



Welcome to the new Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* newsletter. Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* at www.virtualims.com is an independently-operated vendor-neutral site run by and for the IMS user community.

Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* IMS presentation

The latest webinar from Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* was entitled “IMS and SOA”, and was presented by Dusty Rivers from GT Software.

Dusty started by suggesting that the typical mainframe approach to SOA was a simplistic, Web services-only approach. He also suggested that SOA was typically driven by distributed "folks", who viewed the mainframe as a glorified database. He suggested that mainframers may doubt their ability to develop SOA applications, and were uncertain where to start.

Dusty then went on to tell us that IMS was built for SOA. He reasoned that:

- Transactions are high-performing services.
- Guaranteed delivery of transactions.
- Dependable (for decades).
- IMS developers have been building services since the beginning.
- Typically IMS runs as stateless – a perfect match for SOA.

Looking at current IMS integration options, Dusty suggested that the choices were screen scraping, gateways, adapters, web services wrappers, or writing new code.

He also suggested that design patterns were either bottom up (where existing mainframe artefacts are exposed as Web services and there is one-for-one mapping of a Web service to a transaction), or top down (where users start with a defined business service or WSDL, and may require multiple artefacts to create a complete service). Dusty also suggested that there was a third way that combined the other two.

Dusty showed an interesting example of a credit score Web service and how it could be designed top down or bottom up. He looked at the implications of this and suggested that mainframers should always be involved in the development process because they know the data and can help with the service definition and

Contents:

Virtual IMS <i>CONNECTION</i> presentation	1
Technical question	4
Recent IMS articles	4
News Update	5
From the Job Bank	6
IMS user survey	7
Virtual IMS <i>CONNECTION</i> meeting dates	7
About Virtual IMS <i>CONNECTION</i>	7

Bottom Up Design – Multi-step Processing

- Copybook source as input, one WSDL document per program
 - Multiple request to mainframe
 - Logic necessary to compile response off-host
 - Application server becomes bottleneck for responses
 - Scrape screens to applications multiple times
 - Multiple interfaces for applications server to talk to mainframe

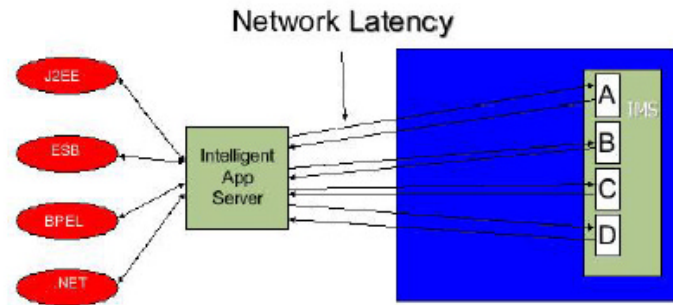


Figure 1: Bottom up design

implementation. He also suggested that multi-step processing would be involved, and, for multiple operations, related functions should be logically grouped. Dusty listed the benefits as:

Top Down Design – Multi-step Processing

- WSDL document first, business service specification
 - Single request to mainframe
 - Logic necessary to compile response on-host
 - Application server is one requestor for service
 - Interface to applications handled on host
 - One interface for applications to talk to *composite* application

