



Welcome to the Virtual IMS user group newsletter. The Virtual IMS user group at www.fundi.com/virtualims is an independently-operated vendor-neutral site run by and for the IMS user community.

Virtual IMS user group presentation

The latest webinar from the Virtual IMS user group was entitled, "Modernizing IMS", and was presented by GT Software's Principal Technical Architect, Dusty Rivers.

Dusty has an extensive 35-year background in global systems integration and IMS. He's has played an integral role in the design and implementation of distributed mainframe projects for a distinguished list of FORTUNE companies throughout the finance, government, manufacturing, and insurance industries. Dusty is well-regarded within the technology community and is a frequent presenter at conferences in the USA, as well as in Europe, South Africa, and Australia.

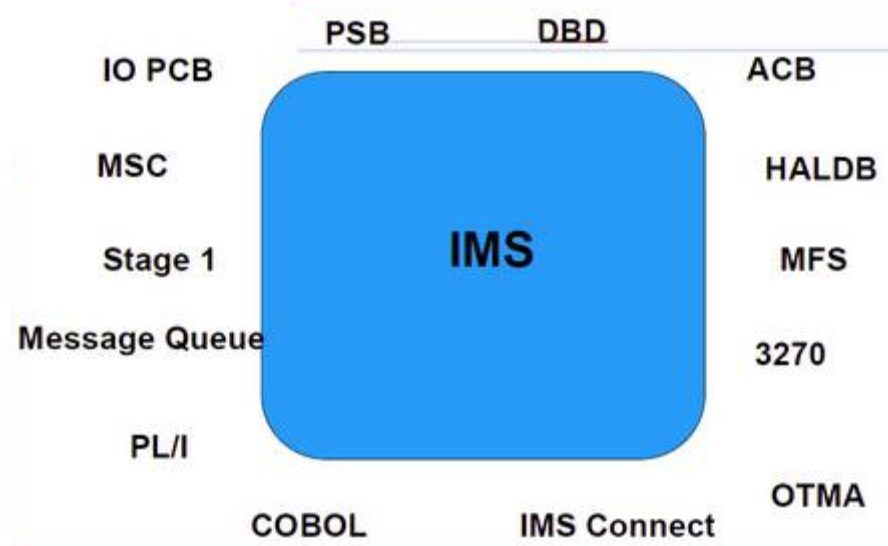


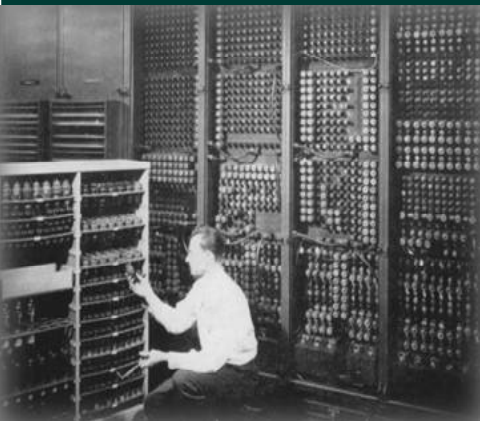
Figure 1: Traditional IMS acronyms

Dusty started by telling the user group that if they had IMS they needed to modernize! And he gave a number of reasons why that is so:

- Need new Web look-and-feel
- Need to get to mainframe data

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- Need to get to mainframe business logic
- Need combinations Of applications
- Need to reduce MIPS
- Need to integrate with new technology.

Figure 1 shows the sort of acronyms a traditional IMS professional would be familiar with. Figure 2 shows the acronyms that the same professional needs to know nowadays.

Mainframe integration issues and opportunities are illustrated in Figure 3. Figure 4 shows cloud to mainframe integration issues.

Dusty told the user group that what was needed was a new development paradigm that integrated a drag-and-drop

