

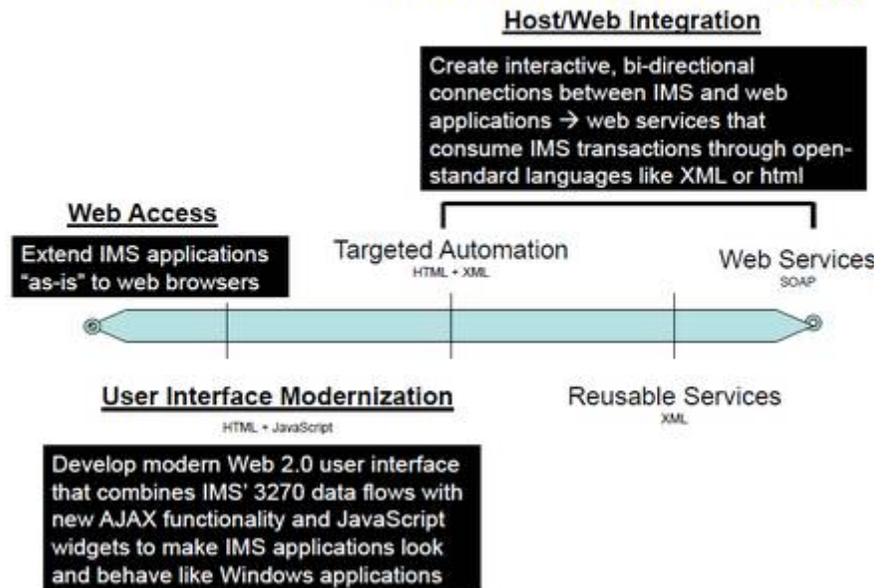
Welcome to the Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* newsletter. Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* at [www.virtualims.com](http://www.virtualims.com) is an independently-operated vendor-neutral site run by and for the IMS user community.

## Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* presentation

The latest webinar from Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* was entitled, "Improving the performance, efficiency, and TCO of Web-enablement for IMS applications", and was presented by Patrick Fournier of SysperTec Communication.

Patrick started his presentation by looking at the status of most IMS applications. He asserted that many IMS applications are in "containment" mode because:

- The focus has shifted from legacy/host to Web technology.
- Legacy application code is seen as old, obscure, complex, inflexible, and brittle, with users thinking they are not worth any new investments.

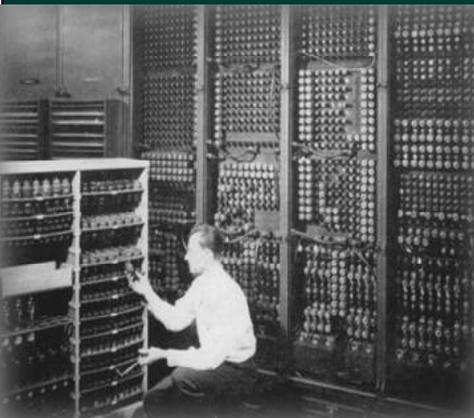


**Figure 1: Web-enabling technology**

- Legacy application experts are ageing and getting fewer in number, while younger Web application developers are growing in number.
- Host budgets and staff are frozen or even reduced.
- Minimal developments or investments are allowed on the host and these are mostly maintenance.

### Contents:

Virtual IMS <i>CONNECTION</i> presentation	1
Meeting dates	4
Recent IMS articles	4
Virtual IMS on Twitter and Facebook	4
IMS consultants	4
About Virtual IMS <i>CONNECTION</i>	4



- New developments or investments are server-based Web applications.

Patrick suggested that IMS sites had three choices. They could leave their IMS applications unchanged. They could fully re-use existing business logic and 3270 interfaces. Or, they could integrate Web-enabling technology and make IMS applications look and behave like Web applications. Web-enabling technology is illustrated in Figure 1.

IBM's IMS/Web architecture is very complicated – see Figure 2. There's no use of VTAM except for 3270 emulation. It's a multi-layer multicomponent architecture:

One alternative to this is provided by VIRTEL's IMS/ Web architecture (see Figure 3.). It provides a number of advantages, including leveraging VTAM's strength, performance, efficiency, and scalability: It's also simple, strong, fast, efficient (low CPU usage), and scalable.

