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Online chat transcript, April 23, 2009, 12:00 pm-1:00 pm U.S. Eastern time

Topic: *Best practices for SOA governance with WebSphere Service Registry and Repository*

Hosted by:

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Duncan Clark ([dgclark](#))

Arnaud Desprets ([Desprets](#))

Michael Ellis ([ms_ellis](#))

Laura Olson ([LauraO](#))

(Note: The time stamp shown in the transcript below is U.S. Pacific time.)

[04/23/2009] 8:59 [tomyoung](#): Hello everyone, thanks for attending today's "Meet the experts" chat. I'm Tom Young with developerWorks, and I'm here with **Andre Tost, Duncan Clark, Arnaud Desprets, Michael Ellis, and Laura Olson** to answer your questions about best practices for SOA governance with WebSphere Service Registry and Repository. I'd like to ask the experts to introduce themselves, and then the floor will be open for questions. We'll be ending the chat at 1 p.m. Eastern time. We'll post a link to the transcript after the chat is over, at http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/websphere/library/chats/0904_soachat/0904_soachat.html

[04/23/2009] 9:00 [ms_ellis](#): I'm a Solution Architect in IBM Software Services for WebSphere and live in Ottawa, Canada. My specialties are Web services, SOA architecture, and SOA governance. I spend most of my time helping IBM customers to deploy, configure and use WSRR these days develop SOA reference architectures and to implement solutions based on them.

[04/23/2009] 9:00 [dgclark](#): I'm an Architect with responsibility for Governance in WebSphere Service Registry and Repository. I have been in this role since the conception of WSRR in 2006 and recently also been the architect responsible for Policy Management and recommended practices that come with WSRR in the form of profiles.

[04/23/2009] 9:02 [LauraO](#): I'm an expert in SOA governance registries and repositories. As an IBM Certified Consulting IT Specialist, I have architected and developed numerous SOA solutions involving federation of SOA Governance in heterogeneous environments for customers.

[04/23/2009] 9:02 [andrerstmn](#): I am Andre Tost, a Senior Technical Staff Member with Software Services for WebSphere. I spend my time helping customers establish SOAs with IBM products, predominantly WebSphere, of course, and a large part of my engagements involves governance, too.

[04/23/2009] 9:02 [Desprets](#): I'm Arnaud Desprets, Senior Certified IT Architect with IBM Software Services for WebSphere in France at a Pan EMEA level. I have over 10 years of consulting with companies. I specialize in SOA and Web services, especially in

WS-Security. My latest interest is on the role of governance and the registry, including WebSphere Service Registry and Repository in a SOA.

[04/23/2009] 9:04 [ms ellis](#): Does anyone have any immediate concerns for their efforts with WSRR?

[04/23/2009] 9:05 [Desprets](#): I'm looking for some experience on using WSRR and enforcing SLA management.

[04/23/2009] 9:07 [MatthewC](#): I have a question about IBM strategy regarding the relationship between IBM and WebLayers, in regards to governance. Given that WSRR also has built in governance, how do you see the strategy evolving with WebLayers?

[04/23/2009] 9:07 [Desprets](#): Like I want to specify in WSRR the number of authorized requests per month, but then have WESB stopping any further request.

[04/23/2009] 9:09 [ms ellis](#): @Desprets: There are two aspects to your question of course, the manner in which you specify the SLA information in WSRR (the policy management) and the consumption and enforcement of that policy.

[04/23/2009] 9:09 [dgclark](#): @MatthewC; Hi Matthew - WebLayers works with IBM as a business partner and provides a wide range of service lifecycle governance policies and enforcement that help give an overall view of service stability.

[04/23/2009] 9:10 [ms ellis](#): @Desprets: To my knowledge, we do not have an open standard for expressing volumetric policy.

[04/23/2009] 9:11 [dgclark](#): @MatthewC - They are particularly appropriate in situations where the service lifecycle tooling crosses several products (from different organizations) as they have plugins to connect with a wide variety of solutions.

[04/23/2009] 9:13 [MattO](#): I have a question, "What are the challenges you see in the field around SOA governance?" And as a follow up, "What makes SOA governance unique? As opposed to other IT governance domains."

