

IBM Podcast

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MATHENY: Welcome to this IBM Podcast. I'm Angelique Matheny. The title of this podcast is, what's the difference between Rational Team Concert and Rational Team Concert for i? And joining me is George Farr, Rational Product Line Manager for System i tools, and Don Yantzi, Rational Product Line Manager for IBM i Enterprise Tools and Compilers.

Rational Team Concert is the new collaborative development environment that provides integrated work item, software configuration management, project planning, project visibility and governance support.

So as the title implies, George and Don will explore the similarities and differences between Rational Team Concert and Rational Team Concert for i. Hi, Don and George. Welcome to the podcast. Thanks for joining us.

FARR: Hi, Angelique. Thank you for having us.

MATHENY: Don, let's start with this. First of all, what is Rational Team Concert?

YANTZI: Thanks, Angelique. As you mentioned in the introduction there, Rational Team Concert is a collaborative

software delivery environment.

It is a delivery environment that's designed not just for the developer but for all stakeholders involved in the application development process be it IT managers, business unit executives, the quality assurance team, architects, testers, everybody involved. And it's really to integrate and have them collaborate to ultimately deliver software.

You also mentioned it does have the integrated source control features, support for work items -- so, new enhancements, defects, tasks, that kind of tracking capabilities, to do software builds for the overall application, dashboard support for the IT manager and the business unit executive, the project managers, to get an overall view of what's the current status of my project, how many defects are there, who's assigned to what, am I behind, am I ahead of schedule. And to generate reports on the projects.

Rational Team Concert is a very process and team aware environment, so you define your process to Rational Team Concert. And then it guides the development team to follow that process as they're delivering the software. And it's very easy for new team members to join the team and for team members to leave the team -- very easy to onboard and offboard.

Rational Team Concert is the first IBM product built on top of the Jazz platform, which is a platform for integrating all of the application lifecycle tools. There's Rational tools for creating requirements, tracking development, test case management. And all of these tools are being integrated on top of the Jazz collaboration platform.

MATHENY: And to you, George. What are the similar features in Rational Team Concert and Rational Team Concert for i?

FARR: So, that's a good question. I...one thing I should start in answering this by saying that we are actually, for the RTC i we took the base RTC, which is built on Jazz like Don mentioned, and we basically added extensions to it for i specific.

So to answer this question, there is obviously a base, a base code and function and feature that is kind of common to both RTC and RTC i. These items really if I say them at the high level, things like work items, project planning as a second one, source control management capabilities, dashboards and project visibility is...are really examples of some of these common features.

Just let me just kind of go one layer lower than that and

describe, give you examples of some of these things. If we're talking about things like source control management, you know, integrated stream management which is, you know, as you develop code you put them in streams, and now you have, you know, you have the integrated management around that.

Component level baselines, you know, server based sandboxes and so on. And one other piece of that is a ClearCase Connector Set that come in the base RTC. And it will obviously come into both.

The other important one which kind of is dear to everybody's heart are work items. It's things like, you know, developers deal with defects, enhancements and query results and views, sharing queries amongst team members and so on, support for approvals and discussions for certain work items.

There are some base support for build, as well as from a project perspective, project control, project administrations and so on, it is a great tool for integration of iteration planning and execution.

Most importantly, especially for managers and team leads that are looking after our whole project, there is real-time project status, a single structure for project related

artifacts.

Really the bottom line in terms of project status and management is it gives a base RTC and base RTC i gives the capabilities to project leaders to see the product...you know, the project health, you know, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This is something that is outstanding in RTC i and actually beats all of the competition out there.

MATHENY: Thank you, George. Now we know the similar features. Don, how does Rational Team Concert for i differ?

YANTZI: Well, there's two main differences. And as George said, there's a lot of similarities between them. But I would say the two main differences are, one of them is, where does the actual Rational Team Concert server run?

For Rational Team Concert [there is] support for Windows and Linux as a server deployment platform.

With Rational Team Concert for i, we recognized that our IBM i development community likes to run their software on their IBM i box. So we support running the server component on both IBM i V5 R4 and 6.1.

It uses the WebSphere Application Server 6.1 Express to actually run the server. That's a no chargeable feature with the operating systems; not an additional cost to

customers. And it leverages the DB2 for i, the integrated database. So there's no other dependencies that need to be purchased.

Rational Team Concert for i also adds support for RPG and COBOL development, another thing dear to the heart of our IBM i community where the Rational Team Concert product has support for what's commonly known as the distributed development, the Web, the Java development.

Rational Team Concert for i adds to that the support for RPG and COBOL development. This includes things such as managing the source code itself, but also an IBM i process definition and IBM i build definitions -- one of them for running existing build scripts to build the application, and another one we call continuous load.

So a build definition that can be continually run to move code out of the IB--...or, out of the RTC repository into physical libraries on the system.

MATHENY: George, what about RDI? How does RDI fit into this picture -- Rational Developer for i?

