

TUG MOM REVIEW

THE JANUARY 2008 MEETING OF MEMBERS



By Pradeep S. Virk.

The meeting was hosted at the IBM Toronto Lab facility in Markham. It was well balanced for both the business and the very technically minded. This TUG meeting was my second meeting on January 30th 2008—the coldest day of winter! But for those in attendance, the cold weather outside was mitigated by the hot topics inside, as the change in IBM’s strategy became evident from the get go—



George Farr

with emphasis largely on modernization tools for System i.

George Farr, IBM Toronto World Wide Product Line Manager for System i AD tools and compilers with

IBM’s Rational Software Development Division talked about Rational solutions for i5/OS for application development.



Wendy Toh

modernization of legacy applications, and the steps that organizations must address on the complex dimensions of architectural challenges.

In addition, guest speakers **Barbara Morris, George Voutsinas, Don Yantzi, Abe Battish, Claus Weiss** and **Linda Cole** expanded on the enhancements to the



Pradeep Virk

compilers and demonstrated the various Rational products.

IBM’s three key messages at the joint IBM/TUG presentation were:

- Repackaging of software into smaller more focused areas of development tools and enhancements to compilers in version V6R1
- Investment in Application Development (AD) products and tools
- Modernization in areas of Web enablement and Service Oriented Architecture (SOA)

To net out the advancements, IBM is unbundling WebSphere Development Studio (WDS), introducing two versions of Rational Developer, bundling HATS & WebFacing, and introducing Rational Business Developer. Highlights include:

- Rational Developer on System i (RD*i*)
- Rational Developer on System i for Service Oriented Architecture (RD*i* SOA)
- HATS and WebFacing bundled into a single offering as the “HATS for 5250” application

Wende Boddy



The TUG booth at The IBM Toronto Laboratory, Markham



IBM's impressive line-up of speakers:



Barbara Morris



George Voutsinas



Don Yantzi

- And the announcement of Rational Business Developer (RBD)

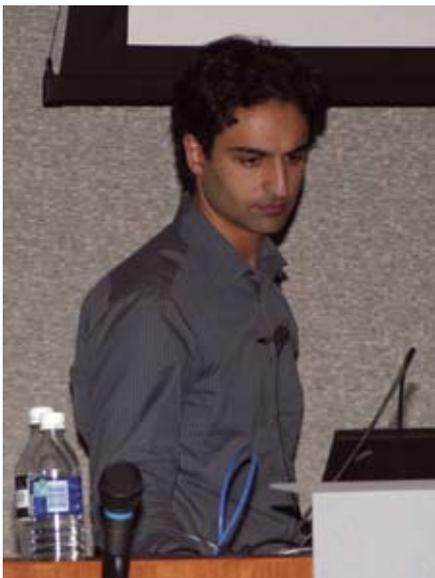
Major changes and benefits to be expected are on two fronts: the server and the workstation.

On the server front, WDS which originally had all of the compilers and development tools, is now unbundled into three categories, Heritage & ILE compilers and ADTs. Compilers are now individually priced with major investments in the area of RPG or ILE RPG compilers. Enhancement highlights include

multithreading, local file support, additional keywords, and Web enablement with SOA, to mention a few.

On the workstation front are two new separate products: RDi and RDi SOA. RDi is created to do simple edit/compile/debug for RPG and COBOL programmers. Most of the WDSC Advanced Edition functions are now incorporated into RDi, that being application diagrams in designer, screen designer, and the additional enablement for RDi which then makes it RDi SOA. RBD is an add-on to RDi and includes EGL—the newer platform-independent business language for V6R1.





Abe Battish



Claus Weiss



Linda Cole

Photos by Léo Lefebvre

Key information from IBM is that WDSC and WDSC AE are now pretty much at the end of their life with no additional enhancements expected. This has ended the speculation on the future of WDS. It will, however be supported, maintained, and still be available for purchase for the next little while—a clear indication that RDi is now the key strategic tool to invest in. Keep in mind that your software agreements will entitle you to various options, so do query your representative for details.

So the hint here is that you are encouraged to adopt lightweight RDi or the full RDi SOA. To all of those IT managers out there, ADTs tools are now at the same level playing field as RDi, so the logical decision should be simple—move to newer technology, to RDi or RDi SOA.

In closing, for the modernization of your System i applications, Rational core products will play a major role in the area of architecture, quality, and change management. By repackaging and unbundling, IBM has re-aligned their tools with open source Eclipse.

One other existing news item worth noting here is that IBM's new i5/OS, V6R1 is available on blades—which gives the ability to consolidate i5, Power, and Intel servers.

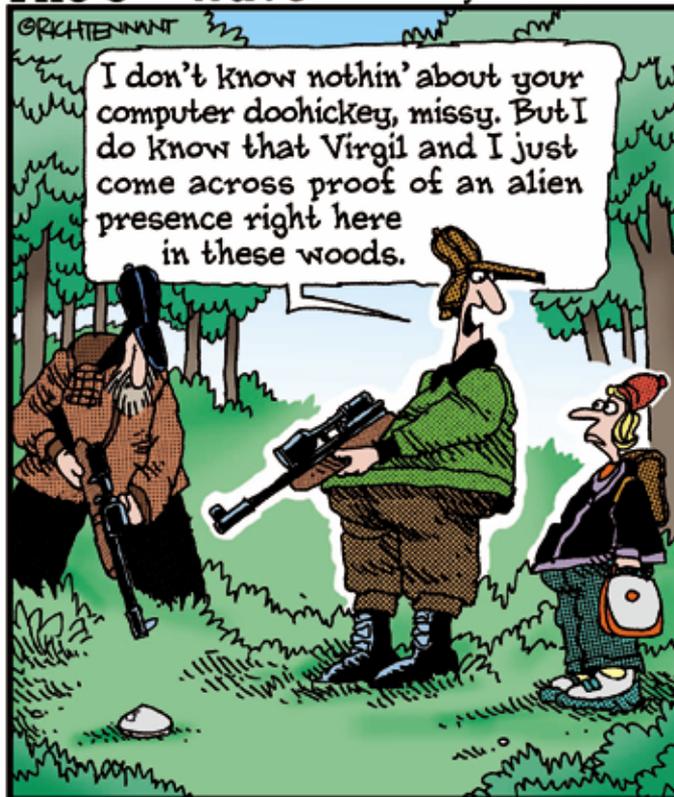
In closing, the success of this meeting was largely aligned with IBM's forthcoming announcements, which served as a great preview to TUGer's.

And as a final note, on behalf of all TUG members I would like to extend a special thank you to the IBM Toronto Lab and the TUG volunteers for their efforts to make this conference a great success.



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The 5th Wave By Rich Tennant



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