[04/23/2009] 9:14 [ms ellis](#): @Desprets: I am assuming that you are not referring to throttling, throttling is more appropriately handled with Datapower. Total volume limiting can be implemented with the combination of WSRR and Tivoli CAM for SOA.

[04/23/2009] 9:15 [sculthr](#): Could you discuss the steps necessary to customize the WSRR GUI based on restriction to role and the governance state of the artifacts (such as the WSDL or XSD)?

[04/23/2009] 9:15 [dgclark](#): @MatthewC - WSRR focuses on SOA governance across the service lifecycle, especially related to the metadata that is used to represent the services and thus used by the runtimes/ESBs. The semantics of WSRR policies are focused on with this metadata and therefore will complement WebLayers.

[04/23/2009] 9:16 [andrerstmn](#): @MattO - I'd say one very practical challenge around WSRR is to determine whether to use it for runtime, or for development time, or for overall governance within the development process, or all of the above

[04/23/2009] 9:16 [MatthewC](#): @dgclark - OK, thanks

[04/23/2009] 9:17 [Desprets](#): @Michael - We have both throttling and blocking, the idea is to have DataPower as a WS gateway for the throttling and we have WESB to block it. What you say is that the counting of the request can be done using ITCAM for SOA, which will update a WSRR property that will then be used by WESB. What do you think about counting the requests in WESB?

[04/23/2009] 9:19 [MatthewC](#): What is WESB?

[04/23/2009] 9:19 [andrerstmn](#): WebSphere ESB

[04/23/2009] 9:19 [ms ellis](#): @MatthewC: WESB = WebSphere Enterprise Service Bus

[04/23/2009] 9:20 [narenreddy](#): Where is the dividing line between WSRR and WSRR/RAM?

[04/23/2009] 9:20 [anderstmn](#): It has support for integrating with WSRR at runtime, for example, to look up the endpoint address of a service and route a request message accordingly.

[04/23/2009] 9:20 [Desprets](#): @sculthr - UI customization includes two aspects: 1) effectively what you want to show a property, a specific entity, 2) but, there is another aspect driven by the permissions as well, so you could create permissions to forbid the retrieval of specific entities, or manage those entities for this specific role.

[04/23/2009] 9:21 [dgclark](#): @MatthewC - So we see the capabilities of WSRR evolving over time to meet the core SOA governance need, especially related to the IBM runtime infrastructures. We will also see more development time SOA governance being brought in from Rational and also an alignment with ITIL and IT Governance being brought in from Tivoli - WebLayers will continue to provide integration and their value proposition - there will be some overlap, but opportunities for both to add value - hope that helps.

[04/23/2009] 9:21 [MatthewC](#): @Desprets: the scenario that ITCAM for SOA would update WSRR, then WSRR passes that info to be used by WESB assumes you have WSRR in a runtime environment. In some implementations, that isn't a possibility due to the volume and response time needed.

[04/23/2009] 9:21 [ms ellis](#): @Desprets: One of the challenges we run into when using WESB is that these implementations are typically clustered and the state must be shared across the cluster - and survive server failures. We can certainly build a configuration that can manage this using Object Grid, but this is a somewhat complex solution when other, simpler solutions are possible.

[04/23/2009] 9:21 [MatthewC](#): @Desprets: The connection between WSRR and a DataPower or WESB may not be dynamic, but rather loosely coupled.

[04/23/2009] 9:22 [LauraO](#): @sculthr: First, you need to define your roles. Determine which roles can view which type of information. Then you define the perspectives. You then map the roles to the perspectives. For each perspective, you can define specific detail and collections view, which only show the metadata you wish for them to see. Then you can assign permissions to the roles based on classifications. The governance states in WSRR are represented by classifications. This is high level overview.

[04/23/2009] 9:22 [mikeCsees](#): @Andre... further to the "practical challenges", where an investment has already been made to customize WSRR for *development* time use, is it typically a similar level of effort to customize (model, policies, etc.) for *runtime* use?

[04/23/2009] 9:23 [dgclark](#): @narenreddy - Hi, regarding dividing line between RAM and WSRR

[04/23/2009] 9:24 [narenreddy](#): @dgclark: yes

[04/23/2009] 9:25 [Desprets](#): @MatthewC: WSRR is positioned to be in the runtime. If performance is a concern, there are techniques to handle that: clustering, but more importantly, use of cache in the mediation points.