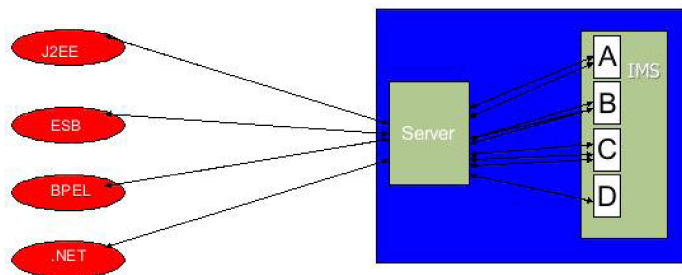


Figure 2: Top down design

Composite Mainframe Web Service

- One WSDL document and multiple mainframe resources accessed

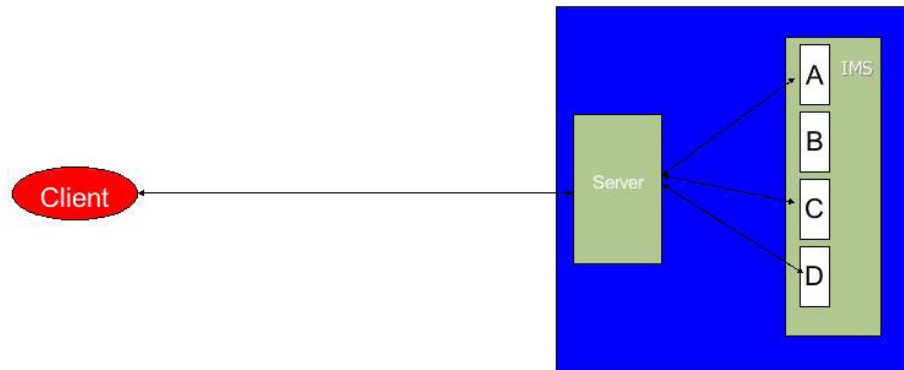


Figure 3: Composite mainframe Web services

- The ability to create valuable, easily understandable services.
- The optimization of mainframe performance (in terms of the amount of XML to be processed, the amount of data to be transferred, and a reduction in the transaction overhead).
- The participation of platform owners.

Dusty Rivers looked at bottom up design (see Figure 1), top-down design (see Figure 2), and a composite mainframe Web service (see Figure 3).

Dusty also showed how a mainframe could be a Web service consumer (see Figure 4).

Dusty informed us that IMS could not only be used as part of a Services-Oriented Architecture (SOA) itself, but it could also be combined with other mainframe subsystems such as CICS or MQ to produce hybrid systems.

Dusty next looked at the value of orchestration suggesting it:

- Enables the delivery of mainframe-based services at any level of granularity.
- Means that services can be single or multiple step.
- Allows a single service to contain IMS, CICS, 3270, data, and external Web services.
- Supports top down and bottom up development.
- Allows customers to decide where orchestration should occur – either above or below the WSDL.

The Mainframe as Web Service Consumer

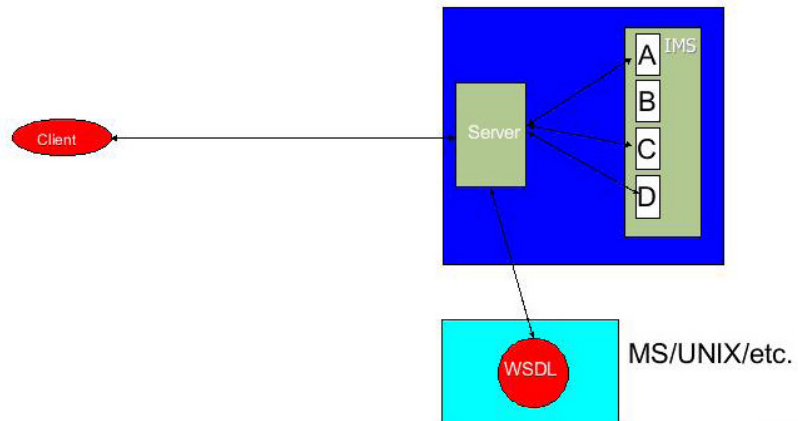


Figure 4: The mainframe as a Web service consumer

- Enables mainframers to participate in the service definition and implementation process.
- Supports building business logic into single Web services.

Dusty finished off his presentation by looking at a case study at Landesbank Baden-Württemberg.

A copy of Dusty's presentation is available for download from the Virtual IMS CONNECTION Web site at <http://www.virtualims.com/presentations/SOAandIMS.pdf>.

Technical question

A user group member has asked the group for some technical help. His question is: Can you tell me whether any tool are available for converting IMS/DC to CICS. It would be great if you could provide me with various approaches or methodologies for this.

Please send any responses to me (trevor@itech-ed.com) and I will pass them on – many thanks.

Recent IMS articles

Simplifying IMS Problem Determination Through Analysis by Dale Wood in the June/July issue of zJournal. It can be found at <http://www.zjournal.com/index.cfm?section=article&aid=1031>.

News Update

Neon Enterprise Software has announced that TITAN Archive now supports IMS databases. TITAN Archive is a database archiving solution enabling the long-term retention of structured data. It also supports DB2 on z/OS and Oracle. TITAN Archive's archived data is tagged and stored with metadata, so it can be retrieved in a meaningful context through standard SQL queries. Even if organizations retire their IMS applications, TITAN Archive assures companies that their IMS data will continue to be available, and be safely stored for as long as it is needed, the company said. The current version of TITAN Archive provides extractors for DB2, Oracle, and IMS. The extractors send data to TITAN Archive's encapsulated archive store. Full details are available at www.neonesoft.com/news_081908.shtm.

