In the rapidly changing world of computer and data communications technology, BASE24 customers with front- and back-end configurations face the challenge of interfacing an existing IBM mainframe to a BASE24 or BASE24-eps system. Institutions also want to maximize the investment in their current electronic funds transfer (EFT) systems and seek new applications that will improve customer satisfaction.

However, integrating host applications with the BASE24 or BASE24-eps host interface module and adding customer service applications can affect IBM host applications. Institutions require a solution to ease this transition and achieve their desired results.

ACI Host Link™

- Addresses the challenges of connecting BASE24® or BASE24-eps® to an existing IBM® CICS® application
- Expedites project implementation, minimizes impact to host applications and eliminates reprogramming of IBM CICS
- Enables easy initial and ongoing configuration to facilitate quick and timely changes
ACI Host Link™ is a comprehensive product designed to address an institution’s CICS® host application and BASE24®/BASE24-eps® interfacing needs.

The ACI Host Link™ solution
ACI Host Link™ is a set of programs that interfaces between BASE24 on HP, BASE24-eps on System z, or Oracle® Solaris™ and CICS host applications on an IBM System z. Host Link expedites project implementation, minimizes impact to host applications and eliminates the need to modify the IBM CICS-based application.

In addition to the standard terminal control management provided by CICS online communication systems, Host Link manages the communications link between the host and the BASE24 or BASE24-eps processor.

Streamline workflow
Host Link is a comprehensive product designed to address an institution’s CICS host application and BASE24/BASE24-eps interfacing needs. The system can be configured to meet specific requirements, allowing CICS programmers to work on other projects.

Host Link processes all network management messages, eliminating the need to route them to a host application program. Host Link also reduces the need to issue commands to check status and performance of the communications link between the CICS host application and BASE24/BASE24-eps.

Easily configure and update systems
Host Link features a table-driven set of processing parameters, so initial configuration is easy and permits timely, online changes to the operating environment. Since these processing parameters are memory-resident, the need for disk I/O is virtually nonexistent.

The ACI advantage
Host Link is compatible with IBM servers operating MVS™ with IBM z/OS® or OS/390®. The solution also is compatible with all BASE24 and BASE24-eps solutions.

Issuer and acquirer host support
Host Link passes transaction messages from BASE24/BASE24-eps to issuer host applications for processing and return of a response message. Issuer hosts can specify message reformatting routines in Host Link’s message processing parameters and configure the system to route messages for BASE24/BASE24-eps products to specific host applications based upon message routing criteria.
Host Link provides CICS acquirer host reformatting and routing support for BASE24 messages, including BASE24-eps, BASE24-atm®, BASE24-pos® and BASE24 from host maintenance ISO messages. A transaction request message generated by a CICS host application is passed to the BASE24/BASE24-eps host interface module for authorization or force-post response message.

**Test and trace support facilities**

Host Link’s application testing can begin immediately, without installation of BASE24/BASE24-eps software or access to test devices. Test messages are entered into a preformatted input screen and passed to CICS host applications for processing based on defined message routing and reformatting criteria. The host response is delivered to Host Link and displayed for review and verification.

An internal trace facility incorporated throughout Host Link allows application programmers to capture information at strategic points within the system to aid in resolution of problems on a test system. Host Link’s trace program saves variable transaction information, including BASE24/BASE24-eps messages and other relevant data, to the trace data file. It then records the date, CICS task number and message-specific data required by the requesting program.

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**Features at a glance**

- Supports BASE24 and BASE24-eps products
- Meets business and processing requirements of many financial institutions using IBM hosts
- Resides on the host and is compatible with the IBM CICS
- Supports both issuer and acquirer transaction processing for point-of-sale (POS), email, teller and automated teller machine (ATM) applications
- Supports message formats for BASE24 (ANSI and ISO) and BASE24-eps (ISO only)
- Accommodates TCP/IP (MVS only) SNA/SDLC or bisynchronous communication protocols between BASE24/BASE24-eps and the host processor
- Uses CICS command-level coding standards and conventions for easy integration into the host system
- Features a table-driven set of processing parameters for easy initial configuration
- Facilitates message routing to applications within the host CICS based on flexible, user-defined parameters
- Validates the integrity of messages between the host and BASE24/BASE24-eps
- Provides message test simulators, network management messages, refresh impacting, store and forward (SAF), statistics gathering and a trace facility

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We provide the broadest, most integrated suite of electronic payments software in the market with the best support.

Christine Poynton  
Senior HR Specialist, Watford, UK
About ACI Worldwide

ACI Worldwide powers electronic payments for financial institutions, retailers and processors around the world with the broadest, most integrated suite of electronic payment software in the market. More than 90 billion times each year, ACI’s solutions process consumer payments. On an average day, ACI software manages more than US$12 trillion in wholesale payments. And for more than 150 payments organizations worldwide, ACI software ensures people and businesses don’t fall victim to financial crime. We are trusted globally based on our unrivaled understanding of payments and related processes. We have a definitive vision of how electronic payment systems will look in the future and we have the knowledge, scale and resources to deliver it. Since 1975, ACI has provided software solutions to the world’s innovators. We welcome the opportunity to do the same for you.

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AFL4615 03-11