



Whitemarsh

Information Systems Corporation

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Website Announcement

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Announcement Topics

Whitemarsh monitored a U.S. Department of Defense Data Management review. The results were not as they should be. The newsletter briefly describes the survey, the results, and the DoD's plan to remedy the findings.

Whitemarsh attended a very great conference in Newark, New Jersey about exciting new Clarion for Windows tools.

Whitemarsh began an industry survey of a new SQL History document. The resulting paper will be submitted in the August ANSI meeting and shared with other countries.

Whitemarsh has finished the initial material gathering for its Data Interoperability Community of Interest Process Handbook.

The month of June included a Data Interoperability presentation to DAMA Chicago. The survey results were again good and are published at the end of the newsletter.

Finally, completed a new short paper: [*Managing Data Names, Value Domains, Abbreviations, and Definitions*](#). This paper, along with the other two short papers are critical reads for all those involved in data management.

Data Interoperability Strategy Seminars

Whitemarsh presented the Data Interoperability Strategy seminar to the Chicago DAMA chapter last month. This was the last presentation of the Summer. The results of the survey at the end of the seminar was very encouraging. The questions during the seminar were really great. It is clear that there is great data management going on in the Chicago area.

U.S. Department of Defense Data Management Review

During the month of May, the CIO of the U.S. Department of Defense conducted a review of the state of its Net Centric Data Strategy. A review of the assessment and a critical review of the findings showed that the survey was really about the state of Data Management and Data Interoperability within and across the Services (Army, Navy, Air Force, etc.). The DoD assessors essentially evaluated many of the data management key process areas and practices. Out of this review are a draft set of findings, recommendations, and then "demands" on the DoD components to remedy the shortfalls in their state of data management and data interoperability.



Members of one of the component departments has been working closely with Whitemarsh and they were pleased to discover that the findings, recommendations, and required remediation milestones tie very closely to the contents and plans of action within the data management program materials that Whitemarsh released this past January.

These Whitemarsh materials are the second through the seventeenth items listed at: <http://www.wiscorp.com/EnterpriseDatabase.htm>. Whitemarsh is very grateful to the Office of the CIO of the U.S. Army for the opportunity to advance the state of Whitemarsh data management materials in all these data management and data interoperability areas.

The core areas in these data management materials form the basis for the Whitemarsh's approach to Data Interoperability which industry agrees with by a 99% vote. The key industry questions and responses are at the end of this newsletter.

Clarion for Windows Tool Set Conference

A Clarion for Windows third party vendor, Capesoft (www.capesoft.com) put on a two-day conference on all their tools. There were a number of tools that are of great interest to Whitemarsh for the metabase. One of these tools is Replicate which will enable metabase user organizations to engineer, establish, and operate distributed metabase environments. This same tool will support complete metabase transaction logging. Another tool enables a "send-to" function on every main metabase browse. This enables the users to "send" the browse's contents to any number of output "devices" such as printers, Excel, or PDF. A final tool set enables network functions such as email, instant messaging, FTP, and an Internet presentation layer with virtually no effort. These tools as well as other Capesoft tools will be incorporated into the Whitemarsh Metabase's version 7.

SQL History Document

As stated in the June news letter, there was a two day ANSI SQL meeting at the end of May. The key item from this meeting, *History*, is a new document Part for the SQL standard. As also stated in the previous newsletter, the U.S. ANSI members objected to this addition, but because none of the other ISO meeting's attendees objected, the document is now a Committee Draft (CD). The CD was then immediately submitted for a CD Ballot. The ballot has been started and will conclude by the end of August.

Whitemarsh reviewed this document and created a survey which was sent to all Whitemarsh members, news letter recipients, and to a number of data management news groups. The June Whitemarsh news letter on this topic is located:
http://wiscorp.com/2006_June_wiscorp_announcement.pdf



One news group, The Data Management Discussion Group of Yahoo, produced a number of very high quality analyses of the documents. These analyses have all been gathered into one paper that will be submitted to the ANSI SQL committee, that is, H2. It is hoped that the committee will agree with industry analyses and oppose progression of the SQL History facility. Whitemarsh will provide a link to this ANSI SQL technical document in the August newsletter.

