

IBM Podcast

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MATHENY: Welcome to this IBM podcast, DOORS and Requisite Pro Evolution to Jazz. I'm Angelique Matheny with IBM. We recently returned from the Rational Software Conference where we made some important announcements regarding our Requirements product portfolio and introduced our strategy for the evolution of DOORS and RequisitePro on to the Jazz platform.

Joining us today is Dwayne Dreakford, product manager for IBM Rational Requirements Composer and RequisitePro, and Richard Watson, product manager for IBM Rational DOORS. They will reflect back on the conference and speak to the evolution of these offerings. Hi, Dwayne. Hi, Richard, welcome to the podcast. Thank you for joining us.

DREAKFORD: Hi, Angelique. Thanks for having us today.

WATSON: Hi, Angelique. Thanks for inviting me, too.

MATHENY: Richard, why don't you kick this off.

WATSON: Sure. Dwayne, how did RSC go for you, do you think? Were there any particular announcements around RSC and ReqPro that you made this year?

DREAKFORD: Yes, I thought the conference had a great

amount of excitement around the requirements space, especially with regards to Requirements Composer, the product that we introduced last year.

This year's conference was essentially like a coming out party. We had some great early adopter stories where it talked about how they're helping IT business stakeholders to get on the same page for the production of higher quality requirements that ultimately result in faster project deliveries and of course, expectation of increased project successes.

We also talked about RequisitePro and following our 7.1 release, enhancement release of last year, we had some important announcements around integrations with Rational Insight, our enterprise reporting and performance management system, as well as Rational Publishing engine, our enterprise document publishing solution.

And these things are helping people to get information to stakeholders that they need the way that they'd like to have it. So just with those bit of announcements right there it was a lot of excitement to talk about.

WATSON: So, Dwayne, what about the strategic direction of ReqPro? What did you see there at the conference?

DREAKFORD: The future of ReqPro has been a hot topic for some months now. In a nutshell, we're moving Requisite Pro on to the Jazz platform. And in doing that, we're able to leverage some of the foundation services available in the platform to deliver some of the biggest enhancements that our customers have been asking for as well as bring some new innovations to the table that have previously not been available in Requirements products.

In terms of the user experience, or the personality of the future ReqPro, one should take a look at Requirements Composer. And we expect to put a preview of the future of ReqPro on jazz.net by the end of the year.

When it comes to Requirements Composer, the biggest thing we talked about at the conference are the collaborative application lifecycle management scenarios that can be implemented in combination with Rational Team Concert as well as Rational Quality Manager.

And this, of course, is in addition to the fact that Requirements Composer can be used with RequisitePro today, and DOORS very shortly, to improve the quality of the requirements that those offerings help us to manage across the lifecycle. And most of these scenarios are open for discussion on jazz.net as well as some demonstrations and viewlets that we have there as well.

WATSON: That sounds cool, Dwayne. On the DOORS side, it was an interesting year for us, actually. It was the first year that the Telelogic track was moved into the Rational Software Conference. And I think things largely went very well.

We had two products that we came to the conference with, DOORS Web Access and DOORS both had releases in the middle of the conference, so, on June the second. For DOORS Web access, the main announcement we had was that DOORS Web access is now providing DOORS customers with a way to get a Web-based solution to modify requirements data.

We released DOORS Web access for the first time last year in 2008 where customers could read requirements and provide feedback through discussion comments. But this year, customers can finally actually modify DOORS data from within the DOORS Web access product. And the feedback that we had was extremely good.

We had lots of customers engaged with the presentations, and there were an awful lot of questions and excitement around the subject, so it was good to hear.

DOORS 9.2 it was also discussed at the conference. Firstly, we're taking an aggressive stance in terms of integration,

so we've released an integration between DOORS and the IBM Rational Quality Manager product, which given that Quality Manager in itself came out for the first time in November last year, to have an integration to DOORS six months later actually is quite aggressive relief.

But it joins the two fundamental subjects of requirements management and quality management together for the DOORS product. So it was really well taken.

We also announced the support for something called the Requirements Interchange format, which is a way of customers communicating between customer/supplier relationship where you need to transport requirements and information between lots and lots of different databases but to have a consistent view of your requirement set, whether you use the DOORS product to do requirements management or not.

And again, it was very, very well received. Most or all of the industries that use the DOORS products, automotive, telecoms, defense, avionics, they all took it very well.

On the DOORS side of the strategy, we actually also presented the future of DOORS to be Jazz-based. Jazz does seem to be the core technology that the Telelogic product portfolio is moving towards, and it offers some exciting facilities.

We're actually planning to work on replacing the DOORS server with a solution based on the Jazz foundation server.

The first increment of that we're hoping to come out midway through next year, so 2010, and it will make use of the Jazz commercial database environment which will offer us more functions in terms of resilience and stability and scalability on the server side of DOORS. Over time, we'd expect to make use of the core services of the Jazz Foundation Server to offer things like workflow and product line engineering, et cetera.

While Jazz offers DOORS great potential, we are of course taking great care with the data that we're taking from the original DOORS proprietary database environment into the commercial database world. We don't plan to rewrite the whole DOORS products. Only about five percent of its business logic is in the server, so it's not rewriting the whole DOORS product.

But most of our customers' investments are actually in the data that's stored inside of DOORS. People pay a lot of money to pay for the DOORS product, but they invest far more in the information they store there. And that's our customers' property after all. It's not IBM's property. But we are allowed to take that data safely into the Jazz foundation server environment.

As I said earlier, the overall feedback for the conference was very good. I hope that the customers took away the fact that their investment in DOORS -- i.e., their requirements, right? -- are protected with the future roadmap of IBM while we start to deliver against some of those longer-term requirements which previously have been very difficult to realize.

If I were to choose a single word for the DOORS side, I feel the customer base has gone away from the conference feeling that their longer-term investments in DOORS are safe.

MATHENY: That sounds great, that the future is certainly bright. And I think the evolutionary approach that we're taking regarding the evolution of the portfolio overall is one that certainly enables us to protect our customers' investments in our solutions while adding immediate and continuing value going forward. So it's going to be an exciting year and an exciting year to come, I'm sure, so we're anxious to get to it.

MATHENY: Dwayne, this was very informative. Thanks to you and to Richard for taking out time in your day to discuss DOORS and RequisitePro evolution to Jazz. We really appreciate it.

That was Rational's Dwayne Dreakford, Product Manager for IBM Rational RequisitePro and Requirements Composer; and Richard Watson, Product Manager for IBM Rational DOORS. Check out the Requirements Management and Definition product page at [www.ibm.com/software/rational/offerings/irm](http://www.ibm.com/software/rational/offerings/irm). A great way to get started.

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