

Day 2 of Mashup Training: Tools for Enterprise Mashup Makers

8/27/08

Audience Questions and Answers

Q: Are there any known firewall issues when pulling data from a web scenario, as well as internal?

A: There can be, both with internal and external. We've encountered and addressed a wide variety of security 'challenges'. You'll here some of them discussed in today's webcast.

Q: How do I become a Matt Triner style Black Belt too?

A: 'Black Belt' is a euphemism. But being an adept mashup maker certainly does come with experience. And today's training is a great first step!

Q: I see that this has a direct approach to "temporary" dashboarding... but I feel this is doing more than just populating dashboards...am I right on that assumption?

A: We certainly see our share of mashups that end up in dashboards but the uses/destinations of mashups are many. I think yesterday's webcast gave some great examples. If you didn't attend, make sure you grab the recording later this week!

Q: How does mashups deal with data quality issues?

A: Much like other data consuming solutions (reporting, business intelligence, etc.), mashups are consumers of data quality efforts. We can augment existing DQ efforts in a limited way but by no means do mashups do everything the robust DQ solutions do.

Q: Is this designed to be easy enough for creator and consumer to be same person?

A: Yes! In fact, one of the common 'use paths' is the create mashups for personal use, then later share the mashup with peers.

Q: Where can we get the slides?

A: We'll have the slides, along with a recording of the presentations, available at jackbe.com later this week. We'll send out a note when they are available.

Q: Is JackBe Presto collective software platform both MAC and Windows come in "bundle" form... can it be loaded on both systems? I see lots of Macs on the Webinar

A: We love Macs! JackBe has many Macs in-house. We certify our platform, Presto, on both Windows and Mac.

Q: Do all capabilities need to be a service? Can you bring in capabilities from a application (i.e. Sametime)

A: All capabilities do NOT need to be a service. You can create a mashup that calls Java, C#, JRuby and other languages.

Q: Does JackBe integrate with enterprise solutions like LDAP,AD etc ?

A: Yes. We support Active Directory and LDAP, as well as X.509 certs and basic auth as well.

Q: Where I can get the mashup plugin for excel ?

A: It is part of the Trial Edition of Presto. If you'd like to give it a try, go to 'Resources' on jackbe.com.

Q: Is there a programmatic interface for adding services and mashups, or is everything done through the GUI? Meaning, can I write a script to add my services and mashups? How is the configuration saved? How do I back it up?

A: 'Is there a programmatic interface': Yes. We call it EMMML (Enterprise Mashup Markup Language). It is XML-based.

Q: What is the average training curve (in weeks?) for learning this software for a person with basic web programming knowledge? How easy is learning this software package?

A: You can be creating your first mashup using the VISUAL tools in just a few minutes. It takes a bit more time to create advanced mashups using our Mashup Markup Language.

Q: Do you interface with UDDI directories?

A: Yes sir.

Q: Is there a dynamic link so that when Excel updates the mashup gets the new list?

A: We do have an update option, but it is currently manual (i.e. the user most invoke the 'update' option).

Q: So the Wires env is the runtime and each user will need to have it installed ? Is there a runtime env that runs in a browser ?

A: No, Wires it a browser-based UI and does NOT require an installation. Wires is a very sophisticated Rich Internet

Application (RIA).

Q: How do you run the EMMML? Only from the Wires interface?

A: We have an Eclipse plug-in for the creation/editing/debugging of EMMML.

Q: So JackBe is not a 'front end'. You are used for backend and data fusion?

A: That's a good way to think about it. We do have a light-weight 'front end' option to create mashup widgets (called 'mashlets'), for sharing and embedding in portals/wikis. We'll be discussing those in detail tomorrow.

Q: Where do we publish? the web URL? , the intranet portal? , on our desktop? All the above as long as you have "authority" or admin rights to do so? Correct?

A: All of the above!

Q: These are good questions. Will they be included with the slides when they are available? (except this one, of course)

A: Good suggestion! I think we might do just that.

Q: Does wires support document-based as well as RPC-style web services? How is the document authored for document-style?

A: Yes. I'll leave the details of document authoring for a personal demo between you and John/Matt, OK?

Q: what kind of latency does the mashup server add ? Any numbers for some large data sets ?

A: The standard consulting answer applies here: it will vary.

Q: What percentage of the big services "Google, Yahoo, Wall Street Journal, My Space, etc. allow their data to be grabbed? Or is this buried in "purchase" structures within those organizations?

A: We can have limited screen-clipping options for those public data providers that haven't service-enabled their infrastructure. But it certainly does appear that most types of data are getting public services. If not Google, then Xignite, Strikelron, etc...

Q: What language does the mashlet use (flash, Ajax, etc)?

A: Many of our GUI/visual mashlets are Flash/Ajax. The tabular/text mashlets (such as the RSS mashlet, which you did not see) use HTML/XML.

Q: Are mashlets output as JSF Components?

A: Yes!

Q: Process was mentioned; are there flow objects in the wire tool for workflow type conditions between data steps?

A: Not classic human-oriented workflow, no. That makes this into a BPM (Business Process Management) tool. In our view, mashups are executed in Internet-time, i.e. real-time. Steps that require human intervention would violate that principle. That said, mashups can certainly be connected to any popular BPM tool!