



SOLUTIONS



The MBS Newsletter to the International MultiValue Community

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UniVerse®



UniData®

THE FUTURE OF MULTIVALUE

"We want to grow this business. It fits well in the small and medium business market. And there is tremendous opportunities for growth in the Small to Medium Business (SMB) market. IBM sees the U2 partners as key in penetrating SMBs. UniVerse and UniData fill a need in the database space, and that will mean good things for U2 partners". (Susie Siegesmund, *Director, IBM U2 (UniData/UniVerse) Business Unit* in a recent interview with Database Trends editorial Director Dr. Elliot King).

The following excerpts are from a Database Trends interview conducted earlier this year. To view the entire interview, please visit <http://www.dbta.com/in-depth/jan05/siegesmund.html>

DBTA: What do you see as the main trends in the multivalue community?

Siegesmund: There are good things happening and there are things that are not happening. As far as U2 in IBM, the business continues to grow, and IBM continues to invest in the product. Our partners are finding that having the IBM name behind them is helping them sell more, which is good for us all around.

DBTA: There is some sense that MV may be old technology, isn't there?

Siegesmund: But in fact, it is newer than first normal form technology. It is newer than SQL-based technology. People ask that if it is so good, why hasn't it caught on? I really think the world is coming to understand that there are multiple markets for databases, and different databases fit different markets and different purposes. (Con't p2)

UPCOMING EVENT

The IBM U2 and Informix Roadshow is coming in May 2005!

Melbourne: Tuesday 3rd May
Sydney: Wednesday 4th May
Wellington: Thursday 5th May
Auckland: Friday 6th May

All U2 Partners and End Users are invited to attend. Learn first-hand about the newest technology releases for Informix and U2 databases.

Hear how IBM is driving interoperability and common application development platforms across Informix, U2 and its Software Group middleware products to support on demand technology requirements. Also, see the product roadmap for the entire Informix product family.

IBM specialists in Informix Dynamic Server (Mark Scranton, Worldwide Informix Technical Enablement) and U2 (Jackie Burhans, IBM U2 WorldWide Product Manager) will showcase the new product releases and highlight their benefits for your business in either of two breakout sessions.

If you would like further information on this exciting event, please email U2@mbs.net.au

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If we combine that trend with the economics of the time and the opportunities coming from things like Linux and the need for applications that run on a Linux desktop instead of a Windows desktop, there are a lot of forces coming together that can mean good things for multivalue.

DBTA: Where is the growth in the U2 business coming from?

Siegesmund: Our existing partners are prosperous. Partners are also coming to us from other multivalue technology providers that aren't enjoying as much success. We are also getting some new partners, but that has had the least impact. In the U.S., we had about five partners with new applications. We would like to see more new applications being built on the product. IBM has new positioning of its databases, particularly databases embedded in applications, that will make it clearer to new prospects that want to use IBM technology, that IBM is happy to have them use UniData or UniVerse as that technology.

DBTA: What about Linux?

Siegesmund: We are huge Linux supporters. It is one of our tier-one platforms because we have seen that much growth in our deployments through our partners. And it is a strategic move by IBM. As a company, we are huge supporters of Linux and promote Linux development. Both UniData and UniVerse run on Linux. Even our personal edition is available on Linux. And as more people have Linux desktops, that will be good for our products because you can have a really robust application running on a Linux client.

DBTA: Is there going to be a shakeout in the MV marketplace?

Siegesmund: We may have fewer players. It is sad to say. But we have things going on to make UniVerse and UniData more attractive, as well, like integration with WebSphere Application Developer

and DB2 Everyplace. DB2 Everyplace will see the U2 database as another data source that they can plug into. We have partners that use Tivoli to back up UniVerse files. We are looking at incremental backup and Tivoli performance to provide database administration to their customers. I would like to see the WebSphere Portal use U2 as another data store. And Information Integrator will already work in U2 using an SQL interface. But if that product takes off and our partners sell into those kinds of accounts, maybe it will make sense to have a native interface.

DBTA: What is your most important message for the MV community?

