



Welcome to the Virtual IMS user group newsletter. The Virtual IMS user group at www.fundi.com/virtualims is an independently-operated vendor-neutral site run by and for the IMS user community.

Virtual IMS user group presentation

The latest webinar from the Virtual IMS user group was entitled, "Include complex IMS transactions in new business applications and reduce IMS CPU by 30%", and was presented by GT Software's Dusty Rivers.

Dusty has an extensive 37-year background in global mainframe systems integration and has been recognized as an IBM Champion five years in a row for his leadership and contributions to the Information Management community. His expertise focuses on enabling global organizations to extend the use of mainframe systems into the world of Web services, clouds, and all distributed systems.

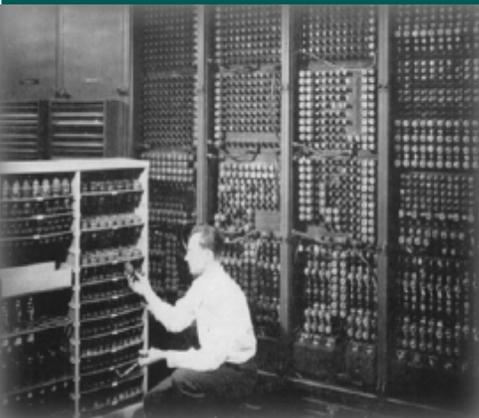


Figure 1: How IMS connects to the world

Dusty started his presentation by saying how pervasive IMS is – there are systems for banks (ATM, loans, account management), systems for insurance (claims and policy management), systems for

Contents:

Virtual IMS user group presentation	1
Meeting dates	4
IMS news	4
About the Virtual IMS user group	4



manufacturing, systems for finance, systems for medical, as well as systems for airlines.

Dusty said that 75 percent of Fortune 1000 companies use IMS, and thousands of companies globally use IMS, but most users are not aware that the information in their applications comes from IMS. Figure 1 shows how IMS can connect to every possible device.

The very reliability and transparency of IMS systems can make them nearly invisible to architects. So, those architects are not using IMS to its fullest advantage. They are not aware they can integrate new technology with IMS data and transactions. And they may recommend other options, not knowing that they can integrate without changing the underlying IMS applications.

Today's business needs include:

- Self-service, Mobile/cloud, BYOD, BI/BA
- Real-time access to enterprise data residing on any platform
- Integrated views of related information
- Customer- and business-focused IT (360 degree view)



Figure 2: Division of knowledge of what IMS can do

- Build and deploy apps rapidly (App mentality)
- Industry standards (IFX, ACORD, SWIFT...)
- Integration between IMS and distributed systems
- Common tools and skills
- Big Data (IMS?).

Figure 2 illustrates the gap between the IMS data team and the app data team because of IMS's complexity. It has conversational transactions, multiple segment output messages, and IMS can run as a client.

Dusty looked at how conversational transactions have changed over the past few years, and no longer need to be linked

to a terminal, and it's now possible to run an IMS conversational transaction as a service. Multiple segment output messages can be easily handled even if they have different-length messages in each segment.

Figure 3 illustrates how products can make IMS applications available to distributed apps, including Java apps and .Net apps.

IMS can act as a client, with IMS applications calling mobile or cloud applications; or IMS applications can call in native language (COBOL, PL/I). The IMS application doesn't worry about XML/SOAP. And the IMS application can be orchestrated.

