

A Developer's Guide to Enterprise Mashups

Q&A
2.12.09

Q: Do you have any performance metrics as it relates to data latency and scale?

A: It all depends on the latency of the services and the amount of data being mashed. It's difficult to make a general statement about metrics.

Q: Are there any limitations to the amount of services that you can join together?

A: There isn't a coded limit. We have a customer that has 20+ services in a single mashup. Not only that, you can run the service invocations in parallel to optimize the mashup execution.

Q: Can we do mashups on process?

A: Presto can mashup processes that can be exposed as services.

Q: If services require passing parameters (example: department_id), can your GUI tool allow passing parameter?

A: Yes. I am not sure we are demoing that today, but it is part of the mashup developer's options.

Q: What if I need to do a string manipulation on Job_ID, in order to match the IDs? e.g., if one source was JobID=00011 and another field was a taxonomical derivative of JobID such as PositionID=CsCI00011, where I need to strip off CsCI in order to make it match. Can I call a java method to strip this?

A: Yes, you can call out to any external method from EMMML.

Q: Can services be prepared from pretty much any data source including fixed length text files.

A: Yes! We can create mashable services from many place including XML, RSS/Atom, WSDL, ANSI-92 SQL database (table, view, or procedure call), external program, spreadsheet, or web/HTML page.

Q: In the current example ('salarybyposition'), updating in xml is difficult for business users. Can't we do it in the gui?

A: I think you are correct, we could have created this mashup visually. But Jorge is just using the declarative approach to demonstrate both mashup making methods.

Q: Is a plugin available for NetBean as well?

A: No, not yet. We don't support the Sun IDE but we do have a great Java API (so mashups can be invoked in Java apps).

Q: Is there a way to extend the product with more chart types, e.g., to handle statistical process control chart?

A: Yes! We have a few standard widgets but every one of our customer has asked to add their own unique widget types. So we left the product open. Checkout the MDC (<http://www.jackbe.com/dev>) to see how.

Q: Can you create a new generic mashlet similar to grid or chart and have it show up in the view?

A: Yes, you can.

Q: When we access public webservices, will Jackbe monitor those services?

A: Yes. We capture what are called "Auditable Events" for every access on a service, mashup and Mashlet. Every service, whether public or internal/private, is registered as a virtual service in Presto. This way mashup creators can treat every service equally without worrying about the mashable source details. This also lets us monitor every mashable service and their use.

Q: In the Select View options, where you have RSS, Grid, Chart, Yahoo Map and XML. Can i add my own generic mashlet like one of those?

A: Yes, see <http://www.jackbe.com/enterprise-mashup/blog/bubblechart-sample-mashlet> for an example.

Q: Can Presto mashup server can run on top of WebSphere 6.1 and WebLogic application server ?

A: Yes!

Q: What kind of fail over does Presto mashup server have?

A: Presto can be configured in a clustered manner.

Q: Is presto UDDI compliant?

A: Presto does not expose its registry at UDDI. However, we can consume UDDI registry data.

Q: Can I display a mashlet within a Silverlight control/application?

A: Our widgets are easy to create but fairly basic compared to rich UI tools like Silverlight. In this case, I think we'd recommend that you take a mashup (not the mashlet UI), and bind it to a Silverlight widget.

Q: If I can deploy to WebSphere, is it a WAR or EAR? Is there an ANT script to repackage the EAR with my JAR? JBoss

support?

A: You can just drop the war file in the appropriate directory.

Audience Question:

Q: Can we place these mashups in portal pages/pda, if so, how much customization do i need to do?

A: Mashlets can be published as JSR-168 portlets. That way they are quite easy to insert into most portals. Check out <http://www.jackbe.com/enterprise-mashup/videos/presto-connectors-adding-mashups-portal> for a quick demo of this.

Q: Can the mashups be configured to accept push messages which will later reflect on the Mashlet live?

A: Yes.

Q: I guess the Silverlight question is really: do you have an API that allows me to do that binding? Or do I need to do it myself at this point?

A: Yes. The Presto API supports binding in Silverlight via JavaScript.

Q: Is there an example of the Presto/Silverlight API binding that you can point me to? (Excuse me as I have 1/2 day experience with this so far).

A: Not yet but we hope to have one of the Mashup Developer Community (<http://www.jackbe.com/dev>) soon.

Q: JSR-168 is nice, but it doesn't help me as an ASP.NET developer. Is there support for displaying mashlets in ASP.NET apps?

A: Yes, we have a .NET API as well. And we are just about to release some examples of Presto Mashups in Sharepoint. Keep an eye on <http://www.jackbe.com/enterprise-mashup/>; they'll be out in a week or two!

Q: Is there a plan to submit EMMML to an international standards body such as OASIS?

A: There are a number of companies discussing it. Stay tuned on this one.

Q: May I know the license cost ?

A: Presto Developer Edition is a free single-user, non-production license. You can get it at <http://www.jackbe.com/dev>. Presto Enterprise Edition is \$40,000/CPU for enterprise-grade production implementations.

Q: How do you handle EMMML versioning?

A: We follow the webservices versioning best practice to register the new EMMML under a new name. I.e. MyEmmlV2.emml

Q: If a mashlet can do update across different mashup services, how does it handle 2-phase commit operations?

A: EMMML can do XA transactions across database services.

Q: Can we use Internet Explorer browser instead of Mozilla Firefox ?

A: Mashlets can be run in any browser (IE6, IE7, Firefox, Safari). Presto Wires (i.e. the visual mashup creator) runs in IE7; IE6 isn't supported yet. We are in beta with IE6 and it should be production in a few weeks.

Q: Since all services are registered as a virtual service in presto, all processing is done on server side. Can I integrate my data on client side?

A: Presto is a server-based mashup solution. Client-side mashups, as they are known, can be done with other tools. Of course, they have a number of security and cross-domain issues, which is why we chose to architect a server-based solution.

Q: What would it take to automatically update one mashlet based on input from another. We just saw an example that did not update.

A: We support 'inter-mashlet communication'. The example you saw didn't use this feature but it could have!

Q: Would like to see it listening to events via JMS.

A: Presto event connector can listen on JMS event and deliver the data to the user (Browser) asynchronously.