

10/02/04

MT Studio Shows the Future of Application Development

According to the Butler Group, Europe's leading independent Research and Analysis Company, MT Studio from UK software developer Mart Technology points to where application development is heading: rich Web-based applications.

In its just published Technology Audit of the company, Butler Group sees MT Studio as "one of a new breed of RAD tools that gives it first market entry advantages".

Enterprises developing new business applications increasingly want them to be Web-based. But they must then choose between a J2EE or .NET platform. Developing graphically rich applications on either is complex. It requires companies to have sophisticated IT skills and is still primarily the preserve of larger enterprises. That leaves a gap in the market that will inevitably be filled by Rapid Application Development (RAD) tools. Butler Group identifies Microsoft and Macromedia as companies that are now focusing on this area, but reckons that Mart Technology "has stolen a march on these rivals with a product that was first released in Summer 2003, having been in development since 1999".

MT Studio is a J2EE-compliant development environment and run-time engine. Its core operational components are a servlet, an applet and two rich Web-applications – a Visual Forms Design tool and an Integrated Development Environment (IDE). It runs on Windows, Linux or Unix operating systems. It connects through JDBC to most major databases including MS SQL, Oracle, IBM DB2 and Sybase. Its servlet is compatible with a wide range of J2EE application servers, including Apache Tomcat, Websphere and Weblogic.

The creators of MT Studio have essentially taken a Visual Basic-style approach to creating Java-based Web applications. Butler Group "believes that MT Studio provides a remarkable RAD layer on top of Java to produce efficient and versatile desktop-like solutions with the advantages of being Web-based. MT Studio is itself built with the same technology and so demonstrates the scope and feel of the applications that can be produced."

Applications can be created in MT Studio up to three times faster than with standard Java. Moreover, MT Studio can be quickly mastered by any developer with prior experience of a procedural programming language and knowledge of SQL. Butler Group analyst Michael Azoff adds, "MT Studio ships with a well thought out self-tuition program; within a couple of hours I was able to create a simple but elegant front-end to a database."

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Mart Technology believes that its product is extremely well positioned. Technology Director Hosein Rad says, "We have the potential to create a .NET version of MT Studio. Applications written once could then run on both J2EE and .NET platforms. That could be really interesting."

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Notes to the editor

Mart Technology, a software developer and IT solutions provider based in Pinner, Middlesex, was founded in November 1999 and began trading in April 2000.