Virtual IMS user group: Newsletter 48

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, “Why IMS Still Matters, Using IMS Data and Transaction in Mobile, BI/BA and Cloud Apps”, and was presented by Dusty Rivers, Director, z Systems Software: IMS & CICS, GT Software.

Dusty has an extensive 38-year background in global mainframe systems integration and has been recognized as an IBM Champion for Information Management six 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

Figure 1: IMS is the system of record

Web services, clouds, and all distributed systems. An engaging speaker, Dusty travels the United States presenting on various topics in leveraging IMS for modern technologies.

Dusty started his presentation by looking at the additional things IMS can do beyond the usual. He said that IMS can be

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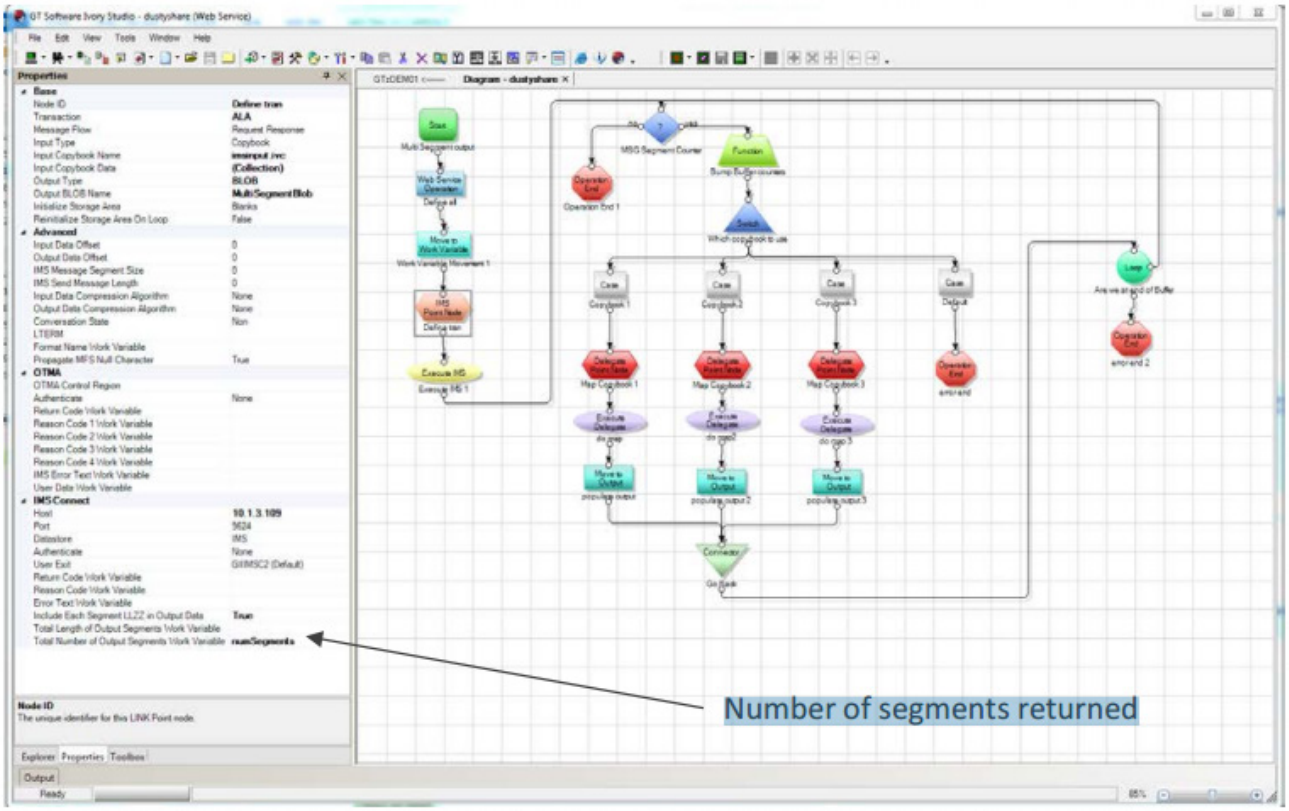

Figure 2: Multiple segment output transactions

used as a client, that it works with Business Intelligence (BI) and Business Analytic software. IMS can send and receive information to and from the cloud. And it can be part of a cognitive computing environment.

Figure 1 shows that IMS applications are used by: banks (ATM, loans, and account management); insurance companies (claims and policy management); and manufacturing companies. There are IMS systems for finance, IMS systems for medical, and IMS systems for airlines. And although there are thousands of companies globally using IMS as their system of record, most users are not aware that the information on their applications comes from IMS.

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

A simple transaction that produces a response is one thing, a transaction that produces multiple responses is something else. And when those responses all have different data lengths, the problem increases. And yet, as Figure 2 shows, it's perfectly possible to use an IMS transaction in this scenario.

