



TSM Voice

Volume 12, Issue IV

March 2005

WebSphere

Speaker: Joel Niedermann of IBM

Let's dig into the topic of WebSphere, starting with a presentation from IBM to set the stage. Following this, we are inviting members of the TSMUG community to briefly share their real world experience with WebSphere projects. This was a highly popular topic when we polled members, so we expect a lot of interest in this meeting.

Presenters:

Joel Niedermann is a Strategic Workload Specialist at IBM. With 14 years of experience in the industry, and 10 years of work at IBM solely on the AS/400 and iSeries, he will be a great resource for bringing WebSphere into focus. Joel collaborated in the product strategy and announcement roll out for the i5 product based on Power5 technology. He is currently responsible for sales & marketing activities in a five (5) state area within the central region.

Joel will give us a WebSphere overview, brief us on the Developers Road map and going forward methodologies, and try to jumpstart some ideas with customer examples and ideas for startup projects.

March Meeting Information

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2005

**Time: 5:30 – 6:30 Networking
6:30 – 7:30 Dinner
7:30 – 9:00 Meeting**

**Place: Raffel's Banquet Center
10160 Reading Road
Evendale, OH 45241
513.563.9996**

**Topic: WebSphere
Speaker: Joe Niedermann
IBM**

**Cost: (includes coffee, tea, milk)
\$ 27.50 Members
\$ 40.00 Non-members
\$ 5.00 Meeting only**

Reservations required, before noon, Friday, March 4, 2005 by calling 513-357-6173 or send an email with your company name, phone number and each attendee's name to tsmug@tsmug.org.

No cancellation after above date and time.

See our web page for directions via MapQuest, www.tsmug.org/meetings.html

WebSphere Meeting continued:

TSMUG Members:

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! This is where you come in. We would like to add to the evening by having volunteer presenters briefly describe their experiences with WebSphere. We don't need an elaborate PowerPoint presentation: maybe just a page of write-up to walk us through. Contact Kim Anderson through education@tsmug.org if you would like to participate.

COMMON Spring 2005 Conference

The Spring 2005 COMMON IT Education Conference and Expo will be held in Chicago on March 13-17.

COMMON is the world's largest community of IBM midrange users providing information, education, and networking among users, IBM, and third-party solution providers.

Your TSMUG membership provides you with COMMON membership as well. Before you register for any COMMON conference, send an e-mail to any TSMUG director, and we will get the membership ID to you. (TSMUG members only.)

For complete conference information and to register, visit www.common.org/preview.html, or call 800-777-6734.

President's Corner

David W. Corfman, CCP

In the "I wouldn't have believed it if I didn't see it for myself" category, I saw a television commercial for the i5. It was during the NFL playoffs, and lots of people saw it. Whether you liked the Steelers or the Patriots in that game, you had to be excited that IBM misplaced some advertising dollars and created an i5 commercial and actually aired it during a prime time. (I heard it aired during the prior week's playoffs as well.)

The commercial was interesting in what it didn't say as much as what it touted. It didn't mention scalability, reliability, connectivity, security, Websphere, 64-bit architecture, connectivity, integrated database, productivity, loads of software or low TCO. Instead it was a commercial for "Server Consolidation." Well, any publicity is better than nothing.

We now know what IBM's direction for our favorite platform is. Server consolidation is for selling hardware. But did you see the i5's fourth quarter results? I feel IBM needs to retrench and focus on what made the AS/400 and iSeries great platforms. Reread the prior paragraph as a reminder of what the focus should be.

But it was a good commercial. Let me know if you saw it.

January TSMUG Meeting Review

A Sarbanes-Oxley Overview

Presented by Mark Fullerton of Information Alternatives

January 11, 2005

Mark Fullerton gave a Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOA) overview at the January TSMUG meeting. Sarbanes-Oxley has been grabbing headlines in the business community, and IT is struggling to interpret and comply with its requirements.

Most observers would agree that the Sarbanes-Oxley Act is the single most important piece of legislation affecting corporate governance, financial disclosure and the practice of public accounting since the US securities laws of the early 1930s. Corporate governance is the ongoing systems and processes an organization has in place to protect the interests of its diverse stakeholders, including shareholders, employees, customers, lenders, vendors, and the community.

Fortune 1000 companies spent more than \$2.5 billion in 2003 to comply with SOA compliance. It is estimated that about \$5 billion will be spent in 2004, growing to \$6.9 billion in 2006. Unlike Y2k remediation, SOA is an on-going cost to the corporation. However, many IT executives view SOA compliance as an opportunity to make overdue investments in infrastructure and controls.

Sections 302 and 404 hold key compliance rules affecting IT and CIOs. Section 404 specifically needs management's attention to assess IT controls over financial reporting and to fix problems. Punishments for non-compliance include fines and prison sentences of up to 20 years. Mark stated that 2005 will be the year of some high-

profile prosecutions for non-compliance. If CxOs were not paying attention before, they will after the message gets sent by the prosecutors from the SEC.