Data Interoperability Community of Interest Process Handbook

Significant progress has been made on the Data Interoperability Community of Interest Process Handbook. Basically the process handbook will consist of the following data interoperability related materials:

- Mission
- Product Specifications
- Metadata Information Systems to specify Data Interoperability
- Events that include Data Interoperability event sequences and inter-actions
- Functions that address the various kinds of activities that have to be undertaken
- Organizations including positions, positions, and rules.

If it seems like this is a set of data for a metabase database, that's exactly correct. In addition to the handbook that will be generated from a specially constructed Data Interoperability Database instance, Whitemarsh members will receive all the "data" in a set of metabase database files.

The "data" for the handbook has all been collected. It is now being scrubbed, integrated, made non-redundant, etc. Two organization's materials deserve special thanks. The first is the Multi-Lateral Interoperability Program (MIP, www.mip.org) which is a NATO based data interoperability organization that has existed for 10 years. This organization has developed the only multi-national Command and Control data model in existence. Key members of this group will be singled out for special thanks. The second organization is INCITS, which is the International Committee for IT Standards. INCITS is about 50 years old. INCITS Technical Committees, actually communities of interest, have been developing IT standards for COBOL, FORTRAN, C, C++, and SQL. INCITS also develops standards for various types and classes of IT related hardware. The INCITS website is www.incits.org. Key members of this group will also be singled out for special thanks.



Data Interoperability Workshops

There are now three versions of the Data Interoperability Strategy seminar: A one hour version, a two hour version, and a full day. There is also the Data Interoperability Strategy for Managers presentation, which contains a cost and time comparison between the Whitemarsh approach and the industry's traditional approach. The comparison shows that both organizations and communities of interest will definitively benefit by adopting this common-sense, high-leverage, and very tunable approach to engineering data interoperability.

The Whitemarsh approach is more than 10 times faster than the now dated, traditional approach. In addition, the Whitemarsh approach leverages past work, delivers more, and engineers a metadata database that can be queried, reported, updated, and evolved. There is no down-side to the Whitemarsh approach. It is simply faster, better, dramatically cheaper, and lowers risk.

The Data Interoperability brochures have been re-posted to reflect the changes in the topical outlines. Also posted are the outlines for the two-hour version and the management version. The URLs for these documents are:

Data Interoperability Strategy Seminar_Whole day at <http://www.wiscorp.com/bp/disstb.pdf>

Data Interoperability Strategy Seminar_Management at <http://www.wiscorp.com/bp/disstmb.pdf>

Data Interoperability Strategy Seminar_Two hours at <http://www.wiscorp.com/bp/disst2b.pdf>

Data Interoperability Workshop at <http://www.wiscorp.com/bp/diwtb.pdf>

For more information, please check the website at: www.Wiscorp.com. If you would like to know more about how Whitemarsh can come to your group or organization, contact Whitemarsh at Whitemarsh@Wiscorp.com to request a seminar.

What the Whitemarsh approach accomplishes is giving the “data people” the proper set of tools and environment to do their work. With these tools the data people can take a pro-active role in creating results that are produced more quickly with lower cost and lower risk. The Data Interoperability series of seminars and workshops provides all the necessary details, tools, and work techniques. Whitemarsh's extensive library of methodologies, white-papers, books, presentations, courses, workshops, seminars, and of course the Metabase Software System provide all of the necessary additional support. This being said, Whitemarsh provides a complete data management practice.

Data Interoperability Strategy Seminars Exit Survey and Results

At the end of every data interoperability strategy seminar attendees fill out a survey. The results help us understand the industry's needs in regards to the Whitemarsh approach. The table that



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follows contains the survey. In each cell is the percentage of those responding that Strongly Agreed, Agreed, Disagreed, or Strongly Disagreed. Following this is a cursory list of some of the companies that have attended the seminar. If your company name is not there then you should contact Whitemarsh at Whitemarsh@wiscorp.com and request a seminar.

