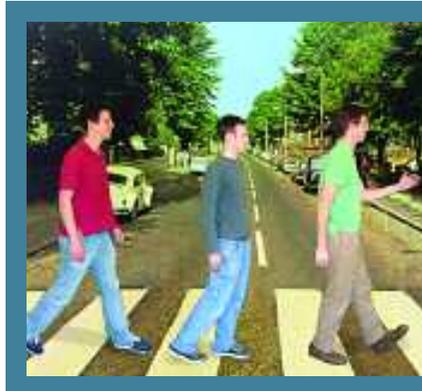


# SD Times

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

The Industry Newspaper for Software Development Managers



BEHIND THE CODING: THE MAKING OF A 'ROCK STAR' APPLICATION

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## Borland Dumps Core SDP

Four-way product offerings replace single ALM platform

BY ALEX HANDY

Borland Software is abandoning Core SDP, formerly the centerpiece of its application life-cycle management approach to software development, according to officials at the company.

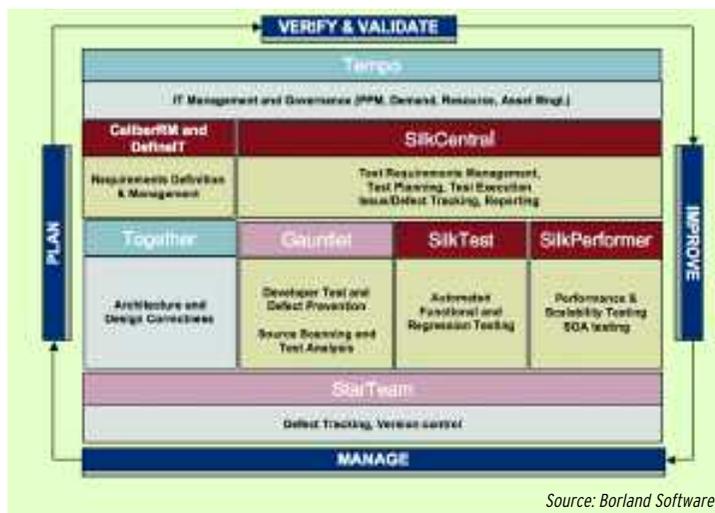
The role-based Core SDP, which had been released to much fanfare in March 2005, has been pushed aside by a new four-way solution, led by Borland's new Lifecycle Quality Management (LQM) suite.

Brad Johnson, Borland's director of product marketing, said that Core SDP would soon be phased out in favor of the four different life-cycle management solutions based on the company's

newest products. These pieces can be combined into a single ALM solution, and Johnson pointed out that the products that made up Core SDP are being portioned out into the appropriate new package.

Marc Brown, senior director of product marketing, said that Core SDP's roles-based tooling did not reflect the roles that existed within clients' companies. "Everyone defines those roles differently," said Brown. When asked if the Core SDP would be chopped up and rebranded under the four new ALM solution lines, Brown said, "Yes."

The decision to dump Core **continued on page 21 ▶**



Borland's LQM suite encompasses the testing and requirements tools needed to integrate testing and development teams under one communication and planning framework.

## U.S. Names First Czar Of Cybersecurity

IT trade association executive Garcia fills long-vacant position

BY JENNIFER DEJONG

Filling a post that has been vacant for more than a year, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has named Gregory Garcia to be the nation's first assistant secretary for cybersecurity and telecommunications.

DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff last month plucked Garcia from the Information Technology Association of America, a trade group where he has served as vice president for information security policy and programs since 2003. "Greg brings the right mix of experience in government and the private sector to continue to strengthen our robust partnerships that are essential to this field," Chertoff said in a statement.

Paul Kurtz, executive director for the advocacy group Cyber Security Industry Alliance and a critic of the way DHS has handled cybersecurity issues, praised the appointment. "Greg is an excellent choice for the position, bringing both his solid knowledge of information security issues and strong relationships in the private sector to [DHS]," he said in a statement.

Earlier this year, Kurtz, among others, criticized DHS for its failure to fill the assistant

**continued on page 21 ▶**

### SPECIAL REPORT: ECLIPSE PROJECTS

Before the next release train is ready for consumption, a few tasty morsels will be ready to serve



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## W3C Giving Sites to the Blind

Working on accessibility standards for rich Internet apps

BY ALEX HANDY

The blind may soon be able to better access AJAX widgets in Web sites. The World Wide Web Consortium has published the beginnings of new accessibility standards aimed at rich Internet applications. The guidelines are a first step toward the establishment of best practices for making RIAs accessible to screen readers and alternate forms of computer interface navigation.

