

InterSession

Enterprise 3270 Session Management for IBM z/OS.

One controlled interface to every mainframe application — traditional 3270, TN3270/E, and browser access — with purpose-built migration facilities for installations replacing competitive session managers, especially Broadcom's CA-TPX.

TECHNICAL DATASHEET · V8.1

Native z/OS

OWN REGION · JOB OR
STC

VTAM + TCP/IP

DUAL CONNECTIVITY

TN3270/E

BUILT-IN SERVER +
CLIENT

Web Gateway

NO MIDDLEWARE

RACF · ACF2 · TSS

EXTERNAL SECURITY

MFA + PassTickets

RACF IDT · Z/OS 2.4+

8-Way Sysplex

RLS + GENERIC
RESOURCES

01 Architecture & Session Model

InterSession acts as an umbrella between users and host applications. The underlying VTAM network and host systems — CICS, TSO, IMS, CMS — can be hidden from the user, who works instead from an authorized application menu. Four session modes let installations balance function against overhead per application:

Single-Session

One active application at a time, retaining simplified sign-on and session-manager functions with reduced overhead.

Multiple-Session

Several applications active simultaneously; the user switches among them from the menu.

Relay Mode

Application traffic relayed through InterSession, enabling the full set of session-manager facilities.

Pass Mode

After logon, InterSession leaves the data path — eliminating session-manager overhead. Control returns when the application ends.

02 Presentation & Automation

- › **Application menus** — one- or two-level, per-user/group customization, availability information, and point-and-shoot selection.
- › **Session scripts** — automated application logon/logoff; scripts can be recorded directly from a live terminal session.
- › **Screen Layouts** — freely position text, variables, input fields, and messages; layouts can be styled to resemble an incumbent session manager.
- › **Ad-hoc sessions** — authorized users can initiate sessions to applications that have not been predefined.
- › **Printing** — 3270 printers, TN3270E printing, spool output, and network printing via LPD, RAW, and PJI/JetDirect-style protocols.
- › **Data handling** — optional per-application 3270 data-stream compression; codepage-based translation or installation-written exits for national characters.

03 Connectivity & Access Services

VTAM

Traditional 3270 access through a VTAM APPLid; application-session APPLid pools serve host sessions.

TN3270 SERVER

Built in. Client TCP connections go directly to InterSession, bypassing the TCP/IP stack's TN3270 server and VTAM sessions for that connection.

TN3270 CLIENT

Application sessions to TN3270 servers elsewhere in the network — no VTAM services required for those targets.

WEB GATEWAY

Self-contained web server inside the mainframe; browser access with no separate middleware tier.

ENTRANCES

VTAM APPLids or TN3270/HTTP service names. Multiple Entrances let one InterSession system behave as multiple instances with separate presentation.

04 Security & Authorization

External ESM

RACF, ACF2, and Top Secret supported, plus installation-written interfaces. Sign-on validates credentials, retrieves authorization, and can populate profile data from the security manager.

Access Control

Application profiles protected as external-security resources; external security is the recommended model for application access.

Credentials & MFA

Long passwords/passphrases. PassTickets accepted at sign-on and generated for downstream applications. MFA passcodes processed through the sign-on flow.

RACF IDT

V8.1 supports RACF IDentity Tokens for password/passphrase-change processing (z/OS 2.4 or later).

PERFORMANCE AT SCALE

Non-Blocking Security Processing

External-security requests execute in z/OS subtasks, so sign-on processing never unnecessarily blocks other users. The number of external-security subtasks is tunable for installations with **several thousand concurrent users** — sign-on storms at shift change don't queue behind a single security thread.

