

## Developing Mashups Q&A

September 3, 2009

**Q:** What are the differences between Presto Wires and Presto Mashup Studio? Do we need both at the same time or is Presto Wires sufficient for our needs?

**A:** Good question! For advanced mashup development, we find many organizations require an environment that support the declarative development of mashups. Presto Studio lets mashup creators leverage all of the power of our Enterprise Mashup Markup Language (EMML). For non-technical users, Presto Wires is a user-oriented mashup creation tool with a drag-and-drop GUI that has much of what many mashup creators need. Wires is also extensible, allowing easy access to custom mashup macros created in Studio.

**Q:** Question on your mashups - what charting package(s) do you use? Is there an available list of the specific chart types available? Is it possible to extend the existing chart set with 3rd party charting packages?

**A:** We use ExtJS and Fusion for visualization quite a bit. They are both great packages. Of course, we expose mashups in many standards data formats, letting you pick any Rich UI tool. This means you can use Flash, Flex, Silverlight, Ajax, etc. As for our the 'out of the box' chart types, you can learn more about them in our Documentation on our Mashup Developer Community ([www.jackbe.com/dev](http://www.jackbe.com/dev)).

**Q:** Can anything that can be done via emml (?) also be done graphically, or does emml have capability that the gui does not?

**A:** EMML is a superset of the accessible functions in Presto Wires. Wires has LOTS of the capabilities of EMML but there are limits to a GUI, of course.

**Q:** Is there an event driven aspect to your products?

**A:** Yes. Presto has an Event Connector that can deliver data based on dynamic events (such as change of data).

**Q:** Can Presto create mashups with unstructured data (i.e. word doc checked into a SharePoint site)?

**A:** Yes. We often use a type-specific library to extract the information. we do have out-of-the-box Connectors for Microsoft Excel and another Connector for HTML 'scraping'. Other unstructured formats would be accessed through document-type-specific access functions.

**Q:** What is the licensing cost for jackbe?

**A:** The Presto Developer Edition is available for free for individual, non-production use. Presto Enterprise Edition is licensed on a CPU or subscription basis. You can discuss per-CPU/per-subscription prices with a JackBe Account Exec.

**Q:** Could you please speak a little to how this compares in construct and operation to the Portal/Portlet style of web page composition.

**A:** Much of Presto's mashup creation/sharing functionality can be driven by non-developer types of users. This is traditionally not the case in portals/portlets. In addition, mashups are capable of delivering their information to a much wider variety of destinations, including (but not limited to) portals, desktops, spreadsheets, web pages, mobile devices, and standards-based data API (like RSS/ATOM, REST, SOAP).

**Q:** Is there a Netbeans plugin for Jackbe?

**A:** Not yet but we are considering it.

**Q:** Many times the data needs to be transformed before final output. Can you show an example of fetching from a db and then transforming prior to output?

**A:** Transformations is a fundamental 'must have' capability of any enterprise-grade mashup solution. We'll show some out-of-the-box transforms as well as some custom (i.e. user-built) transforms when we demonstrate Presto Wires.

**Q:** Do you have examples on your site of what the demoer (who obviously is very familiar with this process) for us to use as templates to modify and query our own DB?

**A:** We have tons of sample code included with our Developer Edition (available at [www.jackbe.com/dev](http://www.jackbe.com/dev)). We also have a 'CodeDepot' on our Mashup Developer Community members with some great member-created examples.

**Q:** Can you say anything about the performance of Presto, or Wires?

**A:** We've run extensive benchmarks against a range of traditionally-specified servers and successfully tested user concurrency loads in the hundreds even on a small server.

**Q:** Can we mashup two different databases...like SQLServer and Siebel ? I mean is it dependent on a particular technology?

**A:** Presto can access all types of standardized data sources: JDBC-compliant databases, REST/SOAP services, RSS/ATOM feeds, spreadsheets, and even HTML pages. That's every kind of ERP/SCM/SFA app you can imagine. We have some great demos on [www.jackbe.tv](http://www.jackbe.tv) that include systems like Siebel and Salesforce.com.

**Q:** How can differently formatted fields from different source be mashed together? For example, FIRSTNAME LASTNAME from one datasource to FIRSTNAME M. LASTNAME from another datasource?

**A:** Those mappings are often done as mashup-creation time by the users themselves.

**Q:** Does Presto Developer Studio have a Presto Server 'lite' to try these mashups against?

**A:** Presto Studio and Presto Server are bundled together (along with Presto Wires and a bunch of Presto Connectors). You can get the entire Presto package at [www.jackbe.com/dev](http://www.jackbe.com/dev).

**Q:** What is the limiting factor in pulling data in, & performing various transformations (filter, join, sort, etc?) is it the CPU speed? # of CPUs? data r/w? data transfer rate? do you have examples of "perfectly balanced" processes, & how they do/don't scale up?

**A:** The answer varies based on the complexity of the mashup or mashups, the usage patterns of the mashup consumers, and even the quality/availability of the mashup data sources. As we mentioned earlier, We've run extensive benchmarks against a range of traditionally-spedced servers and successfully tested user concurrency loads in the hundreds even on a small server.