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Mainframe interview questions

Read Best Interview Questions on MainFrame

- Q1. What is the difference between LINK and XCTL?**
- Q2. What is the difference between the MRO & ISC?**
- Q3. What happens when a CICS command contains the NOHANDLE option?**
- Q4. What is Quasi-reentrancy?**
- Q5. How are VSAM Files Read in CICS pgms?**
- Q6. What are the differences between Temporary Storage Queue (TSQ) and Transient Data Queue (TDQ)?**
- Q7. What is the CICS command that is used to access current date and time?**
- Q8. What is MDT in MainFrame?**
- MDT** refers to the Modified Data Tag which is an attribute character of one-bit that allows on-screen modification of the field. In case if the user modified any field then MDT turns on automatically. The data is sent to the host program by terminal only if the MDT is on. There are two types of values in MDT which are 0 and 1. If the value is 0 then it means MDT is off and no modification is going on. If the value is 1 then it means that MDT is on and the terminal operator is modifying the field. Mdt is the source that helps you in controlling the data traffic.
- Q9. What is the CICS LOAD command?**

Q10. What is a cursor in CICS SQL processing?

Q11. How do you handle errors in CICS pgms?

Q12. Explain the various ways data can be passed between CICS programs?

Q13. What is CEDF?

Q14. What is a clustered index?

The **clustered index** is a unique type of index. This rearranges the order or manner in which the data or information of the table are stored. Also, the rows due to this type of index are stored on the disk, physically as per the index. Hence, there exists one single type of clustered index for one table. And the data pages are stored in the leaf nodes of this clustered index.

Q15. What is the difference between static and dynamic SQL?

Q16. How do you retrieve the data from a nullable column?

Q17. What is a DBRM, PLAN?

Q18. What is the difference between HIDAM and HDAM databases?

Q19. What is Mainframe Testing?

Q20. What is the self-referencing constraint?

Q21. Explain lock contention?

Q22. What is the difference between version control and debugging tools?

Q23. Explain the difference among the EXEC LINK, EXEC XCTL, and Cobol II static

call statements in CICS?

Q24. Name some commands used for CICS file browsing.?

Q25. How will you access a VSAM File using an alternate index?

Q26. What is the primary objective of CICS?

Q27. How does DB2 store NULL physically?

Q28. What is DCLGEN?

Q29. What are the two types of transient data queues?

Q30. What does EIB mean?

Q31. What is SPUFI?

First of all, SPUFI stands for SQL Processore Using File Input. This is a type of database provision, developed by the well-known IBM for the system that they provide, known as DB2. With the help of this users get to put the SQL commands directly into the TSO environment. This way they do not have to embed the commands of SQL into the program.

Q32. What is the COMMAREA(communications area)?

Q33. What do the keywords MAPONLY and DATAONLY mean?

Q34. What is ASRA ABEND in CICS?

ASRA ABEND is a code in **CICS** which denotes the issues related to the program check that is done within a particular transaction. There can be lots of reasons for performing program checks. To find the correct nature of the error is created you have to find the program interrupt code in PSW. This program status word is used for recording addresses by machine hardware for recent instructions. If you want to solve this issue of ASRA ABEND in CICS then you need to find the actual location of its occurrence. For identifying the location you can use debugging tools such as **cedf** or **xpedit**. So, after knowing the problem area you can easily find the cause

of ASRA ABEND and it becomes easy to solve it.

Q35. What are the differences between DFHCOMMAREA and TSQ?

Q36. Which command is used to release a record on which exclusive control is gained?

Q37. What are the different types of Table spaces?

Q38. How to establish dynamic cursor position on a map?

Q39. How do you make your BMS maps case sensitive?

Q40. What is EIB? How it can be used?

EIB stands for Execute Interface Block. It is a control block that is loaded automatically by the CICS for every program.

It contains information about transaction identifier, time, date, etc. which is used by the CICS during the execution of an application program.

Q41. What is the significance of RDO?

Q42. What is the difference between pseudo-conversational and conversational?

Q43. When are scope terminators compulsory?

Q44. What are different ways of Initiating Transaction in CICS?

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