## ODBMS.ORG User Report No. 31/09
## Editor Roberto V. Zicari- ODBMS.ORG *www.odbms.org*

March 2009.

Category: **Industry**
Domain: **Finance**
User Name: **Alexander Jaehne**
Title **Application Infrastructure & Integration Team Lead**
Organization: **Major Swiss Bank.**

Starting with my thesis in the area of Active Rule Debugging in the context of an OODBMS in 1995, I was involved in the development of applications using OO technology. Later, I moved into the operational side of running those applications which gives me a full life-cycle view which is very interesting. I also have experience with relational DB technology (certified Oracle DBA), but I actually prefer the power and easy of OODMS.

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

*Alexander Jaehne:* Most time, I spend on a global mission critical back-office application in various roles including infrastructure team lead. This application is written in Smalltalk and is currently using both GemStone and Oracle for persistent storage.

*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?*

*Alexander Jaehne:* The impedance mismatch problem for Oracle had to be solved with a custom written interface. For the GemStone persistance layer, there is no impedance mismatch as the database itself stores native Smalltalk objects and has a very powerful persistence layer enabling maximum productivity of the developers.

*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)?*

*Alexander Jaehne:* Before GemStone, we used ObjectStore for persistent storage and I also have had practical experience with O2 long ago. Not

every ODBMS is flexible and can be recommended, but the particuar solution (GemStone) we use right now is surely a great product. For very large databases, you need to complement an ODBMS with some relational database. We prefer to have both..

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

*Alexander Jaehne:* Absolutely, but not for every application, of course. Also requires expert designers and DBAs which are not easy to find.

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

*Alexander Jaehne*: Better Integration of ODBMS and RDBMS. Also, reporting out of an ODBMS, does not have any standard solutions or applications (like Business Objects for RDBMS).