Judy Brewer, director of the Web accessibility initiative for

the W3C, said that the new guidelines and road map, which were released in late September, will expand significantly over time. "We're calling them the start of the WAI-ARIA Suite. That includes one document that's essentially a road map, and two documents that include work in specific areas," said Brewer. The latter of these two documents seeks to lay out how roles, states and properties should be defined in accessible rich Internet applications.

WAI-ARIA stands for the Web

Accessibility Initiative's Accessible Rich Internet Application suite. That suite, said Brewer, will comprise best practices documents that will give developers guidelines for making their RIAs amenable to use by the blind and physically handicapped.

Brewer said that the initial set of three documents—the road map, states and properties, and roles documents—are now open for review and comment. Later, the Web Accessibility Initiative will expand and refine these and other accessible RIA-

**continued on page 17 ▶**

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# BEA Pulls a 360 With Consolidated SOA Offering

BY ALEX HANDY

BEA Systems used its annual conference to announce the circling of its product lines. The mid-September event was highlighted by the announcement of SOA 360 (as in 360 degrees), the company's new name for its integrated SOA platform. Comprising WebLogic, AquaLogic and Tuxedo, SOA 360 will offer a single management and development environment for service-oriented architectures.

Alfred Chuang, chairman and CEO of BEA, took the keynote stage of BEAWorld to discuss the potential of SOA in the enterprise. During his speech, he said that BEA now earns 20 percent of its revenue from AquaLogic sales, despite the product being just over a year old. "SOA puts business back in charge of business," said Chuang. He went on to



SOA 360 brings together the SOA, transaction and development solutions of BEA.

state that SOA allows difficult business processes to be better managed and executed upon.

The newly titled platform will materialize in 2007 with the first release of WorkSpace 360, an Eclipse-based collaborative development environment. SOA 360 will also include the existing BEA SOA products,

and incorporate some new bits of code that tie everything together under this Eclipse control panel.

Bill Roth, vice president of BEA's Workshop Group, said the WebLogic Workshop development environment will become a part of the WorkSpace 360 platform. Additional tooling will arrive in 2007, and will include a relationship layout tool, PHP development facilities and possible expanded support for REST. Roth demonstrated one of these tools, WebSpace Architect, which diagrams the XML associated with code held in the repository formerly known as Flashline.

Noel Yuhanna, senior analyst at Forrester Research, said that BEA's SOA 360 offers a broader perspective of SOA. "I think they are taking the right steps toward...getting this into

a real-world scenario."

But Mike Wienick, consultant and analyst for European firm Pierre Audion, said that he was still waiting to see just how much of SOA 360 is marketing hype, and how much is actual innovation. "Obviously the idea's very interesting, but to me it's not very different than what they've talked about before. It makes sense for customers who are using all three, but how much is it going to cost to upgrade?" wondered Wienick. He went on to say that BEA has been saying all along its products would be integrated and cohesive.

## MORE WORLD NEWS

Also announced during BEAWorld was the release of the AquaLogic Data Services Platform 2.5. The software is designed to access and present any form of data available within an enterprise.

In addition, the company announced the formation of a partnership with Web services reseller StrikeIron. The partnership will bring new data integration services for harvesting information from Excel spreadsheets and making it available to an AquaLogic deployment through the data services platform.

BEA also used the conference to introduce its Guardian support service. This new tool offers real-time suggestions to administrators working with WebLogic or AquaLogic installations. Guardian, said Chuang, will keep users up to date with current patches and inform them when they are moving into areas that could cause problems down the line. The system can download and install updates specific to situations encountered during daily administration. No date for the delivery of Guardian was given. ■

## Sumero-Akkadian Recognized Here

### Unicode 5.0 adds scripts from ancient languages

BY P.J. CONNOLLY

Fifteen years after its first publication, the Unicode standard has reached a milestone with Unicode 5.0.0, the latest version of the character encoding scheme. The new version includes 1,369 new character assignments, with three new contemporary script families and two ancient: Balinese, N'Ko and Phags-Pa; Phoenician and Sumero-Akkadian Cuneiform, respectively.

