



SOLUTIONS



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

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AVNET PARTNER SOLUTIONS

MBS recently participated in the annual Avnet Partner Solutions Conference which was held at Telstra Stadium in Sydney.

The theme of the conference was "Teamwork" and we were fortunate to be able to listen to a presentation by John Eales (former Australian Rugby Captain) where he outlined the key elements and beliefs of Teamwork. Whilst they may be vital in the international sporting arena, they are certainly equally applicable in the business arena.

The conference was an excellent opportunity for MBS to represent the MultiValue marketplace in the broader IT community, and gave the Avnet partner community the chance to meet and exchange ideas and product information.



From left to right: David Senecky (MBS), Bob Guthrie (FusionWare), Brian Egan (MBS), Col Gregan (FusionWare), and Mike McKee (IBM) at the conference.

WINTEGRATE V5.2 NOW AVAILABLE

wIntegrate v5.2, the first full Unicode release, is now generally available. wIntegrate v5.2 supports the display of multi-byte characters, so you can run wIntegrate on most European and Asian PC's. wIntegrate v5.2, and a basic "Using wIntegrate" manual, have been localised for Simplified Chinese.

UNIDATA V6.1 TO BECOME AVAILABLE ON 30/7/04

This feature rich release of UniData includes the following enhancements:

- XML Enhancements, including:
 - the generation of XML Schema for XML output
 - support for an XML DOM API in Basic
 - XML/DB tool to move data from XML to/from UniData files
 - a GUI XML/DB Mapping tool
- SOAP Client API
- Secure Socket Layer (SSL) for JDBC
- Table Relationship Mapping for ODBC Tools
- UniObjects for .NET

The initial platforms on which this release will be available are AIX, HP/UX (RISC), Solaris, Windows and Red Hat Linux. For further information on these new products, and our complete range of products and services, contact your account manager or sales@mbs.net.au

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UNIVERSE AND ODBC

Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) enables the user to access data from any ODBC enabled application, regardless of the database management system (DBMS) handling the data. This is made possible with the insertion of a database driver between the application and the DBMS. Structured Query Language (SQL) has become the standard query language for accessing data within a DBMS, and is used by ODBC as its internal query language.

UniVerse ODBC offers the ability to transfer data between the UniVerse database and other ODBC enabled applications including Microsoft Office (i.e. Word and Excel). Data can also be exchanged between UniVerse and an external RDBMS with the use of ODBC.

UniVerse ODBC is supplied with the base product, and can be found on the UniVerse client CD Rom. UniVerse come complete with free software and test accounts included, and ODBC is activated on the server with the installation code by default. If an earlier UniVerse release is being run, an additional licence may be required to activate ODBC.

The installation of UniVerse ODBC is performed on the client computer, and in most cases this will be a desktop system running Microsoft Office applications. The installation process, and the addition of the ODBC drivers to the client system is often quite quick, and can be completed in just a few minutes. A comprehensive set of installation instructions can be found in the UniVerse ODBC manual contained on the UniVerse documentation CD-ROM.

UniVerse comes complete with two sample ODBC accounts, HS.SALES and HS.SERVICE. These two sample accounts have been pre-configured for use – the configuration details on the client system will simply need to be updated so the ODBC driver knows where these two accounts are located. Once this has been done, the client will then be able to access the sample accounts and extract data such as customer listings, sales figures, and inventory listings. This information can be imported into a client application for further processing and manipulation, demonstrating the ease of the use of ODBC, and the benefits that it can bring to a business.

UniVerse ODBC and SQL are easily used as tools to access and manipulate data, and information can be exchanged between IBM DB2, and U2 databases, to be transferred into applications such as a Microsoft Access database.

The installation of ODBC onto a PC is not particularly difficult, and a connection to, and the use of the test accounts will allow the user to obtain an idea of this tool, and the way in which it can work within their organisation.

In the August edition of Solutions, we will detail the steps involved in preparing a UniVerse account for ODBC access, allowing data to be easily transferred across applications and quickly manipulated.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

MBS moved into their new premises in October 2003. A number of our customers are still forwarding correspondence to our old mailing address and PO Box, neither of which are now in use. Please update your company records to reflect our new details as below. This will ensure that we receive all mail promptly and without a lengthy delay.

