WebSphere Development Studio: How to integrate and streamline your RPG and Web development IBM Webcast Transcript - April 22, 2003 – Follow-up to Unanswered Questions

These questions were submitted but not answered during the April 22, 2003, IBM Webcast session on WebSphere Development Studio.

When: April 22, 2003
Speakers: Phil Coulthard, WebSphere Development Studio Client Architect

Q: Are there any wizards, or third party tools that assist(gen code) in RPGLE / ProgramCall from java
A: For RPGLE, there are wizards in the CODE Editor for generating procedure stubs, D-specs and Java calls. This function is not yet available in the built-in IDE editor, but you can simply launch the CODE Editor from the RSE to get to this capability for now. For ProgramCall from Java, the iSeries Java Tools in the WDSC IDE does have a "Program Call Wizard" that will generate Java code to call a given program or procedure.

Q: Does WDSc support Unicode? To what extent? Could the source code be stored on iSeries in Unicode?
 A: Yes it does, to the extent it can edit Unicode source, and indeed whenever it stores local copies of any source, including iSeries, it stores it in Unicode. To have it stored in Unicode in an IFS folder, it is a simple matter of setting the target folder or file's CCSID appropriately. The file transfer code in WDSC will detect the target CCSID and map to it when copying source to the iSeries.

Q: When will WDSC 5.0 be available?
A: **WDSC 5.0 is now available!** As of April 25th. What the
www.ibm.com/software/awdtools/wds400 website for information on service packs.

Q: I hear it includes ability to create data access beans over join logicals, which 4.0 does not support, yet WDT400 did support.
A: There are data access beans in WDSC, as there were in VAJava. Rather, there are wizards that generate Java beans to access data, given SQL created by hand or by wizard. Thus, if SQL submitted by the toolbox JDBC driver can access the join logical files, then the generated beans will work. As far as I know, this is the case, but I haven't tried it. When I get a chance, I will and let you know. Meanwhile, if you try it, let me know ☺ - Phil, coulthar@ca.ibm.com

Q: Will free form be supported in RSE?
A: Free form RPG is supported in RSE, in the editor, syntax checker, program verifier and online help. There is more we can do, and want to do, but it's a very good start.

Q: Can anything be done to improve the 'Startup' time for the WDSc?
A: There is in fact some tweaking that can be done, by adjusting the heap allocation via parameters to the wdsc executable. Also, it helps when you close WDSC to ensure there are as few perspectives open as possible, as they affect startup time. A whitepaper is in the works, and in a couple weeks should be available at the WebSphere Studio Developer Domain (www.ibm.com/software/wsdd). The whitepaper will refer to WSAD but it applies to WDSC as well.

Q: Which version does the new WDSc Advanced fall in regards to WSAD?   (i.e. WSAD, WSADIE, WSSD,etc.)?
A: WDSc Advanced is a pure superset of WSAD, with our iSeries plugins added to it.

Q: If you have WSAD 5.0, or WSADIE 5.0 already installed, will the iSeries plugins be added to the existing?
A: Yes.

Q: is there a Mac client for web developers
A: I am afraid no, not yet. The core eclipse IDE is indeed available for the Mac, but it does not have the Web tools in it. These are only in the WebSphere Studio family, which currently is only available on Windows and Linux (and WDSC is only available on Windows today).

Q: Is Eclipse project based?
A: Yes

Q: Is Weblogic Supported?
A: Not out of the box, but there is a WebLogic plugin for eclipse downloadable at www.bea.com. Just search for "eclipse".

Q: Is Junit Supported?
A: Yes, deep support built-in to eclipse.

Q: What about Ant for builds?
A: Yes, deep support built-in to eclipse.

Q: Does RSE allow coding in Java?
A: Absolutely. It excels at it, via the inherited Eclipse Java tooling.

Q: If so, is the Class Path Dynamic based on project?
A: Yes. So is the JRE, so each project can use a different version of Java, if desired.

Q: I would like a copy of the slides Bob H.
A: We will send you them.

Q: What opportunities does IBM provide for interested persons to acquire new Web skills on iSeries
A: Indeed there are courses and resources. Start your search at the "Education" link (on left) at the WDS website www.ibm.com/software/awdtools/wds400. Also check the "Library" link as we often put stuff like hands-on labs from COMMON up there.

