

Lone Star Software Symposium: Dallas 2006

Crowne Plaza Park Central - Dallas, TX

October 27 - 29, 2006

(session listing as of 10/28/2006)

Friday, October 27, 2006					
	Windsor 1-3	Windsor 4	Manchester	Churchill	Canterbury
12:00 - 1:00 PM	REGISTRATION				
1:00 - 1:15 PM	WELCOME				
1:15 - 2:45 PM	What's New in Spring 2 Bruce Tate	JavaScript Exposed: There's a Real Programming Language in There! (Part 1) Glenn Vanderburg	JavaServer Faces: A Whirlwind Tour David Geary	Creating, Telling, and Tracking User Stories David Hussman	Working with Rules Engines Venkat Subramaniam
2:45 - 3:15 PM	BREAK				
3:15 - 4:45 PM	Effective Teams: The dirty little secret Bruce Tate	JavaScript Exposed: There's a Real Programming Language in There! (Part 2) Glenn Vanderburg	JSF: State of the Art David Geary	#Show Me the Numbers# - Agile Planning Tools and Techniques David Hussman	Open Source Tools for Agile Development Venkat Subramaniam
4:45 - 5:00 PM	BREAK				
5:00 - 6:30 PM	Three Technologies to Watch Bruce Tate	Ajax Architecture Glenn Vanderburg	Shale: Turbo-charge your JSF Apps David Geary	Automating Business Value with FIT and FitNesse David Hussman	Refactoring your code - a key step in agility Venkat Subramaniam
6:30 - 7:15 PM	DINNER				
7:15 - 8:00 PM	KEYNOTE				

Saturday, October 28, 2006					
	Windsor 1-3	Windsor 4	Manchester	Churchill	Canterbury
8:00 - 9:00 AM	BREAKFAST				
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Java Performance Myths Glenn Vanderburg	Ajaxian Faces David Geary	Introducing the Eclipse Rich Client Platform Scott Delap	Ready, Set, Agile? David Hussman	Groovy for Java Programmers Venkat Subramaniam
10:30 - 11:00 AM	BREAK				
11:00 - 12:30 PM	The Spring Experience in 90 minutes Ben Hale	Real World Web Services Scott Davis	NetKernel : XML Processing for the 21st Century Brian Sletten	Losing Battles and Winning Wars: Adopting Agile David Hussman	Get Groovier with Grails Venkat Subramaniam
12:30 - 1:30 PM	LUNCH				
1:30 - 3:00 PM	Java Annotations: From Definition to Consumption Ted Neward	The Google Web Toolkit David Geary	Holistic Testing Scott Davis	Where Agile meets Argyle: New processes in established companies Bruce Tate	Applied REST Brian Sletten
3:00 - 3:15 PM	BREAK				
3:15 - 4:45 PM	Java5: The Language, The Libraries, The VM Ted Neward	Java/Ruby Integration with JRuby and ReST Bruce Tate	Ajax, Flash, and Java - Choosing The Right Rich Client Technology for Your Next Project Scott Delap	Practices of an Agile Developer Venkat Subramaniam	Applied AOP Brian Sletten
4:45 - 5:30 PM	BIRDS OF A FEATHER SESSIONS				

Sunday, October 29, 2006					
	Windsor 1-3	Windsor 4	Manchester	Churchill	Canterbury
8:00 - 9:00 AM	BREAKFAST				
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Pragmatic Tracer Bullets Jared Richardson	Applied Design Patterns Brian Sletten	Spring Web Flow Jumpstart Ben Hale	Creating Polished Swing Applications Scott Delap	Easing into Agile Scott Davis
10:30 - 11:00 AM	BREAK				
11:00 - 12:30 PM	Software Development Techniques Jared Richardson	Essential db4o Ted Neward	Spring XML Namespaces for Fun and Profit Ben Hale	Test Driven Development in Eclipse Derek Lane	Groovy: Greasing the Wheels of Java Scott Davis
12:30 - 1:15 PM	LUNCH				
1:15 - 2:00 PM	EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION				
2:00 - 3:30 PM	Guerrilla Web Techniques Scott Davis	Pragmatic XML Services Ted Neward	Managing your build with Maven 2 Craig Walls	Eclipse Projects You May Not Be Familiar With Derek Lane	Continuous Integration with Cruise Control Jared Richardson
3:30 - 3:45 PM	BREAK				
3:45 - 5:15 PM	Rolling Your Own Google Maps, part I Scott Davis	Java6: Exploring Mustang Ted Neward	Spring-WS: Contract first web-services for Spring Craig Walls	Introducing the Semantic Web Brian Sletten	Agile Software Testing Strategies Jared Richardson

