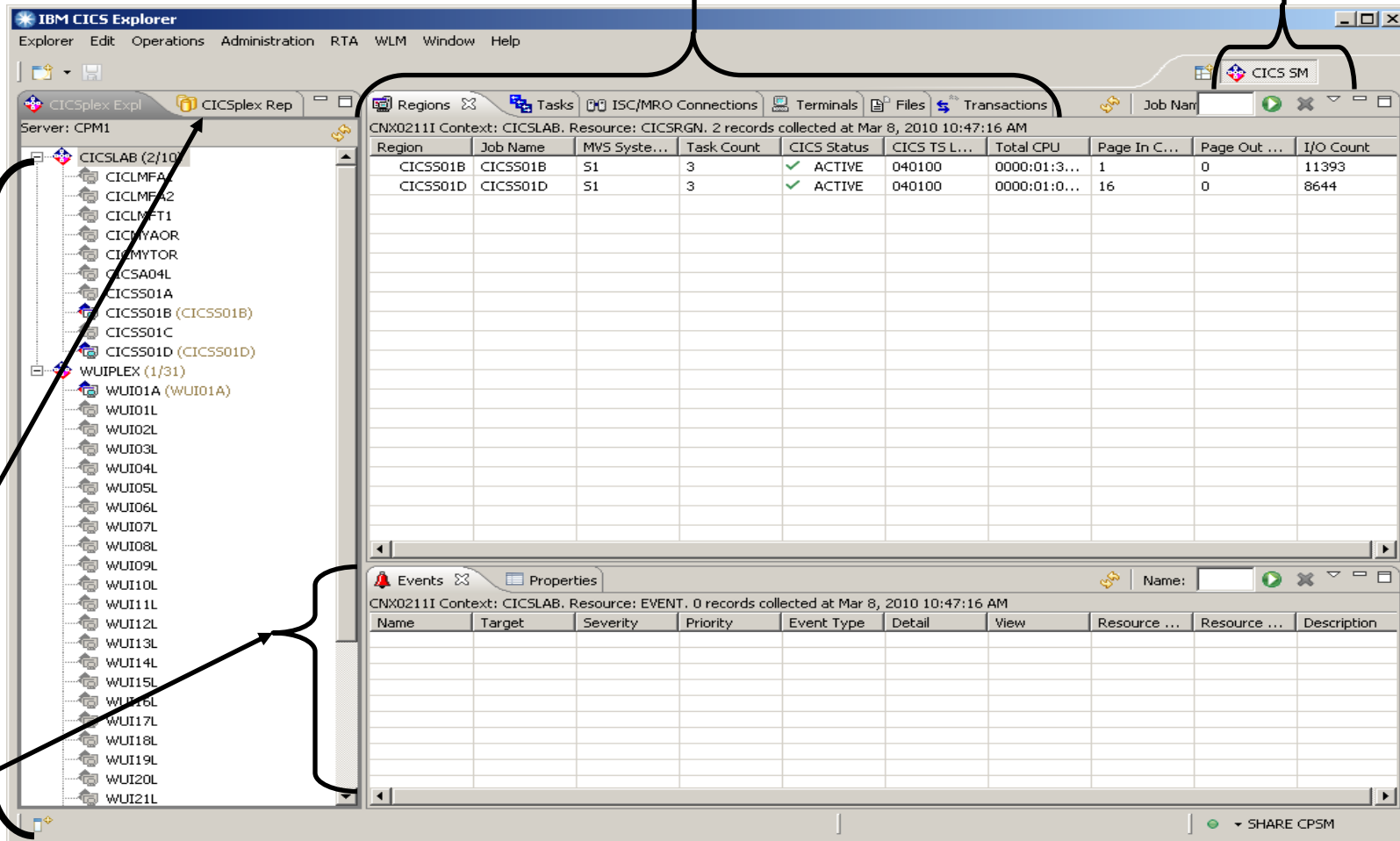
Perspective Selection
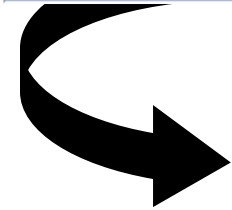
Explorer
Control the Scope of Resources Being Viewed

Repo View
CICSGRP(s) and CICSSYS(s) Def's. Can also be used to Control Scope

Event Tab
View System Events

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CICS Explorer Navigation *(Live Demo)*

- **Zoom In/Out of a View**
  - Double Click the View Tab to Zoom in or Back out of a view

CICS Explorer Navigation *(Live Demo)*

- **Resizing a View**
    - Float the Cursor over the inside edge of the view until it changes to a Double-Ended (vertical or horizontal) arrow.