It's protocol conversion engine offers a host-based dynamic protocol converter that combines a native VTAM interface with HTTP and SMTP servers. It was developed in Assembler (so no CPU-intensive Java). It runs as a started task (or in batch) on a mainframe. It uses compiled presentation templates (HTML +

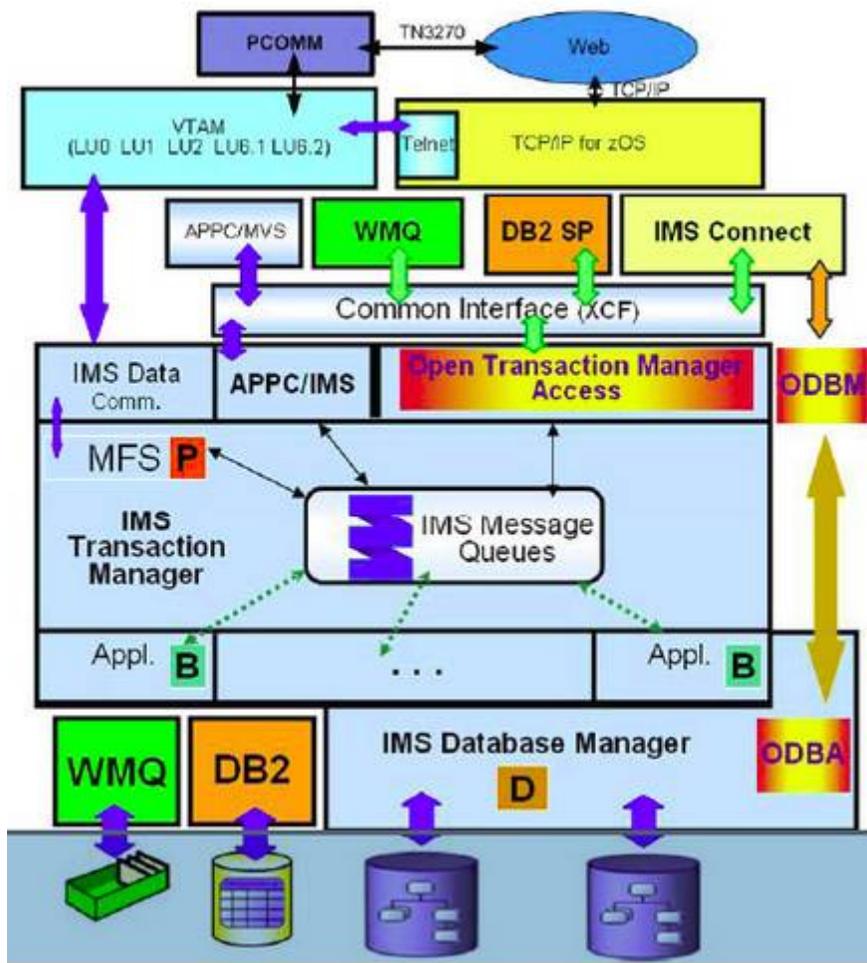


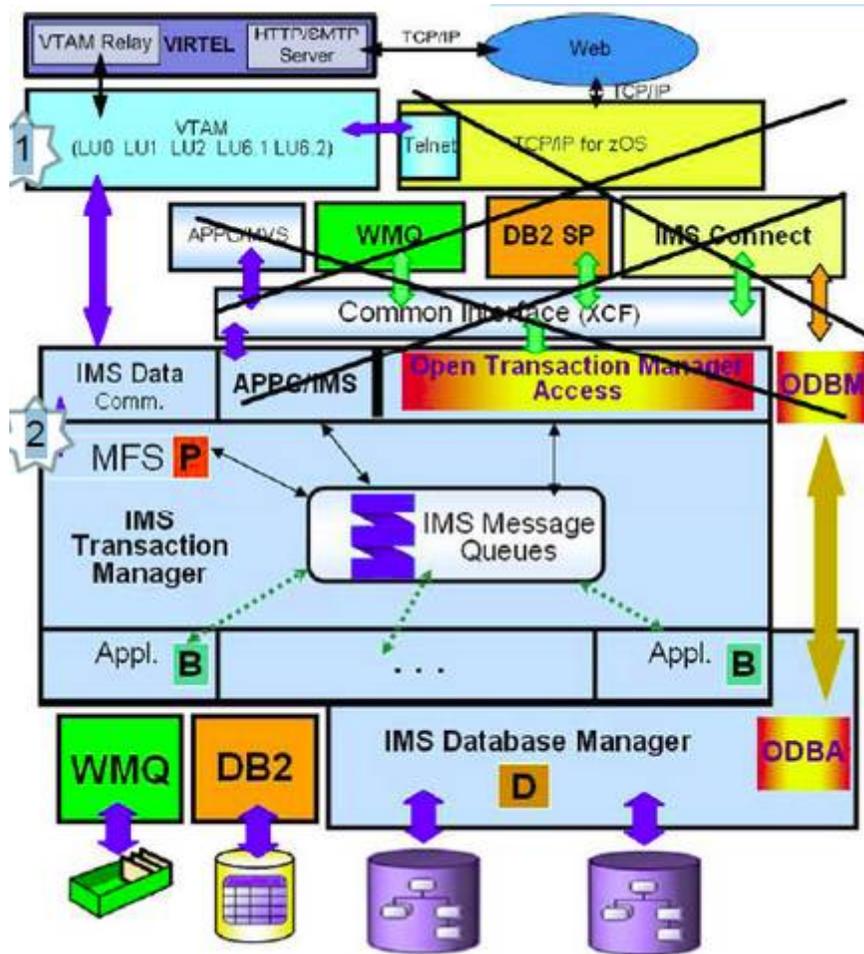
Figure 2: IBM IMS/Web architecture

JavaScript) and VIRTEL scenarios to guide the protocol conversion between 3270 and the Web.

