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Training

ANSAwise - Course Roundup and Action Plan [to Impact of Distributed Processing]

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Abstract

This is the “goodbye speech” to the course “Impact of Distributed Processing”. As well as a summary of the key points, it gives information for finding out more.

[Since different course presentations offer a choices of modules, this presentation may need to be adjusted to cover different key points.]

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Approved
Briefing Note

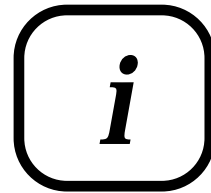
4th May 1995

Distribution:
Supersedes:
Superseded by:



Impact of Distributed Processing

Course Roundup and Action Plan



...and Learning More...



About this course

- *This course has presented an overview of the impact of distributed processing and client/server systems*
- *Let us summarize the issues in planning such projects...*
- *... and the challenges you will encounter*



Management issues

- *Ensure the whole organization is committed*
- *Involve end-users in defining requirements*
- *Start with high-payback, small, and simple projects*
- *Choose the right moment*
- *Monitor costs closely*



Supplier issues

- *Investigate suppliers' credentials*
- *Evaluate products carefully*
- *Select suppliers you can work with*
- *Limit the number of products and suppliers you use*



Development issues

- *Plan team staffing carefully*
- *Build on your existing technical expertise*
- *Integrate old and new development styles*
- *Select application templates with care*
- *Keep a close eye on system and network performance*
- *Always have a technical fall-back plan*



Support issues

- *Form a consistent support strategy*
- *Budget for support*
- *Obtain the right mix of skills*
- *Devise focused training for your end-users*



The practical challenges

- Insufficient levels of integration
- Bugs in software
- Lack of client/server knowledge
- Very technical systems development
- User resistance to learning new skills
- Incompatibility of software
- Lack of open solutions
- Immaturity of software
- Little all-round expertise in the market
- Re-education of end-users

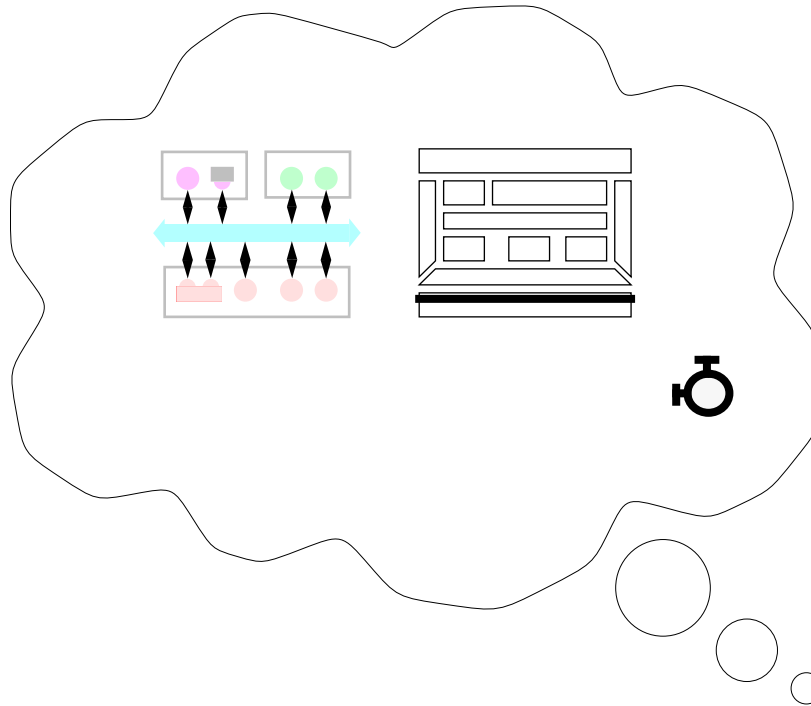
Source: Rothwell/IDC



Some thoughts

- *Flexibility is the typical business driver for client/server technology, rather than cost reduction*
- *The business challenges are more difficult to handle than the technical ones*
- *Project management is the key*

New Ideas





More about client-server systems?

- *If you want one introductory book on both business and technical issues...*
 - *Client/Server Strategies, by David Vaskevitch (IDG Books)*
- *... or see the magazines below*



Conferences and exhibitions?

- ***Object World UK: 20-23 June 1995***
 - **organized by the Object Management Group**
- ***Software Development: 24 November 1995***
- ***ANSAworks***
 - **the ANSA conference, organized by APM**



Latest state of play?

- *Magazines*
 - *First Class from the Object Management Group (OMG)*
 - *Software Futures from APT Data Services*
 - *...and the general computer press*



Contacting APM

- *We are online on the Internet*
 - our World Wide Web URL is <http://www.ansa.co.uk/>
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