

Finding: CPExpert believes that the ISRDELAY value specified in the System Initialization Table (SIT) may be too low.

Impact: This finding should normally have a LOW IMPACT on the performance of the CICS region.

Logic flow: This is a basic finding, based upon an analysis of the daily CICS statistics.

Discussion: The ISRDELAY parameter in the SIT is the "intersystem refresh delay" specification. The parameter specifies how long entries can remain signed on to the remote system when you are running remote transactions over ISC and IRC links.

The default value for the ISRDELAY parameter is 30 minutes, indicating that a remote users will be signed off if there is no activity for 30 minutes. If a value of zero is specified, userid entries are deleted immediately after use. Once an entry is deleted, the user must sign on again to perform further activity. When the user signs on again, the external security manager (e.g., RACF) must be invoked.

Selecting an appropriate value for the ISRDELAY parameter is a tradeoff between:

- Management desire for security.
- The overhead required for the external security manager and the potential inconvenience or annoyance to the user.

Beginning with CICS/ESA Version 3.2.1, the CICS ISC/IRC Attach Time statistics provide the current value of the ISRDELAY parameter (A21SNTTM) and provide the average time that has elapsed between each reuse of userids (A21SNTAV). IBM suggests that the value for the ISRDELAY parameter should be increased if the number of "entries reused" (A21SNTRE) is low and the number of "entries timed out" (A21SNTTI) is high.

CPExpert first compares the average time that has elapsed between each reuse of userids (A21SNTAV) with the current value of the ISRDELAY parameter (A21SNTTM). CPExpert concludes that there is no continuing problem if the average reuse time is less than the ISRDELAY value.

If A21SNTAV is greater than A21SNTTM, then there may be a problem. The question is how serious is the problem (is it worth addressing), and does management really want the security processing to be performed after timeout. Since this is a function of installation management objectives, CPEXpert provides a guidance variable in USOURCE(CICGUIDE) which is used to assess whether a problem exists. The guidance variable (**SNTCOUNT**) specifies the number of Signon Table (SNT) timeouts which are considered a problem.

CPEXpert produces Rule CIC254 if A21SNTAV is greater than A21SNTTM, **and** the number of entries timed out (A21SNTTI) is greater than the SNTCOUNT guidance variable.

Suggestion: CPEXpert suggests that you consider increasing the ISRDELAY to the value provided by Rule CIC254. The value provided by Rule CIC254 is simply the average time that has elapsed between each reuse of userids (A21SNTAV).

Alternatively, if you feel that Rule CIC254 is firing spuriously, please change the SNTCOUNT guidance variable in USOURCE(CICGUIDE).

Reference: CICS/ESA Version 3.2.1 Performance Guide, pages 302-303.

CICS/ESA Version 3.3.1 Performance Guide, page 61 and pages 321-322.

CICS/ESA Version 4.1.1 Performance Guide: Section 2.2.24 and Appendix A.1.16.

CICS/TS Release 1.1 Performance Guide: Section 2.2.24 and Appendix 1.1.13.

CICS/TS Release 1.2 Performance Guide: Section 2.2.25 and Appendix 1.1.14.

CICS/TS Release 1.3 Performance Guide: Section 2.2.25 and Appendix 1.1.15.

CICS/TS for z/OS Release 2.1 Performance Guide: Chapter 5 (ISC/IRC system and mode entry statistics) and Appendix A (Table 66).

CICS/TS for z/OS Release 2.1 Performance Guide: Section 2.2.27 (Interpreting ISC/IRC system and mode entry statistics) and Appendix 1.1.12.