IBM WebSphere software permits integration and middleware challenges to be met successfully

IBM Software Group

Welcome to the podcast about the IBM WebSphere software. In the discussion is the WebSphere Advisory IT Specialist Oliver Senti. The interview was conducted by Manuela Kerker.

Manuela Kerker: „Oliver, could you provide us with some information about yourself and your function at IBM?“

Oliver Senti: „My name is Oliver Senti and I work as an Advisory IT Specialist in the IBM Software Group. My function is to advise our customers in the areas of Business Process Management and the integration of business applications within the framework of a Service Oriented Architecture and to provide support for the implementation.“

Manuela Kerker: „In which areas does WebSphere support corporate activities?“

Oliver Senti: „WebSphere supports the corporation in the Application Services area, i.e. the application server on which the programs run, as well as with the integration of this software with other applications and the Business Process Management, which is the control of automated and partially automated business processes. We have developed various software solutions around the so-called services of an IT architecture, so that the demands on a modern IT architecture consistent with the business targets are satisfied.“

Manuela Kerker: „What are the core functions of WebSphere?“

Oliver Senti: „The purpose of the WebSphere software is the operation of applications installed on an application server, as well as the integration of these applications with other applications, or in a broader sense, with services. With WebSphere, we provide the link and thereby the middleware between the applications and the services in a company. To guarantee this function, WebSphere is always installed on an application server.“

Manuela Kerker: „Let’s consider IBM WebSphere MQ specifically. How does WebSphere MQ contribute to the implementation of a Service Oriented Architecture?“

Oliver Senti: „A very interesting question, as WebSphere MQ has been around for many years; the solution existed before the question of service orientation arose. Moreover, WebSphere MQ is already successfully employed in numerous companies. With regard to the service orientation, the tools WebSphere MQ and WebSphere Message Broker, which is installed on IBM WebSphere MQ as a transport layer, are capable of forming the basis of a Service Oriented Architecture. With WebSphere MQ, it is possible to transfer messages, which are exchanged between the applications, comprehensibly, reliably and transactionally.

Then, i.e. based on the transport level, the WebSphere Message Broker comes into play, which can channel the messages according to their content to the relevant applications, conduct transformations of the messages and transport protocols or aggregate the messages with other messages so that a new message is formed. Both products are successfully and reliably employed worldwide – and also in Switzerland – for high volume and transactional integration systems.

Manuela Kerker: „Which market trends are the determining factors for the further development of the WebSphere software?“

Oliver Senti: „ We already cover future demands in the BPM and SOA environment with our products: we primarily endeavour to provide our customers with an instrument that copes with the demand for ever more current information. An example is the processing of real time events and their correlation in the sense of complex event processing, or the inclusion of services that are available via so-called widgets or feeds, to enable the customer to have a holistic view of his processes, his data flows and the whole corporation.
In addition, we pursue and participate intensively in open standards such as the Web Services Standards, which in turn flow into our products. A case in point in the SOA environment is the WebSphere Service Registry and Repository for the management of the IT architecture and the business services as well as the associated artefacts, for example the documentation of this service. We are of course also very interested in the so-called Web 2.0 technologies, and integrate them in our products. Today, our products are also able to offer our customers the additional benefit of the inclusion of the so-called REST services and also of feeds.
The field of Open Source is a subject with which we are intensively occupied. In the area of WebSphere, for example, there is the WebSphere sMASH, a product from an open source project, based on the IBM projectzero. With this solution, companies can develop Web 2.0 applications quickly and flexibly, in order to merge the individual services and feeds into one application.“

Manuela Kerker: „Which targets are pursued with WebSphere in 2009?“

Oliver Senti: „This is an interesting question; in the light of the current unstable environment in which we find ourselves, it is of paramount importance to enable our customers to achieve the greatest possible benefits with minimal effort through innovative and above all integrated solutions. This year, the focus lies on four core topics: business rules - the management of business rules and their integration into our ILOG portfolio, the integration of the applications and services with WebSphere MQ and WebSphere Message Broker, the application basis with Application Server, and set on top of this the management of business processes with WebSphere Business Process Management.
In all four areas we have experts with extensive knowledge, who are also familiar with specific branches such as telecommunication, insurance, banking or tourism, which is of course very important for many Swiss customers. It is our greatest ambition to offer our customers the best possible solutions within the framework of a business relationship which is based on trust and respect.“

Manuela Kerker: „Many thanks for your comprehensive remarks.“

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