

2009 WebSphere System z Podcasts - 'Did you say Mainframe?'

TITLE: New WebSphere MQ File Transfer Edition for z/OS for reliable managed file transfer

HOST: Hi, and welcome to the "Did you say Mainframe?" podcast series. This is where we regularly interview IBM technical experts who can help you to understand important IBM mainframe hardware and software issues. I'm your host Sherrie Abshire.

Today we're going to talk about WebSphere MQ File Transfer Edition for z/OS V7, a brand new product from IBM.

Our guest today is Elena Wood, Application Integration for System z Marketing Manager. Elena, it's great to have you here.

SME: I'm delighted to be here.

HOST: Before we begin, I'd like to mention to our listeners that you can listen to the replay of our MQ FTE teleconference entitled 'Introducing reliable, Managed File Transfer for z/OS '. I'll be giving out more information at the end of this podcast.

HOST [Question 1]: So Elena, could you please summarize what MQ File Transfer Edition does?

SME [Answer 1]: IBM WebSphere MQ File Transfer Edition for z/OS V7.0 (or MQ FTE) provides a reliable, managed file transfer solution for moving files - regardless of size - between IT systems. It enables files and documents to be transferred across WebSphere MQ as a backbone, which serves a dual purpose backbone, as it also handles messages.

HOST [Question 2]: Please tell us a bit more about what Managed File Transfer is and what problems it addresses?

SME [Answer 2]: There are a number of IT challenges to do with the movement of information which our listeners I am sure would recognize. To name a few, how do you ensure you have up-to-date information to make real-time business decisions, for example, receiving data from your branches? There is a lot of pressure to reduce "batch window" or enable continuous stream of updates. How to avoid errors in your key business processes, e.g. exchanging data with you suppliers? Regulatory compliance is another factor. How do you preserve integrity of data and secure it - especially when moving it between IT systems, Meet Regulatory Compliance or other audit obligations by demonstrating integrity of financial or sensitive data to avoid penalties. Many organisations build and maintain systems in-house for moving data as files between applications. Most of these solutions are based on File Transfer Protocol (FTP) due to it being simple and freely-available. FTP may be well suited for file sharing, where several applications access an occasionally updated, centrally-managed source file, many organizations are seeking alternatives for files that are

2009 WebSphere System z Podcasts - 'Did you say Mainframe?' transferred between applications as part of business processes, as the QoS and cost of maintenance of the FTP based methods cause a lot of problems at this level. And as volumes of transfers rapidly grow, the consequences for errors in business data being incorrectly transferred increase. Although the FTP protocol developed over the years, if you are using this method, it is worth asking yourself questions about the reliability, security and traceability of the solution you have. For example:

- Can you move files reliably across your distributed IT systems? Our listeners have key data on System z, which often needs to be exposed in heterogeneous environments, so this is an important consideration.
- Can you restart file transfers that haven't completed properly?
- Can you automate & schedule transfers to avoid human-errors?
- Can you prove that files only went where were supposed to?
- Can you detect & recover whenever files are partially sent?
- Can you prevent unauthorized access to files?

So having a reliable, flexible, cost-effective solution for Managed File Transfer is as critical as ever for organizations of all sizes.

In summary, it offers the following key characteristics:

- Enables managed movement of files and documents between IT systems
- Auditable
- Reliable
- Secure
- Any size file
- Automated
- Backbone (Across distributed IT systems that need not be directly connected)
- Time-independent
- Centralized control

HOST [Question 3]: How does MQ FTE help solve these problems?

SME [Answer 3]: IBM WebSphere MQ File Transfer Edition for z/OS V7.0 provides a reliable managed file transfer solution for moving files - regardless of their size - between IT systems, It was developed at Hursley, iteratively, with a lot of input from our clients, early access program participants. It provides this solution using WebSphere MQ, so it enables consolidation of messaging and file transfer infrastructure into single backbone. So you can say it is a SOA-ready approach to managed file transfer, enabling files to be moved to an SOA infrastructure, including the ESBs. It provides bulk transfer of files, regardless of size Records log of

2009 WebSphere System z Podcasts - 'Did you say Mainframe?' transfer activity for audit purposes Offers automation and control of file movement between IT systems, File transfers are fully automated, including scheduling and triggering transfers when file-related events occur.

MQ FTE extends MQ Explorer graphical interface for remotely configuring transfers and monitoring progress, this interface makes it and easy to use solution which basically does not require programming.

Optional scripting support for programmatic control of transfers Operating systems supported: AIX, HP Unix, Linux, Sun Solaris, Windows, z/OS

HOST [Question 4]: What is the particular value of this solution for our System z clients?

SME [Answer 4]: Although many mainframe shops have traditionally relied on basic FTP, it takes more to provide that level of security across the distributed enterprise. You're only as strong as your weakest link across all platforms used in your solutions, and just one weak link can threaten the entire operation.

Managed file transfer based on IBM WebSphere MQ brings mainframe-level security to the enterprise. It also brings SOA capabilities to file transfers, so that everything you can do with messages you can now do with files. For example, in combination with IBM WebSphere Business Events, you can look for patterns in files and determine if someone is overstepping their authority or even committing fraud. Or, when used with IBM WebSphere Message Broker, file content can be reformatted or enriched.

IBM WebSphere MQ File Transfer Edition can also save the mainframe from having to carve out blocks of time for batch processing. Managed file transfer can spread the processing over time in micro-batches, making it more real time and service-oriented. The product can also handle files of any size by taking small chunks of data and recombining them at the other end.

HOST [Question 5]: When is MQ FTE going to be available on System z?

SME [Answer 5]: MQ FTE will be available on System z, initially on z/OS only, at GA on December 12, 2008.

HOST [Question 6]: And the final question, does MQ FTE for z/OS prerequisite MQ for z/OS V7?

SME [Answer 6]: At least one WebSphere MQ V7.0 server queue manager must be deployed within a WebSphere MQ File Transfer Edition solution, as the enhanced Publish and Subscribe capability of this queue manager is used internally to broadcast audit and file transfer status information, but, for the benefit of our clients, who are still moving to V6, this need not be the z/OS machines. Anywhere in the network,

2009 WebSphere System z Podcasts - 'Did you say Mainframe?' on any of the supported platforms, at least one machine needs to run MQ V7 and MQ FTE V7 as the coordination queue manager. Otherwise, WebSphere MQ File Transfer Edition V7.0 will provide support for transfers to and from systems running WebSphere MQ V7.0 and the previous release, WebSphere MQ V6.0. However, if our listeners are already on MQ for z/OS V6, it would be worth trying MQ V7 out as it brought in significant enhancements on z/OS, including Web 2.0 connectivity, enhanced performance and Publish and Subscribe capabilities, which can really benefit your business.

HOST: Thank you Elena, that was really interesting.

SME: Thanks for giving me the opportunity to talk about WebSphere MQ File Transfer Edition.

HOST: Well, that wraps up this podcast discussion. To find out more about the teleconference I mentioned earlier, Introducing reliable, Managed File Transfer for z/OS , please go to the description for this podcast at: <http://www.ibm.com/software/os/systemz/podcasts/websphereonz>

Join us next time as we talk about another important mainframe topic. For now, this is Sherrie Abshire saying "Thanks for listening".