IBM

Moderator: Angelique Matheny
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Operator: Good afternoon. My name is (Ladessa) and I will be your conference operator today. At this time I would like to welcome everyone to the conference call.

All lines have been placed on mute to prevent any background noise. After the speakers' remarks there will be a question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question during this time simply press star then the number 1 on your telephone keypad. If you would like to withdraw your question press the pound key.

Thank you. Ms. Matheny you may begin your conference.

Angelique Matheny: thank you very much. Hello everyone and welcome to this Rational Talk to You teleconference - Ask the Expert - How To Build Rich Internet Applications with Rational Application Developer.

I'm Angelique Matheny with IBM Rational and I'll be your host for today's call. I want to make some just quick introductions. Joining us is Nik Teshima. He's product manager for Rational Application Developer for WebSphere software.

Nik has over 11 years of experience in software delivery, design, development, and service for IBM. In his current role he is responsible for driving product strategy, content, development, and delivery of the Rational Application Developer in addition to ensuring that it is well integrated and aligned with IBM middleware products including WebSphere application server and WebSphere portal server as well as the Rational software delivery platform.

And we have Jay Cagle on the call with us today. Hs is the development lead for Rational Application Developer web tooling and is responsible for driving the strategy and execution for RAD's web tools portfolio to ensure alignment and tight integration with IBM WebSphere middleware products.

Jay is also deeply passionate and involved in the finding and implementing agile iterative development practices for his organization.

Today's discussion is your chance to pose your questions directly to our IBM product team and the real IBM players involved with the Rational web tooling capabilities in products such as Rational Application Developer for WebSphere software and Rational Software Architect.

So don't be shy and find out how you can develop your next web applications faster and with higher quality using Rational software development tools.

Now you won't find any slides for this teleconference. As I said these calls are really for you. We want this to be interactive and this is your chance to get your questions answered directly and discuss what's on your mind.

As (Ladessa) our operator mentioned you should press star 1 and she will open up your line at any time. If you would like to submit questions to our panelists after this teleconference please email us at askusnow@us.ibm.com. That's A-S-K-U-S-N-O-W at U-S dot I-B-M dot com. Just put the title of the teleconference in the subject line.

Well I think you've heard about enough from me so let's get started. I'm going to turn it over to my colleague Adeel and let you take it from there Adeel.

Adeel Omer: Thank you Angelique. Hey guys this is Adeel Omer and I work on the Rational architectural management go to market team as a marketing engineer. And I just have a few comments before we open up the floor for questions and answers to Nik and Jay.

I'm going to introduce some of the content around which we'll be having our discussion today - the Rational Application Developer for WebSphere software application version 7.5 and how it integrates with the WebSphere application server, the Web 2.0 feature pack, and how we have a big solution around providing rich internet applications construction testing, debugging, and deployment.

Now before we open up the floor for questions now it's important to note that Rational Application Developer for WebSphere version 7.5 was released towards the end of September along with WebSphere application servers in 7.0. And they've made big strides in terms of the enhancements that we have for constructing rich internet applications and Web 2.0 style applications.

Now Web 2.0 means different things to different people. You could - and they're all obviously correct definitions of what Web 2.0 is. It could be the social aspects of building web applications.

But what we're discussing here for the audience that uses the Rational Application Developer are web applications that are more responsive and provide a user the feel of having a rich desktop client application with the benefits of being a web application and getting all the data that you can get off when you're a web application.

So the reach of web application along with the rich client experiences is what clearly makes Web 2.0 style rich internet applications their edge.

Now one of the most important things that we want to note or highlight is if you only have your enterprise applications it's always a better step to take what you have and reuse it and provide rich internet features to extend what you've already got.

And so this is obviously the, you know, the model that we want to go after. And the next thing I probably ought to mention is that some of the technologies that are used with rich internet applications have been around for awhile.

So we're using Java script mostly - right - with Ajax. And most of these things have been around awhile. But we haven't seen the kind of adoption that we have until very recently.

And there's numerous reasons for that. And most of those reasons have actually been countered. And Rational Application Developer version 7.5 (unintelligible) we're making an effort to counter those problems.

