Dextrus Prosoft as Project JXTA Spotlight Company

written by Manoj Khanna | July 13, 2005

Dextrus Prosoft is featured under developer spotlight on the Project JXTA website for next two weeks. Our current open source product "SENTINEL" is part of that spotlight. To learn more about our open source projects please visit here.

Some FAQs about JXTA

Q: What is Project JXTA?

A: Project JXTA started as a research project incubated at Sun Microsystems under the guidance of Bill Joy and Mike Clary. Its goal is to explore a vision of distributed network computing using peer-to-peer topology, and to develop basic building blocks and services that would enable innovative applications for peer groups. The project specification and implementation code can be found at http://www.jxta.org/. This open source project is licensed under the Apache Software License, encouraging others to join in the effort. The project is evolving daily.

Q: What does "JXTA" stand for?

A: JXTA is short for Juxtapose, as in side by side. It is a recognition that peer to peer is juxtapose to client server or Web based computing – what is considered today's traditional computing model.

Q: What is peer-to-peer (P2P)?

A: Peer-to-peer is a style of computing that allows any device to interact with any other computer on the network. In effect, P2P turns every device into both a client and a server, enabling a much more symmetrical and decentralized communications model for applications, services and users.

For more FAQs, please visit Project JXTA.

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Open Source Initiatives: Project Participations & IT Grants

written by Manoj Khanna | July 13, 2005

We are pleased to be part of this growing community of open source. At the core we are indebted towards the large technology community which has offered numerous opportunities and has created many careers in past close to a century now. Since the early 1990s there has been a growing trend towards community based development. And over the past several years it has being going stronger and stronger. And its still growing stronger and lot of bigger enterprises have started to buy-in into the concept of Open Source development. And not far behind is everyone's favorite company 'Microsoft'…sort of. Times do get changed.

From UNIX to Linux, the community based development has traveled far and wide. With the birth of internet and other cross communication tools today its almost real that team members sitting hundreds and thousands of miles away from each

other come together and collaborate and deliver the solution. Its almost unseemingly real.

Keeping the spirit alive, Dextrus Prosoft is also committed towards open source development. We are an active participant at the Project JXTA and Java.net. We believe in sharing knowledge and enhancing knowledge with the involvement of the community at large. A knowledge shared is knowledge dispersed and brings together another set of thoughts and ideas and which brings with itself a pool of knowledge-base. Thus creating a wealth of knowledge!

With our active participation with these communities, we are also committed towards serving various non-profits who lack the budget to support their IT infrastructures and requirements. Dextrus Prosoft has taken the challenge to support few non-profits every quarter with an information technology grant by providing them complete information technology support. The idea behind this is to create better serving non-profits who give a lot to our communities. These grant could be in the form of website (basic and/or advanced) and donor database creation/implementation.

Our involvement towards these projects is committed and focused. We celebrate work, both as a craft and for the value it creates.

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Future of Data Centers

written by Manoj Khanna | July 13, 2005
What's so awe about data center projects that every company goes 'duh'? Challenges. Challenges. Challenges. Every software project has its own challenges. But for data center projects there are couple more to worry about. I'll bring out some basics on what are the current challenges and later on how to tackle those challenges.

Some common traits (translated as in challenges/issues) which are seen within the organization:
– new equipment is being acquired without adequate concern
– upper IT management's lack of involvement in the planning and procurement of new equipment
– less focus on the environmental issue of the data center; basic needs such as cooling, power and reliability
– lack of communication between IT and facilities department
– poor communication with senior management

Now, in order to minimize these challenges and/or here are some pointers to tackle and improve:
– air-cooling through liquid cooling
– raising floor levels from 18" to 24"
– use of blade servers instead of using the convential server

– sometimes, having a flat organzation also helps escalate some concerns related to the project directly to the management
– use of proactive monitoring tools and third party service providers
– use of dual bus UPS systems
– some companies follow automation and server consolidaton
(source: InformationWeek.com)

Although, this just gives the preview but atleast its a start. Now, is it important how the project was run? But what important is that the servers in those data centers are running the important applications efficiently and flawlessly (well…almost!)

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Tech Powerhouse

written by Manoj Khanna | July 13, 2005
India and China are together now creating some waves in the technology world. The recent summit held in Bangalore, India between the primiers of both the countries had almost all the western attention. Now there are many speculations made but how truthful and substantial they are only time will tell. But for right now, it has the world watching.

On the upside, lot of Indian software companies have started establishing their offices in China. China also has the same pool of tech pros as of India with not so fluent English speakers unlike India. But this is changing slowly as well. Lot of Indian companies understand the Chinese threat. The wise work would be to make the ‘dragon’ and the ‘tiger’ work together somehow.

No matter how the political scenario had been between the two countries, but with this economical movement it could patch some cuts and rashes. The expectation is to get some worthwhile result out. IT on the other hand expects a major trend shift in software and hardware development and standardization. How the western nations take its entirely another debate. But as of today, the innovation and the rising of the East in technology is certain. Now, how West manages and maintains its position would be food for thought right now.

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Seven Transformations of Leadership

written by Manoj Khanna | July 13, 2005

In a recent article published in HBR about Seven Transformations of Leadership it brings out some good points about leadership traits. The author has clearly narrowed the lines and distinguished the subjective.

> *Leaders are made, not born, and how they develop is critical for organizational change.*

In his words, the article talks about seven ways of leading:

1. Opportunist (wins any way possible)
2. Diplomat (avoids overt conflict)
3. Expert (rules by logic and expertise)
4. Achiever (meets strategic goals)

5. Individualist (interweaves competing personal company action logics)
6. Strategist (generates organizational and personal transformation)
7. Alchemist (generates social transformation)

And heres' my take on this about the B-Schools:
A common approach followed by the most business schools is that they follow a plan path which makes more sense in sticking to their own values. Like wise in majority of the B-Schools sometimes this is not even present. Only the textual knowledge won't create the kind of pool which the industry wants. Looking beyond the perspective creates agile-features and adds value to it. And I think most of the schools have now started thinking on these lines and have initiated some thought process at least. The market is demanding and very challenging. The toughest stands out. Only time will entail the best.

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