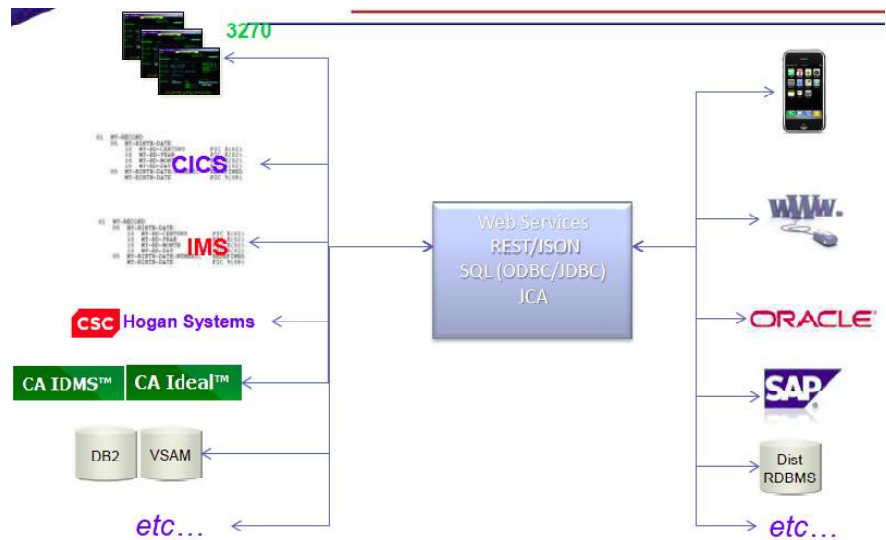


Figure 3: Mainframe integration issues and opportunities

graphical environment (ie no coding was required) and offered WSDL-first design. Users should be able to design once, and deploy 'many', eg Started Task (OTMA), CICS, Linux for System z, Windows (using

IMS Connect), and Linux (using IMS Connect).

Once something is designed , it needs to be available via Web services (WSDL), REST-ful services, JSON (JavaScript Object Notation), and JCA (Java Connector Architecture).

According to Dusty, the hard questions that sites should be asking are:

- Can I get IMS data for use in the new software?
- Can I get IMS transactions easily incorporated into the new software?
- What about the others(CICS,IDMS/DC,IDEAL,NATURAL,etc?)
- Do you have the need for 1 IMS tran per service with no other mainframe artefacts?

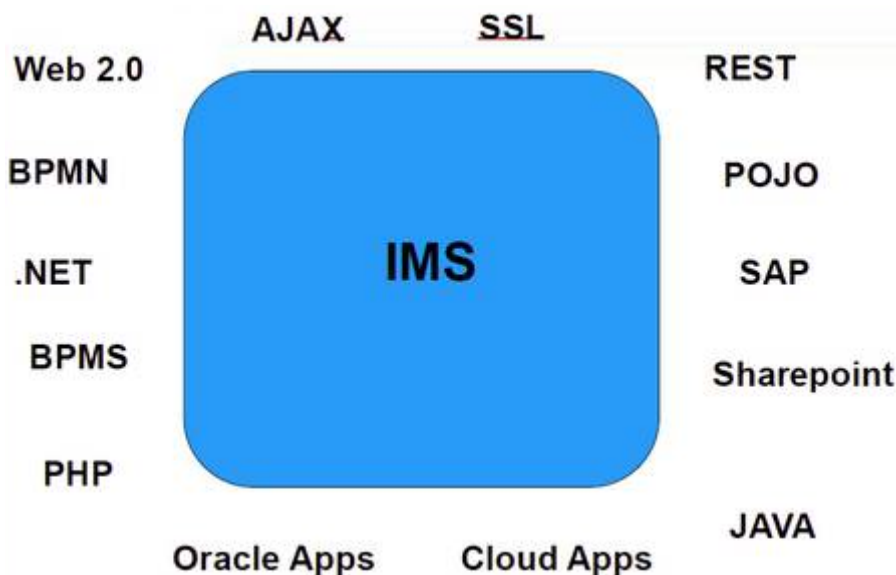


Figure 2: Modern IMS acronyms

- Are you are at the current latest edition/version of IMS?
- Do you only want to run the services strictly on the mainframe?
- Do you only have simple IMS transactions, no conversational IMS transactions?
- Do I need IMS calling out to other distributed systems?

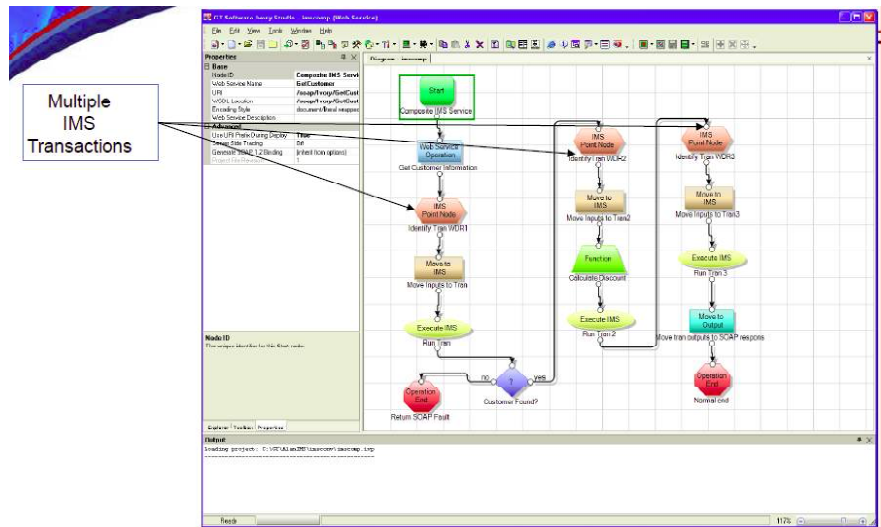


Figure 5: IMS composite as a service

Dusty highlighted some issues with services on the mainframe

- SOAP/XML processing on the GPP = More MIPS
- New compiled programs running on GPP = More MIPS
- More installed programs/products = More Support \$\$\$

- No zIIP or zAAP use the IFL.

