Advanced Technology Seminar 6

Business Process Management Systems

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Abstract

Business process automation is what e-business is all about. The essence of an "electronically" powered business is its ability to streamline operations, making information available where and when it is needed, thus increasing customer satisfaction and improving efficiency and effectiveness. However, implementing a solution for automating business processes presents significant difficulties at the business and technical levels. Through the years, enterprises have adopted various means for automating processes, from hand-coding a solution to using integration products and middleware technologies. The key characteristics for each of these solutions are that they are proprietary, expensive and complex. Additionally, they require a lot of time and a high skill set in order to succeed in an integration initiative. Fortunately, recent technical developments have come together that promise a dramatic increase in the ability of businesses to describe, change, and execute business processes, both within the enterprise and across the networked enterprise. There will be a new breed of Business Process Management Systems (BPMS) that support the management of end-to-end transactional and collaboration processes: discovery, design, deployment, execution, interaction, operation/maintenance, analysis and optimization. BPM is emerging as a key enabler of collaborative commerce. In this seminar, we will comprehensively look at the emerging field of Business Process Management Systems (BPMS). We will study different steps of BPM, the underlying technologies (workflow, rules, data and application integration etc.), process based architectures and tools, and case studies illustrating the benefits of BPM.

Anil Nori has over 20 years of experience in building complex database and eBusiness systems. Anil Nori is a Software Architect at Microsoft Corporation. Previously, he was co-founder and CTO of Asera Inc., which provides eBusiness solutions supported by a platform and tools for development, deployment and management of enterprise business processes. Prior to Asera, Anil was at Oracle as a Database Server Architect for Oracle8 and Oracle8i database systems. Before that, Anil was a Database Architect for DEC Rdb database products, where he was involved in the development of centralized and distributed DBMS products. Anil started his career at Computer Corporation of America as a Computer Scientist. Anil is actively involved in the database research community. He has published papers at ICDE, SIGMOD, VLDB and Industry conferences. He has been on the program committees. He presented tutorials at SIGMOD, VLDB and ICDE conferences. He has a good research and development mix.