[04/23/2009] 9:25 [dgclark](#): @narenreddy - WSRR is a registry focused on providing SOA governance focused on the runtimes and ESBs, for example, cataloging the deployed services as defined by metadata. The focus is on understanding and controlling

that metadata WSDLs, schemas, and other metadata to achieve the business agility safely that SOA offers.

[04/23/2009] 9:25 [ms ellis](#): @MatthewC: The sort of SLA @Desprets is asking about does not have a low latency requirement in my experience. Generally, we are talking about orders of magnitudes vs. an exact number of requests. I would agree that the IT-CAM SOA + WESB solution is not appropriate for low latency requirements.

[04/23/2009] 9:26 [andrerstmn](#): @mikeCsees - Well, I'd say the bigger effort lies in setting up the runtime queries and ensuring you get the right information - you may have to write code to issue a query against WSRR, you probably want to cache the result, etc. That is typically more work than customizing the registry itself - it depends on what information you are looking for, of course.

[04/23/2009] 9:29 [dgclark](#): @narenreddy - RAM provides governance for development or other assets. This includes all the detailed design and implementation information associated with the services. By bundling all this information as an asset, services can also be represented in RAM, BUT these services are not deployed services - they are deployable services.

[04/23/2009] 9:29 [mikeCsees](#): @Andre: thanks

[04/23/2009] 9:30 [narenreddy](#): @dgclark: thanks

[04/23/2009] 9:30 [dgclark](#): @narenreddy So, for complete service lifecycle management, you actually need a federated set of registries. You need a development / asset registry to include all the detailed design information, more to come.

[04/23/2009] 9:30 [GeneS](#): I have a question about WSRR topology for distributed environments. Does IBM have recommendations for multiple sites with their own WSRR instances that should be combined in a global registry?

[04/23/2009] 9:31 [andrerstmn](#): @mikeCsees - Another comment I would want to make is that as soon as you try to make runtime decisions based on real time situation, it gets yet more complex, of course - for example, if you want to route messages based on current system load and real time response time, you have to capture that information, store it in the registry, and then query it at runtime - this is not trivial to do.

[04/23/2009] 9:32 [narenreddy](#): How do we synchronize two WSRR instances?

[04/23/2009] 9:33 [ms ellis](#): @GeneS: What sort of global registry are you looking at? Are you looking at a federated registry where each one holds a part of the picture?

[04/23/2009] 9:34 [dgclark](#): @narenreddy - You need a change management registry to manage your deployments and mapping onto your environments and platforms (for example, Tivoli CCMDB), and then you need a way to bring this together with the runtime registry - this is the offering we provide with WSRR - ALE that combines both RAM and WSRR in a single solution.

[04/23/2009] 9:34 [LauraO](#): @narenreddy - What is the use case behind the synchronization of the two WSRR instances? For example, is one a development environment and the next a production?

[04/23/2009] 9:34 [dgclark](#): @narenreddy - Hope this answers your question. Laura will take your second question.

[04/23/2009] 9:34 [MattO](#): @andre: When you say it's not trivial to do... I wonder, is it even realistic to do "Real Time" feedback in a registry?

[04/23/2009] 9:36 [Mani Kaiser](#): To IBM - Can you comment on the current and future role played by WebLayers in governance using WSRR?

[04/23/2009] 9:36 [ms ellis](#): @GeneS: Generally speaking, each Governance registry is responsible for a Governance Domain. What is the relationship of your global locations to your organization of Governance Domains?

[04/23/2009] 9:36 [LauraO](#): @MattO - ITCAM for SOA publishes metrics into WSRR. This is not "real time" in terms of transactions through.

[04/23/2009] 9:37 [narenreddy](#): @LauraO: for high availability

[04/23/2009] 9:37 [dgclark](#): @Main Kaiser - I have provided some similar answers earlier in the chat.

[04/23/2009] 9:38 [ms ellis](#): @GeneS: In general, I would want to understand the inter-relationships of your governance domains in order to determine the "best" approach to setting up your global solution.

