

COMPETITION WINNERS

Microsoft and CMP Media are pleased to announce the winners of the Connected Systems 2005 Developer Competition, a skill based competition for professional developers using SQL Server 2005, Visual Studio 2005 and BizTalk 2004/2006.

The response was amazing—there are a lot of fantastic, innovative developers out there! Bravo. Entries were judged on creativity, innovation, design and technical excellence, usefulness, usability and value by a panel of industry experts.

Grand Prize Winner



John Arnold, Corporate Performance Management (CPM) **Best tool to provide additional functionality to SQL Server 2005**

The overall winner is John Arnold, president

of Datalan Corporation www.datalan.com, in White Plains, New York, a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner. Corporate Performance Management (CPM) is a solution for organizations that allows them to align their strategies, initiatives, metrics, and goals. First, the organization can develop strategies and then link initiatives to these strategies. The organization can then apply metrics to show how the strategies and initiatives performed, and then set goals against those metrics. Once all this is in place, the tool allows the organization to measure its performance; and then, if the results of the performance measurement come outside of the acceptable bounds or the thresholds established, the organization can create issues and then resolve them.

CPM uses the entire SQL Server 2005 Business Intelligence suite. Integration Services extracts the data out of the transactional systems and loads the data into the SQL Server 2005 data warehouse. Analysis Services is used for building the OLAP structures, and Reporting Services generates reports. CPM also uses the KPI framework to show graphical indicators of results, and all of the information from the system is presented in SharePoint.

Read more about the winning solution by downloading the PDF at www.datalan.com/Frameworks/CPM%20Framework.pdf.

Development

Datalan has been working in the Business Intelligence space for some time in conjunction with many partners and have had a real focus on performance management. John thinks that performance management is one of the unmet needs of the marketplace. Other BI vendors had offered to cobble

together solutions that were extremely expensive from both a software and implementation standpoint because they weren't really leveraging an integrated stack. Microsoft SQL Server 2005 brought everything together and allowed Datalan to deliver an integrated solution.

One challenge when developing CPM concerned the SharePoint/SQL Server 2005 integration. Any beta product presents obstacles regarding stability and support, but John reports that SQL Server 2005 was fairly stable even early on. He also says that Datalan could not have built this system in the same timeframe at the same price point without the combination of the SQL Server 2005 BI features and the Microsoft Office System.

What's Next?

Datalan is in the Office 12 TAP program and are really excited about its capabilities. John plans to "take a lot of the work that we have done here and used to win the award and really take it to the next level; the set of tools Microsoft is coming out with in the next 12-18 months is just going to broaden our toolkit and enable us to develop even more powerful solutions."

Personal

John has been a developer for "longer than I would care to say, but over 20 years." The first programming language/package that he used was FoxBASE. What he really likes about today's development is that components are designed to be integrated together. The modular toolkits of today enable developers to craft creative solutions, whereas before programmers had to do an awful lot of heavy lifting to get the monolithic tools to work together. But Microsoft has made it possible with Office System and SQL Server 2005 for developers to put together some really great knowledge worker solutions.

His advice for the budding programmer? "Really understand the business need of the solution that you are developing and focus on a really solid architecture that can scale well, so you can add new products in the future."

Presented by:

Microsoft
SQL Server 2005

Microsoft
Visual Studio 2005

Microsoft
BizTalk Server 2006

msdn
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SQL Winners



Stephen Abdo, TREKg
Best extension of a SQL Server 2005 database using the SQLCLR

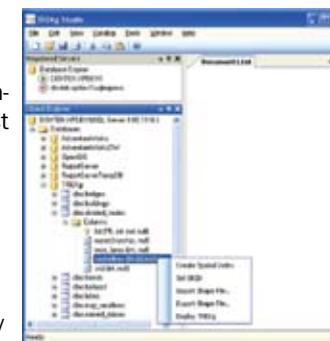
The winner is Stephen Abdo with TREKg www.trekg.com, from Jacksonville, Florida. TREKg is a platform that provides the ability to view, analyze and store geographical data and attributes. A

preliminary implementation of the OpenGIS Simple Features Specification for SQL Revision 1.1 from the Open GIS Consortium, TREKg exploits the new features of SQL Server 2005 and .NET 2.0. With TREKg, any company with a SQL Server 2005 database can run any of the APIs specified by Open GIS. Targeted at municipalities, scientists, and medium-sized businesses with an interest in utilizing spatial data, TREKg is hosted in the SQLCLR.

