TESTING 101: AWOL ON THE COLLEGE CAMPUS

Edward J Correia
Software Development Times; Apr 15, 2004; 100; ABI/INFORM Trade & Industry pg. 1

April 15, 2004

Neveil Backs Up
Open-Source Promise ..... 5
Sun Sets Road Map
For Development Tools ..... 5
Embarcadero Adds
Analyzer to Rapid SQL ..... 5
Incodea's Business Pilot 4.0
Works With the Flow ..... 6
Microsoft Launches
MapPoint Location Server ..... 8
Remedy Takes Action
To Improve
Business Processes ..... 10
Niku Brings Clarity
To Project Management ..... 10
IBM Goes Back to the Future
With Aspect Orientation ..... 12
Microsoft's InfoPath 2003
Service Pack Out ..... 12
J2Net Direct's JXSOMapper
Ties SQL to XML ..... 16
Macromedia Ships
Flex Framework ..... 17
New IBM alphaWorks
Technology Seeks to Raise
Software Quality ..... 22
I-Logix Thinking Outside
The (UML) Box ..... 25
MontaVista's New Tools
Get Developers on Boards ..... 25
SPECIAL REPORT
Cold-Start the Outsourcing
Many Things Must Be Spelled
Out Upfront When Selecting
Development Offshoring ..... 28
A BZ MEDIA PUBLICATION $7.95

IBM to Sun:
Open J2SE
As a Start

Despite McNealy's negative reaction, analysts want Sun to define Java role

By Jennifer Dejong
Following its late February open
letter asking Sun Microsystems
Inc. to consider open-sourcing
Java, IBM Corp. last month
articulated what it sees as a
first step in making that happen:
releasing Java Standard
Edition (J2SE) and its associated
libraries to the open-source
community.

"These parts of Java are well
known and very stable," said Rob
Gingell, senior vice president
of emerging technologies
at IBM's software group.
"We think that is a good
starting point." On March 19,
Smith said he and Sun's chief
engineer, Bob Gingell, were
engaged in ongoing informal
discussions regarding IBM's pro-
posal, and he characterized Gin-
gell's response as "positive." Gin-
gell declined requests for an
interview, but a Sun spokes-
person said mutually respect-
ful discussions were taking
place between McNealy and Smith.

Sun did not respond to
requests for interviews with oth-
er Sun executives. But according
to a March 24 published report,
Sun CEO Scott McNealy indi-
cated during a news conference
at the 2004 FOSE confer-
ence, held in late March in Wash-
ington, D.C., that the company
will not open-source Java anytime soon. Ac-
cording to the report, McNealy said: "We're
trying to understand what problem [open-
sourcing Java solves]

Pervasive Wants to Be Just That
Repackages Data Junction technology to broaden its reach

By David Rubinstein
In an attempt to keep the Data
Junction branch of technology
with low-cost tools for midmarket
companies while leveraging its
own name for broader solutions
that use the acquired technol-
yogy, Pervasive Software Inc. on
April 5 released three new tools
for data integration.

Data Junction Migration
Toolkit, Pervasive Data Inte-
grator and Pervasive Business
Integrator are designed to span
from simple, repetitive extract-
transform-load (ETL) func-
tions up to real-time message-
oriented integration, according
to Mike Holskins, Pervasive's
data integration and general
management of the integration
products division.

Holskins had been CEO of
Data Junction before it was
acquired by Pervasive late last
year for US$52 million in cash
and stock. In the 100 days
since the acquisition, Holskins
said all but one of the 112
former Data Junction
employees joined the Austin,

SPEECH!
MICROSOFT LAUNCHES
NEW SERVER

By Jennifer Dejong
And Alan Zeichick
San Francisco — As
anticipated, the Windows
Server 2004 at
launched Speech Server 2004 at
the combined VS Live, Micro-
soft Mobile Developer Confer-
ence and Aivox SpeechTek
and spent last month
Speech Server 2004, the
newest member of the Windows
Systems Server family, combines
speech-processing services and
laptops, 1.1 billion people, with Visual
Studio .NET, making it easy for
developers to create voice-
enabled, customer self-service
applications, without having to
master the intricacies of speech

to

Data Integrator allows event-driven message flows to be created graphically.

Continue on page 11

continued on page 22

continued on page 15
Testing 101
"It you look at the first couple of courses of most curricula, there’s very little emphasis on quality," said Thomas Hilburn, professor of computer and software engineering at Embry-Riddle University in Daytona Beach, Fla., and co-author of the paper, which he said was based on extensive anecdotal evidence. "With a few exceptions, the most [students] get is a little unit testing or code review," he said.

Go by Goldsmith, who added that software engineering programs are not teaching people how to discover the basic business needs, nor the skills to determine whether their code meets these requirements. "They don’t understand that [applications] need to tie back to business requirements that they are managing," he said.

Goldsmith and Lanowitz agreed that the solution lies in broadening curricula. "When somebody goes into computer science, they should learn about the whole development life cycle and take quality development into consideration," Lanowitz said, adding that students also are not being taught about the role QA takes in putting an application into production. "Colleges should have parallel tracks on how to put quality code to use-by testing against requirements.

Goldsmith said that he addition of even one or two testing courses would be a big step forward. "I think that it’s pretty hard to justify a program that doesn’t have a course on stuff you spend half your time on.

No Testing Job Market
"We do not consider software testing to be a career," said Azer Bestavros, professor and chairman of the computer science department at Boston University, which offers no courses specifically for testing. "Testing positions are the least desired job of undergraduates. When they go for internships, they get offers for QA-type jobs.

Bestavros was quick to point out, however, that BUS’s curriculum is not devoid of testing. "Testing is an underlying theme of every course we teach that has programming in it," he said, with the assertion that companies hire engineers, programmers or project managers. As part of their work, they will have to do testing, but to offer a course on testing would make it an area of its own when it should be a discussion of every area.

Paradoxically, Carnegie Mellon University has no undergraduate courses in QA, but offers it in master’s degree and certificate programs for post-grads.

"Testing tends to be the lowest skill, lower-pay position," said Lynn Robert Carter, principal fellow at Carnegie Mellon’s Institute for Software Research International. "Most companies have the bias that if you aren’t the designer you’re low-pay, and those are outsourced jobs. And why would universities want to prepare people for jobs that are going to India?"

Carter said the post-grad QA programs attract mainly industry professionals seeking to advance their careers. 

"We are not going to define the role of the QA out of the current curriculum is in part the responsibility of the industry. Nowadays, you see the best engineers being put on the quality team because quality is now more of a major issue."

Where’s the sleeping cat?
How many times did you use Sleepycat’s Berkeley DB today?

If you used email, browsed the Web, bought a book online, or traded a stock, you may very well have used Berkeley DB without knowing it. You’ll find Berkeley DB in every copy of Linux, BSD UNIX, Apache, sendmail, Perl and Mozilla. And in commercial products from Cisco, Sun, HP, EMC, Motorola and Apple, as well as services from Amazon, Google and AOL. Read more about the sleeping cat at www.sleepycat.com/whereisthecat.pdf.

Berkeley DB is the most widely used data management software in the world with over 200 million copies deployed. Software developers rely on it to build faster, lower cost products and to shorten development cycle time. Download Berkeley DB today.

www.sleepycat.com

© 2004 Sleepycat Software Inc. All trademarks, registered marks and service marks are the property of their respective owners. All rights reserved.