

VisualAge Pacbase Version 3.5

New Features Highlights

IBM VisualAge® Pacbase™ Version 3.5 builds on the work put into Version 3.0 by combining the robustness of an environment based on an enterprise Repository with facilitated handling of developments, whether they employ traditional or e-business technologies.

VisualAge Pacbase Version 3.5 follows evolutions in technologies and standards while providing a more-comfortable development environment.

One Unified Workstation to Increase your Comfort

Developer workbench V3.5 provides development teams with a more-comprehensive and more-uniform environment. It provides wider coverage of the traditional features of VisualAge Pacbase while simplifying their use.

Support for Development of Traditional TP Applications

Developer workbench V3.5 supports the VisualAge Pacbase "Dialog/Screen" entities. It provides developers with a graphic and intuitive working context that lets you complete all phases of development and maintenance of transactional applications: screen definition, design and description; handling and integration of structured code and macro-structures; and source code generation.

Access to Database Blocks

Developer workbench V3.5 lets you view the existing list of Database Blocks within the VisualAge Pacbase Repository and directly call one of these blocks within any other entity of the Repository that might use it (Program, Screen, Elementary Component, etc).

Support for the "Text" Entity

Developer workbench V3.5 supports all features associated with the Text entity, and notably allows easy editing of those texts initially created using the VisualAge Pacbase character mode interface. It also lets you view texts defined with the Pacdesign module, and provides a direct link with this module to facilitate their updating.

Integration of External Documents

The VisualAge Pacbase documentary capabilities are now considerably enlarged as they include support for external files. Any document from a third-party tool (word processor, spreadsheet, image editor, etc) can be stored in the VisualAge Pacbase Repository, and therefore take advantage – like all entities – of version management. All of these documents can be attached to any instance defined in the Repository for documentary purposes.

Greater Power for Developing your e-business Applications

The advances offered by VisualAge Pacbase Version 3.5 fulfill two objectives: reinforce the integration between the various phases of e-business development (server, Java application logic, presentation), and take account of evolutions in technologies and standards in order to meet new needs.

Integration with WebSphere Studio Application Developer

Integration with WebSphere® Studio Application Developer Version 5.0 is compounded by providing generation and test capabilities offered by VisualAge Pacbase within this environment.

That means that, from WebSphere Studio Application Developer, developers get natural access to proxy objects generated server-side, or can themselves generate and parameterize these objects from an extraction file. Similarly, developers working within WebSphere Studio

Application Developer take benefit of the server component testing facilities fielded by VisualAge Pacbase.

This integration with WebSphere Studio Application Developer reinforces flexibility and consistency along the whole development process. It contributes to increasing the cooperation between roles within multi-cultural teams.

Generation of Web Services and Associated XML Documents

VisualAge Pacbase V3.5 provides a comprehensive environment for development of Web services based on the UDDI, SOAP and WSDL open market standards. The top-down approach adopted lets you define, model and describe each service (the operations it can perform, inputs and outputs, access constraints, etc) through new entities available from Developer workbench. The development of Web services benefits from all Repository-specific features (searching, impact analysis, documentation, etc), and can leverage and reuse the content of your IT system.

Support for Rapid Application Development

Web application models (WAM), a new component of the VisualAge Pacbase offering, gives you a doorway into the world of rapid application development. WAM provides application models that let you automatically produce the navigation and presentation layer of e-business applications based on J2EE. WAM can leverage information stored in the VisualAge Pacbase Repository, and can also reuse the content of your relational databases.

Revamping of Traditional Applications within a J2EE Architecture

The Screens/Programs developed using traditional VisualAge Pacbase technology can be directly integrated into a Web architecture at middle-tier application server level. VisualAge Pacbase generates a Screen Proxy object that interprets the client query and offers the Java API necessary for the exchange of the message. Revamped screens are J2EE compliant, and can be customized either using WebSphere Studio Application Developer or else directly in Java. The existing application also remains accessible via a character mode interface.

In version 3.5, this possibility is completely integrated in the VisualAge Pacbase e-business offering.

EJB type Proxy Objects Compliant with J2EE Standards

The generation of EJB type Proxy objects follows the changes in the J2EE Version 1.3 specifications. EJB type Proxy objects are now fully compatible with WebSphere Application Server Version 5.0.

With this more full-featured and better-integrated version, IBM VisualAge Pacbase confirms its vocation as a strategic enterprise solution within the WebSphere offering. It gives everyone involved in development – decision-makers, developers, and administrators – a tool that meets their requirements for productivity, reliability and durability.



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