So problems such as having tons of different toolkits - literally hundreds of toolkits that might not have been standardized and we're doing things - handling things differently.

Well IBM has used or Rational Application Developer uses a Dojo toolkit. And Dojo is a part of the open Ajax alliance and they're working towards standardizing the APIs for the various Dojo widgets. So it's always good to be part of a certain standard so you know about interoperability and you have improved reliance on the rich internet applications that you build.

And Dojo also provides a lot of enterprise level functionality. So it's cool to have lots of nice widgets. But when it comes to localization, accessibility, you know, the requirements that you have as part of creating enterprise applications Dojo also provides a lot of those features.

And then obviously we have integration with WebSphere Application Serve and the Web 2.0 feature pack. And the Dojo toolkit that's contained within RAD and WAS not only has the (unintelligible) Dojo widget but also extended IBM widgets. So features like, you know, seamlessly integrating with web services without having to do additional work those are all things that you get with the IBM extensions.

Also of concern with Ajax were some security issues - especially when you're using third party services. And the features such as the Ajax proxy which allow you to consumer services not originating from the same server as - or the same domain - those can securely be used because your server can then act as a broker to take any requests to a third domain and then act as a broker to move those requests back and forth.

And finally for anybody who's worked with Java script which, you know, is a big part of Ajax obviously being a synchronous Java script in XML knows Java script can be really tricky. You know, you write some code, it renders one way in one browser and a different way in another one.

So we definitely have the advantage of using the Dojo toolkit. But along with that there are features such as content assist, there are features when you develop using Rational Application Developer such as validation and easy refactoring.

And if you develop using Rational Application Developer the Java script editor actually works a lot like the - like an Eclipse Java editor where you've got the auto completions, you press control space and you'll see all the methods that you have available to you, a list of all the attributes when you're using any Dojo widgets.

So all those little things bring the kind of stability that you're used to in Java to Java Script and Dojo which are, you know, now turning into technology that we can really use and leverage for enterprise applications.

Of course we have the visual editing in Rational Application Developer. And when it comes to debugging Java script which is another tricky aspect Rational Application Developer integrates with Firebug which is a Firefox extension and allows you to launch applications in Firefox with Firebug as well as have synchronization with the editor in RAD versus what you're seeing within the Firebug console.

And finally I just want to mention for the sake of everybody on the call, you know, this is telecom so we've only got the phone. But a lot of you looking for resources on how you can follow up on any questions or start developing

this stuff by yourself while Rational Application Developer for WebSphere software version 7.5 has a free trial download so you can go ahead and start to play with this and actually start to execute the samples that come with Rational Application Developer.

So if you look through the samples you can easily load them up in your workspace and see how all these applications work. In addition to that you can also find if you go to the developer works website you'll find demos of how to build Web 2.0 style applications using the Dojo toolkit, using Rational Application Developer. And there's tons of articles there as well with, you know, lots of detailed instructions, you know, some talk about how to reference EJBs and the Web 2.0 page, you know, create an RBC adapter.

And you can even find one that I thought was really interesting was titled "Web 2.0 Application Development Using JPA, Ajax, and Dojo Tools and Rational Application Developer Version 7.5."

So there's plenty of resources out there. But today we're here to take your questions and answers. So with that I guess we can open up the floor for Q and A.

Operator: At this time if you would like to ask a question press star then the number 1 on your telephone keypad.

We'll pause for just a moment to compile the Q&A roster.

Your first question comes from the line of Ernest.

Ernest Hill: I had a question about accessibility and how the Ajax stuff works with screen readers.

Nik Teshima: So the Dojo toolkit - that's actually one of the benefits of the Dojo toolkit is that it does provide accessibility of the components (unintelligible) Dojo package. So it's one of the nice features that's built in there and one of the reasons why, you know, Dojo is, you know, backed by IBM for that capability.

Does that answer your question?

Ernest Hill: And they work with screen readers well? Because typically the dynamic HTML doesn't work very well with screen readers.

Nik Teshima: Jay did you have any opportunity to check that out with screen readers?