Using GT Software's Ivory product as an example, Dusty Rivers assured the group that any software tool used must be able to

- Import WSDL and map correctly

- Generate correct PL/I and COBOL from WSDL

- Easily build usable services.

Clearly these ideas have real world counterparts. Dusty briefly described an example of a banking application used by a bank, a mobile insurance application for agents of an insurance company, and car manufacturing example.

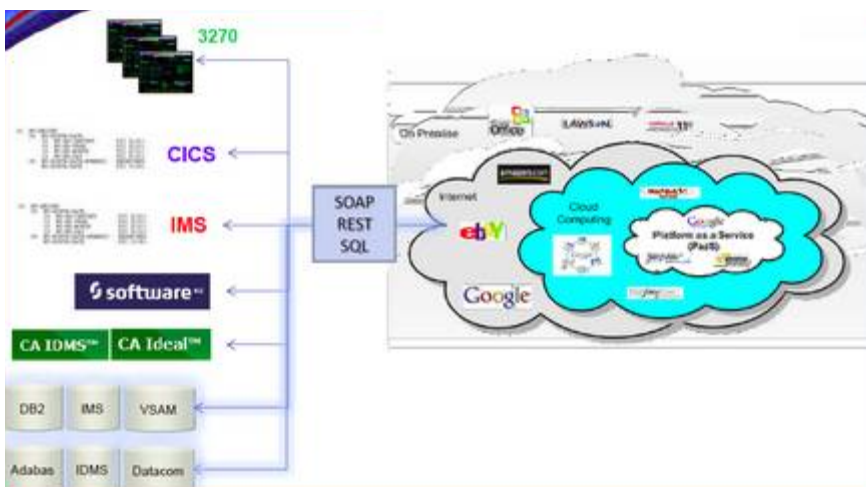


Figure 4: Cloud to mainframe integration issues

Dusty illustrated using Ivory Studio deploying to Linux on System z, Ivory using the zIIP, IMS conversational as service, IMS composite as service (see Figure 5), IMS and CICS in the same service, custom code (MQ and IMS), and IMS calling external services - which could be IMS transactions calling SAP processes, IMS

transactions calling Tandem processes, IMS transactions calling Oracle processes, IMS transactions calling Microsoft Sharepoint, or IMS batch jobs calling distributed services.

A copy of Dusty's presentation is available for download from the Virtual IMS user group Web site at www.fundi.com/virtualims/presentations/ModernizngIMSJun12.pdf.

You can see and hear the whole user group meeting by downloading the WMV file from www.fundi.com/virtualims/presentations/2012-06-12meeting.wmv.

Meeting dates

- 7 August 2012 – SQData's Scott Quillicy
- 9 October 2012 – CA Technologies' Aurora Emanuela Dell'Anno.

IMS news

IBM has announced IBM SmartCloud Enterprise+ mainframe edition, which means that mainframes will be available for its SmartCloud customers later this year. It will support recent releases of z/OS, CICS, DB2, IMS, WebSphereMQ, and WebSphere application server. More information can be found at <http://>

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Recent IMS articles

Sadly, there haven't been any IMS articles since the last issue of this newsletter!

Don't forget that you can stay up-to-date with all that's happening in the IMS world and with what's happening with the Virtual IMS user group by following us on Twitter or finding us on Facebook or joining our group on LinkedIn.

Our special thanks to Fundi Software (www.fundi.com), whose sponsorship makes this user group possible.

About the Virtual IMS user group

The Virtual IMS user group was established as a way for individuals using IBM's IMS hierarchical database and transaction processing systems to exchange information, learn new techniques, and advance their skills with the product.

The Web site at www.fundi.com/virtualims provides a central point for coordinating periodic meetings (which contain technically-oriented topics presented in a webinar format), and provides articles, discussions, links, and other resources of interest to IBM IMS practitioners. Anyone with an interest in IMS is welcome to join the Virtual IMS user group and share in the knowledge exchange.

To share ideas, and for further information, contact trevor@itech-ed.com.

The Virtual IMS user group is free to its members.