



The Omni User

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April Dinner Meeting IBM Rational Software Delivery Platform for System i Presented By Linda Cole, IBM

Tuesday, April 15, 2008
Embassy Suites Hotel Lombard, IL

by Seminar VP Mike Pavlak

The next monthly OMNI dinner meeting will feature a presentation by IBM's Linda Cole focusing on IBM's Rational software platform. Rational has a complete suite of tools for System i that can be used to modernize all aspects of your enterprise, including asset management, architecture, skills and application development infrastructure. This session covers the IBM Rational Software Delivery Platform and how it extends modern application lifecycle management to IBM System i. Information on the newest features in the key Rational application development tools for System i ; WebSphere Development Studio V6R1, Rational Developer for System i V7.1, Rational Developer for System i for SOA Construction V7.1, Rational Business Developer V7.1 and HATS for 5250 Applications V7.1 will be reviewed. An overview of the Rational Business Developer product, which is the new development offering that is used for EGL application development will also be included.



Ms. Cole's current assignment is with the IBM Toronto Lab as the Manager of the Rational Business Ecosystem. Linda is responsible for supporting Rational Enterprise Modernization products on System i. Prior to that, she was a Marketing Manager, working with over 120 IBM Business Partners in the System i Tools Initiatives for Innovation Program. She spent the previous six years with the Toronto Lab in several WebSphere iSeries Technical and Marketing positions. In her 30 years with IBM, she has had a variety of assignments including technical support, education, consulting, sales and marketing roles. Linda has an extensive background in iSeries and AS400 dating back to 1988 and specialized in WebSphere offerings, Application Development and Business Intelligence. She is a frequent speaker at COMMON, Users Groups and Technical Conferences.

Further details and registration are available on the OMNI page at <http://omniuser.org>

March Dinner Meeting Wrapup



The guest speaker at March's dinner meeting was IBM's Tim Kramer, who gave us an overview and demonstration of System I Navigator for V6R1. His presentations are available from the OMNI web page at <http://omniuser.org/downloads.html#cat3>

Another big round of Omni applause and many thank yous go to Tim Kramer of IBM Rochester!

Tim can be reached at timkram@us.ibm.com



Seminar V.P. Mike Pavlak introduces Tim Kramer



Tim draws the raffle winners from the helmet

...and the winners are:



A.C. Gates, Morey Corporation



Tim Feldmeier, experienced & available

There were a number of questions from the assembled members which Tim was kind enough to research and return answers. Thanks to webmaster Vince Salomon, these questions and answers can be found on the Omni website, and Tim's presentation slides are available for download at... <http://omniuser.org/downloads.html#cat3>

March Dinner Meeting Wrapup (continued)

Here are the questions Omni attendees had for Tim Kramer and the answers he has provided...

1. Will BRMS plug-in (etc.) cost extra if you already license the LP? *No, the plug-in comes with the product.*
2. Would like to customize frequently used list. *Lists can be customized today by using the Include function for the list. You can specify a number of attributes that will "filter" the list to show only what you want to see. Also, each list can be customized to show only the column data you want to see, and in what order.*
3. Is IDS only available on the web? *No, it should be available with V6R1 iNav when connected to either a V6R1 or V5R4 i5 system. Under the Security folder.*
4. Timeout of 30 minutes for ISC not cool for stationary monitor watching systems for helpdesk display. *It sounds like we can avoid the 30 minute timeout by ISC by employing auto refresh on our portlet. Therefore, we will look into making this change and test to see if it actually works as intended.*
5. Is there info on how ISV's can plug into this? *Need to call IBM and get a key for downloads. Contact Angela Newton at IBM Rochester. amnewton@us.ibm.com*
6. Can non-Java languages plug into the framework for System i Nav Director? *The ISC console is based on the JSR 168 spec which is Java only.*
7. How many releases until the fat client is eclipsed by the new web interface? *Strategically i5/OS is moving to Web environments for managing i5/OS and the hardware it is running on. As i5/OS management capabilities are delivered to Web environments,*



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March Dinner Meeting Wrapup (continued)

this is a staged migration over a number of releases. The stages don't end with i5/OS V6R1. While some of the new function is only available via the Web console, there is still some System i Navigator function that is only available from the client-based tool and has not been moved to Web interfaces. While the strategy focuses on Web-enabled management capability, the intent is to continue to include System I Navigator and Management Central as a systems management solution for i5/OS until reasonable functional equivalence is available in Web (or other) solutions.