Jay Cagle: I have not. I just know that our extensions provide accessibility support in Dojo but I'm not sure about screen reader specifically.

Angelique Matheny: (Ladessa) are there any other questions?

Operator: You do have another question from the line of Ugo.

Ugo Corda: Yes I would like to ask how do you guys position the Web 2.0 capability of RAD with other IBM initiatives like the IBM (Mesh Up) center and the WebSphere sMash?

Nik Teshima: So the RAD - that's very interesting. RAD actually is involved in a different aspect of the Web 2.0 space. And the Dojo is really just one part of building your own rich internet applications.

Lotus (Mesh Up) center is more focused at sort of the department or situational applications. But at the same time, you know, they're just - there's some space there for RAD to provide integrations into the (Mesh Up) center.

So they're sort of parallel efforts along building different types of Web 2.0 applications for different targets and for different enterprises. I don't look at them as competing at all actually; as relatively complementary.

And I think, you know, as, you know, this has been our first release of our Web 2.0 tools (unintelligible) you see that as our portfolio expands you'll see a lot of convergence of a lot of these technology.

Ugo Corda: Could you clarify what you see the difference in target audience between RAD and, you know, (Mesh Up) center and sMash?

Nik Teshima: Well RAD is really focused at, you know, your applications developer, your Java or J2E developer. And, you know, being able to use our Web 2.0 rich internet application tools to be able to sort of extend some of, you know, whether it be your Java assets or your (unintelligible) assets or your services and exposing those and giving them a, you know, rich user experience.

So, you know, the rules right now I would say for Rational Application Developer would probably be different than the rules of the users for say (Mesh Up) center which might be more for, you know, your quick department applications that you're building, you know, for more some of your web based developers as opposed to more of your enterprise application developers.

However as I was saying before I still do see that there's some good points of integration that we can try to leverage where there will be a lot of crossover you know, whether it be for, you know, turning some of those situational

applications into, you know, more robust enterprise ones where, you know, RAD would be involved.

And I think that's something you'll be seeing in the coming future.

Ugo Corda: You know, I thought that in some way by definition when you use Web 2.0 infrastructure you are in a situation application. Do you see situation where you're using a RAD Web 2.0 capability and you're not in a situation obligation?

Nik Teshima: I definitely think that Web 2.0 can extend beyond that and that's exactly I think, you know, some of the benefit that we're trying to highlight with RAD 7.5.

You can extend existing applications if, you know, one of your main goals would be just to provide, you know, more enhanced user experience. And you can do that with your existing applications. The Web 2.0 feature pack from - on WebSphere can actually be applied on your WebSphere version 6, your version 6.1, or your version 7.

So as you can see you can actually take an existing application, you know, existing EJV application and look to provide an enhanced user experience by (unintelligible) Web Pro feature pack and then using the tools in RAD to, you know, as I said before maybe extend some of those certified assets or, you know, your EJVs or your services and then give them, you know, the Web 2.0 look and feel using the Dojo toolkit and tools in RAD.

So I think, you know, (unintelligible) it's more than just, you know, building in your situational obligations as you might be doing on some of the (unintelligible) side, you know, more. Does that answer your question?

Ugo Corda: Well, you know, thank you for, you know, providing these answers. But I'm still, you know, not completely convinced about, you know, they're being a clear separation between, you know, all these components like, you know, for additional soar, you know, web based - web service based soaring then RAD Web 2.0 and then sMash and then the (Mesh Up) center.

                In my view it's the kind of, you know, continue and it's not really easy to decide, you know, in this situation I'm going to use this, in this other situation I'm going to use that.

Nik Teshima: I think, you know, I don't really look at these two solutions as being, you know, an either/or. I think there can be situation where you're going to be - and I think, you know, that's part of the evolution of this portfolio that they will be in some ways (unintelligible) integration between some of them in different areas.

                But I think I understand what you're saying. I mean this is still a growing area and I think that there is some overlap definitely in the capabilities and functionality there.

Ugo Corda: Okay thank you.

Operator: There are no other questions at this time.

