
JavaOne 99 Trip report

June 15 – 18, 1999
San Francisco, California

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JavaOne is an annual Sun worldwide Java developer conference. The conference offers various sessions and discussion groups (Bird-of-a-Feather) on almost all topics on and relating to the technologies produced and/or supported by JavaSoft. This year, the major emphasis were on Jini, Java2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE), XML in Java, JavaServer Pages, and RMI over IIOP. I attended the J2EE, Jini, XML in Java, and RMI over IIOP tracks. Below is a summary of my activities and findings at the conference.

Tuesday (6/15):

I left Albuquerque early (6:30am) to Oakland. I spent part of the day at Sandia Livermore discussing integration issues, as well as the xcut project. I left Sandia around 3:00pm to catch the beginning of the J2EE track (2 sessions). The first session was an overview of the J2EE and its roadmap. The second session provided an introduction into the J2EE architecture and how it relates to the other technologies.

Orbix, Weblogics, and Inline are among some of the companies I visited at the Java Pavilion. I was successful in establishing beta program relationships with these companies. There are over 300 companies at the Java Pavilion.

At 8:00pm, I went to three Bird-of-a-Feather (BOF) sessions. The first session covered “*Scalability and Availability for Enterprise JavaBeans Architecture*” hosted by Weblogics. Weblogics designers demonstrated their design approach for a cluster of nodes to provide a scalable and available EJB server. The “*Java2 Enterprise Edition Connector Architecture – Integrating Enterprise Information Systems with the J2EE Platform*” by Sun was the next session I attended. This session provided a more in-depth briefing of the Connector architecture.

Wednesday (6/16):

I started the day with a BOF session (at 7:15am) on “*Making Sense of CORBA, the Enterprise JavaBeans (EJB) Architecture, and Java2 Enterprise Edition*” by Persistence Software. This session provided a brief overview of CORBA and EJB architecture, as well as, J2EE. It also described the commonality, differences, and its utilization opportunities of these technologies.

The keynote speakers for Wednesday were Bill Joy (Chief Scientist and Corporate Executive Officer) and Dr. W. Daniel Hillis (Vice President and Disney Fellow). Bill discussed how he developed Jini and his vision for numeric computation on Java. Dr. Hillis presented his 10,000 year clock design.

After the keynotes, I attended the following sessions:

- “*JavaServer Pages Technology*” – This session provided an introduction into JSP, its roadmap, and current status of the technology.
- “*Application Programming Model for the Java2 Enterprise Edition*” – This session covered the introduction into the programming model planned for J2EE. J2EE

programming model is a guide to assist users in developing J2EE-based applications and systems.

- “*Tools for Development and Deployment of Enterprise JavaBeans Architecture-Based Applications*” – This session consisted of a panel of company representatives (Rational, BEA Weblogics, InLine, Oracle, and IBM). The session started with Sun providing a brief introduction into J2EE. Next, each company revealed their tool and indicated the development cycle that the tool supports.
- “*The Application Programming Model for the Java2 Enterprise Edition*” – This is a BOF discussion session. It allowed the attendees to express their concerns, questions, wants, etc. of the J2EE Programming Model.
- “*Java2 Enterprise Edition Technology in the Real World*” – This session consisted of a panel of company representatives from VISA International, GTE Labs, and Sparks. They presented their EJB-based applications and indicated the advantages and disadvantages of using EJB.
- “*Java RMI Technology: The Java2 Platform and Beyond*” – This session provided an overview of RMI and a preview of what's coming up next, including dynamic proxy classes, a general framework for plugging in customized remote object communication, and new performance optimizations in Java™ technology Object Serialization and RMI.
- “*Java2 Enterprise Edition Platform Architecture*” – This was a BOF Q&A session consisting of a panel of people that helped create the EJB architecture. The panel representatives were from Forte, HP, Oracle, Gemstone, and IBM. There were a variety of questions asked and addressed at this session.

Thursday (6/17):

I spent the morning with Sun at its plant in San Jose. The major objective of this meeting was to exchange fundamental research ideas and to foster a relationship with Sun. At this particular plant of Sun, they are developing a framework that provides dynamic management of services that runs on Sun Solaris.

I returned to the conference at 2:30pm and attended the following sessions:

- “*RMI over IIOP*” – This session introduced RMI over IIOP distribution and described the necessary changes to RMI and CORBA to provide this feature.
- “*XML in Java*” - This session provided an overview and roadmap of XML support in the Java platform. Lessons learned include SAX API and DOM object model, XML support in J2EE, and how XML standard extension are used to build XML-oriented applications. It also provided an insight into the future direction of the XML and Java technologies.
- “*Deployathon for the EJB Architecture Specification*” – This BOF session demonstrated the portability of the Enterprise JavaBeans architecture-based application with a simple yet realistic set of EJB components deployed on various EJB servers.

- “*Making CORBA and the Enterprise JavaBeans Architecture Work Together*” – This BOF session covered the essentials of the CORBA and EJB models. In particular, the session described IONA OrbixHome and its features.

Friday (6/18)

I started this day by attending the keynote speaker sessions. There was Douglas Adams speaker, who is the creator of all the different manifestations of the “Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy.” Among numerous high-tech humorous anecdotes, he discussed how the Internet and other breakthroughs are transforming the ways in which we work, live and think.

Afterward, I spent the rest of the day with the Jini track sessions, the Java Pavilion, and an integration session called “Java Technology Based Enterprise Information Integration”. At the pavilion, I visited additional companies such as Oracle, IBM, and Persistence Software to get a better understanding of their EJB products and register to be on their beta program. The integration session was hosted by Novera Software. Novera shared their experiences and results of integrating legacy applications for Home Depot and other clients.

The Jini sessions were:

- “*Jini Architecture Overview*” – This session discussed the basic philosophy and architecture that led to the Jini technology-based system.
- “*The Jini Technology Programming Modeling*” – This session focused on the architectural building blocks needed to bring time and convention into technology-based systems, including Distributed Leases, Distributed Events, and the Jini technology transaction model. In addition, the session provided a roadmap for the Jini model future directions.

After the integration session (2:30pm), I returned to Albuquerque.

In conclusion, the conference provided a sneak preview, as well as a better understanding of Enterprise JavaBeans, Java 2 Enterprise Edition, Java Connector, RMI over IIOP, XML in Java, JavaServer Pages, and various integrating concepts. In addition, I have started a dialogue with various EJB servers and EJB support tool vendors (BEA Weblogics, IBM, Inprise, Orbix, Sun, InLine, and VisualCafe). These relationships will allow us to thoroughly evaluate these products before selecting the appropriate tools and EJB server provider to support Sandia integration efforts.