Siegesmund: After three and half years, you should have it that IBM wants to continue to run this business. We are not going away. We want to grow this business.

U2 PRODUCT RELEASE UPDATE

New releases for March 2005:

RedBack 4.2.5 for TRU64 5.1b
UV 10.1.8 for HP/UX 11.0 PA2 32-Bit

Certifications completed in March:
UV 10.1.8 runs on HP '11i' 11.23 PA2 64-Bit

Please check the Product Availability Matrix for more product release information.

<http://www.ibm.com/source/cgi-bin/goto?on=IMNL305J01>

KING REIGNS- Kevin King Rides U2 to Victory in International Spectrum Contest

Congratulations to Kevin King on winning the programming contest held at International Spectrum in February using IBM UniData and SB+ products!

The Spectrum programming competition included 8 teams, each of which could be one or two people. The teams were given an elaborate problem involving the annual meeting of a fictitious multivalue user group and eight hours in which to complete their solution. Many real world twists were included in the problem including vague specs, a short turn-around time, and mid-stream changes to the requirements. The judges evaluated the various solutions and King was declared the contest winner.

Visit <http://www.u2ug.org> and www.intl-spectrum.com for full details of this exciting event.

MITI ANNOUNCES MITS 5.3 SHOWCASING THE NEW MITSWEB DASHBOARD

Reynolds & Reynolds Incorporates MitsWeb Dashboard Technology

Management Information Tools, Inc. (MITI), the developer of MITS, the leading online analytical processing/business intelligence (OLAP/BI) software for the MultiValue database market, recently announced the highly anticipated new release of its MITS Business Intelligence Suite. MITS Version 5.3 was officially released in January 2005 and incorporates the new MitsWeb Dashboard option, along with enhanced functionality, stability and security.

MITS is a powerful business intelligence solution that offers advanced dynamic and interactive data reporting. Utilizing MITI's own Hypercube technology, MITS takes information in a company's computer system and makes it quickly and easily accessible to decision-makers. Now MITI has taken the technology a step further with MitsWeb Dashboard.

MitsWeb Dashboard enables users to have information at their fingertips as they've never had before. It allows the user to assemble a Dashboard made from MitsWeb Dashboard "objects" showing "key metrics" about their organization. Residing on a small amount of space on the computer screen, MitsWeb Dashboard can be set up to periodically poll for fresh information that continuously informs the user rather than requiring them to run a report or take valuable time researching issues. Information may be displayed with an unprecedented degree of immediacy.

"The MitsWeb Dashboard enhancement brings MITS to a whole new level of functionality," said Pat Gilbrough, president of MITI. "The ability to make users aware of key metrics in their specific area of responsibility greatly empowers them to be on top of activity in their organization. Productivity will increase as employees are made aware of key performance indicators."

For example, the MitsWeb Dashboard may be used to show how many transactions are being entered today versus the same date and time last year; dollar volume totals; trends; differences; counts; and ratios, among many other variations. These metrics may be presented in charts, as a single number, as a grid of numbers and factors, or even as images. MitsWeb Dashboards support building fully customized dashboard objects through the use of a highly flexible report processing engine. These custom objects have full access to MITS report data and can use custom logic to show highly condensed sets of information, such as color indicators to high-light key metrics (e.g., if lower than a 10% profit margin, show a red dot). All dashboard objects can link to the underlying MITS Flash Screens and/or MITS Detail Displays. When linked to a MITS Flash Screen, the user may then perform OLAP analysis with the standard interactive reporting functionality provided with MITS.

As a proven solution, the MitsWeb Dashboard has been incorporated into Reynolds & Reynolds' (www.reyrey.com) new ERAxt Advanced Reporting module. This new module is being included in every new and upgraded ERAxt system. Reynolds & Reynolds, the world's largest IBM U2 Value-Added Reseller, has more than 10,000 vehicle dealerships as customers and has begun to roll out the ERAxt Advanced Reporting module including MitsWeb Dashboard, to them.

