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Training

ANSAwise - Course Roundup [to Introduction to Design of Distributed Systems]

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Abstract

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

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Approved
Briefing Note

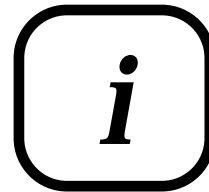
20th November 1995

Distribution:
Supersedes:
Superseded by:



Introduction to Design of Distributed Systems

Course Roundup



...and Learning More...



About this course

- *This course has presented an in-depth view of CORBA*
 - what other work is in progress relating to CORBA?
 - what are the product trends?



OMG - key work in progress

- ***CORBA 2 Task Force***
 - COM/OLE interworking
 - Portability (of object implementations)

- ***Object Services Task Force***
 - Security RFP
 - Change Management RFP

- ***Common Facilities Task Force***
 - plenty to do!



CORBA vendors - a wish list

- *Demonstrate interoperability*
- *Demonstrate C++ Language Mapping (full form)*
- *Show generic object service wrappers for legacy systems*
- *Ship implementations supporting*
 - *real-time*
 - *replication*



Lessons learned from a typical project

- *Wrapping legacy systems does work*
- *It requires a detailed analysis to determine whether products are genuinely compatible*
 - even when they are specifically marketed as such
- *There is little support within products for system administration and application management*
 - few tools
 - few interfaces
- *Similarly, there is little support for testing distributed applications*



Tools and methods for CORBA

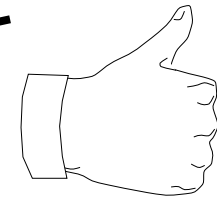
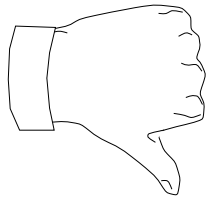
- *CORBA needs support throughout the development life-cycle...*
 - object analysis and design methods
 - development tools
 - performance and testing tools
 - applications management tools
- *... all conforming to open standards, allowing interoperability*



Object analysis and design methods today

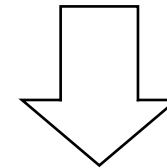
- *There are well over 20 object analysis and design methods...*
 - ...see survey reports produced by the Object Analysis and Design Special Interest Group of OMG
- *Many methods ignore distributed systems issues*

Development tools today



- tools limit size of application
- communications libraries out-dated (DCE support emerging)
- no agreed way to describe interfaces
- no support for application properties
- browsing limited
- tools are (still) closed applications

- some complexities transparent
- late binding and early type checking



Challenge



Performance and testing tools today

- *The database community takes performance very seriously...*
 - performance prediction and monitoring tools are improving all the time
- *...equivalent tools do not yet exist for CORBA*
- *The test department has always been ill-served with tools*
 - tools are appearing, but focus mainly on the user interface...
 - ...not on the server



Development tools tomorrow

- *The situation is improving*
 - keep watching for product announcements
 - consider striking up an early relationship, and evaluating one or more tools in depth



More about CORBA?

- *For a general overview*
 - see *Object Management Architecture Guide (OMG)*
- *For a technical overview*
 - see *The Common Object Request Broker: Architecture and Specification (OMG and X/Open)*
- *For Object Services*
 - see *CORBA services* by the Object Management Group (Wiley)
- *For a survey of object analysis and design methods*
 - see *Object Analysis and Design: Description of Methods and Object Analysis and Design: Comparison of Methods* ed. Andrew Hutt (OMG/Wiley)



More about distributed systems?

- *If you want one introductory book on both business and technical issues:*
 - *Client/Server Strategies*, by David Vaskevitch (IDG Books)
- *If you want one introductory book on both technical issues and products:*
 - *Distributed Computing: A Practical Synthesis*, by Amjad Umar (Prentice Hall)
- *If you want one introductory book on the technical issues only:*
 - *Distributed Systems Concepts and Design*, by Coulouris, Dollimore, and Kindberg (Addison-Wesley)
- *If you prefer a more theoretical approach:*
 - *Distributed Systems*, edited by Sape Mullender (Addison-Wesley)



Conferences and exhibitions?

- ***Object World UK***
 - organized by the **Object Management Group**
- ***ANSAworks***
 - the ANSA conference, organized by **APM**
- ***Object Expo Europe***
 - organized by **SIGS Conferences**



Latest state of play?

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

- ***Internet newsgroups***
 - **comp.client-server**
 - **comp.object**

- ***Internet ftp sites***
 - **ftp.omg.org**



How we can help

- ***ANSAware***
 - **technical support**

- ***ANSAworks***
 - **the ANSA conference**

- ***ANSAwise***
 - **training in distributed systems**

- ***ANSAweb***
 - **consultancy and advice**



Contacting APM

- *We are online on the World Wide Web!*
 - our URL is <http://www.ansa.co.uk/>
 - ... note the final /
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Stay in touch with APM