Find out more about TREKg at www.trekg.com/Overview.aspx.

Development

Stephen reports that he "just loves" the new Visual Studio 2005, "IntelliSense increased my efficiency at least 30 to 40 percent," and the tight integration with source control helped significantly. Stephen notes, "You always expect betas to have problems, but SQL Server 2005 was just solid. I didn't hit any bugs and it was just a very solid tool that allowed me to develop without any hiccups." The biggest roadblocks were the complex algorithms that needed to be implemented.



What's next?

Stephen's next project is working with the open GIS organization to get TREKg to pass the compliance testing.

Personal

Stephen's been a developer for about ten years. The first programming language/package that he used was Visual Basic 5. He says the biggest changes that he's seen over the years have been object orientation, enabling for the Internet, and distributed applications. His advice for the budding programmer is "Just do it, don't make excuses. Be persistent; don't just do the fun stuff. Make sure it is complete, document it well and think how the user of your product would think, and that will allow you to make a leap in the quality of the software you produce."



Marc-Donald Gagne, Intranet System for Business Web Log Management
Best application using the Business Intelligence features of SQL Server 2005

The winner is Marc-Donald Gagne, Intranet System for Business Web Log Management. Marc's company is DMR Conseil (for Fujitsu DMR Consulting), a Microsoft Gold Certified partner in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

The Intranet System for Business Web Log Management allows employees to have access to their own intranet Web log aggregator and Web log publishing interface. A BizTalk 2006 process manages all your employees' blogs. The processes assure the correlation of all information coming from private (intranet RSS feed) and public (internet RSS feed) blogs. The system also assures the correlation with the profile chosen by all employees so that they can choose RSS feeds from among a vast list of private and public RSS feeds. Technologies used include Microsoft BizTalk Server 2006, Microsoft SQL Server 2005, and Visual Studio 2005.

Development

There were four challenges. The first was to design, with Visual Studio 2005 ASPNET, a good-looking and easy-to-use blog interface for users. The second was to define management and aggregation processes with BizTalk 2006. The third was to use the SQL Server database as an archive device for the various blogs' content; finally, the team had to develop an RSS adapter for BizTalk 2006.

All project information is managed by a super aggregator: Microsoft BizTalk Server 2006. All blogs and databases are within SQL Server 2005, and the blog editing interface, the feed manager, and the category manager were developed with ASPNET.

What's next?

The Intranet System for Business Web Log Management project will be deployed in trial version in the DMR Conseil's office in Montréal. After testing its efficiency through their partners, they will then show the more advanced version to customers and begin to market it.

Personal

What's Marc-Donald's advice to budding programmers? "First, use Microsoft development products because there is great demand for programmers able to use those tools. Second, never believe that something is impossible in programming. To each problem there is always a proper solution. Finally, don't be afraid to request the assistance of mentors to find solutions to your programming problems. There are also forums on the Web that act as learning communities and thus are very powerful tools for finding solutions."