Street and Mailing Address:

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Training IS your Business

The customisation of training programs for use within businesses helps to ensure that the information technology investments an organisation makes are of maximum benefit to staff, and the business as a whole.

The process of developing a training program can be time consuming and expensive in terms of the resources that are required. Employers must determine the type of training which would be most beneficial, examine the costs that are involved, and then select one of many options; two of which are electronic learning (e-learning), or class room based training.

E-learning and classroom training methods will both appeal to management, depending on the particular requirements of the business, and therefore the criteria that the course is expected to meet. Often a company may favour one training method over another due to past experience with a particular method or training provider, however it is important for companies to acknowledge that all methods of training can have something to offer, and this should be considered when developing a training program of any kind.

By ensuring that all training options for a team or individual employee are explored, decision makers are more able to make informed decisions regarding their training and education resources.

E-learning will usually ensure that the majority, if not all, of the interaction between students and tutors takes place electronically. The term itself, covers a wide set of applications and processes, including the delivery of content via Internet, intranet/extranet (LAN/WAN), audio and videotape, web based learning, computer-based learning, virtual classrooms, and digital collaboration.

Self paced programs are often offered electronically – These allow the student to progress through the course units at a rate appropriate to their ability and the time they have available. E-learning facilities such as the internet, and other digital tools are often available 24/7, allowing a student to be flexible when organising study, work and personal

commitments. This type of education can occur at the actual business office, and there is often little need for the employee to spend time away from the workplace.

The cost of e-learning can be minimal, depending on the course and lessons taken, and the particular training provider. Expenses for educational items such as textbooks are often minimal, as are travelling costs that can be involved in travelling to an external location for training.

Classroom training can occur at the work site, the providers' offices, or at another venue. Classroom based training can offer students guaranteed contact time with a tutor, which is beneficial to those students who find that contact in the classroom environment encourages the learning process. Face-face-discussion between students and tutors can also encourage a stronger relationship within the classroom, developing communication, and ensuring that topics are examined in depth.

Classroom training also encourages the student to focus on the training whereas self paced learning requires discipline on the part of the student to manage their time and effort.

Businesses should investigate and examine their training options carefully. This will ensure that the resources available are allocated appropriately, allowing staff and the organisation as a whole to gain maximum benefit. All individuals learn differently, and it is important for management to acknowledge that different training methods will benefit students to differing degrees.

For further information on general and customised courses to suit your business, and maximise your employees potential, please contact training@mbs.net.au with your requirements, and we will create a course to suit your needs.

INTERNATIONAL SPECTRUM

Sydney 12-13 October 2004
Melbourne 18 October 2004

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 dedicated to 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.

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

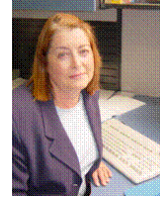
- MITS: Interactive Reporting/OLAP for MultiValue Systems
- mvQuery: An Ad-Hoc MultiValue Reporting Tool
- Migration Tricks and Traps: Considerations When Migrating to New Platforms
- Implementing RedBack Into a UniVerse/UniData Application: A Case Study
- A Practical Guide to Tuning UniVerse
- UniVerse & 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

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.

Look out for further details in upcoming editions of Solutions, speak to your account manager, or visit <http://www.intl-spectrum.com/SHOWS.html> for further information.

STAFF PROFILE

Liz Rawnsley recently joined the MBS team in the role of Masterpack Help Desk Support. Having worked with the Masterpack product for 12 years, Liz has an extensive background in System Administration and support.



Liz's role at MBS involves first line support of the Masterpack application, and the provision of day to day operational advice and guidance in the use of the product. Liz is also a member of the Masterpack development team, where her experience with the product, and her awareness of clients needs and wants have helped to ensure the growth of Masterpack into the future. She enjoys her work and says "It gives me a sense of satisfaction when a client's problem has been resolved and they are happy with the outcome".

When not hard at work, Liz enjoys catching up with friends or watching a good movie. Her cheerful and accommodating personality has brightened up the office, and we take this opportunity to officially welcome Liz to the MBS clan!

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

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