



Welcome to the podcast on the topic of IBM Rational Jazz. In the discussion is Marco Lüscher, Senior IT Specialist for IBM Rational. The interview was conducted by Claudio Grolimund.

Claudio Grolimund: „Marco, could you provide us with some information about yourself and your function at IBM?“

Marco Lüscher: „I am 46 years old, come from Lucerne, am married and have two children. I am currently working as a Senior IT Specialist, and I travel a lot to customers to provide them with support. At the same time, I also internally assist our Sales in the areas of software quality, change and release management and also with enterprise modernization.“

Claudio Grolimund: „These days, development teams are often dispersed throughout the world. What are the challenges for such teams, and how can they work together efficiently?“

Marco Lüscher: „Yes, we really are confronted with many challenges and problems. It starts with the language. There are many companies with outsourcing projects in Eastern Europe or in India. Here there are problems concerning the clear regulation of the delegated tasks, the understanding of the roles and for example the infrastructure, where the question arises as to how an infrastructure can be provided to support the team.

Moreover, there are cultural differences. In certain countries, people don't like to say no; they much prefer to say 'yes yes, no problem!'. Many teams lack an overall view of the projects, which then leads to issues such as questions and information about the project, such as for example the progress of the project. What are the risks? Which skills are required when and for which project? Or quite simply: what still needs to be done? Which requirements are still open? Which tests have been carried out? There are still many challenges in this area.“

Claudio Grolimund: „What is understood under interactive software development?“

Marco Lüscher: „For an interaction, at least two or more participants are required, and thereby basically a team. As a team we need, as far as we share the same interests, a joint, clear objective, and thereby a plan as to how this objective is to be achieved. At the same time, the focus on the individual sub-steps within the project must not be lost. Everyone involved in the team, from the person responsible for the funds for the financing of the project, up to the end users, and consequently all those with a role such as developer, designer and configuration manager, must provide the relevant project information with regard to their demands, and thereby know at all times, which tasks they have, and which „To Dos“ related to their role are pending, so that at the end of the project it can be checked who has done what. The next step is then compliance.“

Claudio Grolimund: „To what extent does the new Rational Jazz technology platform offer support to the software developer?“

„Rational Jazz begins with the team and enables the required collaboration on the basis of all project data. This can concern the project plan, milestones in the project or even detailed information about for example specified demands, requests for improvements, customer wishes or even defects that were found when testing. They need to be handled on the basis of roles and specified processes. A technology platform such as Rational Jazz offers the possibility of defining such processes, and allows them to be provided based on roles, so that the developer continues to work in his familiar environment with this technology, be it *Eclipse* or *Dotnet*, and at the same time can use a team platform which supports him.“

Claudio Grolimund: „What should we expect from Rational Jazz?“

„I'll give you a short example. Let's assume that you are confronted with a request for a software project that needs to be implemented. Various roles are involved to convert this request into code. It starts with the requirement engineer, who defines the request and delivers the input to the technician, who then reviews the request. He works with test cases based on the request, which need to be developed for this purpose. It then gets passed on further to the analysts, who define the New Case. Finally, the New Case will be translated into code and then tested. Several roles are involved. On the basis of the Jazz platform, these steps can be taken in part in parallel or interactively, depending on who is required for the project steps, and who has the necessary information. Jazz provides dashboards, with which it can be traced who completed which task and when.“

Claudio Grolimund: „Could you give us a short overview of the core functions of Rational Jazz?“

„Rational Jazz contains so-called Open Lifecycle Services. These are basic services, which are made available by the team platform. Jazz is based on open standards; therefore, thanks to open interfaces, these services can actually be used by different products. Jazz is in effect not a product, but rather a technology platform, which contains developments from IBM, IBM business partners, and products from third parties. The core functions include, e.g. data warehousing, the complete data management in repositories, collaboration based on Web 2.0 technologies, dashboards, project administration and storage management. It therefore concerns functions and services which can be used by all products.“

Claudio Grolimund: „Many thanks for your remarks.“



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