Greater Nebraska Software Symposium 2006

Crowne Plaza Omaha Old Mill - Omaha, NE

Mar. 31 - Apr. 02, 2006

(session agenda as of 3/28/2006)

Friday, March 31				
	1	2	3	4
12:00 - 1:00 PM	REGISTRATION			
1:00 - 1:15 PM	WELCOME			
1:15 - 2:45 PM	Spring Fundamentals Stuart Halloway	Where Agile meets Argyle: New processes in established companies Bruce Tate	JavaServer Faces: A Whirlwind Tour David Geary	Java 5 Features, What's in it for you? Venkat Subramaniam
2:45 - 3:15 PM	BREAK			
3:15 - 4:45 PM	Spring Dependency Injection Stuart Halloway	Politics of Persistence Bruce Tate	JSF: State of the Art David Geary	Portal Standards and implementation Venkat Subramaniam
4:45 - 5:00 PM	BREAK			
5:00 - 6:30 PM	Spring Security with ACEGI Stuart Halloway	Introduction to Hibernate Bruce Tate	Shale: Turbo-charge your JSF Apps David Geary	Practices of an Agile Developer Venkat Subramaniam
6:30 - 7:15 PM	DINNER			
7:15 - 8:00 PM	KEYNOTE			

Saturday, April 1				
	1	2	3	4
7:30 - 8:30 AM	BREAKFAST			
8:30 - 10:00 AM	Ajax Architecture Stuart Halloway	What's New in Spring 2 Bruce Tate	Killer Web UIs David Geary	Open Source Tools for Agile Development Venkat Subramaniam
10:00 - 10:30 AM	BREAK			
10:30 - 12:00 PM	JavaScript for Ajax Programmers Stuart Halloway	Three Technologies to Watch Bruce Tate	Creating Polished Swing Applications Scott Delap	Refactoring your code - a key step in agility Venkat Subramaniam
12:00 - 1:00 PM	LUNCH			
1:00 - 2:30 PM	Advanced Hibernate Stuart Halloway	Holistic Testing Scott Davis	Ajaxian Faces David Geary	Working with Rules Engines Venkat Subramaniam
2:30 - 2:45 PM	BREAK			
2:45 - 4:15 PM	Spring AOP Stuart Halloway	Introducing the Eclipse Rich Client Platform Scott Delap	Hands-on Rails David Geary	SOA and ESB: Next Wave of Enterprise Development or Return of the Son of CORBA? Neal Ford
4:15 - 5:15 PM	BIRDS OF A FEATHER SESSIONS			

Sunday, April 2				
	1	2	3	4
8:00 - 9:00 AM	BREAKFAST			
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Practically Groovy: Real World Groovy for Thrill Seekers Andrew Glover	Ajax, Flash, and Java - Choosing The Right Rich Client Technology for Your Next Project Scott Delap	NetKernel : XML Processing for the 21st Century Brian Sletten	J2EE Security @ Work: J2EE Meets JAAS Tom Marrs
10:30 - 11:00 AM	BREAK			
11:00 - 12:30 PM	Unit Testing Java Objects with Groovy Andrew Glover	Java/J2EE Architecture @ Work: EJB 3 vs Spring and Hibernate Tom Marrs	Applied AOP Brian Sletten	Advanced Enterprise Debugging Techniques Neal Ford
12:30 - 1:15 PM	LUNCH			
1:15 - 2:00 PM	EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION			
2:00 - 3:30 PM	Unit Testing Best Practices Andrew Glover	J2EE Web Services @ Work Tom Marrs	Real World Web Services Scott Davis	Clean Up Your Code: 10 Java Coding Tricks, Techniques, and Philosophies Neal Ford
3:30 - 3:45 PM	BREAK			
3:45 - 5:15 PM	Introduction to TestNG, the next generation testing framework for developers Andrew Glover	Easing into Agile Scott Davis	Applied Design Patterns Brian Sletten	Language Oriented Programming Part 1: Theory Neal Ford

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Practically Groovy: Real World Groovy for Thrill Seekers by Andrew Glover
The key to incorporating any tool into your development practice is knowing when to use it and when to leave it in the box. Dynamic languages can be an extremely powerful addition to your toolkit, but only when applied properly to appropriate scenarios.

Introduction to TestNG, the next generation testing framework for developers by Andrew Glover
No one will argue the positive affects JUnit has had on the quality of thousands of Java applications around the world. JUnit#s simplicity and ease of use ushered in a whole new era of code quality; however, as many developers have found, its simplicity has also limited its use. TestNG was designed from the ground up to overcome some of JUnit#s limitations; moreover, TestNG#s features make it a great tool to complement your JUnit tests.