Connected Systems Developer COMPETITION WINNERS

Presented by:

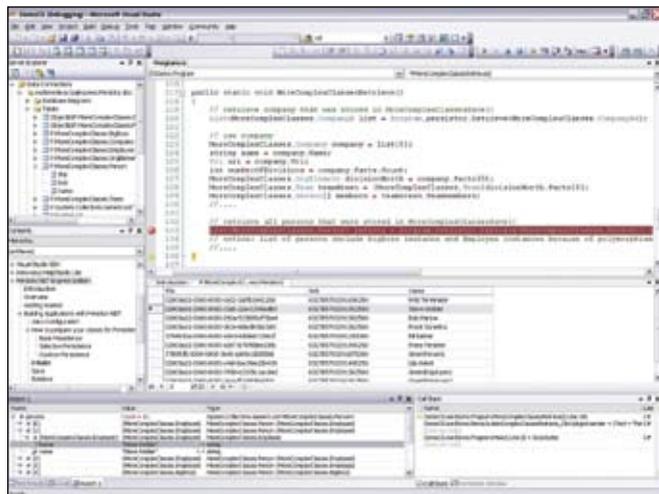


Visual Studio Winners



Wolfgang Portugaller and Hans-Peter Haberlandner, Persistor.NET **Best Visual Studio 2005 PowerToy utilizing SQL Server Express**

The winners are Wolfgang Portugaller and Hans-Peter Haberlandner with Persistor.NET, and they're also the MCP category winners. Both are independent consultants in Austria. Persistor .NET is a persistence layer for the .NET Framework 2.0. Persistor .NET saves, retrieves, and deletes pure .NET Framework object graphs into and out of a SQL Server 2005 or SQL Server Express database.

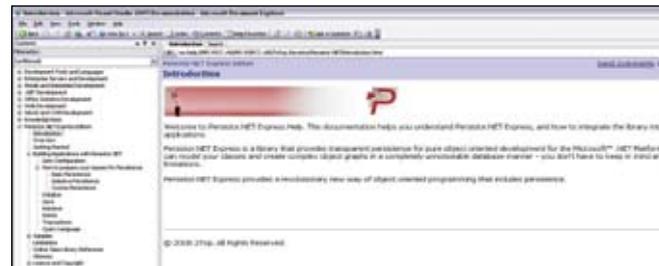


Software developers frequently have to figure out how to store the state of objects so that it can be retrieved later or from a different place into the process memory. Object-oriented programming has been around for many years and yet there is no good solution for the persistence of object graphs. Wolfgang and Hans-Peter imagined what a perfect solution would look like, and think that Persistor .NET is close to a perfect solution.

Download an evaluation of the winning application at www.persistor.net/download.html.

Development

Persistor .NET is strongly based on the CLR properties of the .NET Framework and makes extensive use of the metadata supplied for each object. It extracts all the information it needs to create a database schema to store objects in a relational database from the metadata supplied by the CLR.



What's Next?

Wolfgang will be speaking at TechEd 2006 in Boston about "SQL Server 2005: Storing Complex Managed Objects." To meet Wolfgang and talk about Persistor .NET, sign up at www.microsoft.com/events/teched2006/default.aspx.

Personal

Wolfgang's been a developer for about 20 years. He's focused on development of .NET applications for about 5 years, since the first beta of Visual Studio .NET and the .NET Framework 1.0. The first programming language he used was 6809 Assembler. He says that in Austria and Europe, more and more programmers are moving from native C++ development to managed C++ or C# development. They are learning that there are several ways to migrate existing legacy applications programmed in native C++ to managed code.



Shaun Tonstad, Suva3D Modeling, Simulation, and Game Engine **Best use of Managed DirectX, Visual Studio 2005 and SQL Server Express**

The winner is Shaun Tonstad with Suva Interactive www.suvaonline.com. Suva3D leverages the .NET platform to provide real-time rendering for modeling, simulation, and interactive gaming. Suva3D, a pure managed-code product written in C# and Managed DirectX, is used by third parties in the building construction, aerospace, and gaming industries.

Suva3D simplifies the creation of visually immersive 3D worlds for a variety of purposes, including architectural modeling, military simulations, and interactive multiplayer games. Suva3D's plugin-based architecture yields a completely customizable rendering pipeline. .NET Just In Time (JIT) compilation drives a scripting engine that allows dynamic creation of

scripts, which are compiled into fast CLR bytecode. Artists can build a model in Maya and with a simple workflow incorporate content into a real-time application through a script or persisted scene graph. With scripting, it is possible to orchestrate complex 3D interactions and events without recompiling an application.