    ↔ ↕
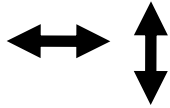
    - Drag the edge to the desired size

- **Moving a View**
    - Position the Cursor on the Tab of the View you want to move
    - Drag it to the area of the screen you want to position it in.
        - Your cursor will change to one of the following, indicating where the screen will be positioned.

Cursor	Where the View will be moved
↑	Position above the Current View (the View that is underneath the cursor)
↓	Position Below the Current View
→	Position to the Right of the Current View
←	Position to the Left of the Current View
⧉	Stack: The View is stacked as a Tab in the Current View
⃠	Restricted: Can't be positioned in Current Area
⊞	Open a New Window. Drag outside the workbench to position in a new window. Note: Click on the New Window and Drag Back to position it back
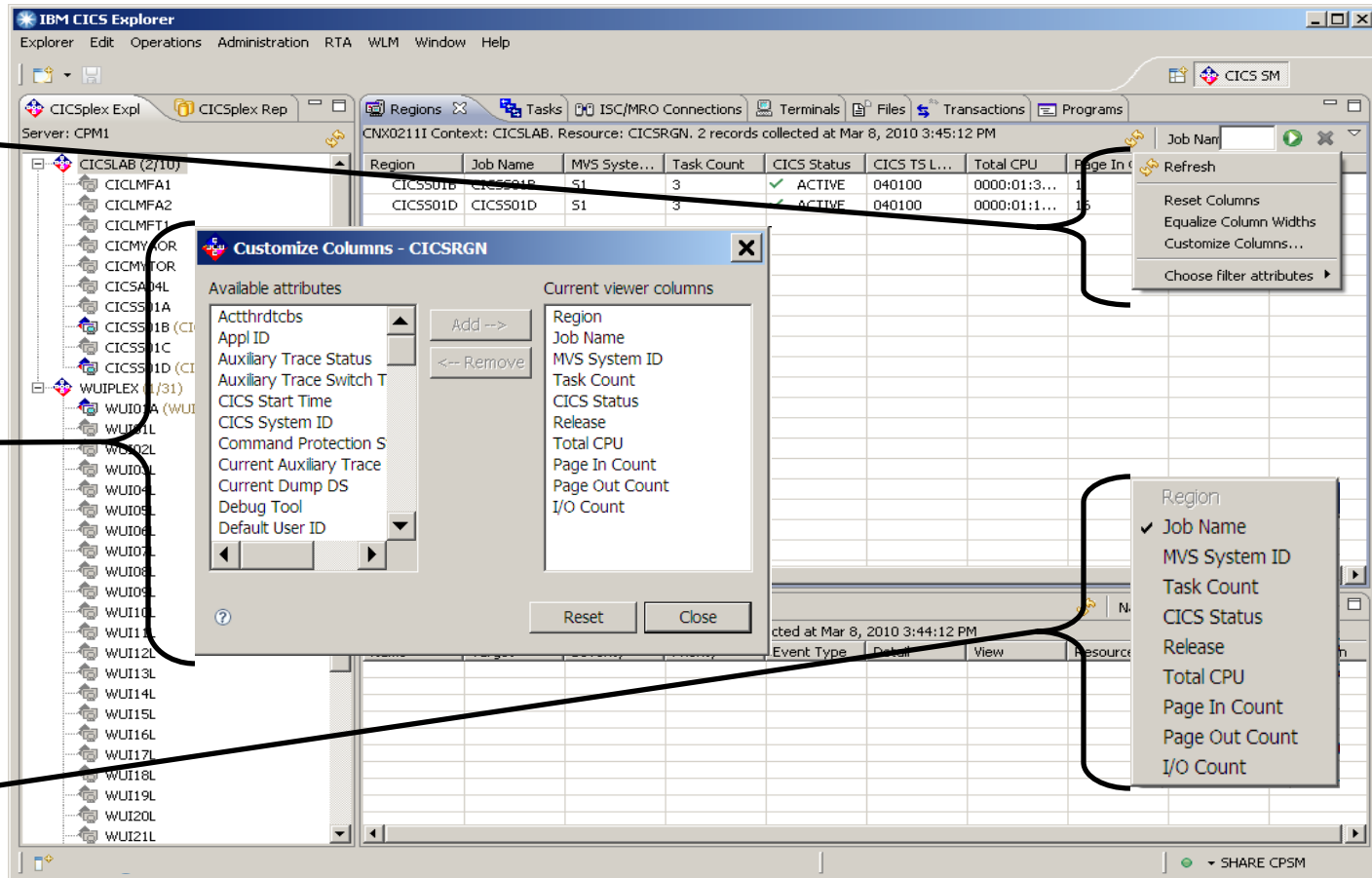
CICS Explorer Navigation *(Live Demo)*