[04/23/2009] 9:38 [dgclark](#): @Main Kaiser - Will paste my answers in again here if you like?

[04/23/2009] 9:38 [GeneS](#): We are looking for a federated registry where each site holds a part of the picture, but there should be a global instance that would reference these local registries (this is a model of DNS). The idea is to have the ability to call services marked as "global" - and the call will be routed to an appropriate site.

[04/23/2009] 9:39 [narenreddy](#): For IBM, why don't you guys start a WSRR forum???

[04/23/2009] 9:39 [andrerstmn](#): Good question! 😊

[04/23/2009] 9:40 [Mani Kaiser](#): @dgclark - If this topic has already been discussed, could you please email me at radhakrishnan.manikandan@kp.org?

[04/23/2009] 9:40 [LauraO](#): @narenreddy - For high availability, it would be handled by the cluster capabilities of WAS ND and HACMP capabilities out of the box.

[04/23/2009] 9:41 [ms ellis](#): @GeneS: When you say "routed", are you referring to the WSRR query or to the final service request? Are you asking how to send our a single WSRR query that traverses several registries?

[04/23/2009] 9:41 [narenreddy](#): @LauraO - We want to use standalone servers.

[04/23/2009] 9:42 [andrerstmn](#): @narenreddy's forum question - I think we'll take that as an action item - we are not aware of a public forum on WSRR, but it shouldn't be too hard to create one.

[04/23/2009] 9:42 [Desprets](#): @narenreddy - There is a program called EAP (Early Access Program) that allows you to have deep insight on WSRR and get iterations of the product before it is GAed, this program has a forum. I agree that this is not exactly what you are asking.

[04/23/2009] 9:43 [LauraO](#): @narenreddy - Are you using two databases or is it two standalone service referring to the same DB?

[04/23/2009] 9:43 [Mani Kaiser](#): @naveenreddy,@LauraO - Are we talking about promotion process? Wouldn't the DB level replication achieve the same?

[04/23/2009] 9:43 [narenreddy](#): @andrerstmn: Thanks

[04/23/2009] 9:43 [dgclark](#): @Mani Kaiser - on it's way

[04/23/2009] 9:44 [narenreddy](#): @ two DBs

[04/23/2009] 9:45 [LauraO](#): @Mani Kaiser and narenreddy: You can't do it at a DB replication level to achieve it. But yes, if you have two WSRR, you can move content between them via promotion capabilities or import/export capabilities. There are considerations you must think of in each situation.

[04/23/2009] 9:46 [GeneS](#): When I say "routed", I refer to the actual service call - not to the WSRR lookup. I am asking how to check my local WSRR for the service that is deployed remotely, and how many hoops do I have to go through?

[04/23/2009] 9:46 [ms ellis](#): @GeneS: Today, WSRR cannot federate a query. We could certainly create some custom behavior (external to registry) that could accomplish this.

[04/23/2009] 9:47 [LauraO](#): @narenreddy: Is one instance the primary instance? How often does the second instance need to be updated?

[04/23/2009] 9:48 [narenreddy](#): @LauraO: I want to keep them at the same level.

[04/23/2009] 9:49 [GeneS](#): OK, what would be the alternative solution for my scenario?

[04/23/2009] 9:49 [ms ellis](#): @GeneS: Ok, so you want to hold (in the registry) information about the network "cost" of calling the service and have ESBs in each GEO route based on this (+ any other salient) information.

[04/23/2009] 9:49 [GeneS](#): Yes

[04/23/2009] 9:50 [narenreddy](#): @LauraO: The Promotion with CGP is taking too long.

[04/23/2009] 9:52 [GeneS](#): Different topic - what policies does it make sense to manage in WSRR vs. TAM, TSPM, DataPower, or WAS?

[04/23/2009] 9:53 [ms ellis](#): @GeneS: The architecture we would typically use to do this is a somewhat typical runtime configuration of WSRR, i.e. a centralized Governance cluster interacting with several runtime clusters (geographically distributed).

[04/23/2009] 9:54 [LauraO](#): @narenreddy: Have you tried using custom notifications to update the secondary server?

[04/23/2009] 9:55 [GeneS](#): @ms ellis: So do we have to have a set of local governance WSRR instances, in addition to centralized governance instance/cluster?