Best of all, Suva3D is a .NET user control. You can add it to an existing application by simply dragging the Suva3D control onto an existing WinForm.

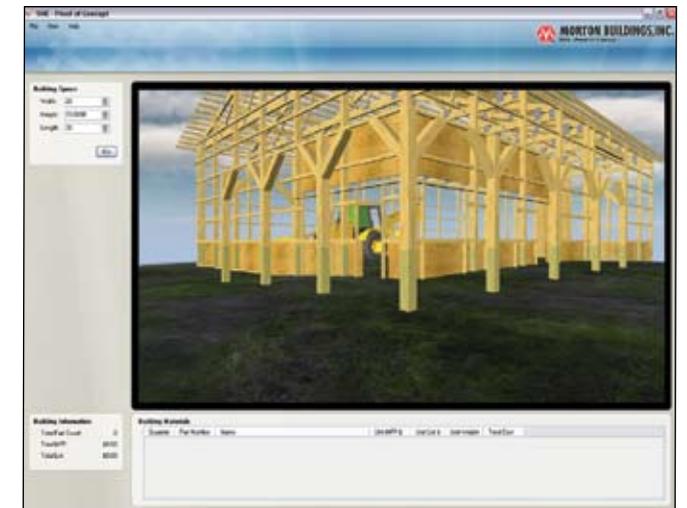
Development

Suva3D started as a hobby among three very dedicated software developers and a talented graphics artist. Development took place during the late hours of night and on long weekends. All involved had regular day jobs and credit .NET for allowing them to get more done in less time. Today, Suva Interactive's annual revenue exceeds 500K and continues to grow.

Shaun says, "Visual Studio is a great product for developing and debugging complex software. I can honestly say that we spent more time on features than tracking down bugs. We also experimented with the Visual Studio Team System. When we started this project, we had developers in Colorado, Texas, and Russia. Visual Studio Team System is a great way to bring people together and manage work responsibilities."

What's next?

Suva is releasing a community edition of the product that developers may use for noncommercial purposes. Hobbyist developer can use it to create their own simulation or interactive games. Following a public release of the product, Suva plans to continue development, add new features, and work to make it even better. Shaun notes that his company has a lot of programming methodologies and 3D techniques that they would like to share and give back to the community. Find them on their website www.suvainteractive.com.



Personal

Shaun has been writing software for eight years. Some of his favorite applications include a real-time program to buy and sell stock and, of course, games. The first programming language he used was C++. His advice for the budding programmer is "Be passionate, follow your dreams, find what it is you truly enjoy in life and make it happen. There is nothing stopping you."



Michael Voigt, Event Management for Hotel Guests (EMHG) **Best integrated/SOA application utilizing SQL Server 2005, Visual Studio 2005 and BizTalk**

The winner is Michael Voigt, who works for Mind and Machines, a document management workflows and PC application development company in Switzerland.

The Event Management for Hotel Guests (EMHG) system allows a hotel or a hotel chain to provide its customers a consolidated and central point of service. With EMHG, a user has multilingual 24x7 access to the various services provided by the hotel with constant service quality. The user interacts with the system through a smart mobile client similar to a Windows SmartPhone or PDA. The system is based on Microsoft BizTalk Server 2006.

Personal

Michael heard about this contest on the Internet while looking for information about the new products. His advice for the budding programmer? "Just try!"

COMPETITION WINNERS

BizTalk Winners



Jesus Rodriguez, Service Broker Enhancements
Best BizTalk adapter not already supplied by Microsoft or other adapter vendors

The winner, Jesus Rodriguez, is also the Community Category winner. Jesus works for Two Connect www.twoconnect.com, based in Miami, Florida. Two Connect focuses on delivering integration and business intelligence solutions powered by Microsoft BizTalk Server, SQL Server, HIS, and .NET.

