



Welcome to the Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* newsletter. Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* at [www.virtualims.com](http://www.virtualims.com) is an independently-operated vendor-neutral site run by and for the IMS user community.

## Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* IMS presentation

The latest webinar from Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* was entitled, “Mainframe integration is not a strategy – get your MIPS back while delivering value today”, and was presented by Rob Morris, Chief Strategy Officer with GT Software. Rob told us that as Chief Strategy Officer for GT Software, he is responsible for the planning, integration, and marketing of GT Software product solutions to the global market. Prior to working at GT Software, he held a variety of sales, marketing, and product management positions at industry leaders KnowledgeWare, Forté Software, ClientSoft (now NEON systems), and Jacada. In addition, Rob has an extensive background in application development and integration including experience with CASE methodologies, distributed systems, as well as midrange and mainframe environments. Rob speaks frequently at customer and industry events including Gartner Symposium, Java One, IBM Common, IBM Transaction and Messaging, and IBM CICS and IMS.

Rob’s talk covered three areas:

- Mainframe integration goals, objectives, and requirements
- Mainframe integration case studies
- How to accomplish mainframe integration cost-effectively.

Rob suggested that the goals for integration were: fast, agile; flexible; adaptable; consistent; and justifiable. And Rob went on to pose the question whether the goals for mainframe integration should be any different. He then suggested that the mainframe was different, saying:

- Platform:
  - Cost of mainframe operations
  - Proprietary sub-systems and APIs
  - Limited resources.
- It goes beyond combining the words...Mainframe Web Services

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## Virtual IMS CONNECTION

Mainframe Integration Requirements		
Requirement	Details	Implication
Service Definition and Granularity	Top-down and bottom-up, Coarse and fine-grained	Remove layers of complexity to deliver the RIGHT service
Sub-system support	CICS, IMS, Batch, CA IDEAL, CA IDMS, Natural, Data, etc.	Using one tool reduces training and complexity
Speed	Development and execution	Deliver quickly with the required performance
Deployment	On the mainframe using specialty engines, or off the mainframe	Control costs related to integration and SOA workload
Flexibility and Dynamism	Today's choice shouldn't effect tomorrow	Quickly adapt to changing requirements and cost control strategies
Cost Control	The solution can't cost too much to own and operate	If it costs too much, you won't event get to try...

Figure 1: Mainframe integration requirements

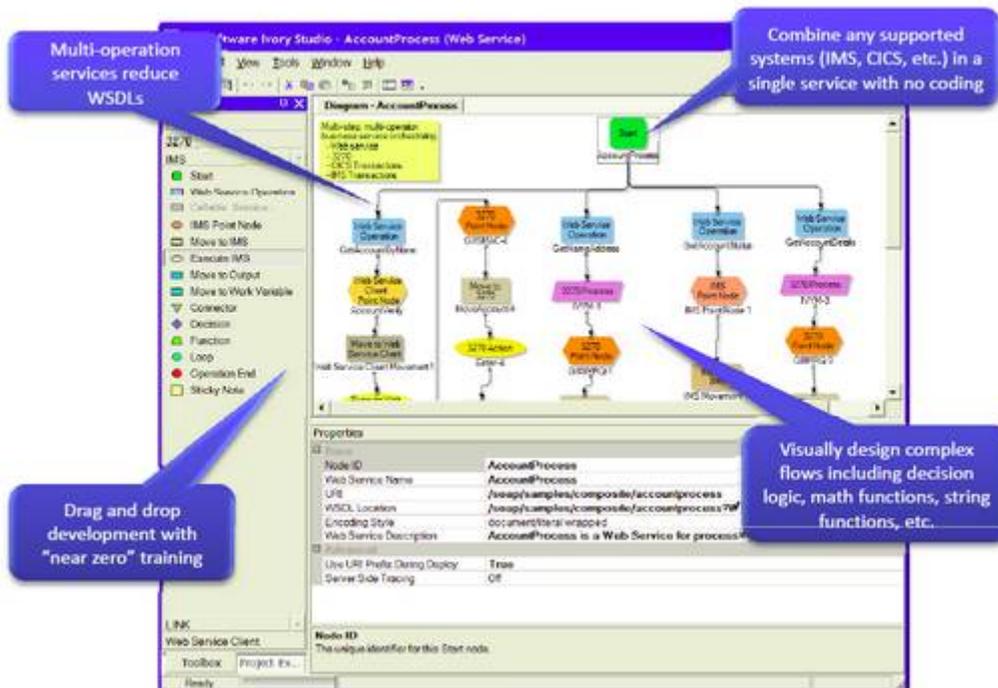


Figure 2: Developing with Ivory Studio

## Virtual IMS CONNECTION

- “Free Tools” are not free:
  - MIPS costs
  - Simplistic design requires additional tools.

Figure 1 shows the mainframe integration requirements that Rob Morris listed.

He then listed the ways that the Ivory product could help, suggesting it was:

- Rapid:
  - Lightweight development tools
  - No coding or code generated
  - Rapid iteration gets the job done.
- Easy:
  - Near-zero learning curve to access deep feature set
  - No risk deployment choices
    - o Onboard mainframe (zIIP and zAAP) to zLinux to Linux to Windows.
- Proven:
  - Banking, Insurance, Manufacturing
  - Thousands of services millions of transactions.