Unit Testing Java Objects with Groovy by Andrew Glover
What makes Groovy particularly appealing with respect to other scripting platforms is its seamless integration with the Java platform. Because it's based on the Java language (unlike other alternate languages for the JRE, which tend to be based on earlier predecessors), Groovy presents an incredibly short learning curve for the Java developer. And once that learning curve has straightened out, Groovy can offer an unparalleled rapid development platform.

Unit Testing Best Practices by Andrew Glover
In the years since JUnit#s introduction, a number of frameworks have been built to enhance its utility for testing and validating XML, controlling the state of a database, testing legacy code, performance testing, and functional web testing.

NetKernel : XML Processing for the 21st Century by Brian Sletten
A wise man once said, "XML is like lye. It is very useful, but humans shouldn't touch it." If you've had to incorporate XML into your project by hand, you have probably been burned by getting too close. NetKernel turns this wisdom on its head and encourages you to use XML like the liquid data stream you want it to be. Imagine the simplicity of REST married to the power of Unix pipes. Come see how this open source / commercial product built on a compelling modern architecture can be used to create, manipulate and transform XML.

Applied Design Patterns by Brian Sletten
Just about every modern software developer has a copy of the Gang of Four "Design Patterns" book sitting on a shelf; many of them have actually read it. The dark secret of the patterns community is that there is often a large gulf between whiteboard simplicity and real-world complexity. Language choice plays a part in the design (and even importance) of patterns. The situation is made even more confusing by the fact that many of the core patterns have now been "voted off the island" for one reason or another. This talk will give a pragmatic overview of the motivations behind design patterns and will focus on applying a handful of the GOF patterns to example scenarios in Java, Ruby and C#. A quick introduction to the role AOP plays in changing the patterns landscape will also be covered.

Applied AOP by Brian Sletten
Most people new to Aspect-Oriented Programming (AOP) are fed up with separation of concerns zealots explaining how great their techniques are at dealing with... logging. Ok, you get it. Logging is a cross-cutting concern that can be appropriately modularized. What else does AOP have to offer? A lot, it turns out. This talk will give an introduction to the motivations of AOP as well as a series of concrete examples drawn from enterprise and client side Java. Come learn how AspectJ-flavored AOP can begin to benefit you immediately either in development or production environments. Learn how to enforce architectural policies, find Swing threading issues, reduce the invasiveness of the Observer design pattern or even improve the reusability of your domain models.

What's New in Spring 2 by Bruce Tate
In this session, we'll review the new features of Spring 2.0. If you've been using Spring 1.x, you'll want to hear about the improvements.

Where Agile meets Argyle: New processes in established companies by Bruce Tate

Agile programming is a collection of core principles and techniques that allow software developers to create lighter, more responsive applications, and to have fun doing it. Many established organizations are either openly or sub-conciously hostile to many of the principles of Agile development.

Three Technologies to Watch by Bruce Tate
The state of the art is progressing rapidly, and dynamic languages are driving the revolution. Find out about these topics that will be central to programming. We'll discuss continuation servers, metaprogramming frameworks and functional langauges.

Politics of Persistence by Bruce Tate
This session will help a Java developer choose a persistence framework. After the session, you will # Understand the core strengths and weaknesses of the main persistence frameworks in the Java space # Understand where marketing influences can impact persistence # Know what#s going on behind the scenes to impact the persistence pictures # Answer questions about persistence frameworks that might not be mainstream

Introduction to Hibernate by Bruce Tate
O/RM (Object/Relational Mapping) seeks to eliminate repetitive or tedious work enabling the CRUD (create, read, update, delete) that underlies most applications. Hibernate is a popular, open-source O/RM tool that uses reflection (instead of code generation, like EJB, or bytecode injection, like JDO) to manage your persistence layer.

JavaServer Faces: A Whirlwind Tour by David Geary
JavaServer Faces (JSF) has arrived. The standard Java-based web application framework based on Struts, JSF really took off in 2005. Embraced by developers, vendors, and open-source projects, JSF has started to hit its stride. If you haven't come up to speed on JSF basics, this is the place to start.

JSF: State of the Art by David Geary
In 2005, JSF hit its stride, as evidenced from overwhelming support from both vendors and the open-source community. JSF 1.0 had plenty of holes, but open-source projects have arisen to address those needs. This session takes a look at three of those projects: Tomahawk (MyFaces component library) Facelets
Seam

Killer Web UIs by David Geary
User interfaces are usually the most turbulent aspect of an application during development. Constant tinkering with the UI means constant changes to your code, so as a UI developer, you want to minimize the scope and effects of those code changes. Open-source Java provides two powerful software packages that help you manage UI complexity: Tiles and Sitemesh. Tiles composes webpages from discrete regions of your user interface known as tiles. A tile contains a JSP page for layout and one or more JSP pages for content. Sitemesh decorates webpages with decorators that can be associated with URL patterns. Once you set up your decorators, you can decorate pages that match a decorator's URL pattern.

