



SOLUTIONS



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

Volume 2004, Issue 1

January 2004

THE YEAR AHEAD

As we kick off another year it is always interesting to consider what might be and how it might affect us. With this in mind, we have looked at some of the industry pundit's predictions for 2004 and the one message that seems loud and clear is that 2004 looms as another year of increased public adoption of technology.

On the consumer side, the continued increases in broadband internet and a range of new consumer products from companies such as HP, Dell and IBM will drive the transformation of the PCs into consumer electronic devices.

One single purpose device just isn't enough for a population that becomes increasingly focused on accessibility, communication and technology. The popular limited-function Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) will likely be replaced with units that perform a variety of tasks. The three most popular portable devices are cellular phones, calculators, and PDAs (if we discount MP3 players and the like), yet one-third of consumers are only willing to carry one unit. PDAs that have optimized basic personal information management (PIM) will remain popular but consumers are becoming increasingly interested in having voice, calculator and PIM in one portable device.

Mobile usage will diversify and increase as users migrate from dial-up to broadband and increase their use of WLAN hot spots and ad hoc wired connections.

Wireless technology will continue to proliferate this year, with the number of Wi-Fi hotspots worldwide increasing to almost 85,000 in 2004 compared with 50,000 in 2003. However, corporate adoption of wireless networking will lag behind public adoption, with security concerns and the presence of existing wired infrastructure slowing the transition to wireless local area networks. We would expect that enterprises look toward user authentication and Secure Socket Layer (SSL) VPN technologies to secure remote mobile access.

Changes in the distribution and marketing of IBM U2 software products will lead to greater global awareness of MultiValue software developers and will see more Australian developed software exported overseas.

Competitive pricing pressures and growth of Linux will see dramatic increases in the sales of desktop and Intel server hardware.

An increased incidence of SPAM and Viruses will continue to frustrate the average computer user as well as the seasoned administrators who are fighting a constant barrage of challenges on a daily basis. Locking down your systems to prevent unwanted visitors should be a focus for all computer users, not just for System Administrators.

2004 has its' challenges but promises also to be a rewarding year.

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Who's Who at MBS

Brian Greenstreet- Business Analyst- Staff Profile

Brian joined MBS in August 1999 with over 15 years of experience in working with MultiValue databases, and System Builder applications. As a result, he is more than qualified to answer any tricky tech questions, and many of our clients will have spoken to Brian with support queries.



Having worked within a number of industries including Retail (IT Manager roles) and Transport (IT manager of Victorias largest privately run bus company for 17 years) Brian has a solid background in a number of environments, and has had great success incorporating MultiValue databases with other systems.

Brian is an enthusiastic member of the MBS team, and has worked on a number of large client projects including support, maintenance, and programming.

He and wife Lynda have four grownup children, and when not in front of a screen, Brian enjoys spending time with his family, supporting Collingwood, playing social tennis, and gardening.

IBM UniVerse 10.1 Now Available!

IBM is pleased to announce the availability of UniVerse 10.1 focusing on interoperability, security and performance.

UniVerse 10.1 extends the integration with XML using DOM (Document Object Model) for allowing more precise control over XML generation and consumption. A WebSphere MQ API in UniVerse Basic leverages assured one time message delivery.

UniVerse 10.1 extends SSL to UniObjects for Java, JDBC, and telnet to create secure communication channels with encryption and endpoint authentication.

Transparently re-architecting ODBC improves security and, along with streamlining UCI, improves SQL-based access. Dynamic linking reduces the UniVerse footprint and using native O/S facilities for multi-threaded sorting speeds up Retrieve and SQL.

Year's worst virus

The Sobig-F worm proved itself the hardest-hitting virus of 2003, with a clear lead over the "infamous" Blaster, which attempted to knock a Microsoft Web site off the Internet. And both of those viruses, plus the third-placed Nachi worm, struck in August, making it the worst single month in virus history, according to one leading Anti-Virus software provider.

"Sobig-F unquestionably wins the dubious title of worm-of-the-year," explained Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant for Sophos. "It spread more ferociously than any virus ever seen before, swamping e-mail inboxes. Some companies reported seeing hundreds of thousands of infected e-mails every day."

U2 Product Availability Matrix

Looking for more information about compatibility of U2 products and platforms? (Operating System, Hardware, etc) Please visit the following URL:

<https://www.927.ibm.com/software/data/u2/support/u2techconnect/matrix.asp>

IBM System Builder 5.3 Now Available!

MBS is pleased to announce the availability of SB+ 5.3 and SBClient 5.3 with many new improvements.

New SB+ 5.3 features include real-time updating of combo-boxes via expressions. An enhanced SBExplorer (SBX) with Windows look'n'feel and display of multiple systems via menu-only mode. Security administration has been improved with the RESTRICT.COPY process, and users can now be given access to accounts that have not been specified in group security. SB+ grids have also been given a performance boost. Matrix navigation and functionality has been improved, and the ListView lookup process now handles multiple selections. The GUI form painter has been enhanced, and many other miscellaneous text and GUI enhancements have been included in this release.

SBClient 5.3 is certified to work with Windows 2000 and Windows XP, and registry-key editing is no longer required. Samba is now supported by the Network copy protocol. Applications can now be launched via their datafile extension, and MAPI subroutines now support BCC addresses.