Angelique Matheny: Well I have a couple of questions that came in from our ask us now email box if you guys want to take those now.

Nik Teshima: Sure.

Angelique Matheny: Oaky. It says do you plan to support JSR311 (unintelligible) ABI?

Nik Teshima: Yeah absolutely. The JSR311 is something that's definitely on our roadmap - especially as looking towards the future as JSR311 is moving towards the Java E six pack. And Java E is at the core of what RAD is supporting.

So we'll definitely be looking to add support for that in the future along with I guess support as well in the application server platform.

Angelique Matheny: And someone mentioned widgets just a little bit ago I think. It says can the look and feel of the Dojo widgets be altered to align with the company's web standards? That's a good question.

Nik Teshima: Yeah dojo definitely comes with some prepackaged themes, you know, where you can easily modify, you know, some assets of the, you know, things like the font and the color and the background images.

But you can also create your own custom themes and style sheets so it is customizable that way.

Angelique Matheny: Okay that's great thank you.

Operator are there any questions in queue?

Operator: There are no questions at this time.

Angelique Matheny: Okay. Well I have a couple more so if you have a question you'd better get it in now.

Let's see. What does the emphasis on Dojo mean for the JSF capabilities in RAD?

Jay Cagle: This is Jay. It means an alternative for users if they would prefer to use Dojo as opposed to JSF. We're not deemphasizing our JSF tools are our JSF support in the application server. And in fact we're looking to continue the tools. We're looking at the new JSF 2.0 spec and providing support for that in both RAD tools and the server run time.

So what this - our support for Dojo and more kind of pure Web 2.0 stuff is in RAD. It's just an alternative to JSF for people that want to use a pure client (unintelligible) solution as opposed to a client end server with JSF.

Angelique Matheny: Okay are there any final questions perhaps?

Operator: Once again to ask a question press star 1.

Angelique Matheny: Okay Adeel do you have any closing remarks? As always this was a very valuable session; we had some good questions.

Adeel Omer: No just that we conducted a similar demo on what we just talked about today. It was a part of the global Rational users group. And there was a webcast where I talked about some of the same speaking points although in a bit more detail. And there was a presentation and a recording of that demo as well as a presentation are going to be available on the global Rational users groups website.

I think Angelique when you make this recording available we can provide that link. And that is in addition to all the resources that are already out there on

developer works. There's some white papers that have code and really good step by step instructions.

And I mentioned Rational Application Developer can be downloaded, you know, on a trial basis from our website as well. And it comes with lots of samples that you can use. So those are pretty much my ending remarks Angelique.

Angelique Matheny: Okay great. You know, that was my final final question is that - would that be a good place to find the materials and information on how to build those rich internet applications would be developers works download the place to start?

Adeel Omer: Exactly. Underneath developer works you can look in the demos category to find demos on how to build rich internet applications. There's actually one by Nik that guides you through an actual - the actual construction of a Dojo based rich internet application.

And then you can also look through the articles to find some of the white papers and some of the more in depth instructional type articles for how to build rich internet applications.

And then there's that link to the global Rational users group that is actively participating in RAD as well.

Angelique Matheny: Okay great, great. We'll definitely put the link to the webcast up there and anything else to help everyone.

So thank you all Adeel, Nik, and Jay. This was valuable like I said and we appreciate you sharing your knowledge and experience on today's topic.

And just a reminder Adeel just mentioned this to learn more about IBM Rational Application Developer for WebSphere software or many other IBM tools please visit developer works downloads for those free trials.

If you'd like to listen to this conference again or share it with your colleagues this will be made available in replay in MP3 format in about a week or so on the rational talks to you site www.ibm.com/rational/talks. Our previous teleconferences are available as well.

Again I'd like to thank our guests Adeel Omer, Nik Teshima, and Jay Cagle for being with us today to talk about how to build rich internet applications with Rational Application Developer. We really appreciate you taking time out to be with us.

We would also like to thank your audience for your interest in IBM. We hope to see you back for another one of our events in the near future. Thank you very much. Talk to you soon.

Operator: This concludes today's conference call. You may now disconnect.

Speakers hold the line.

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