



# SOLUTIONS



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

Volume 2004, Issue 4

May 2004

## INTERNATIONAL SPECTRUM

Martin Meier, Managing Director of MBS, recently visited the USA to attend the annual International Spectrum conference held in Las Vegas. During his travels Martin visited several customers and suppliers, and also made a stopover at the IBM U2 Lab in Denver where he met with technical support and development teams. Meetings were also held with senior management who are directly involved in support, engineering and marketing within IBM.

Having key contacts within IBM at the highest possible levels enables MBS to effectively follow up with sales and support related matters, and thus ensures the timely delivery of products and services to our customers.

These visits gave Martin and the IBM team the opportunity to discuss the role and success of U2 on an international level, and it was rewarding for MBS to learn that we are well within the top 10 of the 650 companies that sell U2 products worldwide. What an achievement!

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE WINTEGRATE MAINTENANCE**

As of October 1, 2003, all new wIntegrate licenses include technical support and free upgrades for one year. Licenses purchased prior to October 1, 2003 may or may not have current maintenance. For licenses that do not have current maintenance all release upgrades will require annual maintenance to be taken and this will involve a maintenance reinstatement fee equivalent to 75% of the price of a new license.

IBM has advised MBS that any clients who wish to have maintenance for their current wIntegrate licenses can do so before June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004 without having to pay reinstatement fees. For more information regarding this offer, please contact [info@mbs.net.au](mailto:info@mbs.net.au) or your local MBS account manager.

The success that MBS has had in the MultiValue marketplace can be attributed to the product, consulting, system integration, and support specialists within the MBS team. These individuals have had many years of experience within various technology and database environments, and have a wealth of knowledge and resources to utilise.

The Spectrum Conference was held at the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas, and attracted a huge crowd. The events that were held gave Martin the opportunity to catch up with many of the international vendors that MBS represents in the Asia Pacific region, including Microgen (supplier of mvQuery) and ViaSystems (supplier of products such as UniVision, Viaduct, and WebWizard).

These products all offer a number of benefits and value to the MultiValue marketplace, and we ask you to stay tuned for an upcoming announcement regarding MBS and MITS.

International Spectrum was a great success, and more than 75 presentations and topics were delivered during the four-day event. Vendors at the exhibition generated so much business, that booths at the San Diego event next year are almost already sold out!

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Prominent at Spectrum were XML tools and interfaces, along with other products used to update existing applications, such as Microsoft.NET. It was interesting to see and hear about the many international success stories involving U2 and MultiValue solutions. These applications and products have become so successful they have become firmly entrenched in market niches. The MultiValue marketplace within Australia is certainly booming and will only grow stronger.

Martin was invited to give a special presentation at a breakfast session to some 300 attendees and this was an ideal opportunity to extend an invitation to Spectrum down under. **Spectrum is being held in Sydney October 12-13<sup>th</sup> and in Melbourne October 18<sup>th</sup> and MBS is proud to be the major sponsor for both of these events. We look forward to seeing you there.**

## **2004 IBM Infrastructure Roadshow**

IBM's annual event attracts approx 1500 IT contacts and partners across Australia and is an opportunity to learn about, and explore IBM's full breadth of Operating Environment solutions.

You can still attend the event in the states below. Make sure you contact us at [info@mbs.net.au](mailto:info@mbs.net.au) for more information.

This event offers workshops, panel discussions, and is the only event to cover IBM's offerings across all of their business unit's including:

- personal computing
- servers
- storage
- software
- services.

Sessions include 'Nokia mobility solutions' and 'System Integration'. Explore the key issues of Return On Investment, Productivity and Risk and Resiliency through strategic and technical overviews, technical sessions, and technology demonstrations.

Note the following dates in your diary:

<b>Location</b>	<b>BP Demo Showcase</b>	<b>Event Date</b>
<b>Melbourne</b>	Wed 2nd June	Thurs 3rd June
<b>Sydney</b>	Mon 7th June	Tues 8th June
<b>Brisbane</b>	Tue 16th June	Wed 16th June

For further information please email [info@mbs.net.au](mailto:info@mbs.net.au)

## **Important U2 Product Announcement**

Effective October 1 2004, IBM will withdraw from marketing the programs listed below:

- **PI/Open**
- **UniData RDBMS OC Workgroup Edition**
- **UniData RDBMS OC Server Edition**
- **UniData RDBMS OC Enterprise Edition**
- **UniData Server Edition OC UniServer Feature**

**PI/Open** is a legacy MultiValue Database owned by IBM. For information on migrating to IBM UniVerse please contact your sales representative.

**UniData RDBMS OC** includes UniData versions 5.0 and below. The replacement product is UniData versions 5.1 and higher. At higher releases, UniServer functionality was included with the base product at no additional cost. Clients may obtain the replacement product at no charge if under a current maintenance contract. If not on current maintenance, maintenance reinstatement is required.

In addition, effective December 31 2004, IBM will withdraw from marketing the programs listed below:

**wIntegrate v4.x (a.k.a. wIntegrate 98)** – to be replaced by wIntegrate v5.x or later

Clients may obtain the replacement product at no charge if under a current maintenance contract. If not on current maintenance, maintenance reinstatement is required.

Withdrawal from market means that:

- Licence & maintenance are not available for NEW clients
- Licences and maintenance ARE available for existing clients
- Media and binary images are no longer available

Maintenance includes the ability to obtain technical support and to upgrade to newer versions at no cost.

