

## Press Release

### Is J2EE the document management answer?

In the document management (DM) market, the key players are always trying to add more functionality, improve scalability and play catch-up with each other. The most recent trend has seen DM vendors going down the Java 2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE) route and moving away from proprietary architecture.

In the DM arena, iManage was an early adopter of J2EE for its Worksite MP product — launched in early 2002 — providing the first content management server built to open computing standards of J2EE, from the ground up. Other vendors have had to modify their technology.

Documentum version 5, launched in the third quarter of last year, fully embraced J2EE, where the previous versions integrated with J2EE application servers, but still required proprietary infrastructure.

Currently Hummingbird DM utilises a Dcom platform for its multi-tier application architecture, but there are signs of a move towards J2EE and .NET. The latter option would leave them restricted to a Microsoft environment, while the former would provide a more open solution. Key advantages for Hummingbird would be greater scalability, stability and performance; the move would also put Hummingbird DM on a par with competitors that already conform to J2EE standards.

As part of the move to J2EE, Hummingbird is also considering further development of its in-house Java server pages (JSP) platform 'Vorlon' which is used to further reduce the products' dependency on Microsoft. This would enable it to have a single Java Servlet-based architecture for all its products.

In the case of iManage, the Java-based version of WorkSite extends the company's all-in-one offerings to a wider audience that may have been untapped until now.

Documentum's notion is to create a platform for building content-rich applications through its web services (J2EE) framework. By unifying the concept that the business focus is where data and content mix, this will offer the users a service that understands how both aspects interact.

So what will be the next step for these vendors now that their applications are becoming more platform independent? The ability to pick and mix the offerings from different vendors so that the user is in full control of getting what they want rather than being confined to one vendor? If they are truly embracing the open source strategy, then vendors need to develop solutions that are easily and seamlessly integrated with other applications that complement their own. This will diminish the hold some vendors have on their clients, especially those whose product portfolio offers a range of business solutions.

### About imus

imus is an independent London based management consultancy and technology organization, specializing in Intellectual Asset Management. The comprehensive management of knowledge within an organisation is our core business. With a clear grasp of the challenges faced by organisations today, imus is able to provide all the services required to help our customers manage and retain their intellectual capital by delivering and deploying a Knowledge Based Solution successfully.

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