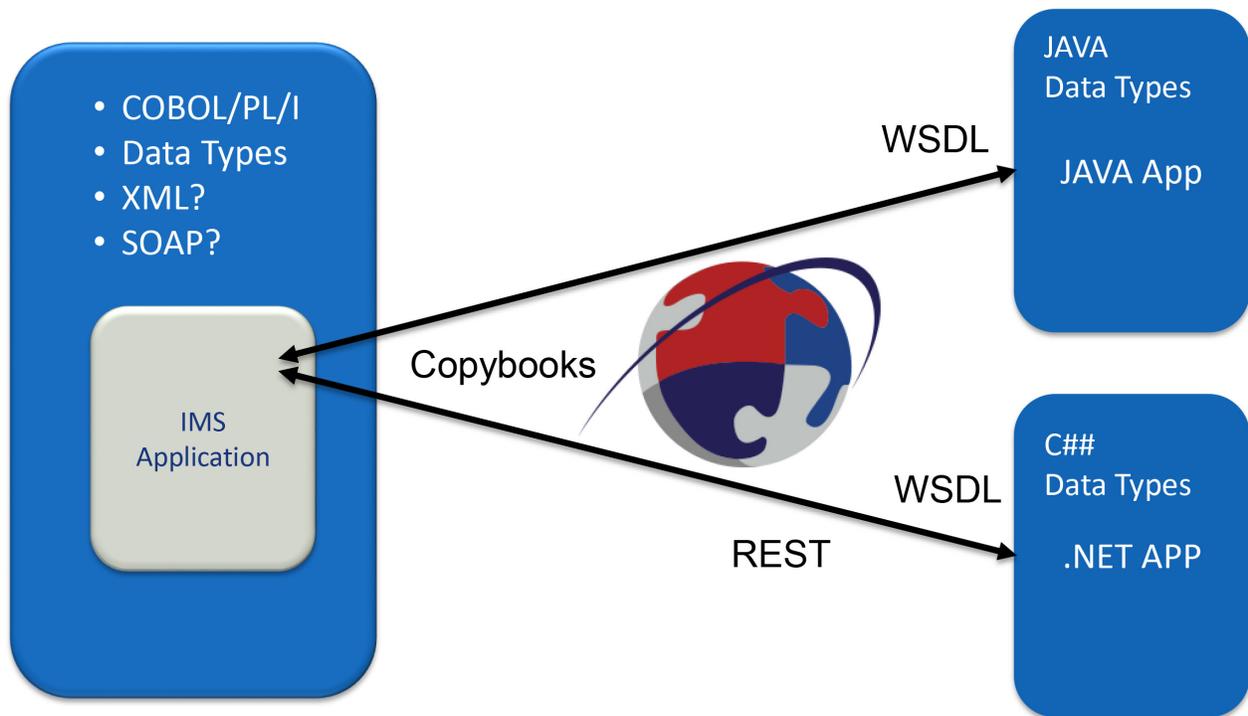


Figure 3: IMS talking to distributed apps

Dusty Rivers suggested that new mainframe applications are leveraging standards, including:

- New services can leverage industry standards (IFX, SWIFT, ACORD, etc)
- Applications can use company-specified standards and mappings (XSDs, WSDL)
- Services can easily be mapped in Ivory® Studio that will handle difficult data types.

IMS applications calling other distributed apps must: be easy to call; use existing

resources; not require many products or installs; and not be intrusive or cause changes.

Dusty also spoke about zXP, a new product from GT Software, saying that zXP is a performance-enhancing technology that is focused on increasing online transaction throughput, while gaining additional benefits, namely:

- Reduced z/OS monthly licensing costs
- Online transaction performance increase by up to 70%
- Simple product installation

- No IPL or major system configuration
- z/OS and COBOL IMS, NATURAL, and HOGAN Compatible
- No modification to transaction code or runtime
- 30% average CPU reduction.

A copy of Dusty's presentation is available for download from the Virtual IMS user group Web site at www.fundi.com/virtualims/presentations/ReduceIMScyclesFeb2015.pdf.

You can see and hear the whole user group meeting by downloading the WMV file from www.fundi.com/virtualims/presentations/2015-02-10meeting.wmv.

Meeting dates

- On 14 April 2015, we have Suzie Wendler, a Consulting IT Specialist in the IBM IMS zGrowth Team. She will discuss “Enterprise Application Modernization and Business Process Modelling”.
- On 9 June 2015, it’s Fundi Software’s Jim Martin

IMS news

Compuware has announced Version 5.2 of Strobe, which provides insight into how application code (including IMS, DB2, COBOL 5.1, and

MQ processes) consumes resources in IBM z Systems environments. This, they claim, enables IT to drive down mainframe costs while significantly improving application responsiveness for both internal end-users and customers. Amongst the enhancements is global IMS transaction monitoring. Strobe 5.2 now collects information on IMS transaction performance including execution counts, elapsed times, and CPU times throughout the day, week, and month. This is accomplished automatically and with minimal impact. Strobe reports also help teams zero in on specific transactions exhibiting sub-standard performance. More information can be found at http://marketing.compuware.com/acton/fs/blocks/showLandingPage/a/11485/p/p-0070/t/page/fm/0?_ga=1.176641831.369499161.1362423888.



About the Virtual IMS user group

The Virtual IMS user group was 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.fundi.com/virtualims provides a central point for coordinating periodic meetings (which contain technically-oriented topics presented in a webinar format), and provides articles, discussions, links, and other resources of interest to IBM IMS practitioners. Anyone with an interest in IMS is welcome to join the Virtual IMS user group and share in the knowledge exchange.

To share ideas, and for further information, contact trevor@itech-ed.com.

The Virtual IMS user group is free to its members.