Hands-on Rails by David Geary
Come to this exciting preview of one of the leading web application framework contenders with the potential to be the Next Big Thing: Ruby on Rails. An innovative framework with an eye-popping array of ultra-cool features such as active record and native support for Ajax, Rails greatly simplifies web application development and puts the joy back in software development. Rails is easy, fun, and very productive; in fact, in the throes of Rails-mania, some converts have claimed that developing with Rails is at least 10 times as fast as your favorite Java framework. Could that be? Come see for yourself.

Shale: Turbo-charge your JSF Apps by David Geary
Struts is the most popular Java-based Web application framework today, but that's rapidly changing. There's a newcomer on the block, a leaner, meaner, better-designed framework loosely based on Struts that's poised to dethrone Struts as the reigning king of Java-based web application frameworks. That framework, of course, is JavaServer Faces. Craig McClanahan, the father of Struts and the co-spec lead for JSF 1.0, has proposed reinventing Struts for Struts 2.0 as a set of services for JSF applications. That new framework, which has no direct ties to Struts as we know it, is called Shale.

Ajaxian Faces by David Geary
JavaServer Faces is a perfect platform for implementing Web 2.0 interfaces with Ajax. This session explores how you can use these two potent technologies--JSF and Ajax--together to create applications that look and behave like desktop applications but run in the browser.

Language Oriented Programming Part 1: Theory by Neal Ford
This session shows how to use Java as the building block for domain-specific languages. It discusses the next revolution in programming: language-oriented programming and the nascent tools that support it.

SOA and ESB: Next Wave of Enterprise Development or Return of the Son of CORBA? by Neal Ford
Are Service Oriented Architecture and Enterprise Service Buses the next wave of distributed computing or just the same old crap in a shiny new package? This session provides an overview of what most people agree is the definition of SOA and some of the characteristics of ESBs. I talk about EAI, your MOM, SOA, ESB, and all the other acronyms I can come up with.

Clean Up Your Code: 10 Java Coding Tricks, Techniques, and Philosophies by Neal Ford
This session delivers 10 techniques for improving your code, whether you are freshly graduated or a grizzled veteran.

Advanced Enterprise Debugging Techniques by Neal Ford
This session discusses techniques and tools for debugging enterprise applications (without using <code>System.out.println()</code>!)

Introducing the Eclipse Rich Client Platform by Scott Delap
Rich client application development using Java can be intimidating giving the vast flexibility in application design and structure. It also can be frustrating to create the large number of support services (persistence, menus, event and job frameworks) that a large scale rich client applications needs. The Eclipse Rich Client Platform is one project attempting to solve these issues by providing a core infrastructure that not only provides the day to day services a rich client application developer needs, but also providing a suggested path to guide you down the road of designing your application. This presentation introduces both the Eclipse RCP and the tools provided by the Eclipse IDE that assist developers in writing RCP apps.

Creating Polished Swing Applications by Scott Delap
Too often, Swing applications are slow, ugly, and hard-to-maintain. It turns out that it doesn't have to be this way. Swing can be used to create highly-responsive, beautiful applications that are very maintainable. If this isn't consistent with your own experience, don't feel bad; its not very obvious how to make Swing sing.

Ajax, Flash, and Java - Choosing The Right Rich Client Technology for Your Next Project by Scott Delap
Today's users are beginning to demand richer and richer application experiences. Plain html pages simply don't cut it anymore. Applications like Google Maps (Ajax) and Yahoo Maps (Flash) show how the UI experience can be pushed to the next level. As an IT manager, how do you decide which route to take however? Should you use Ajax because it is the new "it" technology. Is Flash a viable option with its 95%+ browser availability? Perhaps Java deployed through web start is really the best choice in contrast to what the buzz would lead you to believe. This presentation takes a look at these three core rich client technologies from both deployment/user experience and ease of development perspectives.

Real World Web Services by Scott Davis
In this talk, we'll survey the web services exposed by leading websites (Google, Yahoo, Amazon, eBay) and discuss how they are driving the AJAX revolution. You'll see examples of RESTful, SOAP, and JSON web services, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of each.

Easing into Agile by Scott Davis
How do you get started with an Agile development methodology? Everyone has been talking about eXtreme Programming for years, but how do you get it introduced to your team? Many times, you're not simply transitioning from from one methodology to another -- you're introducing a methodology for the first time. Adding structure to a previously unstructured endeavor. Adding a touch of discipline where programmers once roamed free.

Holistic Testing by Scott Davis
Mark Twain once said, "Everyone talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." Do you feel the same way about Unit Testing? Are you actively testing your code, or are you just thinking about testing your code... some day... once you get some more free time...