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Spring Web Flow Jumpstart by Ben Hale

One of the new projects under the Spring umbrella is Spring Web Flow. Spring Web Flow is a framework for declaratively modeling web application user interactions. In this session, you'll get a quick primer on the business case for using Spring Web Flow and then we'll jump right in to a live coding session showing its use.

Spring XML Namespaces for Fun and Profit by Ben Hale

Spring 2.0 introduces the new concept of XML-based configuration namespaces. These namespaces allow you to define domain specific languages for configuring your applications. This session will walk through the business case behind these namespaces as well as note Spring's own use of this system to simplify common configuration tasks. The session will finish with a live coding example of how to implement an XML namespace for your own application. This will include XML Schema definition, parser implementation, and packaging in a jar file for use by consumers.

The Spring Experience in 90 minutes by Ben Hale

In this interactive session Ben walks you through the experience of building a simple Spring-powered application from the ground up.

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.

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 REST by Brian Sletten

REST sounds like such a simple thing. But, what is it really? How do you convince your boss to let you try it when she has been sold on the equation $SOAP = SOA + P(\text{rofit})$? How do you go about building, deploying, publishing and orchestrating web services without the (Un)Holy Trinity of SOAP, WSDL and UDDI?

Introducing the Semantic Web by Brian Sletten

Just as the world is feeling comfortable with the Web, Tim Berners-Lee et al inform us that what we have seen so far is just the beginning. His original plans at CERN were larger and grander. The Semantic Web is the new vision of machine-processable documents and metadata to improve search, knowledge discovery and data integration and management. While there are many naysayers chiding such grand visions, there are also pragmatic and useful technologies emerging that can be applied today.

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.

Effective Teams: The dirty little secret by Bruce Tate

Most conferences will try to tell you that the secret to good software development lies with a process, or a technology, or an architecture. Here's a dirty little secret. You can build working software with an outdated two tier architecture, a waterfall process and COBOL. How? By building a great team.

Java/Ruby Integration with JRuby and ReST by Bruce Tate

You can have rapid web development with Rails without losing access to your critical Java code. With the explosion of the Ruby programming language, more developers will need a strategy for letting Java and Ruby interoperate. This session explores two strategies: JRuby and Rails-based web services.

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 languages.

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-consciously hostile to many of the principles of Agile development.

Managing your build with Maven 2 by Craig Walls

Learn how to clean up your build process with Maven 2.

Spring-WS: Contract first web-services for Spring by Craig Walls

Many web-service platforms make web-services easy by simply SOAP-ifying an object's interface. That's certainly a quick way to get started with web-services, but what happens when the object's interface changes?

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.

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

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.

Shale: Turbo-charge your JSF Apps by David Geary

JavaServer Faces is a well designed user interface framework, but it lacks a number of features you might otherwise expect out of the box; for example, JSF does not explicitly provide support for client-side validation. So, from the folks that brought you Struts, comes Shale, a collection of useful enhancements to JSF. A top-level Apache Software Foundation project, Shale adds some really cool features to vanilla JSF, including:

- Web flow: script dialog flow
- Remote Method Calls: easily call JavaBean methods from JavaScript
- Tapestry-like views: code views in pure HTML
- Use Apache Commons Validator validators on the client or server, or both
- JSF testing framework: mocks for easy JSF testing

 There's a lot of cool stuff in Shale that makes JSF a much more compelling proposition. Come see what it's all about.

