COPA-MS: A Look Under The Hood
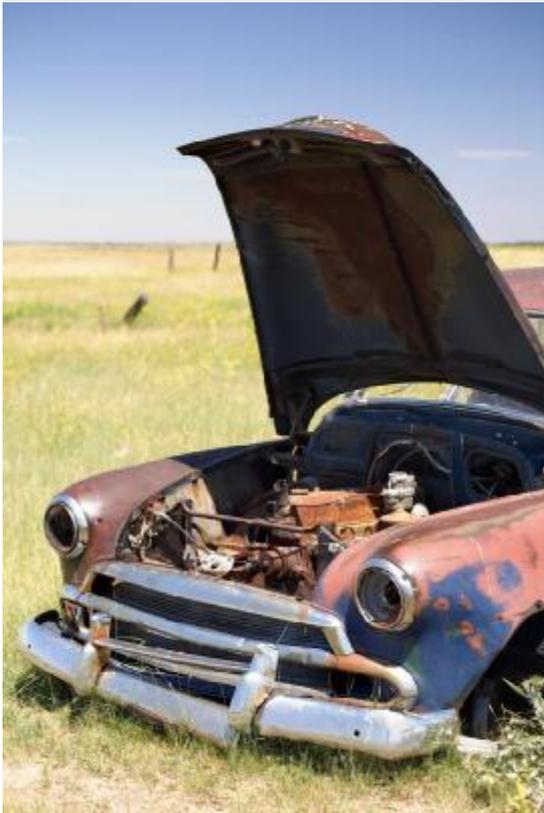

COPA-MS: A Look Under The Hood

Agenda

- who am I?
- COPA-MS:
  - what is it
  - what does it do
  - history
- how did THAT happen?
- over and under the hood
- the good, the bad and the ugly

who am I?

- **Michael Baas**
- **2A!**
- **APLer for 15 yrs, Dyalog-User since 1995, never used IBM APL!**
- **Passion for the Supply Chain:**
  - **DLS – Dynamic Logistics Systems GmbH www.dls-planning.com**
  - **german partner of australian Hologram Pty Ltd.**
    applying BI to supply chain data: supply chain intelligence! ☺
- **Key clients:**

COPA-MS: what is it?

- ## COPAcking

- ## Management System

- # I mentioned it last year already

- # First fruit of Hologram-collaboration

COPA-MS: what does it do?

„nice name"

Comanufacturer

- Master data Displays
- Master data Packaging (including pricing & ordering-policy)
- Master data finished goods 4 displays
- Master data suppliers
- Production planning (1yr)
- Production orders (1wk)

- Master data packaging
- Inventory
- Expected deliveries of packaging-material
- Actual deliveries
- Confirmed production orders
- Feedback: actual production
- invoiced prices

- Master data management, document mgmt
- Bill of materials ‚explosion'
- suggested orders (of packaging material)
- handling of orders (email)
- plan vs. actual-comparison and lot more number crunching

COPA-MS: history

- Contacts with Nestlé since 1994 (Sales Forecasting / Production Planning)
- 2005: replaced with SAP
- October 2005: John Miller presented Hologram in Elsinore
- end of 2005: first contact about „exchange of planning data" with comanufacturer
- early 2006: visit down-under, training, partnership
- 2007: specs and more

