



SOLUTIONS



*For users of MultiValue products in Australia,
New Zealand & South East Asia*

Volume 2004, Issue 7

August 2004

INTERNATIONAL SPECTRUM

SYDNEY 12-13 OCTOBER

MELBOURNE 18 OCTOBER

MBS is proud to once again be a major sponsor of International Spectrum. This event is dedicated to providing valuable information to users and developers of MultiValue Database Enterprise Solutions, and the 2004 International Spectrum is focused on showcasing the newest and best software tools available! Both the Sydney and Melbourne conferences provide you with the opportunity to meet the major MultiValue database providers, and learn about the future of their products and the industry that has been built around them.

Following on from the success of last years International Spectrum Conference, this years MultiValue Conference and Vendor Fair will be held 12-13 October at the Star City Hotel & Casino in Sydney. A Networking and Technology Day will also be held 18 October at Le Meridien at Rialto in Melbourne.

The two-day Sydney event features a thirty-eight session conference and an early evening vendor fair, while the one-day Melbourne event features selected conference highlights of the

Sydney show, and is billed as a technology day with a vendor fair in the late afternoon.

Spectrum Chairman Gus Giobbi is thrilled that yet again, International Spectrum has made its way to Australia. "These events afford a unique opportunity for attendees to hear first-hand progress reports from the core MultiValue database providers, see the newest MultiValue software utilities, listen to experts talk about the latest ways to interface MultiValue applications with new technologies, and have an opportunity to see demonstrations and talk with key vendors at the vendor fair."

"We are extremely appreciative of both the moral and financial support of Martin Meier and the MBS team", Giobbi continued. "As the key Australasian distributor of IBM's UniVerse and UniData, it would not be possible to produce Spectrum in Australia without it".

"The Melbourne Technology Day is a great addition to the schedule. An analysis of the Sydney event held last year, showed that as many people came over from NZ as did those from Victoria....We have a large base of customers and resellers in Victoria for which we have put together an action packed one day program."

Martin Meier, Managing Director, Meier Business Systems

Index

International Spectrum	Page 1
International Spectrum	Page 2
Conference Session Details	Page 3
UniVerse & ODBC(part 2)	Page 4
MBS Contact Details	Page 5

Managing Director of MBS, Martin Meier expressed his support for the event. "There is value for everyone that attends, and the scope of this conference proves that the MultiValue world is alive and well". Meier also stressed that the general IT community may not realise just how widespread the use of MultiValue products is.

There are a huge number of development products and tools that have been created for the MultiValue marketplace and these only serve to enhance the offerings that MBS is able to provide our customers and partners. The International Spectrum conference and Melbourne Technology Day provide users and vendors of these products the opportunity to come together to meet and explore all of the exciting products that are available.

"In general, if you already have a MultiValue application somewhere in your IT enterprise, our mission is to bring you everything that's new that you can use to enhance your system and your personal knowledgebase", Giobbi said.

MBS has been involved in the MultiValue community since the company's inception in the 80's, and the MultiValue marketplace is still alive and well. These conferences give everyone the opportunity to keep up to date with new technology that has become available, and the next Spectrum conference, to be held in Australia in 2006, is sure to be even bigger and better!

To register to attend the Sydney or Melbourne event, please visit <http://www.intl-spectrum.com>. There is an 'early bird' discount for the conference if you register before August 30, so make sure you get in early!

"We are extremely appreciative of both the moral and financial support of Martin Meier and the MBS team", Giobbi continued. "As the key Australasian distributor of IBM's UniVerse and UniData, it would not be possible to produce Spectrum in Australia without it".

Gus Giobbi, Spectrum Chairman

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

The sessions to be presented at the conference by MBS staff and others include:

- MITS: Interactive Reporting/OLAP for MultiValue Systems
- mvQuery: An Ad-Hoc MultiValue Reporting Tool
- Migration Tricks and Traps: Considerations When Migrating to New Platforms
- Implementing RedBack Into a UniVerse/UniData Application: A Case Study
- A Practical Guide to Tuning UniVerse
- UniVerse & UniData Technical Directions and Roadmap
- WebWizard and ViaDuct: Via Systems Product Update
- Microsoft's .NET: Is it a good fit for MultiValue and Do We Need It?
- Security and Firewalls: Technical Advice and Tips for the MultiValue Developer
- DesignBais: A New Web Toolset for the MultiValue Developer
- mvSQL: Giving SQL Capability to MultiValue Applications
- PRC: A Configuration Management Tool for MultiValue Software

Whether end user or vendor, we know that you will enjoy these and other career enhancing technical presentations and networking opportunities at this gathering of the MultiValue market.