The Google Web Toolkit by David Geary

Developing highly interactive web applications, for the most part requires knowledge of a wide array of

technologies: HTML, CSS, JavaScript, XMLHttpRequest, JSP, JSF, etc. With the Google Web Toolkit (GWT), Google turns that notion of development on its head. Instead, you implement Ajax applications by writing almost entirely in Java. You use an AWT-like API, which the Google compiler compiles to JavaScript that runs on the client.

Automating Business Value with FIT and FitNesse by David Hussman

The presentation will briefly discuss stories, the origin and authoring of story tests, and a demonstration of how FIT and FitNesse (FIT living within a Wiki) can be used to automate acceptance tests.

Creating, Telling, and Tracking User Stories by David Hussman

The participants of this session will become agile customers and product owners, using personas to create stories for a sample product development.

Losing Battles and Winning Wars: Adopting Agile by David Hussman

Adopting agile is different for each company, but most companies will go through some amount of change during the adoption of agile.

Ready, Set, Agile? by David Hussman

As with many methodologies, moving agile into an organizations poses larger challenges. Before jumping in, it helps to ask a few questions before "racing toward agility". This session will provide 3 tactical steps that can help your adoption of agile.

#Show Me the Numbers# - Agile Planning Tools and Techniques by David Hussman

This session will focus on tools and techniques for tracking an agile project plan from creation to project completion.

Eclipse Projects You May Not Be Familiar With by Derek Lane

Eclipse has met its goal of turning into a general purpose platform; it's a lot more than just an IDE. Yes, there are plugins that add incremental functionality to Eclipse, but what's really going on behind the Eclipse Foundation's goal of taking over the world? This session will provide an overview of the Eclipse Landscape, as well as provide a glimpse of what you can expect your Eclipse to look like in the next 12 months.

Test Driven Development in Eclipse by Derek Lane

While many practitioners of TDD can perform all the steps manually, things are a lot more productive when you can automate some of the steps. But what's the difference between Test First, Test Driven Development, and Test Driven Design? Are they the same? This session will attempt to put these questions in context and show you how Eclipse can integrate and automate several development tasks.

Ajax Architecture by Glenn Vanderburg

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.

Java Performance Myths by Glenn Vanderburg

Performance myths about the Java platform abound, from the general "Java is slow", to the more specific "reflection is slow", "allocation is slow", "synchronization is slow", "garbage collection is slow", etc. Many of these myths have their root in fact (in JDK 1.0, everything was slow); today, not only are many of these statements not true, but Java performance has surpassed that of C in many areas, such as memory management.

JavaScript Exposed: There's a Real Programming Language in There! (Part 1) by Glenn Vanderburg

With the sudden importance of Ajax, it's time to take JavaScript seriously. That means learning it the right way: looking at the fundamentals of the language and surveying its strengths and weaknesses, instead of just copying other people's poorly written examples.

JavaScript Exposed: There's a Real Programming Language in There! (Part 2) by Glenn Vanderburg

Building on part 1, this talk dives deep into JavaScript's object model. We'll see how it differs from more mainstream object-oriented languages, and why. We'll explore how to hide some of those differences, as well as the reasons you might not want to. Additionally, we'll cover useful tools for JavaScript testing, debugging, and profiling.

Agile Software Testing Strategies by Jared Richardson

Creating and maintaining a solid automated test suite is critical to an Agile strategy, but often we're just told to "Do it." In this talk we'll look at several pragmatic strategies for creating and building your suite.

Continuous Integration with Cruise Control by Jared Richardson

Continuous Integration is increasingly recognized as a vital practice in an Agile software shop. Traditionally it's been difficult to set up and administer. Today, that's no longer the case.

Pragmatic Tracer Bullets by Jared Richardson

Are your product designs hit or miss? Do you have trouble building a loosely coupled system? Is your code incestuous? Refactoring not an option with your code base? Tracer Bullets help keep your project out of the fire. Tracer Bullet Development: * helps you create great software * lends itself to an iterative cycle * can be used for demos early and often * is easily refactored * allows your teams to work in parallel * makes a very testable system

Software Development Techniques by Jared Richardson

Throughout our software careers we learn habits from our coworkers, from books we've read, and occasionally, from conferences we attend. Much of our competence comes from the tips and tricks we pick up as we go.