"In its first implementation MitsWeb Dashboard was incorporated into Reynolds & Reynolds' ERAxt Advanced Reporting module, and it has been a resounding success," said Fred Owen, MITI's Vice President and General Manager. "MitsWeb Dashboard is groundbreaking technology that adds even more capabilities to the MITS tool set, transforming how information is presented to the user and making it even easier to take advantage of company data. The fact that Reynolds & Reynolds, a large and respected VAR, is utilizing MITS and MitsWeb Dashboard in its ERAxt software really underscores the benefits of this technology."

MitsWeb Dashboard is available as an optional addition to MitsWeb. MITS Version 5.3 also includes the following user-friendly features:

- Evaluation Hypercubes no longer have to be regenerated when MitsServer is activated
- String Search added to Identifier Lookup Feature in Select Exploration
- Complete enhancement of all HTML forms to support standard Cascade Style Sheets for User Interface Modifications
- Added Firefox Browser Compatibility
- Enhanced MitsWeb Session Security and Support for XP Service Pack 2 (XP2)
- MITS Implementer / Reseller may now select Features of MitsAdmin to be available to Users
- Enhanced Column Maintenance and Column Set Maintenance
- Enhanced Column Functions created on the fly
- Macro Libraries can be flagged as read-only, allowing resellers to distribute and control standard flash screen reports with their OLAP offering
- OLAP exploration can be configured to show only values that could be expected in a particular path or all possible values for increased flexibility

For more details about MITS Version 5.3 and the new MitsWeb Dashboard, contact sales@mbs.net.au or your MBS account manager.



SINGLE LOGIN FOR SB+

Are you sick and tired of logging in twice? Once to access the operating system, then again to SB+? The best way around this issue is to feed the USER.ID and PASSWORD into the SB+ login screen.

Firstly, store the SB+ password in encrypted format. Create a screen to capture 'user' details and add a PASSWORD field to the screen. Then utilise the following code fragment in the 'conversion' slot, to convert the entered password into the encrypted password.

```
LEN.VAL = LEN(VALUE)
VALID.WORD = 1
FOR XX = 1 TO LEN.VAL
  SEQ.VAL = SEQ(VALUE[XX,1])
  IF SEQ.VAL < 32 OR SEQ.VAL > 127 THEN
    VALID.WORD=0
  END
NEXT XX
IF VALID.WORD THEN
  STACK='E;@53;Z|U'      ;* ENCRYPT(VALUE)
  CALL SB.EVAL.EXP(STACK)
END
```

Secondly, create a program that data stacks the USER.ID and PASSWORD into the SB.LOGIN program. The following code fragment assumes that the USER.ID is the same as the operating system LOGNAME

```
IF INDEX(@LOGNAME,'\',1) THEN
  USER.ID = FIELD(@LOGNAME,'\',2)
END ELSE
  USER.ID = @LOGNAME
END
DATA USER.ID
READV USER.REC FROM USER.FILE, USER.ID,
ELSE USER.REC = ""
VALUE = USER.REC<PASSWORD>
IF VALUE # "" THEN
  STACK = 'E;@53;Z|V'      ;* DECRYPT(VALUE)
  CALL SB.EVAL.EXP(STACK)
  DATA VALUE
END
CHAIN "SB.LOGIN"
```

If you require assistance with the implementation of this Tech Tip or other SB+ related features at your site, please email support@mbs.net.au.

SBCLIENT TIP

Problem:

If an email size exceeds 5600 bytes when using SBClient TU.MAPI.SENDMAIL, the email function may fail (sometimes with the message 1028 or 5 appearing). This is more likely to occur on Office XP than on Office 2000.

Solution:

To fix this problem, copy the SBOPEN.INI file into the Windows root directory on the workstation experiencing the problem.

Reboot the system and test the mail routine.

U2 now available for Linux on IBM POWER hardware

UniVerse 10.1.9 for RedHat Enterprise Linux 3.0 running on the IBM pSeries was released on March 10th. In the coming months, there is a plan to release UniData 6.1 on the same platform. The released version also runs on the IBM iSeries platforms that use the POWER4 or higher microprocessors.

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