- **Move Column - Click on Column and Drag to the Desired Location**
- **From the View Menu you can:**

• Refresh the View
• Reset Columns
• Equalize Column
  Widths

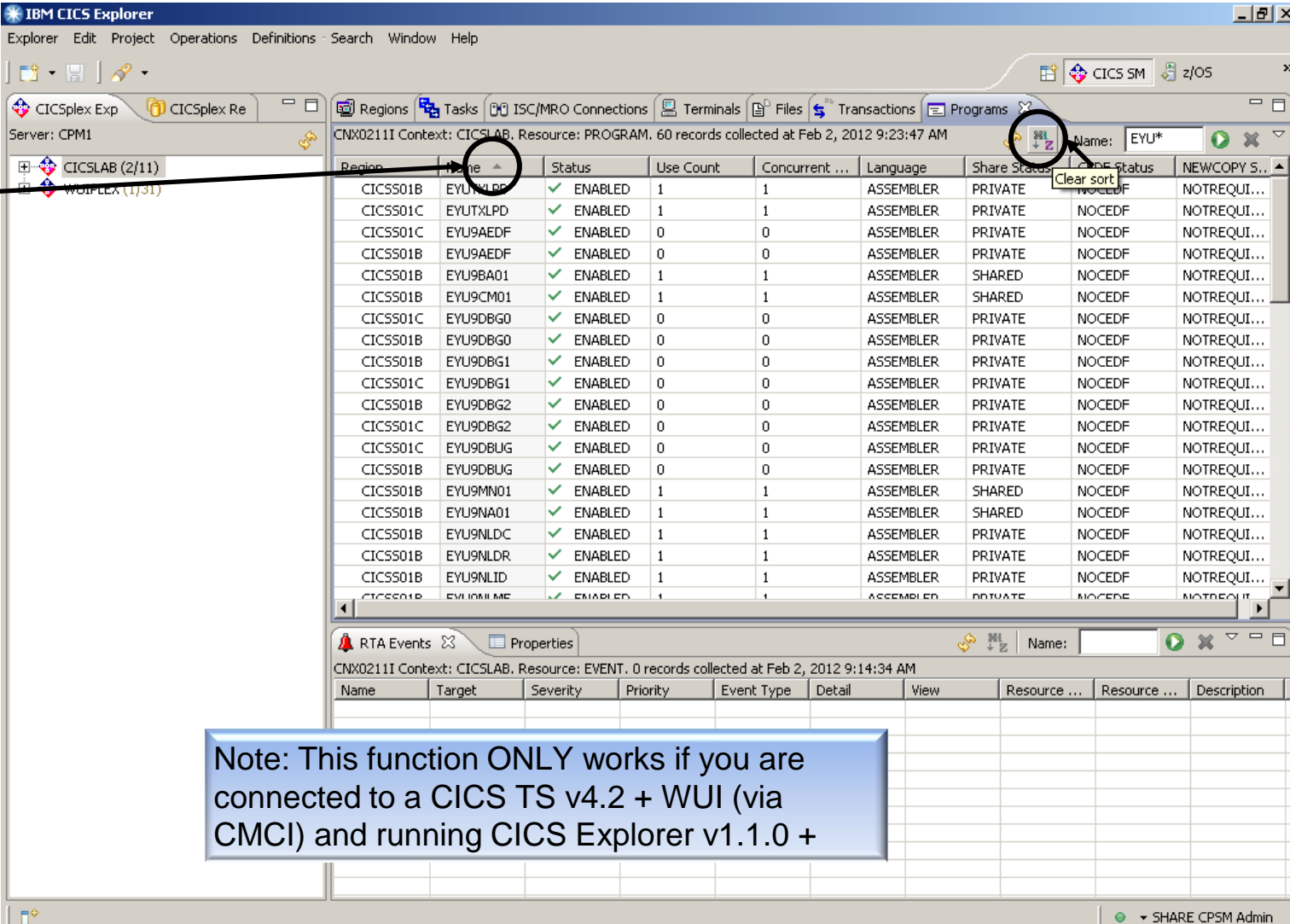• Customize
  Columns

• Choose filter
  attributes