*For more information, please contact [Sales@mbs.net.au](mailto:Sales@mbs.net.au)*

## IBM UniVerse on Windows Servers

(Or: Food for thought)

by Barry Graetz

Is your company's valuable IT information currently being managed by UniVerse or UniData (U2) or is it hosted on a Unix, Linux or Windows NT4 server that is past its prime? Is your company struggling on a non-U2 Multi Value database that doesn't offer your organisation the stability that you require? Is your current system struggling under the weight of additional data processing requirements that were not envisaged when the system was developed?

Now is the time to have a fresh look at an alternative for your business: Windows 2003 server.

Windows 2003 Server has progressed beyond the teething stage, and is now a very fast, stable, feature rich server that makes an excellent host for your IBM U2 database.

*But, you ask, what about all the bad press in recent times about Windows initial and ongoing licensing costs, compared to Red Hat Linux? Well, the landscape has changed. The Red Hat Linux product line has gone through a restructure that has resulted in a product line that is now one of the most expensive options available, and in addition, Red Hat Linux now commands an annual licensing fee that is more expensive than Windows 2003.*

IBM has invested considerable development effort in enhancing the current Windows versions of U2 databases, and this has resulted in products that blend in seamlessly with the Windows 2003 Server platform. UniVerse provides a number of free value add tools including a GUI UniVerse database administrator, a much simpler and faster ODBC driver, and full support for the complexities of XML.

Marry Windows 2003 Server and U2 together, and you have a very powerful, fast, and stable platform that will allow your business to move forward and keep pace with your competitors.

*But, you ask again, our current system is running on a version of Unix that Noah used when he loaded the Ark, and our application requires some of those Unix tools to function. No problem! Microsoft has a set of mature Unix tools for Windows 2003 Server that will allow your Unix based application to run with little, if any, modifications.*

So if you have been thinking about your companies IT future, or of a better way to process your companies IT information, now is the time to have a fresh look. When examining your options, do not discount Windows 2003 Server as an operating system for your UniVerse or UniData database. It can provide a powerful and stable environment that offers many advantages to your organisation.

*(Barry is a member of the MBS Technical Support Team)*

### DATA LOSS & BACK UP

The MBS support team is often called upon to help clients recover from disastrous situations, including those where data has been lost, through failure of hardware or a glitch in procedures. In a situation where there is a need to recover data, our first questions will concern the manner in which the data has been backed up. We will need to establish what types of backups were being performed, and how often. We will then need to examine other factors, including the manner in which the tapes are cycled.

If this information has not been documented clearly, then the process of recovery can be difficult, involving lengthy investigations to ascertain the procedures and methods that have been used. This type of investigation will usually mean that a business will be operating in a reduced fashion, or not at all, for an extended period of time.

Our technical team recommend that all backup procedures should be documented thoroughly. This documentation should include a general overview of the intention of the backup regime, and details of the method (including screen shots, script dumps, and scheduling information). This literature should also include details on how the information can be recovered from the backup, be it at a record, file or directory level, and backup logs should be kept, with any deviance from the procedures clearly noted. The logs, at a minimum, should include the time taken, size, and outcome, while the person responsible for the backup should also be clearly identified.

Should you require help in putting these concepts into practice on your MultiValue systems, please contact MBS Professional Services, as our experience in this area could help your business avoid a potential disaster.

## mvQuery product update

Meier Business Systems recently held an mvQuery product briefing in Tasmania and Western Australia.

Many customers took the opportunity to learn about this exciting tool, which has been specifically created to access, present and disseminate information within MultiValue databases. The feedback received by MBS indicates there is strong demand for a product such as this in the market place.

Should you like to learn more about mvQuery, please contact your account manager, or email [sales@mbs.net.au](mailto:sales@mbs.net.au).

## TECHTIP

### Installing UniVerse 10.1 on RedHat Linux Version 9

MBS has received a number of calls from clients who have experienced an error when installing UniVerse 10.1 on Red Hat Linux 9. The install process fails, and reports an error message stating that the program 'uncompress' cannot be found.

The Linux programs compress / uncompress are no longer installed by default on Red Hat Linux 9 systems, and must either be selected for installation during the initial system load, or installed manually after the system is installed.

There are two methods that can be used to fix this problem on an already installed Red Hat 9 system.

1. Use the Red Hat package manager and install the 'ncompress' rpm package found on the second Red Hat CD-ROM.
2. Create a symbolic link from gzip to uncompress as follows:

```
# ln -s /bin/gzip /usr/bin/uncompress
```

**Once you have followed either of these steps simply re-run the UniVerse installation program again.**

## UPCOMING TRAINING COURSES

As part of our commitment to deliver quality services to our clients, MBS offers a number of training courses for IBM U2 products. These standard courses are available in Sydney, Melbourne and New Zealand. For customised courses or more information regarding standard courses or location details, please contact your local account manager or email [training@mbs.net.au](mailto:training@mbs.net.au)

### Upcoming Events

International Spectrum	Sydney	12/10- 13/10
International Spectrum	Melbourne	18/10

For further information on any of these events, please email [Rachell.Raynor@mbs.net.au](mailto:Rachell.Raynor@mbs.net.au) or contact Rachell on 1300 793 333

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