



Jackie Jansen

Tools for iSeries Programmers

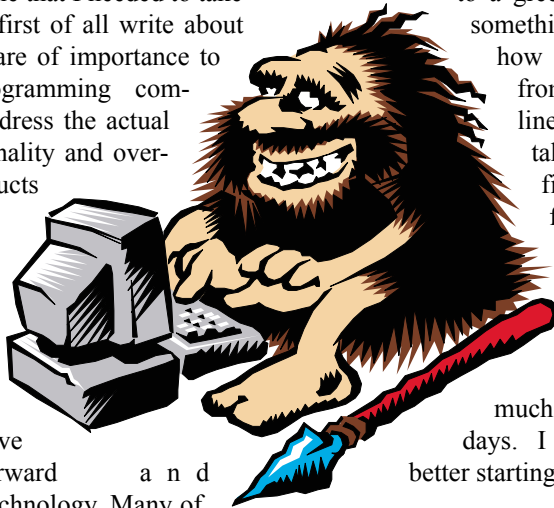
As you can see this column has a new look and feel to it. Based on input from you I have decided to expand this column to cover a wide variety of technical tips and information across all aspects of the iSeries not just Business Intelligence. I will certainly not be ignoring query, reporting and database issues, they are still of high interest to me personally and hopefully to you.

My original plan was to write this column comparing the various features available for programmers using PCs to graphically access the iSeries. The main products I wanted to take a look at where **iSeries Navigator**, formerly known as Operations Navigator and **WebSphere Development Studio Client** for iSeries (WDS) with a touch of iSeries Access thrown in for fun. Phone calls with a couple of different customers this week have convinced me that I needed to take a step back and first of all write about why these tools are of importance to the iSeries programming community. I will address the actual technical functionality and overlap of these products in a future issue.

Here is my current concern. Many individuals in the iSeries community have not moved forward and kept pace with technology. Many of us are very loyal fans of the iSeries and believe in what a great server it is. We get annoyed with IBM for their perceived lack of advertising, blame this on the legacy green screen perception that still exists in the marketplace, and then continue to perpetuate this image ourselves. When you know that your software vendor still uses green screen tools like PDM and SEU for application development, when young programmers

see iSeries experts using SDA, what message are we sending to everyone? That's right – Green Screen, Old, Proprietary, Legacy

This is very unfair to the iSeries and its modern, hard working developers. You won't find programmers on other systems using anything but PC based graphical application development tools. The tools we have on iSeries are equally as good. We just don't have programmers that will take the time today to learn the tools that will make them more productive in the future. Although IBM continues to support tools such as PDM and SEU they have worked hard to bring more advanced tools such as WDS to you. We are all far too happy within our comfort zone even when we have this idea that there may be something better out there. I have to admit that this applies to me as well. I am guilty of signing on to a green screen to do something that I know how to do quickly from a command line. I don't always take the time to find out if the functionality is available in a Windows front end. We are always in too much of a hurry these days. I pledge to do better starting now.



to a green screen to do something that I know how to do quickly from a command line. I don't always take the time to find out if the functionality is available in a Windows front end. We are always in too much of a hurry these days. I pledge to do better starting now.

With the latest release WDS has most of the functionality of PDM and includes program development tools far more advanced than SEU and SDA.

iSeries Navigator has lots of graphical database administrative support including the capability to run SQL statements, analyze queries, graphically identify performance issues and much more.

Pretty well everyone reading this article has already purchased iSeries Navigator and WDS from IBM. If you currently are using RPG or Cobol and PDM or SEU you are entitled to the graphical programmer development environment, WebSphere Development Studio client for iSeries, WDS. Do yourself a favour, dust off the CDs or better yet, go to <http://www-3.ibm.com/software/awdtools/wds400/about/howToOrder.html> and request the latest release, set aside an hour each day for a week or two and start with the labs you can find on the internet. At www.ibm.com/software/awdtools/wdt400/library you will find labs and scenarios to get you started as a programmer using WDS.

At www.ibm.com/series/navigator you will find the iSeries Navigator home page with links to all sorts of demos. For database specific hands on labs go to www.ibm.com/series/db2. There is one trick to using the database functionality within Navigator. First you have to install it! If you take the defaults when you install iSeries Navigator or Operations Navigator you will not install the full database support. Be aware that this functionality is an optional part of the install. Please take the time and join iSeries and the twenty-first century.



Jackie Jansen is a Senior Consulting IT Specialist. She currently works in the IBM Americas Advanced Technical Support Solutions Centre. Jackie is a frequent speaker at iSeries Technical Conferences and User Group meetings. Contact her at jjansen@ca.ibm.com.