8. Look at auto-refresh for the screens. *We will do this.*
9. Does elapsed time work? *The web tables show elapsed time right above the table, similar to the installed client. Yes, the elapsed time does display correctly when the data is refreshed using the Refresh button. Not all lists display an elapsed time, but Active Jobs is one that does.*
10. Can we get an xml package of the contents of a display for other applications to consume? I passed this onto one of the AUIML developers. He wasn't sure what the question was asking. The AUIML file is always available. It is an XML file that represents an abstraction of the application's user interface. It is renderer-agnostic. The AUIML file is parsed at runtime and an internal model is created. The appropriate renderer is invoked (based on the deployment). Using the model, the renderer creates the user interface using appropriate widgets. For example, the abstract description of the user interface (the AUIML file) includes a specification for a table control. If the Swing Renderer was invoked a Swing JTable widget would be instantiated. If the Web Renderer was invoked a PS-Web WCL WTable would be instantiated. In the case of the Web Renderer, html markup is generated and returned to the requesting Web browser.
11. Where can we find the doc on application development of the lightweight web server?
<http://www-03.ibm.com/systems/i/software/ias/>

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Merger of i and p Series, Renamed OS

Excerpted from the article by James Niccolai, IDG News Service April 02, 2008 found at:

http://www.infoworld.com/article/08/04/02/IBM-merges-System-i-and-System-p-server-lines_1.html

IBM is merging two of its server lines -- System i and System p -- into a single family of products, a move that was widely applauded but led some to ask: What took you so long?

When the two server lines were born almost two decades ago, they were based on very different hardware and software. They still use different software -- System p comes with Linux or IBM's AIX flavor of Unix, while System i comes with IBM's integrated i5/OS stack. But the hardware platforms have merged to become almost indistinguishable, with both families using IBM Power processors and similar components and peripherals.

One result of that evolution is that System p customers enjoy lower hardware prices, driven down by competition in the Unix server market, while System i customers pay more for what have become essentially the same components, said Dan Olds, principal analyst at Gabriel Consulting Group, in Beaverton, Ore. Combining the two product lines erases that artificial price distinction, he said. "It also reduces complexity a whole hell of a lot. That's the real story here."

The two server lines have been merged to create the Power Systems family, based on IBM Power6 processors. Each new system will be offered with AIX, Linux or the i5/OS, which has been renamed simply "i" as part of the announcement, said Scott Handy, vice president of worldwide marketing and strategy for IBM's Power Systems group. IBM also announced three servers from the new family, aimed at smaller businesses, and said it would detail its high-end server plans next week.

IBM will apply the existing System p prices to the new server family, Handy said. That means prices shouldn't change for what used to be a System p server. For "i" customers, "they get that common hardware pricing, so they'll pay a little bit less for memory and disk," Handy said. With the software as well, "an i customer will pay, at the solution level, about the same as before," he said. However, replacement and add-on components should cost less. Customers will be able to configure the servers with the software they want, and IBM will offer an "i edition" for customers who want what used to be the i5/OS stack.

IBM renamed i5/OS because the 5 doesn't signify anything and is misleading as IBM moved from Power5 to Power6 processors, Handy said. IBM was probably unable to use iOS because Cisco Systems has an OS with a similar name. "That's something we looked at that really wasn't available in the industry," Handy said, adding that he liked "the simplicity of i" after he got used to it. "It's a new generation of Power systems in the sense that we now have one product line from bottom to top that runs all the Oses as tier-one operating systems -- it's AIX, Linux, and i in any combination you want, so that's a pretty radical shift from where we were," Handy said.



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At the March dinner, one of the topics of conversation at my table was strange interviews that we've experienced. It occurred to me that we all probably have had at least a couple of them, and I thought it might be fun to exchange stories. I'll start off with a modest example of my own, and invite you to send me yours. Of course, unless some of you sit down and peck out a story in an e-mail to me, this is going to be a short series, but I'm guessing that there's enough material out there to keep this going far beyond my tenure at OMNI.

Back in the last century I took an interview at a family-owned and operated company. The recruiter who set it up told me in advance that Joe (name changed for obvious reasons), the controller, was involved in literally everything, and would be interrupted numerous times by people needing approval or information that only he could provide. I was also forewarned that he'd take phone calls during the interview, and not to take it personally, it was just the way he worked. I don't know about you, but I've NEVER done this when interviewing a candidate – it's just plain rude. Since the position I was interviewing for reported to this person, I didn't see it as a good sign. However, I had a pretty good relationship with the recruiter, so I decided to just go with the flow.

Sure enough, there were numerous interruptions during our conversation, so I wasn't surprised when the phone rang and he answered it. I was astounded, however, at the conversation I was allowed to overhear. After answering a simple question, Joe proceeded to engage in some chit-chat with his colleague. He related the story of someone at the firm who had been given a promotion. Management wanted him to keep it under his hat until they announced it, but neglected to tell him that. What would you have done in that situation? Of course, you'd share the good news with your friends. When the president/owner realized that the cat was out of the bag he ripped the guy a new one in front of the whole staff and threatened to fire him.

In two short minutes, Joe had managed to tell me so much more about his company than he ever realized. When I left later that morning, I knew I'd never return. I later learned that the recruiter had sent four people to this company, and all of us withdrew from consideration after the first interview. I've just checked, and, not surprisingly, this company no longer exists.

O.K., I'm sure that a lot of people have had stranger and funnier experiences, interviewing and being interviewed. Now's your chance to share them with your fellow OMNI members by sending them to me at jwwazorick@yahoo.com. Come on, I know you're out there, I can hear you breathing...

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