FARR: Yes, so, this is kind of the combination of what Don described and has just recently answered, and my explanation before. Let me just kind of summarize both.

Basically, we've taken the base RTC, we added some of the features that Don mentioned, kind of the delta features that sits for i, and that becomes RTCi.

But in addition to that and most importantly, RTC i as the product really integrates very well and requires RDI, and both work hand in hand to kind of give the full development environment for IBM i programmers.

So what I mean by that is the following. RDI -- Rational Developer for IBM i -- is the tool that our developers and IBM i customers are very much familiar with it, that gives them the capabilities of doing edit, compile, debug, for their RPG and COBOL applications.

And what we've done in RDI is we're creating feature or support that we call i Projects that actually work hand in hand to integrate with RTC i. And therefore with RDI you basically, you know, download libraries down to your RDI, do the edit compile and debug, and then use RTCi to give you the capabilities of change management tool, you know, work items related stuff. And the stuff that I mentioned in my earlier answer in terms of functionality for RTCi.

So in summary, RDI gives the programmer and edit, compile, debug capabilities. RTCi gives the change management tooling capabilities -- check in, check out, build work

items, checking the health of a project. And really the combination of these tools, both tools, is really kind of the complete function and features that programmers would need.

MATHENY: Don, is there a way that we can try this product -- either product?

YANTZI: That's a great question, Angelique. We like to say that, you know, these are great products and everybody should be using them, but the true way for somebody to evaluate that is to actually give it a try themselves and dive right in.

And there's 60-day trial editions available for both Rational Team Concert for i and Rational Developer for i. These are available both on developerWorks trial editions' site and the Jazz.net site. The easiest way to probably get to that is to go to the product pages for Rational Developer for i or Rational Team Concert for i. And there's a trial link right on each of those pages.

One thing I'd just like to point out. As George mentioned, Rational Developer for i is a development tool. On its own, that doesn't require Rational Team Concert for i. So for those that want to just to just start looking at some new tools to replace the older SEU green screen tools, they

could try RDI and download that.

MATHENY: Oh, that's great. Trials are a great way to get started. And our last question goes to you, George. Where should people go for additional information?

FARR: If you want to get more information, we have tons of information for you, one of which, first I should say, I'm not going to mention specifically the URLs, however, the slides that come with this presentation, you will see the last page that describes additional resources. But let me summarize some of the areas that you probably should be looking for.

The first one is, you can go to the RTCi for more information. That first Web site gives you a whole bunch of information in addition to kind of the time we've spent here with you telling you about RTCi, has tons of information.

The other thing is, you know, you don't have to go out and buy RTCi. Obviously you want to give it a try first, see if it fits your organization and you're satisfied with the way it works and so on. So for that, we're providing a trial version for 60 days for the server and the workstation tool.

So that second download allows you to download that, and that gives you enough time to evaluate it. If you have, as

you're evaluating it, if you have any questions, concerns, you can then jump into what we call the Rational RPG Cafe. Underneath that cafe, you'll see a spot where you can refer to RTCi.

For now, RTCi is under RPG cafe, possibly in the future as we build up the community for RTCi we probably have a specific cafe for RTCi. But for now it's under the RPG cafe. So that's the third URL.

Don mentioned earlier about the Jazz foundation and Jazz platform that we built on top of that technology for RTCi. I encourage you to go there. There's a whole bunch of information on Jazz if you're interested. Again, we included that there.

And finally, you know, we tried to cover as much as possible here about the announcement about RTCi, and for that we also include the URL for the announcement. If anything we missed and you need more information, refer to that last URL for that announcement letter.

And I should mention even though Angelique didn't mention that, the question on that, it just occurred to me I should mention about where RTCi runs. RTCi on IBM i runs on both V5 R4 and V6 R1. Just to make sure, if you wondered will you be able to run on other than V6 R1. We support both V5

R4 and V6 R1.

But obviously we want you to move to V6 R1 because that's probably the better, because you get a whole bunch of other things from the system enhancement and other things, features and functions that would be better to move you on to V6 R1. So, target V6 R1 if that's hopefully in your plan.

And so, I thank you for giving us the chance to talk to you, and we're very excited about RTCi. It shipped in late December. We already have lots of inquiries on it and customers actually using it today. So, join the crowd today, and if you have any comments, concerns, features or functions you would like to see in RTCi, please use the RTG Cafe to feed us your comments. Thank you, Angelique.

MATHENY: Thank you, George and Don. This was very informative. Thank you so much for taking time out to discuss the difference between RTC or Rational Team Concert and Rational Team Concert for i. We really appreciate it.

That was Rational's George Farr, Product Line Manager for System i tools. And, Don Yantzi, Rational Product Line Manager for IBM i Enterprise Tools and Compilers. If you're interested in more podcasts like this one, check out the Rational Talks to You podcast page at

[www.ibm.com/rational/podcasts](http://www.ibm.com/rational/podcasts). This has been an IBM Rational Podcast. I'm Angelique Matheny. Thanks for listening. Keep tuning in as Rational Talks to You.

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