

customers through various Web sites. Users were complaining about the need to log on to each site, even when jumping from site to site. They also couldn't understand why they needed to keep entering information (addresses, phone numbers, preferences, etc.) to each of the HP sites they visited.

All of today's news

You'll recognize, of course, that what was needed was a good virtual directory system with single sign-on options.

Unfortunately (from the directory perspective), Ellsworth and his team were Python programmers. "Python is an interpreted, interactive, object-oriented programming language. It is often compared to Tcl, Perl, Scheme or Java," according to http://www.python.org. More importantly, it's tightly intertwined with XML (for no apparent reason except happenstance, as far as I can tell).

So, Joe and his crew set out to solve the problem and effectively created a virtual directory system. But they called it an XML Database. They knew that they were storing data for use by the various applications, so it must be a database that they created. They also knew that all communication with the database would be in XML - mostly because it's easier to retrofit an application with XML than it is to rewrite the application.

Ellsworth, without knowing the first thing about virtual directory servers, described an entity remarkably similar to Radiant Logic's Virtual Directory Engine - the XML connectors, the "stored triggers" of SQL for the non-XML-enabled databases, the relational back end for robust storage with an adaptable front end for ease of use. Michel Prompt and his team at Radiant Logic are much farther ahead, but they've also been at it longer than the folks at Coherity.

I never did get to talk to Ken Tsai very much - we skipped a lot of the marketing dialog. But I did learn that most folks in our industry spend too much time in their own tight little world. Ellsworth in Palo Alto and Michel Prompt in Novato are less than 50 miles away from each other. Each invented a similar system, for different reasons and with different tools, but with almost identical outcomes. Yet neither knew of the other's work.

We need to change that. We need to see what the other guy is doing. Not the other guy working on a directory, but the other guy working in an entirely different field. Maybe, just maybe, he can help us solve the problem we're facing.

Related Links

Coherity's XML Database

Dave Kearns is a writer and consultant in Silicon Valley. His most recent book is "Peter Norton's Complete Guide to Networks" published by SAMS. Dave's company, Virtual Quill, provides content services to network vendors: books, manuals, white papers, lectures and seminars, marketing, technical marketing and support documents. Virtual Quill provides "words to sell by..." Find out more at <u>Virtual Quill</u> or by e-mail at info@vquill.com

Directories archive

Past newsletters.

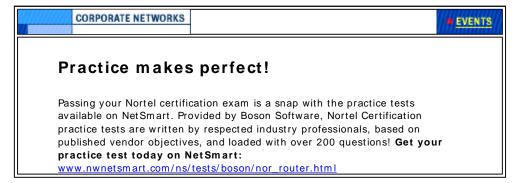
Apply for your free subscription to Network World. <u>Click here</u>. Or get Network World delivered in PDF each week.



Request a reprint or permission to use this article.

To top







Subscription to Network World.

Each week Network World delivers an extensive lineup of product, service and industry news, analysis, case studies, comparative product reviews, product tests, buyers guides, expert opinion and management advice. Subscribe Today - It's FREE!

Click here to Renew your Free Print Subscription to Network World.

Already a subscriber? Keep your FREE issues coming week after week. Renew Today - It's FREE!

CORPORATE NETWORKS

SPONSORSHIP LINKS

Ceonex - Internet Consulting ? Custom Development - Integration -Branding - Design

Hewlett Packard - Top IT sites combine their best insights on a single screen.

Intel - Boost server performance with Intel® Gigabit Network Connections

APC - Avoiding Costs From Oversizing Data Center Infrastructure FREE whitepaper

EMC - Read the analyst white papers on the benefits of EMC automated networked storage.

NETWORK HARMONI - Yes, I want to take the FREE Operation Center Test Drive!

GATEWAY® - Enter for your chance to Win a \$15,000 office technology makeover.

FUSION HOME

CORPORATE NETWORKS

REMOTE NETWORKING SERVICE PROVIDER NETWORKS

Contact us | Terms of Service/Privacy | How to Advertise Reprints and links | Partnerships | Subscribe to NW About Network World, Inc.

Copyright, 1994-2002 Network World, Inc. All rights reserved.

I N Sp



What you f for so mana ident right

Novel

Micro: Direct

Sun (Serve

Other