IMS applications can talk to distributed applications and let IMS act as a client. IMS applications can call mobile

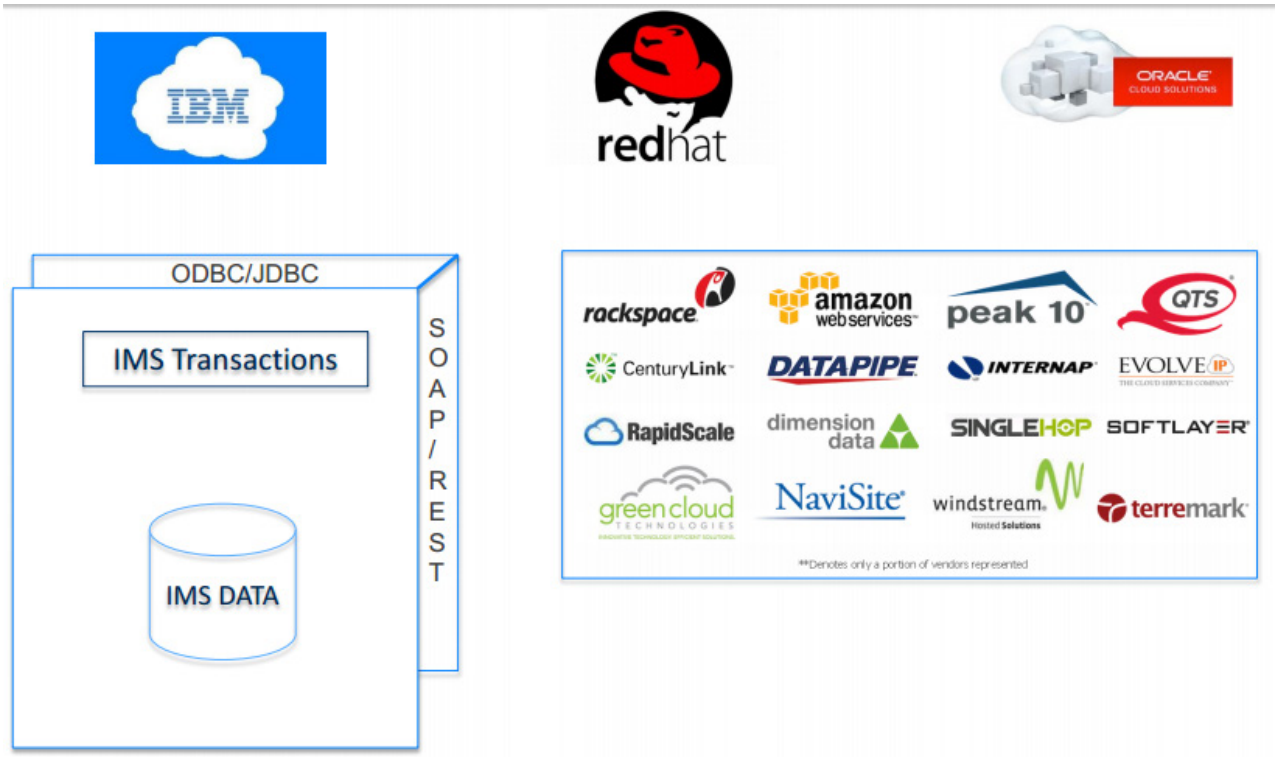

Figure 3: IMS with cloud

or cloud applications. They can make calls in their native language (COBOL, PL/I). The IMS application doesn't have to worry about XML or SOAP. And IMS application can be orchestrated.

GT Software does have a product that Dusty used as an example. The Ivory callable service wizard:

- Imports WSDL from a distributed service
- Requires no knowledge of SOAP or XML required
- Generates the required COBOL/PL/I artefacts
- Creates a project to handle delivery and transformation
- Generates a sample routine to guide the user.

No other software required, and the application can be created in minutes instead of days.

IMS is able to connect to BI and BA products as well as cloud products.

And when it comes to cognitive computing, Watson needs information, so connecting it to IMS gives it speedy access to lots of information stored in IMS databases.

A copy of Dusty's presentation is available for download from the Virtual IMS user group Web site at www.fundi.com/virtualims/presentations/IMSmattersFeb16.pdf.

You can see and hear the whole user group meeting by downloading the WMV file from www.fundi.com/virtualims/presentations/2016-02-09meeting.wmv.

Meeting dates

- On 12 April 2016, we have David Lawrence, COP and Technical Enablement Lead, DevOps for Enterprise Systems, IBM Systems Middleware, discussing "Continuous Testing: DevOps for the Enterprise".

- The following meeting will be on 7 June 2016.

Recent IMS articles

IMS Database Virtualization: An Enterprise Executive Interview With Rick Jones, CTO, Standardware Inc by Mary E Shacklett in *Enterprise Executive* (November-December 2015). You can find the article at http://ourdigitalmags.com/display_article.php?id=2347780&id_issue=284848.

Evolution of IMS to a complete Enterprise solution: White Paper by Vinodh Kumar Natanasigamani. You can find this White Paper on the Virtual IMS user group Web site at http://www.fundi.com/virtualims/doc/IMSEnterprisesolutionwp.pdf.

Other news

At the beginning of March, Trevor Eddolls heard from IBM. They said: "On behalf of IBM, it is with great pleasure to recognize you as a 2016 IBM Champion. We would like to thank you for your leadership and contributions to the IBM community in 2015. You are among an elite group of individuals that have been chosen for this recognition. Congratulations!" This recognition is for Trevor Eddolls' work with the IMS community and this user group in particular.

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fb.com/VirtualIMS

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.