For full session details for both the Sydney and Melbourne events, turn to page 3 of this newsletter, or visit:

<http://www.intl-spectrum.com/SHOWS.html>

We look forward to seeing you there.

Sydney - Tuesday 12 October 2004 - Registration 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.	Data Ready	Ride with iBASE Into the Mainstream	A Developer's Guide to .NET
10:00 a.m.	mvQuickBooks	UniVerse & UniData Technical Directions and Roadmap	Building Complex Dictionaries
11:00 a.m.	WebWizard and ViaDuct	Microsoft's .NET	Security and Firewalls
12:00 noon - MultiValue Luncheon - Sponsored By Meier Business Systems- Featured Speaker			
1:30 p.m.	DesignBais	OpenInsight Version 7.1	Corporate Data Compliance
2:30 p.m.	PRC	Product Update: Pick Data Provider for .NET Technical Overview	MITS
3:30 p.m.	mv2SQL and JDA	Microsoft's Word & Excel	ONware
4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Vendor Fair and Hosted Reception			

Sydney - Wednesday 13 October 2004 - Registration 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.	Visage	Introduction to XML	Business Changing Events
10:00 a.m.	mvQuery	Migration Tricks and Traps	SQL Overview
11:00 a.m.	A New Approach To Dramatically Cut Legacy Maintenance Costs	Adapting MV to PDAs	U2 Databases and IBM
12:00 noon - MultiValue Luncheon - Sponsored By Revelation Software- Featured Speaker			
1:30 p.m.	Application Integration Server	ShareWare & FreeWare	Strategic Reasons for Choosing .NET
2:30 p.m.	WADE	NuVu	Implementing RedBack Into a Universe/Unidata Application
3:30 p.m.	Zeus	A Practical Guide to Tuning UniVerse	Running MultiValue Applications on Microsoft's SQL and Oracle
4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Vendor Fair and Hosted Reception			

Melbourne - Monday 18 October 2004 - Registration 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m.	mvQuery	OpenInsight Version 7.1	Microsoft's .NET
10:00 a.m.	A Practical Guide to Tuning UniVerse	mv2SQL and JDA	U2 Databases and IBM
11:00 a.m.	WebWizard and ViaDuct	WADE	Product Update: Pick Data Provider for .NET Overview
12:00 noon - MultiValue Luncheon - Sponsored By Meier Business Systems- Featured Speaker			
1:30 p.m.	Migration Tricks and Traps	PRC	Building Complex Dictionaries
2:30 p.m.	MITS	A New Approach to Dramatically Cut Legacy Maintenance Costs	A Developer's Guide to .NET
3:30 p.m.	DesignBais	Ride with iBASE Into the Mainstream	Technical Tips for the UniVerse and UNIX/AIX System Administrator
4:30 p.m.	Zeus	Strategic Reasons for Choosing .NET	Shareware and Freeware
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. - Vendor Fair and Hosted Reception			

UNIVERSE AND ODBC

(Part 2)

By Barry Graetz, MBS Technical Support

In the July edition of Solutions, we gave a brief overview (*UniVerse and ODBC*) of ODBC, and introduced some of the terminology used when we talk about ODBC. In this article we further explore UniVerse ODBC and SQL, and discuss what is involved in exposing the raw data in a UniVerse database to an ODBC enabled client.

When exposing legacy data to ODBC clients, a plan must be developed. This plan should detail which data is required, and how that data is going to be presented to the ODBC client. Exposing data in the multi-valued UniVerse database requires the data to be massaged into a non multi-valued state, commonly referred to as 'flattening out the data', or 'normalisation'. This process needs to be carefully thought through, as this planning is the foundation for any ODBC/SQL interface into the UniVerse database.

The next step is to determine which UniVerse tools are to be used. One option is to use the UniVerse SQL interface by creating a SQL schema and converting existing UniVerse files into SQL tables. The Universe implementation of SQL produces a full featured, powerful tool set that, for persons who are comfortable with the traditional methods of accessing data in a UniVerse database, can be difficult to grasp.

