

ArcStyler 3.0 enables migration to Model Driven Architecture world

Interactive Objects automatically generates corresponding UML model elements

Sausalito, CA, September 23, 2002 – The new ArcStyler 3.0, Interactive Objects' proven and award-winning development platform, is again setting net standards in the area of architectural IDEs (Integrated Development Environments) for Model Driven Architecture™ (MDA).

“In addition to numerous extensions which render the entire development process even easier and more efficient, ArcStyler 3.0 now provides a module which enables the migration of existing applications to the future-oriented MDA world,” said Richard Hubert, the founder and CEO of Interactive Objects. “This breaks completely new ground in terms of productivity, quality and future-safety in the developer and architect community.”

Since its first launch in 2000, ArcStyler has not only received many international technology awards, it has also proven itself in a great variety of large-scale development projects at renowned customers such as Deutsche Bank Bauspar AG or National Austrian Railways (ÖBB). These projects have shown that the ArcStyler's model driven approach allows organizations to attain high and fast ROI through complete decoupling of the business logic and the implementation technology for platform independence, as well as maximum automation within the framework of completely open, standard technologies for high productivity at superior quality levels. The new ArcStyler version not only offers numerous technological innovations, the optimized functionalities also greatly benefit from the practical experiences gained in real-life projects. With this product, Interactive Objects further consolidates its position as the leading supplier of professional MDA tools.

ArcStyler is the first Architectural IDE to fully support the compelling approach of Model Driven Architecture™ (MDA), the Object Management Group's (OMG) standard for future-safe software development. The first step in the development of a software system is to model its business logic with an open, standardized language (UML). This platform-independent model is then refined in several automated transformation steps by

the technical details for the implementation platform(s), which results in cleanly separated, precise models at various levels of abstraction. Finally, the code and infrastructure for the entire system, including Web clients and Services, deployment and test infrastructure, are automatically generated on the basis of these platform-specific models. ArcStyler supports all transformation steps along this chain by means of semi- or fully automatic generation with so-called MDA-Automation-Cartridges which contain the platform-specific technological details. This enables development teams to create verifiable, precise and compatible designs and relieves organizations from the necessity to hire costly experts for each and every new implementation technology. Team members can fully concentrate on the implementation of the business logic, and IT managers can always be assured that the delivered systems meet exactly defined compatibility and quality criteria.

In order to allow existing applications to benefit from the high architectural standards supported by MDA, ArcStyler 3.0 now features a new module, the MDA-Enabler. This module parses existing Java sources and EJB archives to automatically generate the corresponding UML model elements, thus enabling rapid and cost-efficient migration to MDA compliant standards. ArcStyler 3.0 also comes with new and extended standard MDA-Cartridges which automatically generate optimized code and infrastructure for the leading Java Application Servers (BEA, IBM, IONA and Borland). A standard MDA-Cartridge for the .NET infrastructure will ship soon. Complete server configuration and intelligent defaults ensure fast results. ArcStyler 3.0 also supports the free JBoss application server. Together with the free ArcStyler evaluation license, this allows users to verify the suitability of the complete system at no risk at all.

Interactive Objects has equipped ArcStyler 3.0 with further automation features for improved quality and increased productivity in other areas as well. In addition to the unique, patented Verifier Framework, which enables the verification of models and code for just-in-time debugging at all stages of the development process, the JUnit test tool has been integrated in ArcStyler. This enables rapid modeling, generation and execution of test cases and assures a level of quality unprecedented in software development.

The superior flexibility of the ArcStyler approach also results from the open concept and the extensibility of the MDA-Cartridges. In a number of projects, the standard MDA-Cartridges were adapted or new MDA-Cartridges created so that ArcStyler could be used for the generation of code for legacy or customer-specific infrastructures. The ArcStyler MDA-Cartridges are fully MDA-compliant and can be flexibly adapted to basically any infrastructure. ArcStyler 3.0 features a unique MDA-Programming IDE enabling consultants and lead developers to extend the MDA support or deliver their own specialty MDA-Cartridges, for example for development and integration of applications for legacy systems and business connectivity platforms such as COBOL, Host, SAP and CORBA.

"ArcStyler 3.0 finally brings the full production line approach to software development: fast, predictable and of superior quality," says Frederik Schlenker, Managing Director at Interactive Objects. "This assures quick return on investment."

About Interactive Objects Software

Interactive Objects Software GmbH, founded in 1990, has built a solid reputation as a front-runner in the field of IT architecture by consistently delivering award-winning architectural platforms and services to global industry leaders. In 2000, Interactive Objects introduced the ArcStyler architectural platform. The ArcStyler is an Architectural DIE which supports Model Driven Architecture (MDA) as standardized by the Object Management Group (OMG). The ArcStyler supports UML-driven development of complete four-tier J2EE/EJB systems and Web Services for the leading application servers. The ArcStyler maintains a clear focus on adding architectural value by complementing best-of-breed tools such as Rational Rose and JBuilder, instead of competing with them. Not only does the ArcStyler boast a rapidly growing list of repeat customers (leaders in the financial services, telecommunications, manufacturing industries and public sector), it is also the winner of numerous national and international awards. For further information, references, tutorials and downloads consult our Web site <http://www.io-software.com>.

PR CONTACT:

Tim Boivin
Media Relations Manager
Tech Image, Ltd.
847.632.0040, ext. 229
tim.boivin@techimage.com