Data Interoperability Strategy Survey (2006). Respondents are about 20% of all attendees.				
Questions	Percents			
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Organizations would benefit from a comprehensive data management program including courses, methodologies, workshops, etc.	68	30	2	0
Organizations would benefit if databases (not DBMS) had consistent semantics for names for table columns across schemas.	78	20	0	2
Organizations would benefit from automatic Data Element, Attribute and Column naming and abbreviations built with consensus based word lists and phrases (taxonomies).	53	47	0	0
Organizations would benefit from automatic Data Element, Attribute and Column definitions derived from contexts, value domains, etc.	50	42	8	0
Organizations would benefit if databases (not DBMS) had consistent semantics for value domains.	69	29	2	0
Semantics should be inheritable from ISO 11179 Data elements to attributes, and from attributes to columns.	33	67	0	0
There is value in having data model templates that can be used in defining column collections within tables.	53	47	0	9
XML Schemas should be generated from a foundation of well designed and integrated data models.	51	45	4	0
Organizations would benefit from metadata repositories that support metadata integration and non-redundancy across projects, departments, etc. That is, define-once and use many-times.	82	18	0	0
Organizations would benefit from metadata repositories that are part of the everyday work process rather than a post implementation documentation effort.	86	14	2	0
End-users would benefit if they had access to metadata repositories for names, definitions, and the like.	82	16	2	0



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Data Interoperability Strategy Survey (2006). Respondents are about 20% of all attendees.				
	Percents			
Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Organizations would benefit from metadata repositories if the repositories could capture, report and support update of analysis and design work products in an integrated non-redundant manner.	64	36	0	0
Project quality and work-speed would likely benefit if supported by comprehensive metadata repositories.	71	29	0	0
Organizations would benefit from metadata management strategies supported by both bottom-up reverse engineering, and top-down new database (not DBMS) manufacturing.	57	41	2	0
Average of Percent	64	34	1	1



Attendee Organizations

Allstate Insurance	FedEx Services
American Airlines	Great Lakes Education Loan Services
Bank of Montreal	HBC
Bill Chadwick Consulting	HesselLink & Company
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas	IBM Global Services
BOM Financial Group	IESO (Independent Electrical System Operator)
BTE Architects	J.P. Morgan Chase
Canadian Tire	Kohls Department Stores
Cap Gemini Energy	Northern Trust
Caremark	Railroad Retirement Board
CCC Information Systems	RBC Financial Group
Chartwell, Inc.	RR Donnelley
Chevron Texaco	SentientPoint, Inc
CIBC	Sigma Systems
Cingular	Solucient, LLC
Citi Group	Southwest Airlines
City of Toronto	The Economical Insurance Group
CNA Insurance	The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railroad Company
CountryWide	U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Coventry Health Care	United Airlines
CUNA Mutual Group	Wallstreet Consulting
Discover Financial Services	WEA Trust
DOFASCO, Inc	WIS DoT
East Neuk Associates	WPS Insurance
Elkay Manufacturing	
Essential Futures	



Whitemarsh Short Paper Series

This month's short paper is titled "Managing Data Names, Value Domains, Abbreviations, and Definitions". The URL for obtaining this paper is: www.wiscorp.com/sp/sp03.pdf.

This paper presents the Whitemarsh approach to creating data names through the use of managed collections of semantic hierarchies. Also employed are facilities from within the ISO standard 11179. The ultimate objective is a comprehensive, non-redundant, and integrated semantic strategy for the definition of data that can be employed in structured databases. The Whitemarsh approach also addresses value domain management, and automatic abbreviations and definitions.

The paper's scheme is reliable, repeatable, and discriminating across a reasonable set of business fact domains. Further, the solution is set within an automated setting that can be scaled and distributed across an enterprise.