A second, and easier approach is to use a simpler interface that utilises much of what is already in place. Wrappers are placed around the current data in a way that ODBC clients can understand. This method requires UniVerse to work harder at exporting the data, however the preparation time is less, and results are produced far more quickly. This second method is discussed here, as it is often considered to be more user friendly, and therefore more suitable for those new to ODBC.

In order to apply any of the following to your organisation's database, it is important that you have reasonable knowledge of the structure of your UniVerse database, and an understanding of database objects like the VOC, Dictionaries and data files. Without this knowledge you run the risk of causing serious damage to your database and underlying systems.

The first stage is to prepare an account for ODBC access. An existing account can be used, however it may prove more effective to create a new account for ODBC/SQL access. Create a new UniVerse account, and compile a list of all the files in the current production account that you want to have access to via ODBC/SQL.

Next, create dictionary only files in the new ODBC/SQL account. Over a number of years, the dictionaries of a computer's files can collect all sorts of entries - many of which we may not know are there, or even why they are there. If the account is using SB+, there will be many SB+ entries in the dictionaries that we must not alter, although they are not required by ODBC/SQL. Through creating dictionary only files in a new account we will keep all our new ODBC/SQL dictionary data separate from the production dictionaries, the result being a much cleaner and less error prone interface.

Once the new dictionaries have been added, the VOC entries need to be edited so that they point to the data section of the files in the production account. UniVerse makes this a simple process by the use of 'F' pointers. Here is an example:

```
➤ CREATE-FILE DICT SQLDICT 3 3 4
```

The VOC entry is

```
SQLDICT
```

```
'0001 F'
```

'0002'
'0003 D_SQLDICT'

The next step is to edit the VOC entry and point the VOC entry to the data file only.

SQLDICT

'0001 F'
'0002 ../PROD_ACCT_NAME/DATA_FILE
'0003 D_SQLDICT'

Note the use of a relative path name to the production account. This is particularly useful if the accounts are moved to a new machine—provided the accounts are maintained in the same location, the 'F' pointers will not need to be adjusted.

Once the dictionary and data sections of the target file(s) are setup, the SQL dictionaries need to be created. Where possible, use UniVerse IDEAL flavor dictionary items. This process may be as simple as copying dictionary items from the production account to the SQL account, or new dictionaries may be required to flatten out multi-valued data into a format suitable for SQL. Ensure that the SQL data types are added to the SQL dictionaries. This process can take some time, and it is worthwhile testing each dictionary item as it is created. Fixing each individual issue while in the progress of adding items is more effective than fixing multiple dictionaries at the end of the exercise.

Once the preparation work is complete, the next step is to login to the HS.ADMIN account and execute the command HS.ADMIN. Select the option to add the account (this is your SQL account, not the production account), to Universe's internal SQL mapping tables, then run HS.SCRUB on the data file(s). This process will check the data file for any problems that may cause problems for SQL when it accesses the data file. Once these processes have been completed, your new SQL account is ready for ODBC/SQL access.

The final step is to setup the DSN on the client machine, connect to your new SQL

account and check that the results on the client are what you expected. At this stage you are able to fine tune details such as which files are being accessed, and which fields are available, by making manual adjustments to the SQL dictionary. If you do make manual adjustments to the dictionary, be sure to run HS.UPDATE.FILEINFO from TCL. This program will update the control files that UniVerse uses.

These steps should act as a basic introduction to the installation, the use of, and the benefits of ODBC/SQL. Should you require technical help in accessing the further benefits that ODBC/SQL can provide, please email support@mbs.net.au and we will be happy to provide assistance.

If you are interested in the training services that MBS can offer to assist in the development and training of your staff, please email training@mbs.net.au

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

MEIER BUSINESS SYSTEMS

MELBOURNE:

50-54 Grange Road

Carnegie, VIC, 3163

Phone: +61 3 9571 3111 Fax: +61 3 9571 3222

SYDNEY:

Suite 1304, Level 13, 83 Mount Street,

North Sydney, NSW, 2060

Phone: +61 2 9954 5000 Fax: +61 2 9954 5100

National Phone Number: 1300 79 33 33 (Australia wide)

Email: info@mbs.net.au

Website: www.mbs.net.au

ACN 050 194 851

ABN 46 050 194 851

Whilst every attempt has been made to ensure that the information in this document is accurate, in no event will MBS be responsible or liable, directly or indirectly, for any cost, damage or loss caused, or alleged to be caused by or in connection with the use of or reliance on any such information.

Published August 2004, ©2004 Meier Business Systems
All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.