Q: Does Phil have a book out on using WebSphere?
A: No, but good idea ☺. However, there are a number of books by others and redbooks at www.ibm.com/redbooks

Q: Does WDSc 5.0 come with a hands on tutorial to teach one how to use WDSc 5.0?
A: Yes, there is extensive documentation built-in. Also, try the "Library" link at the WDS website www.ibm.com/software/awdtools/wds400. The "Education" link is also worthwhile.

Q: I am able to use webfacing and also test it. In order for others to use, what software do I need. Will Websphere Application Server Express 5.0 work for this?
A: Yes, it will work great.

Q: What is the difference between WebFacing and the HATS LE function that was announced as part of WDSc in January?
A: HATS LE converts the 5250 datastream into html, at runtime. It is like an emulator in that it is "session" based (all screens in your session are converted to html as you use it). WebFacing converts the DDS source, not the 5250 datastream, and it does this conversion at development-time, not runtime. WebFacing is for enabling a particular application for the Web, while HATS is for accessing your system from the Web.

Q: Does the wizard work for panels as well as it does for DDS displays?
A: If by wizard, you mean WebFacing, the answer is that UIM help panels are supported, but not UIM for other screens or menus.

Q: What happened to Visualage RPG? We have several apps developed in it
A: Nothing has happened to it, it remains part of WDSC, but it is not yet re-written to be Eclipse-based. It is enhanced in 5.0 though, to support the V5R2 level of RPG IV. VARPG is for building client/server applications, while the primary focus of the webcast was on building Web applications.

Q: We have Web Sphere Application Development Tools. What is the difference between those and this?
A: Do you mean WebSphere Application Developer, or WSAD? If so, then WSAD is a superset of WSSD, adding support for EJB development. WDSC is a superset of WSSD too, but it adds iSeries-specific functionality, as described in the webcast. Our new WDSC Advanced product is a direct superset of WSAD, adding the iSeries-specific functionality described in the webcast (eg, WebFacing, RSE, iSeries Projects, iSeries Web Tools and iSeries Java Tools). If you install WDSC 5.0 on top of WSAD 5.0, the iSeries stuff is added to WSAD.

Q: How do WDSC and CODE differ in features / functionality?
A: Think of the Remote System Explorer inside WDSC as a direct replacement for CODE. The only functionality missing as of 5.0 is CODE Designer (which can be launched from the RSE) and some of the functionality of the editor (the Navigator tool and SmartGuides are two examples). We will see if a crisp list of differences can be created and posted at
www.ibm.com/software/awdtools/wds400.

Q: If we already have WSAD 5 do we still have to buy the advanced edition of wdsc? Or can we just install wdsc plug-ins into our existing tools (like in wdsc v4)?
A: You can just install WDSC plug-ins on top of WSAD 5. However, you will not get the iSeries advanced functionality by doing, just the base. See the webcast slides for a list, by component, of the advanced functionality.

Q: Is PDM now deprecated? Will it go away at some future OS/400 version?
A: It is stabilized in the sense we are not enhancing it, and haven't for some time now. However, it will never go way, not to worry!

Q: This question is for Phil Coulthard: Phil, is there a phone # i can reach you at to talk to you about the Java for RPG pgmrs workbook I bought while at COMMON in the Fall, i can't use the workbook because there is a website in there that does not exist.
A: Michelle, send Merrikay Lee email at **mlee@mcpressonline.com,** and she will get you going.

Q. What do you get with the express version of this? What is missing from the express version?
A: WAS Express 5.0 includes the 4.0 version of WDSC now, and soon will include the 5.0 release. It is the full toolset, nothing missing. However, it is only a single license, not unlimited as you get in WDS.

Q: Do you have 30 day trail version software download for Eclipse 2.0, WDSC IDE and RSE?
A: Eclipse 2.0 (and 2.1 now) is fully available for free. There is no change for eclipse. WDSC, of which the RSE is a part, does not have a 30 day trial because most iSeries AD customers already have SEU and hence are entitled to unlimited licenses of WDSC. If you don't have SEU, perhaps you are a contractor, in case be purchased separately but there is no try and buy program.

Q: Does RSE support embedded SQL prompting?
A: Embedded SQL is tolerated by the editor, but there is not yet support for prompting of the embedded SQL. There are database tools, including wizards for database statements, but these are not yet integrated with the editor.

Q: Does WEBFACING work with the S36E? Given that you would retain the DSPF from SFGR and wrap the calling OCL with CL.
A: Unfortunately, no. WebFacing does not work with S36E applications. We are assessing the demand for this, so we have registered your interest.