Secant's ModelMethods Software in stride with OMG's MDA™ Initiative

This past spring, Secant Technologies launched its ModelMethods™ Software, one of the first products on the market that clearly follows OMG's Model Driven Architecture™ methodology. That is, ModelMethods strives to provide a solution to the challenge of interoperability, building upon and leveraging the value of OMG's adopted modeling standard, the Unified Modeling Language™ (UML™). Platform-independent Application descriptions built using this modeling standard can be realized using any major open or proprietary platform, including CORBA®, Java, .NET, XMI™/XML, and Web-Based platforms.
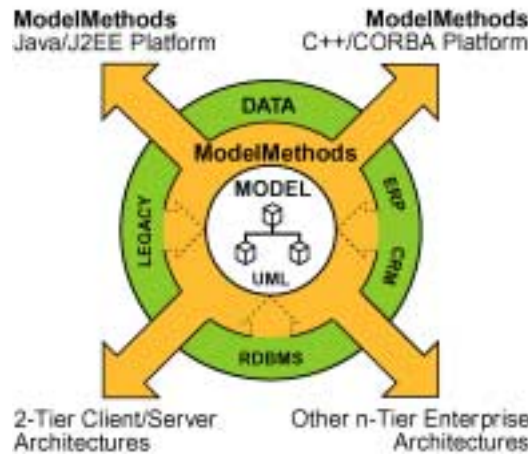
"The OMG's Model Driven Architecture initiative goes beyond middleware to provide a comprehensive, structured solution for application interoperability and portability into the future. Secant's ModelMethods suite of software provides a good example for the practicality of this vision," said OMG's chairman and CEO, Richard Soley.

The ModelMethods software enables developers to automatically generate up to 80% of the code for Java™ (J2EE™ 1.2) and C++ applications from a model in the Rational Rose® or TogetherSoft Control Center™ UML tools. These applications can then be deployed, managed and exponentially scaled on the ModelMethods distributed application server platform.

Future functionality planned for the ModelMethods software includes the model-driven generation and run-time support of code for business rules and workflow processes, support for XML™, and the ability to build, power and evolve Java/J2EE 1.3 and C#/.NET applications.

"We have long recognized the need for, and provided solutions based upon, a model-driven platform-independent approach," stated John Pompeii, chief technology officer of Secant. "Secant is pleased to support the OMG's Model Driven Architecture initiative and their efforts to advance the standards for functionality that can be realized in existing and future releases of our ModelMethods software. In the future, it is our intent to evolve our

technology to generate nearly 100% of the code for all major current and future middleware platforms."

Secant's ModelMethods architecture for building, powering and evolving custom software applications.

In January, ModelMethods (formerly named the Extreme Enterprise Server) won a 2001 Crossroads A-List award from Open System Advisors, Inc. of Boston, Massachusetts. Secant received the award for "Model-Driven Infrastructure for Custom e-Business Applications" within the Business and Technology Infrastructure category. In addition to its ability to accelerate the time-to-market of custom applications through use of Java and C++ code generation from UML, "Secant delivers a good financial value for businesses in several respects. It uses hardware efficiently, its clustering provides fail-over for increased robustness, and the administration costs are low. The applications developed in UML are flexible and extensible," said Nina G. Lytton, president of Open Systems Advisors, Inc. and editor of the Crossroads A-List Awards.

The Crossroads A-List Awards focus on enterprise computing, the integrated system supporting the business process from the supply chain through the back office all the way to customer interaction. Winners are determined after a detailed review of the vendors' products or services and strategies. In-depth, confidential interviews with experienced customers are the cornerstone of the judgment process.

As an example of Secant's acceptance in the market, Incyte Genomics used Secant's ModelMethods Model-Driven Infrastructure™ software as the foundation for developing the Genomics Knowledge Platform, a software environment that represents a major breakthrough for life sciences research. Incyte's Genomics Knowledge Platform (GKP) enables developers to rapidly build applications for the platform using Secant's extensive code generation technology which is integrated in the Rational Rose® UML tool. "Secant's technologies have been key to the success of our new Genomic Knowledge Platform enabling us to efficiently map complex biological models to our multiple genomic information sets," said Roy Whitfield, Incyte's chief executive officer.

OMG's members are excited about MDA and the hope is that companies like Secant will start a undeniable momentum to bring newer and better products to the marketplace, creating more solutions and less headaches for companies.