INTERNATIONAL SPECTRUM 2004

There is a great conference program in store for you this year! In addition to corporate and traditional technical updates, you'll hear lots about contemporary issues including –

- ▣ Dealing with Spam
- ▣ Monitoring Web usage
- ▣ MultiValue and .NET
- ▣ MV Web application development tools
- ▣ MV and the open source movement
- ▣ More new tools
- ▣ Web services
- ▣ And much more

For full conference details and registration information, please visit www.intl-spectrum.com

International Spectrum's
23rd Annual MultiValue
Conference & Exhibition
March 15-18, 2004
Stardust Resort & Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

Odd Spot

It's generally better to focus on the solution rather than the problem!

When NASA began the launch of astronauts into space, they discovered that pens wouldn't work at zero gravity. Ink wouldn't flow down to the writing surface. In order to solve this problem they hired a well-known consulting firm.

It took them one decade and 12 million dollars. They developed a pen that worked at zero gravity, upside down, under water, on practically any surface including crystal and in a temperature range from below freezing to over 300 degrees Celsius.

The Russians used a pencil.

UPCOMING TRAINING COURSES

MBS offers the following courses as part of our commitment to deliver quality services to our clients. These courses are delivered via one of our strategic business partners and are available in Sydney, Melbourne and New Zealand. For courses or locations not listed here or for other information please contact your local account manager or email training@mbs.net.au

Course	Course Code	Price	Days	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
SYDNEY									
IBM U2 UniVerse Fundamentals	UV-900	A\$2200	4		10-13		30-2		8-11
IBM U2 UniVerse Database Programming	UV-903	A\$2200	4		24-27			4-7	
IBM U2 UniData Fundamentals	UD-100	A\$2200	4			9-12			
IBM U2 UniVerse Core Technologies	UV-904	A\$2400	4			9-12		25-28	
IBM U2 UniData Administration	UD-200	A\$2400	4		17-20		5-8		8-11
MELBOURNE									
IBM U2 UniVerse Fundamentals	UV-900	A\$2200	4	13-16		2-5		4-7	
IBM U2 UniVerse Database Programming	UV-903	A\$2200	4	27-30		23-26		18-21	
IBM U2 UniData Fundamentals	UD-100	A\$2200	4	20-23			30-2		
IBM U2 UniVerse Core Technologies	UV-904	A\$2400	4		10-13		5-8	11-14	1-4
IBM U2 UniData Administration	UD-200	A\$2400	4		24-27				
NEW ZEALAND									
IBM U2 UniVerse Fundamentals	UV-900	\$2400	4	20-23			30-2		8-11
IBM U2 UniVerse Database Programming	UV-903	\$2400	4		3-6			18-21	
IBM U2 UniData Fundamentals	UD-100	\$2400	4	27-30		9-12			8-11
IBM U2 UniVerse Core Technologies	UV-904	\$2400	4		17-20		13-16		
IBM U2 UniData Administration	UD-200	\$2400	4			23-26			22-25

*All prices include GST

Who's Who at MBS

Sonya Breider- Support Co-ordinator- Staff Profile

Sonya has worked with MBS for over three years, and has over 9 years of experience working within the MultiValue industry, predominately as a Business Analyst. She also has extensive experience with SB+, and the Advantage, and Masterpack applications.

Having worked in a number of industries, Sonya gained expertise in business systems, and has used SB+ to design systems, including assisting with the front-end development of screens, fields, help and reporting. Sonya's previous experience as a Distribution Manager for a clothing importer, combined with her understanding of SB+, then led her into an analyst, project management and training role for a major Multi Value computer company.



Sonya has built up a strong relationship with a number of clients over the years, and really is the backbone of the MBS Support Team. If you have ever had a support issue or query, chances are you have spoken to Sonya - and heard about her beloved Saints - the St Kilda Football team.

TECH TIP: CHANGING BACKGROUND COLORS TO RECOGNISE DIFFERENT SB+ ACCOUNTS

When working in SB+, it can be difficult to spot the difference between the live account, and other accounts that are open, such as Training, and Upgrade accounts.

Follow the instructions below to change the background color on the screen to either Green or Red- this will ensure that the user is aware of the account that they are entering information into, and will mean that only **live transactions are updated in the live account.**

In /TERM.DEFN copy your current terminal definition, eg: TU.ANSI, to TU.RED and TU.GREEN, then change as shown below:-

TU.RED for a Red Background

F5 = Colors
Default Screen = 5,16,12
Std Back/Fore = 5,16

TU.GREEN for a Green Background

F5 = Colors
Default Screen = 3,16,12
Std Back/Fore - 3,16
Then create a **GLOBAL** paragraph process with the following lines:-

```
DATA "TU.RED"  
EXEC "CHANGE.TERMINAL"
```

Place the paragraph into the SBSYSMENU in the "Process after Display" slot. As soon as a user chooses any menu option their screen background will go RED. Do the same in the other account with TU.GREEN.

Once these changes have been made, operators will be able to have multiple sessions open at the same time- there is a visible colour difference on the screens to help them with their data entry, reporting and reconciliation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**mvQuery Product Briefing, Melbourne
28/01/04**

**mvQuery Product Briefing, Sydney 12/02/04
& 26/02/04**

**International Spectrum, Las Vegas 15/03/04-
18/03/04**

**Training Courses: Please see schedule on
page 3 of this newsletter**

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

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