Service Broker Enhancements (SBE) is a set of enhancements that allow Service Broker to integrate with other applications. With SBE, you can easily establish Service Broker interactions with other products and technologies, such as WebSphere MQ, Oracle Streams, UDDI, SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS), and Microsoft BizTalk Server. SBE was built on the .NET Framework and makes use of SQL Server 2005-based technologies like SSIS. Various components allow Service Broker to integrate with UDDI, integrate with SSIS by creating SSIS custom tasks, and to integrate with other non-Microsoft technologies.

You can download and contribute to the application by going to www.gotdotnet.com/Workspaces/Workspace.aspx?id=f2e863c6-3444-47ae-8d13-668484a449f9.

Development

SBE is a revolutionary technology, but it would have been impossible without SQL Server 2005.

What's next

Jesus will be speaking at TechEd 2006 in Boston; to meet him and talk to him about this solution, sign up at www.microsoft.com/events/teched2006/default.mspx.

Personal

Jesus' advice for the beginning programmer is, "Take a look at Service Broker. It is so revolutionary that you can start thinking differently about the way to use the database and grasp SOA technologies."

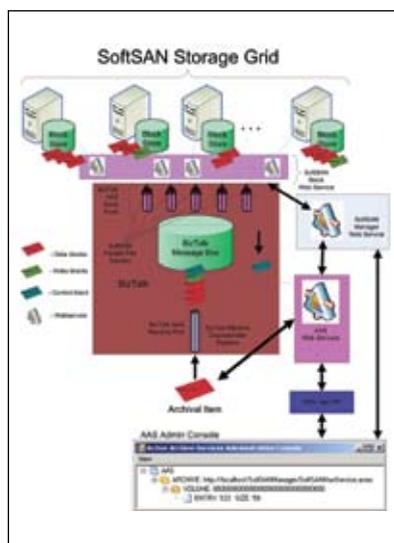
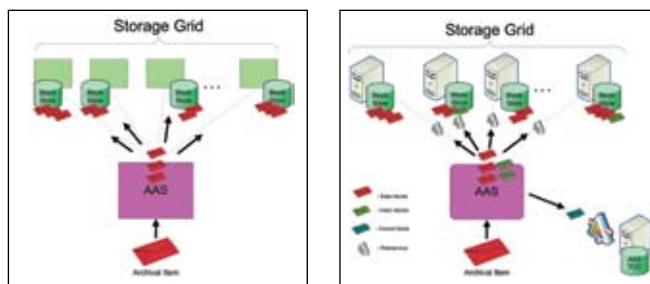


Rod da Silva, The Transacted Parallel Splitter BizTalk Pattern
Best implementation of a generic pattern on the BizTalk Server platform

The winner is Rod da Silva of Software Perspectives www.SoftwarePerspectives.com, in Toronto, Canada. The Transacted Parallel Splitter Pattern (TPSBP) for BizTalk splits an arbitrary message into autonomous submessages to be processed in parallel on multiple send ports running on separate threads. The pattern can optionally act in a transacted mode, with confirmation that either all submessages are successfully processed or none are.

Development

Rod says, "BizTalk Server 2006 really makes deployment and administration so much easier. The productivity in the tool is so much greater, you can turn around a solution much, much faster than you could with BizTalk 2004."



Personal

Rod has been a developer for 27 years. The first programming language he used was ZX81 Sinclair Basic. He launched the BizTalk user group in May 2005 www.btug.biz, which now has over 500 members, and he also runs the Toronto chapter.

His advice for the budding programmer is, "Just do it. Follow your heart and go ahead and do it."

