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Category: **Industry**
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Benny Schaich, works as Product Management SAP NetWeaver, at SAP since 2001.

Q1. Please explain briefly what are your application domains and your role in the enterprise.

I'm doing product management in a roll out function, which means at SAP all kinds of supporting customers to find the information they need. My specific area is the Java technology inside of NetWeaver, and server infrastructure.

Q2. When the data models used to persistently store data (whether file systems or database management systems) and the data models used to write programs against the data (C++, Smalltalk, Visual Basic, Java, C#) are different, this is referred to as the "impedance mismatch" problem. Do you have an "impedance mismatch" problem?

We have seen the known problems of this in the Java Enterprise Edition area (aka Entity Beans) and many customers have taken action on this on their own. They were using the POJO concept from early on.

Q3. What solution(s) do you use for storing and managing persistence objects? What experience do you have in using the various options available for persistence for new projects? What are the lessons learned in using such solution(s)?

The latest Java EE standard brought up some concepts that better the situation also by opening up to industry standards like Hibernate or EclipseLink. This way customers may choose their preferred solution.

Q4. Do you believe that Object Database systems are a suitable solution to the "object persistence" problem? If yes why? If not, why?

Sure they are. As far as I know they would delete a complete level of mapping. Unfortunately it seems that it is less work to do that mapping then converting all existing corporate data into new databases. Not mentioning, that SAP's main applications still run mostly on relational DB's in a procedural manner.

Q5. What would you wish as new research/development in the area of Object Persistence in the next 12-24 months?

If the concept of object persistence could go together with a database that prevents us from writing to disk - or only occasional writings, resulting in a memory database. That would be fun. But this surely takes more then 24 month and then again we have the migration problem.