- 2008: implementation

COPA-MS: implementation details

- requirements: build in & around Hologram
  - ASP.NET 1.1
  - Dyalog APL 10.1
  - SQL Server (2000)
- what we ended up with:
  - ASP.NET 1.1 + 2.0 !
  - Dyalog APL 10.1
  - SQL Server (2000) (and 2005-compatibility-headache)
  - C#, VB.net, JavaScript
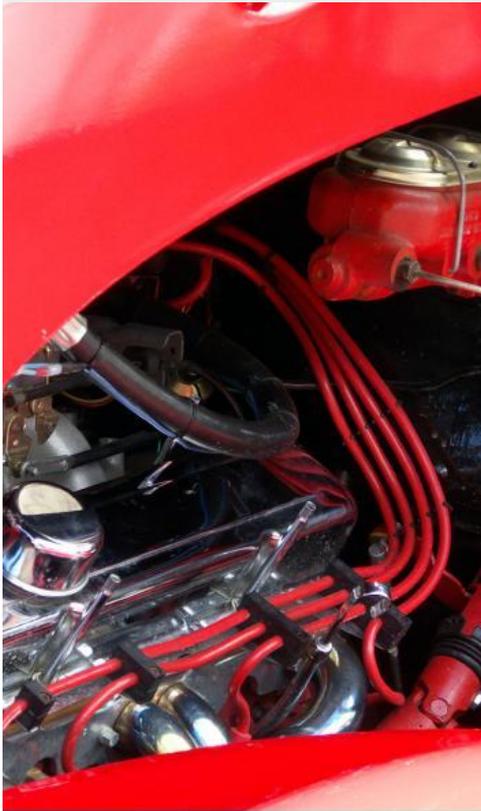 - ...and the challenge to move to Oracle! ☺

COPA-MS: how did THAT happen?
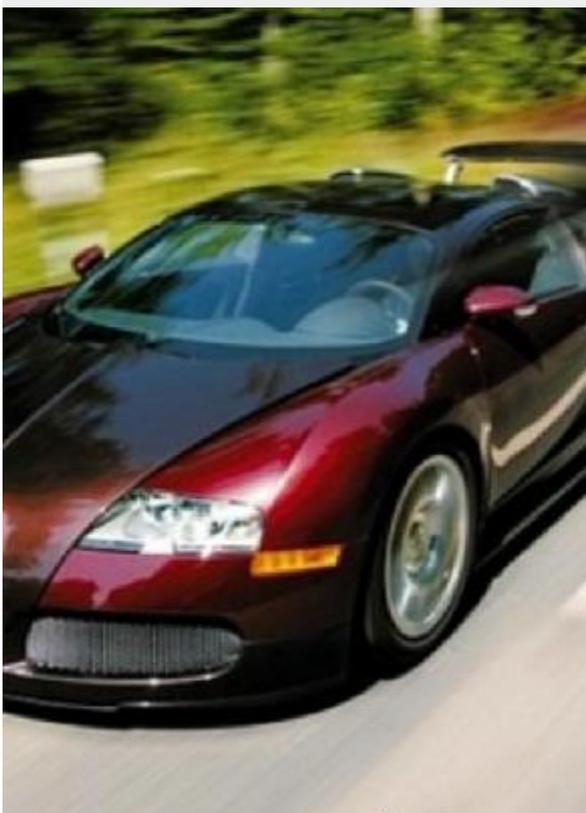

ASP.NET 1.1 + 2.0 in one app???

- Well, long story, but...

COPA-MS: under the hood

- **ASP.NET 1.1 & 2.0: master-data management**
  - **Using Dyalog 10.1 to create ASPx-files (*48x ASP 1.1, 34x ASP 2.0*) from definitions held in database (*field & screen-definitions*)**
  - **ASP 1.1: establish connection with Hologram, record-selection for master-data mgmt. (write result of selection to db)**
  - **ASP 2.0: results of selections, view/edit selected records *(get sel from db)***
- **All other functionality in ASP.NET 1.1 and Dyalog 10.1 (more ‚internal', data-processing stuff, using Hologram for presentation of results)**

COPA-MS: over & under the hood

Test-driving THAT would be nice,

wouldn't it?