IT challenges for SOA include:

1. Defining and documenting processes
2. Retaining the evidence
3. Enforcing the processes
 - a. Define scope
 - b. Identify risk

Mark Fullerton gave these best practices steps:

1. Tailor policy to your company's setting
2. Keep documents only as long as needed
3. Keep policy neutral and objective
4. Include procedures for all types of data

Although SOA is a sweeping regulation that will create significant requirements for your company, becoming compliant can be a relatively routine investment, although probably a significant investment in time.

An excellent give-and-take audience discussion followed. Several TSMUG member companies are going through SOA compliance issues and had questions for Mark as well as advice for other SOA-minded companies.

Thanks to Mark Fullerton of Information Alternatives for his insightful presentation. Sarbanes-Oxley downloads and links are available at www.infoalt.com. Mark finished his SOA presentation with the dire warning, "Time is not on your side."

I want to put it on the web

Jeff Welsh

I want to put it on the web, it being my iSeries data. That statement is usually followed by questions like: What's the best way to do that? Or how can we accomplish that? In the scope of this article there is no way I could possibly cover all of the methods, infrastructure and security issues that should be addressed. I will cover some basics and at the end of the article have a small e-RPG "Hello World" program. There are a lot of tools and products available from a number of vendors. For the scope of this article, I will stick with the most popular IBM solutions.

The first solution that you could use is HATS. That stands for Host Access Transformation Server. HATS will transform any 5250 data stream into a web page. The popular term for this is screen scraping. This method usually gets a lot of groans of disapproval, usually because of performance reasons. That might have been true for earlier releases, but the latest release of HATS performs quite well. HATS works well for applications where there is no source code or you want to combine one or more 5250 screens onto one web page.

The next solution is WebFacing. For this solution, you will need to have Websphere application server running on your iSeries and you will need to have source code. With this method, the 5250 data stream is not used. Instead, the DDS is translated into JSP's. The Websphere server interfaces with the RPG program. The cool thing with this is that neither the RPG program nor the DDS need to be changed and they don't know the difference between the JSP and the workstation controller. This means that you could run some 5250 clients and some browser clients.

Those two solutions assume that you want to make a 5250 application available to the web. But what if you just want to access some data? You could write some JAVA code and run that on the websphere server to access the data. You could do the same via JDBC from any web server. Another solution could be to use e-RPG.

With e-RPG, you just need to have an HTTP server running on the iSeries. Websphere is not required. Using RPG allows you to access your DB2 data on the iSeries natively. The simple program below writes HTML. But you could also get more creative with XML. Imagine creating your own XML schemas that are served up to another server (instead of a browser client) and that web server uses XSLT to transform the data in to virtually anything you want. Hmmmm. Food for thought.

```
D WPErrr DS
D EBytesP 1 4B 0 INZ(%SIZE(EData))
D EBytesA 5 8B 0
D EMsgID 9 15
D EReserverd 16 16
D EData 17 56
*
D HTTPHeader C CONST('Content-type: text/html')
D NewLine C CONST(X'15')
*
D WrtDta S 1024
D WrtDtaLen S 9B 0
* Fill variable WrtDta with the HTML text to write to the
  browser
C eval WrtDta = %trim(HTTPHeader) +
C NewLine + NewLine +
C '<HTML><BODY>' + NewLine +
C 'Hello World' + NewLine +
C '</BODY></HTML>' + NewLine
* Get the length of the HTML text to write
C eval WrtDtaLen = %len(%trim(WrtDta))
* Write the data to the browser
C CALLB 'QtmhWrStout'
C PARM WrtDta
C PARM WrtDtaLen
C PARM WPErrr
C eval *INLR = *ON
```

Time to Make Changes?

Kim Anderson

Perhaps you've heard this one, but here goes anyway: How many psychiatrists does it take to change a light bulb? Only one psychiatrist actually...but the light bulb has to really *want* to change.

I've just been concluding a major software upgrade for my company, and of course, we had some stress along the way. So why do we make these changes anyway? Why do we force reasonably stable software and hardware paradigms to change (and the users as well)?

On the outside of my company are the software and hardware vendors, who seem to constantly "improve" and "enhance" their products. Salespeople tout the tremendous improvements in features, and the potential for great "productivity" gains. If that doesn't close the sale, there are the threats: the current software/hardware will not longer be supported after a certain date. We might be at risk for "falling behind" in our technology!

Users within the company usually like hearing about possibilities for new and improved features. But as you dig into the details required for a big systems change, users naturally feel more comfortable wanting the new to be a clone of the old.

Change may be good in the long run, but in the near-term change can be exhausting. New work methods and requirements for learning get piled on top of people already doing full-time jobs.

Change sometimes is just forced upon us. Oracle *finally* bought Peoplesoft. In the last few days, I learned that SBC is planning to buy AT&T. (How the mighty have fallen.) And closer to our iSeries hearts, we find out that Infor Global is going to buy MAPICS. Who is Infor, you say? I happen to know, because Infor purchased my company's ERP software Daly less than a year ago.

I like to think that IT managers have an obligation to fight through the sales hype and the user foot-dragging and recommend changes to hardware and software proactively. When possible, I would rather volunteer for the upgrade stresses at a time of my own choosing, rather than waiting for the next systems crisis. After all, IT will only be a strategic player in the business if IT management leads the effort to keep the tools sharp.

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