A real-life example is Peugeot Citroën's mainframe application network. The IMS 3270 application was on a private SNA network and had to be accessed globally from a standard Web browsers. In addition, presentation or navigation had to remain unchanged to avoid user retraining. All that was required was simply to automate the 3270-HTML conversion. They

benchmarked up to 16,000 simultaneous client connections using a single VIRTEL instance. It has been in production since 2003, serving an average of 3,000 simultaneous customer connections, in 150 countries, with 24x7 operation.

VIRTEL is used to automate character set conversion between the local language input and the mainframe application (ie DBCS character conversion for the Chinese and Russian markets to a French UTF8/EBCDIC application).



**Figure 3: Virtel IMS/Web architecture**

User interface modernization allows the development of modern Web 2.0 user interfaces that make IMS applications look and behave like Windows applications (screen-based modernization). VIRTEL can combine existing IMS 3270 data flows with AJAX technology (to add new asynchronous functionality) and JavaScript widgets (to provide accelerated development and universal browser portability). And all with no change to the IMS business logic, application code, or 3270 data flows.

Patrick assured us that modernizing the user interface was 10 times less risky, and took a tenth of the time and cost to modernize than redeveloping, replacing, or rehosting the original IMS application.

The benefits of modernizing the user interface include:

- Addressing growing users' dissatisfaction with outdated 3270 "green screens" and the demand for Web applications.
- Making IMS applications easier to market/sell to new users.

- Allowing access to legacy application by untrained users.

Modernizing the UI of licensed IMS product or application means there is no need to access the source code or modify it, which would cancel product support.

- Modernizing the UI of "frozen" applications, where source code is lost, complex/brittle, or otherwise too risky to alter.

- Using AJAX technology to add new functionality through the Web 2.0 user interface without changing the legacy IMS application code.

- Providing Windows-like UIs when there's no time or budget to develop new Web applications.

Patrick concluded his presentation by reinforcing the benefits of using the VIRTEL solution, saying that it offered benefits in terms of performance and efficiency, as well as requiring much less development than alternative solutions, and it provided users with much-needed flexibility.

A copy of Patrick's presentation is available for download from the Virtual IMS CONNECTION Web site at [www.virtualims.com/presentations/VIRTEL\\_IMS\\_SOA.pdf](http://www.virtualims.com/presentations/VIRTEL_IMS_SOA.pdf).

## Meeting dates

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

- 17th August – Ronnie Parker, Managing Partner with RSF Managed Services.  
“The path towards continuous IMS DB availability.”
- 12th October 2010 – Kelly Smith, Senior Product Manager with Rocket Software.  
“The IMS Cloning Tool.”

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.

## Recent IMS articles

*IMS Gets Social – Gain more from your IMS investment using social tools* by Barbara Klein in IBM Systems Magazine. You can find the article at [www.ibm.com/systems/magazine/mainframe/](http://www.ibm.com/systems/magazine/mainframe/migrate_to_IMS_10/)

[IMS\\_social\\_media/32786p1.aspx](http://www.ibm.com/systems/magazine/mainframe/migrate_to_IMS_10/).

*Giving You a Reason – Compelling Reasons to Upgrade to IMS 10 or 11* by Barbara Klein in IBM Systems Magazine. You can find the article at [www.ibm.com/systems/magazine/mainframe/migrate\\_to\\_IMS\\_10/33001p1.aspx](http://www.ibm.com/systems/magazine/mainframe/migrate_to_IMS_10/).

## Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* on Facebook and Twitter

Don't forget you can keep up-to-date with all that's happening in the IMS world and with what's happening with the Virtual IMS *CONNECTION* user group by following us on Twitter or becoming a Fan on Facebook – as well as by checking the Web site regularly.



You can find us on Twitter at [twitter.com/VirtualIMS](http://twitter.com/VirtualIMS).



You can become a fan on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/Virtual-IMS-Connection-user-group/282385116069](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Virtual-IMS-Connection-user-group/282385116069).

## IMS consultants

We've added a page for IMS Consultants to the Web site. So, if you need a consultant, we can tell you where to look.

And, if you are a consultant, you can add your details for free – just send them to me.

## 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 can be found at [www.itech-ed.com/marketopp.pdf](http://www.itech-ed.com/marketopp.pdf).