The cuneiform characters represent the effort of a multidisciplinary team based out of Johns Hopkins University, known as the Digital Hammurabi project. Much of the project's efforts and its National Science Foundation grant were devoted to hardware solutions that addressed the problems of scanning three-dimensional clay tablets, and displaying them in a format that allows users to magnify, pan, rotate and tilt the images, and generate three-dimensional models as well as two-dimensional drawings that represent the precious originals.

But software concerns also played a part: The first cuneiform e-mail was sent in 2001, and in 2004, both the Unicode Consortium and the ISO 10646 WG2 working group approved

an encoding standard, which incorporated characters from Akkadian, Eblaite, Elamite, Hittite, Hurrian and Sumerian.

Unicode is important in the internationalization and localization of applications; ideally, translatable strings such as dialog boxes and menu items are separated off into resource files, while variable formatting and searching, sorting and other processing are designed to be language-independent. This internationalized application is then packaged with appropriate resource files, becoming localized versions that cost less to produce than those built by translating the entire application into other languages, one at a time.

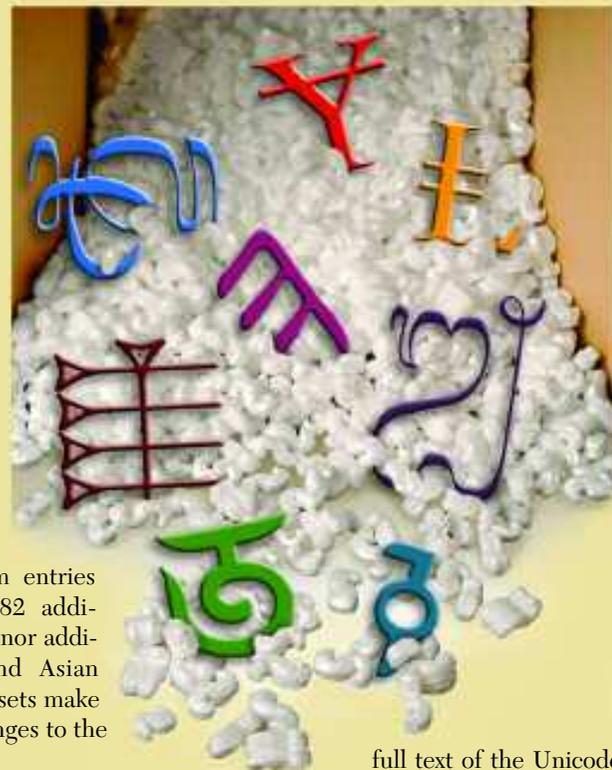
Mark Davis, president of the Unicode Consortium, explained, "Companies tended to toss their products across the wall to some subsidiary in Japan or France or someplace, and that group would have to make sense of what all this code was." He observed that "you'd end up with something that was difficult to maintain because you had multiple versions of code floating around," with expensive barriers to doing business in foreign markets. Although the market for software in Phoenician or

Sumerian is virtually nil, the Unicode standard includes archaic scripts in support of academic and antiquarian research.

The bulk of the new characters are from the added scripts; the cuneiform entries alone account for 982 additions. A number of minor additions to Western and Asian character and symbol sets make up the rest of the changes to the character database.

The files that constitute the Unicode Character Database are already available online at the Unicode Consortium's Web site ([www.unicode.org/versions/Unicode5.0.0](http://www.unicode.org/versions/Unicode5.0.0)). A hard copy edition, titled "The Unicode Standard, Version 5.0" (ISBN 0-321-48091-0), will be published by Addison-Wesley in the fourth quarter of this year; the text will be available online in the early part of 2007.

Changes in the book's physical format and paper stock will result in a lighter, easier-to-use publication. Nevertheless, there's actually more content than ever: The book will provide the



SD Times Photo illustration: Maria Leonardi

full text of the Unicode standard, including the complete Unicode Standard Annexes, for the first time.

Unicode 5.0 tightens the conformance requirements for bidirectional implementations, used in Semitic languages such as Arabic and Hebrew. A number of behavioral specifications and property values for character, word, line and sentence separation were tweaked for accuracy; case-folding stability is considered improved over Unicode 4.1, and support for pattern syntax characters and stable identifiers is now included. ■