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Category: **Industry**
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Frank Stuch is a Managing Consultant with several years in IT consulting with IBM Global Business Services.

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

Frank Stuch: I am a Managing Consultant in IBM for Application Innovation in the insurance sector. In projects I had the role "head of developer" and "lead architect". Application domains were claim systems, collection systems, agency systems for insurance companies. I did my diploma thesis with an OODBMS in 1995.

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?

Frank Stuch: Yes

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)?

Frank Stuch: Hibernate, EJB 2 Entity Beans, EJB 3 Entity Beans. EJB 2 is too heavy weight and outdated by EJB 3. EJB 3 is not supported well by development environments like Rational Application Developer and not mature enough.
In general all of these solutions give the developer 90% of the comfort of an OODBMS with well established RDBMS. The problem is that this comfort needs a good understanding of the impedance mismatch and the consequences on performance

(e.g. "select n+1 problem"). Many junior developers don't understand the impact and therefore the performance of the generated/created data queries are often very poor. Senior developers can work very efficient with e.g. Hibernate.

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

Frank Stuch: Yes - but the problem is the acceptance of OODBMS. I don't see that any OODBMS today that would be accepted as a central database for mission critical applications. Every company will favor Oracle, DB2, SQL Server etc. for that. The impedance mismatch is for decision makers too complex for their understanding. Also 100% object-orientation is not longer "en vogue" (SOA ...) so I don't see that this will change especially without any big player pushing for OODBMS.

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

Frank Stuch: Better development tools for Hibernate and EJB 3 Entity beans.