[04/23/2009] 9:55 [narenreddy](#): @LauraO: No. I will try that. Thanks.

[04/23/2009] 9:56 [dgclark](#): @Gene S: Policy usage in WSRR - First point really is to determine the role of the policy and the level of configurability that you want to achieve over time - i.e. it's a tradeoff between infrastructure integrity and business agility.

[04/23/2009] 9:57 [Greg Scott](#): An easy q: Will this whole history be saved and can we get a copy? If so, how?

[04/23/2009] 9:57 [LauraO](#): @narenreddy: You need to be careful on entity creates though, because if you call a create using the APIs on a secondary server, it will get a different bsuri. So you will need to use a combination of either promotion or import/export and the custom notification.

[04/23/2009] 9:57 [tomyoung](#): Hi all, we only have about 3 minutes left, so if anyone has any final questions or comments, please jump in.

[04/23/2009] 9:58 [narenreddy](#): What is the best practice to customize Governance Profile

[04/23/2009] 9:59 [dgclark](#): @Gene S - If you want to use WSRR to provide configurable policies then you MUST design in the enforcement points in your architecture and mediations and the manner in which the registry policies are retrieved and enforced.

[04/23/2009] 9:59 [tomyoung](#): @All: we'll post a transcript of today's chat here:

http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/websphere/library/chats/0904_soachat/0904_soachat.html

[04/23/2009] 9:59 [ms ellis](#): @GeneS: The risk you face with running multiple Governance Instances is that parallel updates of the same entities will cause problems. You would need to deploy policies on each that restrict updates to locally controlled information.

[04/23/2009] 9:59 [Mani Kaiser](#): Back to the forum question. Given that WSRR is relatively new and fast-evolving, it should tremendously help to have the users of WSRR to be able to share ideas. I'm aware of a Datapower user group that meets quarterly.

[04/23/2009] 10:01 [GeneS](#): I definitely agree on WSRR forum needs!

[04/23/2009] 10:01 [dgclark](#): @Gene S - This then implies that for security policies, you are probably initially going to delegate the policies to an infrastructure component like WAS / MB policy sets, or set it up manually in DP.

[04/23/2009] 10:01 [narenreddy](#): YES

[04/23/2009] 10:01 [andrerstmn](#): @all - I'll take that to do - I'm not sure how to announce such a forum, though.

[04/23/2009] 10:02 [narenreddy](#): What is the best practice to customize Governance Profile?

[04/23/2009] 10:02 [dgclark](#): @Gene S – If, however, you want to think about supporting many different forms of policy through some generic endpoint / gateway / mediation / DP box, then it would be more appropriate to store in WSRR - hope that helps.

[04/23/2009] 10:02 [GeneS](#): Who from WSRR "expert group" will be participating at the Impact conference?

[04/23/2009] 10:04 [andrerstmn](#): @GeneS: Laura and I will

[04/23/2009] 10:04 [ms ellis](#): @GeneS: Duncan Clark also will

[04/23/2009] 10:04 [GeneS](#): OK, I might ask our people to meet with you.

[04/23/2009] 10:04 [andrerstmn](#): @GeneS: Okay, thanks, Mike - GeneS, let us know if you want to get together there.

[04/23/2009] 10:05 [andrerstmn](#): Feel free to send note to andretost@us.ibm.com.

[04/23/2009] 10:05 [GeneS](#): Thanks!

[04/23/2009] 10:05 [LauraO](#): @Gene I believe the Dean P might be setting up something.

[04/23/2009] 10:06 [ms ellis](#): @GeneS: You're welcome, thank you for your interest (and challenging questions).

[04/23/2009] 10:06 [ms ellis](#): Bye everyone

[04/23/2009] 10:07 [andrerstmn](#): Bye and thanks

[04/23/2009] 10:07 [tomyoung](#): Our time is up, so we're going to end the discussion here.

THANKS to everyone for participating. We'll post a transcript of today's chat here:

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[04/23/2009] 10:07 [LauraO](#): Bye

[04/23/2009] 10:07 [Desprets](#): Bye everyone

[04/23/2009] 10:07 [dgclark](#): Cheers