ASG Software Solutions has expanded its BSP (Business Service Platform) capabilities to integrate performance information from both distributed and mainframe environments. The new BSP solutions include specific products for distributed performance management, virtualization performance management, enterprise performance management, and z/OS performance and reporting management. These new developments are designed to assist in

Need an easier way to touch your IMS data?

Does accessing your IMS data mean:

- Managing and maintaining multiple data sources?
- Tackling endless requests for one-time programming efforts and specialized reports?

CONNX for IMS from CONNX Solutions gives you the power to:

- Securely access and integrate disparate data sources from one or more systems, no matter where the data and applications physically reside.
- Point directly to your IMS data from standard desktop applications (via ODBC and OLE DB) and custom applications (via .NET and Java).



Sign up for a live demonstration of CONNX for IMS
Thursday, September 25, 2008

www.connx.com/IMSDEMO

locating key performance information, federating this data into a meaningful context, and automating the performance management process for a range of IT environments. ASG's new BSP solutions are supported by six strategic rollouts in ASG's line of ASG-TMON performance monitoring products, which include solutions for z/OS, TCP/IP, IMS, CICS, WebSphere MQ, and WebSphere MQ Enterprise Edition. With ASG's BSP, CIOs can manage the enterprise from the perspective of business services, avoiding critical downtime while saving time and money, the company claims. Full details are available at www.asg.com/newsroom/pr_details.asp?id=226.

NEON Enterprise Software has announced that its Eclipse Reorganization Utilities will now run using IBM's z9 Integrated Information Processors (zIIP). The advantage of this is the fact that zIIP processors free up general computing capacity and lower the total cost of computing by moving selected types of workload from general-purpose processors to zIIP processors. Customers incur no software costs for zIIP processing, resulting in reduced software costs and additional processing capacity, which can eliminate or delay the need to upgrade.

Version 5.1 of the NEON Eclipse Reorganization Utilities have the following zIIP processing potential:

- iCheck - 97%
- iSurvey - 97%
- iBuild - 97%
- iUnload - 50%
- iExtract - 50%
- iLoad - 30%
- iReorg - 50%

Full details are available at www.neonesoft.com/news_051508.shtm.

From the Job Bank

Pre-Sales Support and Implementation Specialist

Based: North America

CIRCLE Computer Group is the global leader in transparent software solutions to facilitate IBM mainframe migration from IMS/DB and VSAM to DB2.

Rapid expansion of our business in North America sees us needing to recruit a technical specialist to provide pre-sales support to our North American sales organisation and to assist with post-sales implementation and customer training.

The position will report to our Global Product Manager for transparency solutions, but will work closely on a day to day basis with our Business Development Manager for North America.

Salary and benefits are negotiable according to experience.

Extensive travel throughout North America (and to the UK) will be a pre-requisite for this position, and the position will be home based, so location is largely irrelevant.

Job Requirements:

Pre-sales experience is an advantage, though not essential, but the successful candidate will be highly experienced in mainframe software environments, particularly DB2, but also CICS, IMS, VSAM etc.

If you are interested, please send your resume to migration@circle-group.com.

IMS User Survey

A full write up of our recent IMS user survey can be found in the last issue of the Virtual IMS CONNECTION newsletter, which can be downloaded from our Web site at <http://www.virtualims.com/doc/VICnewsletter04.pdf>.

Virtual IMS CONNECTION meeting dates

The following meeting dates have been arranged for the Virtual IMS CONNECTION user group:

- *October 7, 2008 – Nick Griffin, BMC Software, Autonomics for your database.*
- *December 2, 2008 – IBM, IMS and Web 2.0.*

All meetings start at 10:30 CDT (3:30 GMT). All members will be e-mailed the Webex URL, access code, and password for each meeting. Members need to log in about five minutes before the meetings starts in order for the Webex connection to complete, and to phone into the freephone number provided so they can join in with the audio component of the meeting.

About Virtual IMS CONNECTION

Virtual IMS CONNECTION is a user group established as a way for individuals using IBM's IMS hierarchical database and transaction processing systems to exchange information, learn new techniques, and advance their skills with the product.

The Web site at www.virtualims.com provides a central point for coordinating periodic meetings (which will be technically-oriented topics presented in a webinar format), and will provide articles, discussions, links, and other resources of interest to IBM IMS practitioners. Anyone with an interest in IMS is welcome to join Virtual IMS CONNECTION and share in the knowledge exchange.

To share ideas, and for further information, contact trevor@itech-ed.com.

The Virtual IMS CONNECTION user group is free to its members. Various sponsorship opportunities are available to vendors of IMS-related products. Full details of these opportunities and can be found *here*.