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CICS Explorer Navigation *(Live Demo)*

- ## Sort Column

Column Sort Indicator

As you click on the Column the sort order rotates as follows:
- Sort ascending
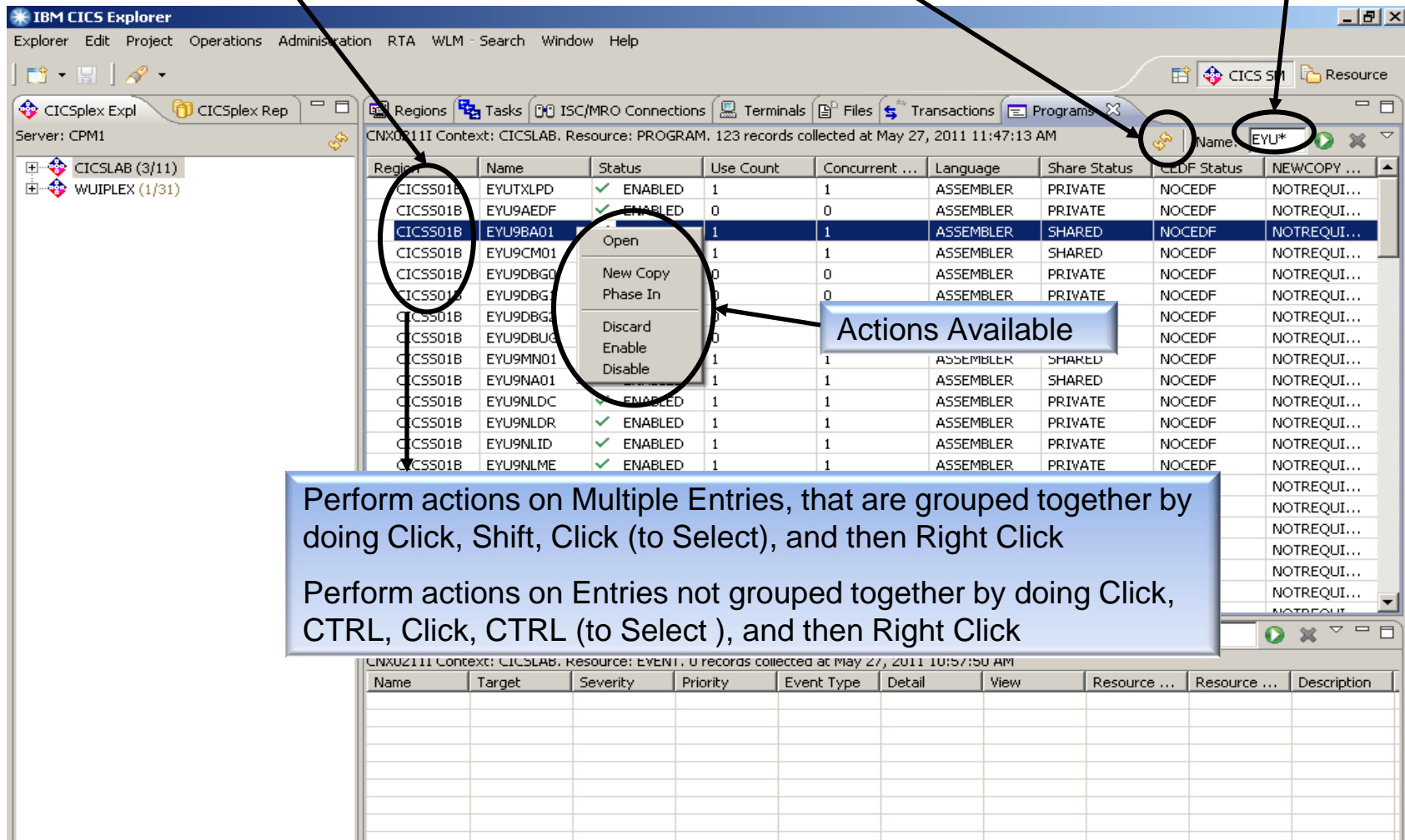- Sort descending
- Default sort order