Rob then went on to quickly illustrate how a number of large organizations had successfully made use of Ivory.

Dusty Rivers, who is described on the GT Software blog as an IMS SOA Evangelist, then gave us a rapid demonstration of the product. A sample screen is shown in Figure 2.

Some of the advantages they listed with Ivory are that:

- Services deployed instantly
- Deployed to mainframe (CICS, started task, z/Linux) or off-platform (Windows or Linux)
- Leverages zLinux and specialty engines to slash costs.

Rob also explained how money can be saved because the work is moved from the GPP (General Purpose Processor) to the IFL specialty processor.

Rob informed the meeting that GT Software allows developers to try their Ivory software before buying.

A copy of Rob’s presentation is available for download from the Virtual IMS CONNECTION Web site at [www.virtualims.com/presentations/mainframe\\_integration.pdf](http://www.virtualims.com/presentations/mainframe_integration.pdf).

### News Update

CA has announced CA Database Management r12 for IMS, an integrated solution that eases the management of IMS databases. This solution provides database administration, performance management, and backup and recovery capabilities for IMS Full Function, Fast Path, and High Availability Large Database (HALDB) structures... Key enhancements to CA Database Management r12 for IMS include support for IMS 11, performance improvements to both the CA products and IMS itself, and increased data availability during backups. Full details are available on the CA Web site. Further information is available from [www.ca.com/us/press/release.aspx?cid=217101](http://www.ca.com/us/press/release.aspx?cid=217101).

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Progress DataDirect has announced Release 7.2.1 of its Progress DataDirect Shadow mainframe integration platform with an enhanced ANSI SQL-92 engine for relational to non-relational data processing utilizing the IBM System z Integrated Information Processor (zIIP). The latest Release allows ANSI SQL-92 workloads for IMS DB databases and CICS VSAM files to be diverted from the mainframe's General Purpose Processor (GPP) to the zIIP specialty engine, which does the work without using any of the mainframe licensed MIPs capacity. Further information is available from [www.datadirect.com/company/news/press/pressitem/pressrelease\\_1266709/index.ssp?](http://www.datadirect.com/company/news/press/pressitem/pressrelease_1266709/index.ssp?).

### Recent IMS articles

*IMS: An Exciting Future Still Ahead* by Trevor Eddolls in the August/September issue of *zJournal*. You can find the article at [zjournal.com/index.cfm?section=article&aid=1225](http://zjournal.com/index.cfm?section=article&aid=1225).

### IMS Version 11 launched

IMS Version 11 became generally available on 30 October 2009. The product had been pre-announced last year. Here are some of the highlights.

Database Manager enhancements:

- IMS Open Database support offers direct distributed TCP/IP access to IMS data, providing cost efficiency, enabling application growth, and improving resilience.
- Broadened Java and XML support and tools can ease IMS development and access to IMS data.
- IMS Fast Path Buffer Manager, Application Control Block library, and Local System Queue Area storage reduction utilize 64-bit storage to improve availability and overall system performance.
- Enhanced commands and user exits simplify operations and improve availability.

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Transaction Manager enhancements:

- IMS Connect (the TCP/IP gateway to IMS transactions, operations, and now data) enhancements offer improved IMS flexibility, availability, resilience, and security.
- Broadened Java and XML tooling eases IMS application development and connectivity, and enhances IMS Web services to assist developers with business transformation.
- Enhanced commands and user exits simplify operations and improve availability.
- IMS Application Control Block library and Local System Queue Area reduction utilize 64-bit storage to improve availability and system performance.

### Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* meeting dates

The following meeting dates have been arranged for the Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* user group:

- December 8, 2009 – Tony Lubrano, NEON Data Systems.  
“zPrime and IMS”
- February 9, 2010 – Aurora Dell'Anno, CA.  
“The logical answer: IMS logical relationships”
- April 6, 2010 – Gregg Willhoit, Chief Architect, Progress DataDirect.  
“Bringing zIIP offload to the IMS platform”

All meetings start at 10:30 Central Time (4:30 GMT in the winter and 3:30 GMT during daylight saving time). All members will be e-mailed the WebEx URL, access code, and password for each meeting. Members need to log in about five minutes before the meetings starts in order for the WebEx connection to complete, and to phone into the freephone number provided so they can join in with the audio component of the meeting.

### About Virtual IMS *CONNECTION*

Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* is a user group established as a way for individuals using IBM's IMS hierarchical database and transaction processing systems to exchange information, learn new techniques, and advance their skills with the product.

The Web site at [www.virtualims.com](http://www.virtualims.com) provides a central point for coordinating periodic meetings (which are technically-oriented topics presented in a webinar format), and will provide articles, discussions, links, and other resources of interest to IBM IMS practitioners. Anyone with an interest in IMS is welcome to join Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* and share in the knowledge exchange.

To share ideas, and for further information, contact [trevor@itech-ed.com](mailto:trevor@itech-ed.com).

The Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* user group is free to its members. Various sponsorship opportunities are available to vendors of IMS-related products. Full details of these opportunities and can be found *here*.