

ODBMS.ORG User Report No. 13/08

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Category: Government

Domain: Services/ City administration

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Horst Braeuner, born 1961 Diploma in Public administration (University of Applied Sciences). Diverse seminars and trainings in the IT, among other things: Certified Security Engineer. CTO/CIO of the city administration Schwaebisch Hall; Project manager, lecturer and InterNet / network responsible person.

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

Horst Braeuner: My role is mostly comparable with CIO. We provide a "unified" Linux-Desktop (including office, groupware, ...) to our users and serve roundabout 80 special software applications used in our local government to our employees.

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?

Horst Braeuner: Sure we have an impedance mismatch BUT this is lesser influenced by ourselves than by the different software vendors/solution providers. There are no agreements between them to coordinate their development(s) and/or to use our stored data cross the different applications. There is also no kind of "rule" to use a central data-storage (what kind ever), so every ISP has its own philosophy storing data.

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)?

Horst Braeuner: As told above, we depend on the solutions provided by the ISPs

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

Horst Braeuner: I would like to have a "single" Data-Storage-Instance where all applications connect to and which can hold data from single ASCII up to Binaries like pictures or software packets and from "flat" data up to nearly application data like EMail including attachments.

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

Horst Braeuner: an architecture or API-Model where all storage-"worthy" data can be stored in one whatever kind of central instance and every kind of front-end "processor" should be able to connect to and serve the data.