Note: This function ONLY works if you are connected to a CICS TS v4.2 + WUI (via CMCI) and running CICS Explorer v1.1.0 +

CICS Explorer Navigation *(Live Demo)*

Right click on an individual entry to take Action on it.

Refresh View

Filter of EYU* Used

Actions Available

Perform actions on Multiple Entries, that are grouped together by doing Click, Shift, Click (to Select), and then Right Click

Perform actions on Entries not grouped together by doing Click, CTRL, Click, CTRL (to Select), and then Right Click
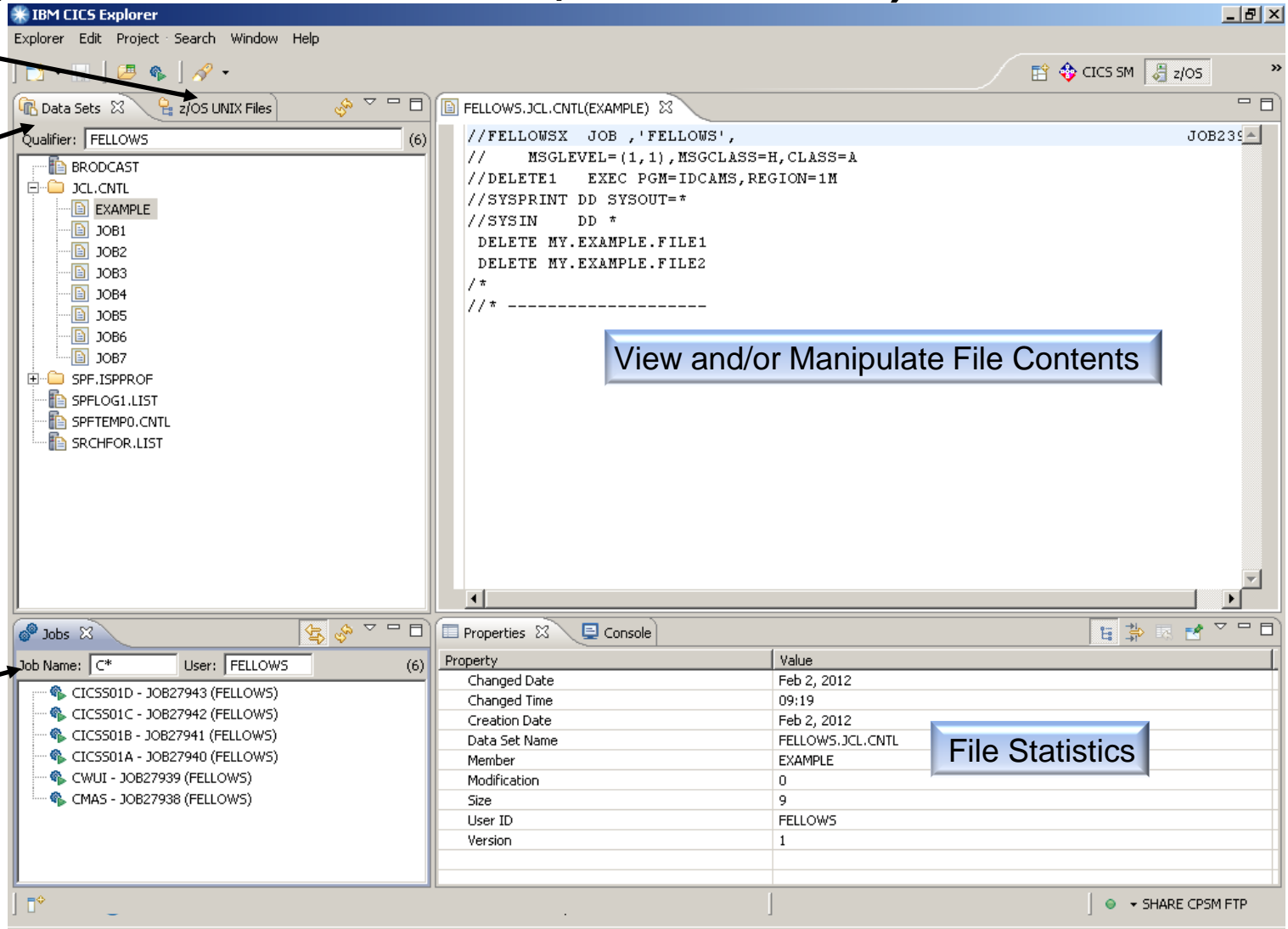
CICS Explorer Navigation *(Live Demo)*