Presented by:



Stephen Thomas, Untyped Messages and Dynamic Maps in BizTalk
Best sample demonstrating key functionality not already included in the BizTalk Server SDK

The winner is Stephen Thomas, also an MCP Category winner. His company is Kendall Technologies, Inc www.biztalkgurus.com, based in Dallas, Texas, which specializes in BizTalk implementations. This application shows the use for untyped messages and dynamic maps inside Biztalk 2006. It's an extensible framework for mapping and exception-handling of transform errors. You get a consistent model to map all your inbound data, an easy way to handle exceptions, and a simple method for updating to your maps without having to redeploy your orchestrations.

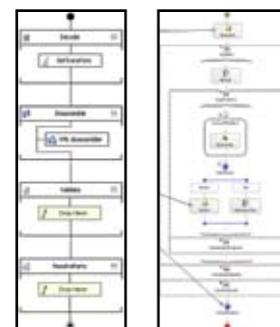
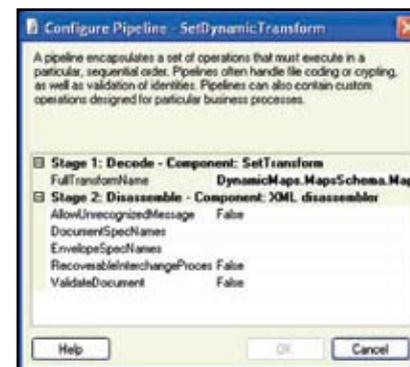
The sample of this application can be found at www.biztalkgurus.com/Samples/Dynamic-Transforms-BizTalk-2006.html

Development

One challenge while developing this app was getting used to the beta BizTalk 2006 environment. Stephen reports, "Visual Studio 2005 definitely made life easier; it's a little more designed for developers. And then BizTalk 2006 had new features that enabled this project; specifically, per-instance pipeline configurations that allow you to have different pipeline values at run time which saves you from having to recompile your code and redeploy it."

Personal

Stephen has been developing for four and a half years using BizTalk, but he's a chemical engineer by trade. A BizTalk server MVP he blogs on GeeksWithBlogs and has his own website, www.biztalkgurus.com, with samples. His advice for those starting out in software development is to play around as much as possible with trial software. ■



Judges

All of the judges are industry experts on SQL Server, Visual Studio, or BizTalk. Many are Microsoft Regional Directors— independent developers, architects, trainers, and other professionals who provide a vital link between Microsoft and the developer community.

- ◆ Ken Getz – Industry expert on Visual Studio development; noted author and speaker www.mcwtech.com/CS/blogs/keng/
- ◆ Scott Golightly – Regional Director from Utah www.grokdev.com/Blogs/Scott/default.aspx
- ◆ Stephen Forte – Regional Director from New York www.stephenforte.net/owdasblog/
- ◆ Michele Leroux Bustamante – Regional Director from California – www.dasblonde.net/
- ◆ Brian Knight – SQL Server industry expert and contributor to www.sqlservercentral.com/columnists/bknight/
- ◆ Joe Yong – Works for Scalability Experts and is an expert in SQL Server 2005 www.scalabilityexperts.com
- ◆ Scott Stanfield – Regional Director for the US West Coast blogs.vertigosoftware.com/scott/
- ◆ John Alexander – Regional Director for the Midwest geekswithblogs.net/jalexander/
- ◆ Andrew Brust – Regional Director from New York www.brustblog.com/
- ◆ Sylvain Duford – Regional Director from Canada weblogs.asp.net/sylvainduford/
- ◆ Trond Brande – Regional Director from Norway www.microsoft.com/norge/msdn/mvp/trondbrande.msp
- ◆ Chris Auld – Regional Director from New Zealand www.syringe.net.nz/
- ◆ Guy Barrette – Regional Director from Canada dotnet-expertise.com/cs/blogs/guy_barrette/
- ◆ Christian Weyer – Regional Director from Germany weblogs.asp.net/cweyer/
- ◆ Matt Meleski – Industry expert in BizTalk www.objectsharp.com/matt/
- ◆ Jackie Goldstein – Regional Director from Israel weblogs.asp.net/JackieG