05 Installation, Administration & Operations

- › **Distribution** — load, source, HTML text, and HTML binary PDS content in TSO XMIT format.
- › **Basic install** — VTAM definitions, optional APF authorization for RACF/Top Secret integration, VSAM file creation, startup JCL, license key, and activation of required interfaces and services.
- › **First startup** — three principal access choices: VTAM, TN3270, or Web Gateway. TCP/IP is required for TN3270 and Web access.
- › **Online administration** — all configuration is managed through the MAINT internal application: User Profiles and Models, Shared and Personal Application Profiles, Session Scripts, ISPF Panels, Screen Layouts, Printers, Interfaces and Services, Help Screens, System Options, and VTAM APPL pools.
- › **Monitoring** — system status covers defined users, connected terminals, and application sessions; session status by user, terminal, application, or pool APPLid; printer status by user or printer.
- › **Accounting** — records written to a VSAM ESDS file or directly to SMF under z/OS.
- › **Logging** — major events to wrap-around, spin-off, and JES2 log destinations; HTTP services carry a separate log facility.
- › **Requirements** — runs in its own z/OS region as a job or started task; VTAM operational for VTAM functions; a TCP/IP stack for IP support; RACF, ACF2, or Top Secret assumed as the installation security manager.

HIGH AVAILABILITY

Sysplex Scale-Out

Two to eight cooperating InterSession instances in a z/OS sysplex. Shared data (User Profiles, Application Profiles, Session Scripts, Screen Layouts, Printer Options, Help Screens) uses **VSAM Record Level Sharing** on the shared INTSFLE; instance-unique definitions (Interfaces, Services, System Options, APPLPOOLS) stay on the local INTSLCL. **VTAM Generic Resources** provide load balancing and backup for terminal sessions. Coupling facility, SMSVSAM/RLS, and Generic Resource structures are documented prerequisites where used.

06 TPX Migration: A First-Class Deployment Scenario

The TPX Conversion Guide describes a purpose-built migration path: the vast majority of information in a TPX system can be copied using InterSession utilities — designed to minimize rework in heavily scripted TPX environments, not a generic import exercise.

TPX OBJECT	INTERSESSION RESULT
Profiles	Become Models; sessions on profiles become Shared Application Profiles.
Users	Become regular users, retaining the TPX group; sessions default to Personal Application Profiles, with a Shared option.
ACLs	The TPX ACL PDS is read directly — 44 ACL commands supported; 11 seldom-used commands identified as unsupported.
Variables	Most predefined TPX variables supported, including SCREEN for screen scraping.
Panels	TPX ISPF Panel PDSs read directly — no conversion of the panel library required.
Mail lists	General TPX mail lists copy as Distribution Lists (personal mail lists are not copied).

Three-step conversion flow

1 · EXTRACT

TPX batch extract creates a sequential file of PROFILE, USER, and session data.

2 · TPX2INTS

Reads the extract and generates InterSession maintenance records.

3 · INTSUTIL

Sends maintenance records to the running system, creating users and application profiles.

Migration controls

PREDEF

Treat users/apps as existing, preserving references.

IGNORE

Omit specified definitions and references.

RENAME

Rename users, applications, or logmodes in flight.

SESSIONS

Choose Personal or Shared application profiles.

GROUPNAME / USERFLD / APPLFLD

Tailor generated profile attributes.

RACFCMD

Generate RACF ADDGROUP / CONNECT for group-based access.

- › **Familiar look on day one** — a predefined competitive-product-style Screen Layout can be copied and customized so sign-on and menus closely resemble the existing environment.
- › **Logmode continuity** — a TPX-compatible logmode table is supplied, or retain existing TPX logmodes by specifying the corresponding MODETAB on application-session APPLids.
- › **Auditable conversion** — the utility reports exceptions and statistics so outliers are handled deliberately, not discovered in production.
- › **Beyond TPX** — InterSession transparently replaces other popular session managers as well, including Teleview, CL/SuperSession, SOLVE:Access, and NVAAS (NetView Access Services).

Evaluate InterSession **against your TPX environment.**

Data 21 provides technical evaluation support, migration planning, and licensing for InterSession on z/OS.

www.data21.com · sales@data21.com