- **z/OS Perspective - FTP Connection (View z/OS Data)**

Unix Files View:

Data Sets View:

Jobs View:

View and/or Manipulate File Contents

File Statistics

Note: The FTP.DATA Server configuration file must specify JESINTERFACELEVEL 2

What's New in CICS Explorer v5.1?

- **Workspace Preferences and History**
  - Select Preferences from the Window Menu
  - Expand Eclipse Platform and Select Workspaces

- You can choose to be prompted for a workspace location at startup

- You can choose the number of recent workspaces in the history, however you can not set it to less than 5

What's New in CICS Explorer v5.1?

- **Switch Workspace Option**
  - Select Switch Workspace from the File Menu, and Click Other
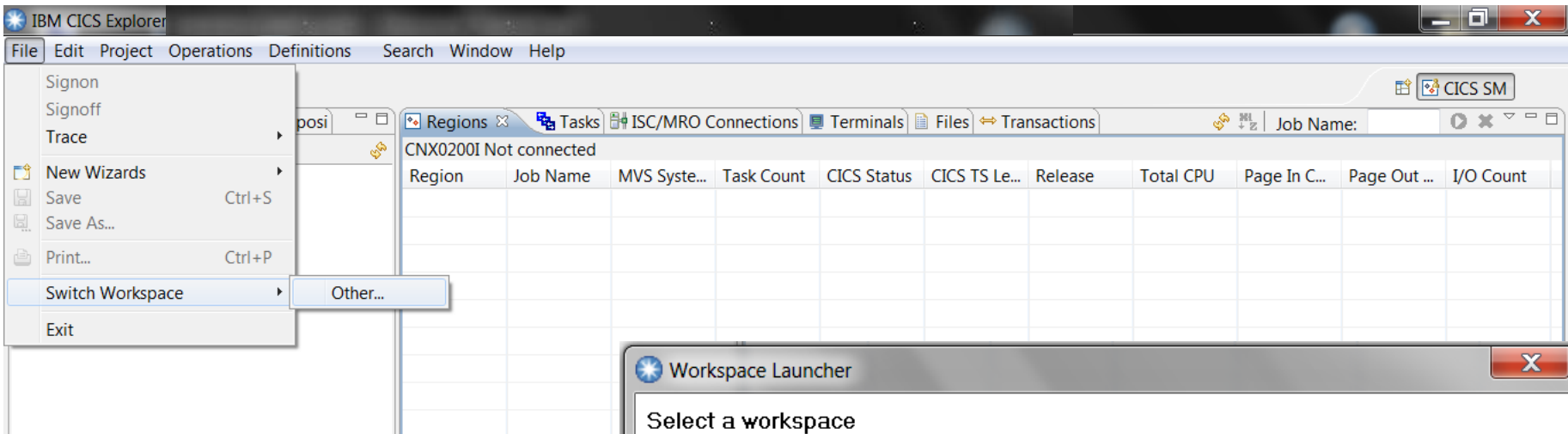
- From the Workspace Launcher you can:
  - Change to/Create a New workspace
  - Switch to a previous workspace in your history
  - Choose to copy settings
- Note: once you Click OK, CICS Explorer will Close and Reopen
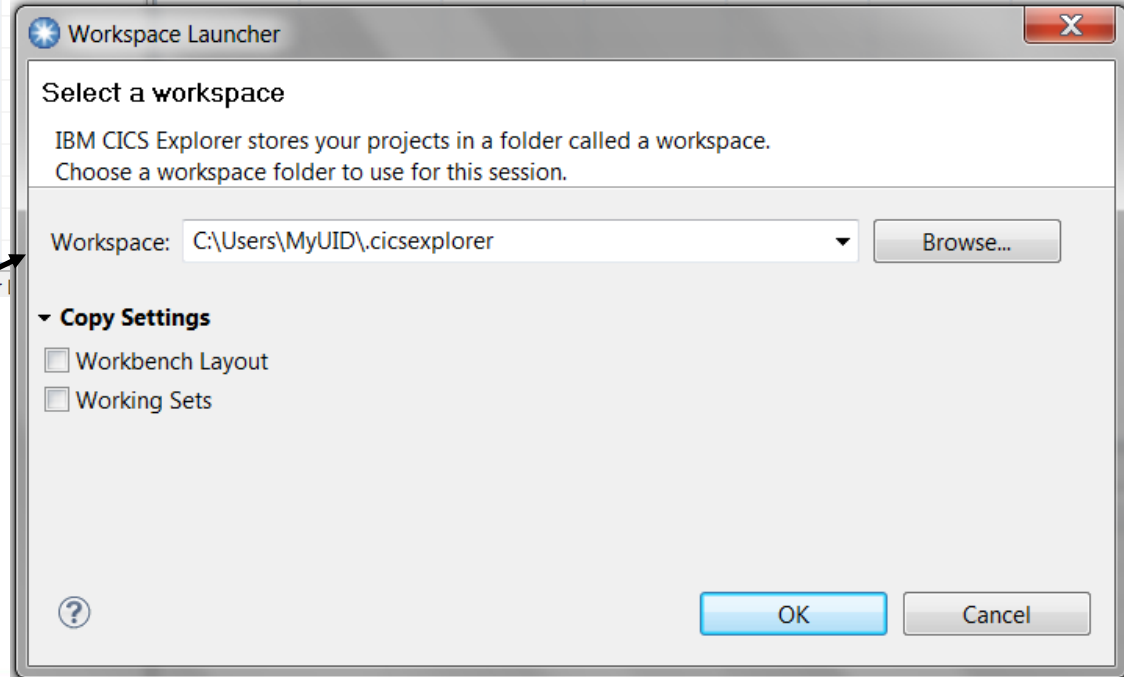
What's New in CICS Explorer v5.1?