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 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.

Groovy: Greasing the Wheels of Java by Scott Davis

This is the year of the dynamic scripting language. Ruby (and Rails) has won the hearts and minds of many independent software developers. JavaScript is experiencing a renaissance thanks to the wild success of AJAX and websites like Google Maps. And Groovy (JSR-241) brings the same level of excitement and "scripting goodness" to the Java platform.

Guerrilla Web Techniques by Scott Davis

Frameworks? We don't need no stinkin' web frameworks. OK, so maybe that's overstating the case. Web frameworks do plenty of good things, but sometimes they can also be golden handcuffs. Too many web developers fall into the trap of thinking, "If it can't be done by my web framework, then it simply can't be done."

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...

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.

Rolling Your Own Google Maps, part I by Scott Davis

The release of Google Maps was a "Wizard of Oz / Technicolor" moment for web developers everywhere. It didn't just change the way we look at mapping sites; it forever changed the way we look at all web sites. It put AJAX on the map, both figuratively and literally.

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.

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; it's not very obvious how to make Swing sing.

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.

Java5: The Language, The Libraries, The VM by Ted Neward

Java5 introduced a whole slew of new features, including annotations (JSR 175), new language features (the enhanced for loop, generics, static imports, and more), new library support (java.lang.instrument, among others), and some interesting enhancements to the virtual machine itself.

Essential db4o by Ted Neward

Tired of writing object-table mappings? For years, Java developers have wrestled with the problems of storing objects into relational format and retrieving them back again; for all that Hibernate and JDO and other O/R tools make it easier (though not easy) to do, isn't there another way? In this presentation, we'll explore an alternative approach, real object persistence, using the db4o toolkit (www.db4objects.com).

Java Annotations: From Definition to Consumption by Ted Neward

Want to get the soup-to-nuts story on Java annotations? In this presentation, we'll first talk about what annotations provide to the Java language. After setting ourselves a conceptual basis to operate from, we'll look at the language definition for Java annotations, from how to use them to how to define them. Finally, we'll take a look at the other side of annotations, consuming them at source-level (using "apt", the annotation processing tool), class-level (using a bytecode toolkit such as BCEL), and at runtime (using enhancements to the Reflection API made in Java5).

Java6: Exploring Mustang by Ted Neward

Mustang, the forthcoming Java6 release, is just around the corner, and even if you're not looking to adopt the new platform right away, it's important to know what's there so you can start to plan for it. In this presentation, we'll go over the major new features of the Java6 platform, including the new integrated XML services capabilities (JAX-WS and JAXB), dynamic/scripting language support (javax.script), new JVM "attach" capabilities, new annotations supported by the javac compiler, and more.

Pragmatic XML Services by Ted Neward

There's a lot of talk about web services, and most of it falls into one of two categories: lots of low-level talk about vendor-specific tools and extensions, or lots of high-level talk that never shows you a line of code. XML services aren't that hard, and in this talk, we'll see how, why and when to do one.

Get Groovier with Grails by Venkat Subramaniam

Inspired by the Ruby on Rails project, Grails brings the ease of web development and "convention over configuration" to the Java platform. We will learn how to create web applications using Grails, how to integrate it with Hibernate, and how to Ajax it, all using the built in features of Grails. This section assumes that you are familiar with Groovy or you have attended the #Groovy for Java Programmers# session. The session will be example driven with live coding where we will build a web application from scratch.

Groovy for Java Programmers by Venkat Subramaniam

Object-oriented scripting languages, or agile dynamic languages, as some like to call those, are gaining programmers' attention. Groovy bring this excitement to the Java platform with its ability to generate byte code. You can use Groovy instead of Java for some parts of your application. By learning it, you can switch between the languages where you consider fit.

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.

Practices of an Agile Developer by Venkat Subramaniam

You have worked on software projects with varying 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.

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?

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.