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Training

ANSAwise - Course Roundup [to CORBA in Depth]

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Abstract

This is the "goodbye speech" to the course "CORBA in Depth". As well as a summary of the key points, it gives information for finding out more.

[Version 2 of this presentation included brief coverage of early ANSA work on linking CORBA with the World Wide Web. This has been removed, because it now merits a complete presentation in its own right.]

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

APM.1539.03

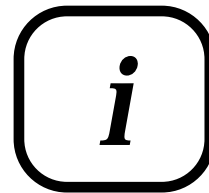
Approved
Briefing Note

9th July 1996

Distribution:
Supersedes:
Superseded by:



CORBA in Depth
Course Roundup



...and Learning More...



About this course

- **This course has covered a lot of ground**
 - **technical topics**
 - **open standards and products**
 - **applications**
- **First, let us summarize some experiences from CORBA users**



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

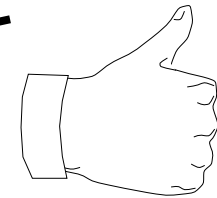
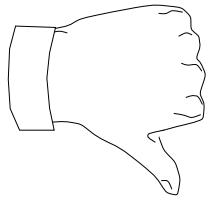
- **CORBA needs support throughout the development life-cycle...**
 - **object analysis and design methods**
 - **development tools**
 - **performance and testing tools**
 - **applications management tools**
- **... all conforming to open standards, allowing interoperability**



Object analysis and design methods today

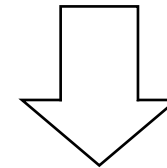
- **There are well over 20 object analysis and design methods...**
 - **...see survey reports produced by the Object Analysis and Design Special Interest Group of OMG**
- **Many methods ignore distributed systems issues**

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

- 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 *CORBA* by the Object Management Group
- For Object Services and Common Facilities
 - see *CORBA services* and *CORBA facilities* by the Object Management Group
- 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)



Books about CORBA?

- *The titles so far:*
 - *CORBA Fundamentals and Programming, by Jon Siegel (Wiley)*
 - *The Essential Distributed Objects Survival Guide, by Orfali, Harkey and Edwards (Wiley)*
 - *The Essential CORBA: Systems Integration Using Distributed Objects, by Thomas Mowbray and Ron Zahavi (Wiley)*
 - *Understanding CORBA, by Randy Otte (Prentice-Hall)*
 - *CORBA: A Guide to Common Object Request Broker Architecture, by Ron Ben-Natan (McGraw Hill)*



More about distributed systems background?

- 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)



More about distributed systems theory?

- 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 want to know more about distributed systems infrastructure research:
 - *Distributed Operating Systems*, by Andrew Tanenbaum (Prentice-Hall)
- If you prefer a more theoretical approach:
 - *Distributed Systems*, edited by Sape Mullender (Addison-Wesley)
 - *Open Distributed Systems*, by Jon Crowcroft (UCL Press)
 - *Distributed Platforms*, edited by Alexander Schill et al (Chapman and Hall)



Conferences and exhibitions?

- **Object World**
 - organized by the **Object Management Group**
- **ANSA *works***
 - 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.object.corba`
 - `comp.client-server`
- **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 /
- **E-mail address is apm@ansa.co.uk**

Stay in touch with APM