JavaScript for Ajax Programmers by Stuart Halloway
This presentation covers JavaScript from the perspective of an Ajax programmer. We assume that you may be using an Ajax toolkit, but still need to be able to read, modify, and test the JavaScript code in your

application. You will learn the common idioms of JavaScript by looking at working code from the Ajax toolkits themselves.

Ajax Architecture by Stuart Halloway
Ajax applications have unique architectural challenges and opportunities. This presentation will show you how to take advantage of the Ajax's strengths, and work around its quirks.

Spring Fundamentals by Stuart Halloway
The Spring framework is one of the fastest growing open source frameworks. New job postings are gaining rapidly, and many customers are adopting Spring instead of heavier alternatives. In this session, we#ll introduce Spring. You#ll see how Spring can give you much of the power of EJB, without the complexity or pain.

Advanced Hibernate by Stuart Halloway
Hibernate is easy to get started with, but can sometimes be hard to make efficient or secure. In fact, the default settings for Hibernate createapplications that will run slowly, cause unwanted round trips to the database, and may be more restrictive and/or permissive from a security standpointthan you would otherwise want.

Spring Dependency Injection by Stuart Halloway
Dependency Injection (DI) is the cornerstone of Spring. The core concept is quite simple, but (surprise!) actual practice can become complex. To take full advantage of Spring DI, you need to understand not only the basics on configuration, but also the container lifecycle model and the various hooks provided by the framework.

Spring AOP by Stuart Halloway
Learn to use Spring AOP, aspect injection. and AspectJ integration

Spring Security with ACEGI by Stuart Halloway
Spring offers developers a simpler, more robust method for configuring applications. These benefits extend to security through the ACEGI framework. ACEGI makes the otherwise daunting task of securing your application logical and straightforward. More importantly, through its support for single sign-on provision through Yale's CAS system and its ability to provide instance-level authorization, Spring extends the common security model of most J2EE apps beyond what they are traditionally capable of.

J2EE Security @ Work: J2EE Meets JAAS by Tom Marrs
Have you wasted time writing lots of security-based code and ever wondered if there's a better way to add security to your application? Are you confused by declarative security? Have you read about JAAS (Java Authentication and Authorization Service) but wondered where it fits? Have you ever said, "Can I just see a working example"? If so, then this talk is for you.

Java/J2EE Architecture @ Work: EJB 3 vs Spring and Hibernate by Tom Marrs
You've used EJB in the past and been disappointed - it was too heavy and difficult to use. Like Bruce Tate, maybe you've gone from "Bitter" to "Better, Faster, Lighter". With EJB 3 shipping in early 2006, maybe it's time to take another look. We'll compare EJB 3 with alternative frameworks - Spring and Hibernate - to see if EJB 3 has closed the gap.

J2EE Web Services @ Work by Tom Marrs
Have you tried to deploy J2EE Web Services and thrown up your hands in frustration at the lack of tool support? Have you been confused by the tangled web of new deployment descriptors? Do you want to know how to develop and deploy J2EE-compliant Web Services so that it works every time? If so, then this talk is for you. at the lack of tool support? If so, then this talk is for you.

Practices of an Agile Developer by Venkat Subramaniam
You have worked on software projects with variying degree of success. What were the reasons for the success of your last project? What were the reasons for those that failed? A number of issues contribute to project success - some non-technical in nature. In this presentation the speaker will share with you practices in a number of areas including coding, developer attitude, debugging, and feedback. The discussions are based on the book with the same title as the talk.

Portal Standards and implementation by Venkat Subramaniam

Portals and Portlets allow you to personalize your web application. However, developing and deploying portlets across different portals can be a challenge. What is WSRP and JSR-168. How are these related and how are these different? Are these competing technologies or do they work with each other?

Java 5 Features, What's in it for you? by Venkat Subramaniam
A number of new features have been introduced in Java. What benefit do these features offer you. Are there issues with using these features. For instance, when should you use annotation? The objective of this presentation is not simply to introduce you to the features, but to the effective use of these as well.

Working with Rules Engines by Venkat Subramaniam
Rule based programming allows us to develop applications using declarative rules. These can simplify development in applications where such rules based knowledge is used for decision making.

Refactoring your code - a key step in agility by Venkat Subramaniam
Refactoring is one of the core practices in Agile Software Development. Refactoring is based on some core principles that apply to more than writing good code. But, what's refactoring? Why should you do it? How do you go about doing that? What tools are available to successfully refactor your App?

Open Source Tools for Agile Development by Venkat Subramaniam
As a Java developer, you have taken the time to learn the basics of the language and relevant parts of its rich API. However, you need more than that to develop serious industrial strength applications. In this presentation, the speaker will introduce you to a number of open source tools which you can use to improve your application quality and your development process.