- **Support for z/OSMF**
  - In v5.1 you have the ability to connect to the z/OSMF product.
    - Using z/OSMF you can view the output of active jobs, and cancel or delete jobs.
    - See "Using the IBM z/OS Management facility" for more information.
- **Column Customization (Behavior Change)**
  - If you are connected to an LPAR and Customize the Columns in a view:
    - During the same CICS Explorer session, if you Connect to another LPAR the Column Customization will remain the same.
    - At the start of a New CICS Explorer Session, the View will show the Default (without your Column Customization). As soon as you Connect to an LPAR your Column Customization will be there

What's New in CICS Explorer v5.1?

- **New Functions**
    - Ability to copy and paste resource data to a spreadsheet
    - Ability to Perform a System Dump
    - Ability to create a new resource from an existing definition
    - Ability to create a z/OS UNIX file
    - Ability to export a file or folder to a z/OS UNIX file system
    - Ability to create a new data set
    - Ability to rebuild the Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) for a CICS region
    - Connections use Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)
- **Perspective Changes**
    - The new Cloud Perspective contains a core set of views to help you get started with cloud administration.
        - Accessible from the Window > Open perspective > Other Menu on the toolbar

What's New in CICS Explorer v5.1?

- **Seven New Operations Views**

  - Applications View   Operations Menu
  - Cloud Explorer View   Operations Menu
  - Data Tables View (CMDT)   Operations > Files Menu
  - EP Adapter Sets View   Operations > Event Processing Menu
  - Physical Datasets View (DSNAME)   Operations > Files Menu
  - Platforms View   Operations Menu
  - z/OS Workload Management View   Window > Show View > Other >
                                                              SM Administration Definitions

- **Two New Definition Views**

  - Applications Definitions View   Definitions Menu
  - Platforms Definitions View   Definitions Menu

- **Changes to Existing Views**

  - Tasks View – New Field "MRO/LU6.2 session allocate wait time"
  - Completed Tasks View – New Field "IS Allocate Wait Time" (IPIC Session Wait)

Summary

NO.	ARRIVALS	QR Code
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