BUT we only have

..a short software-demo now ☺

and some { ι ρ ∈ ω } **afterwards**

COPA-MS: the good…
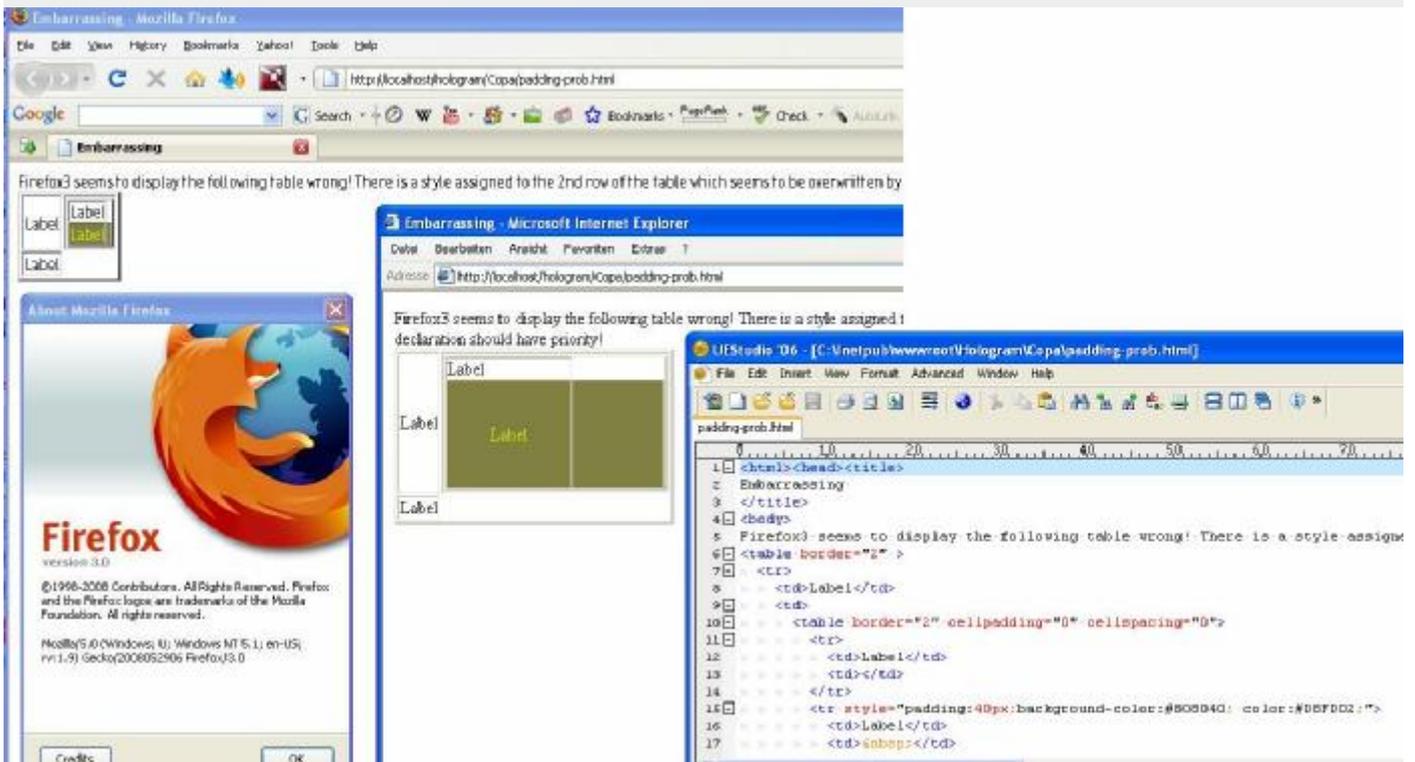

- Over the hood:
    - Business-problem (will be) solved, happy users ☺
- Under the hood:
    - There is some really nice stuff out there (tools)
        - **www.easylistbox.com**
        Listboxes, Comboboxes for ASP.NET 1.1/2.0
        - **www.peterblum.com**
        Data entry suite, validators, interactive pages
        - **www.gurock.com**
        SmartInspect (Logging for C#, VB.net, Dyalog.net)
        - **www.obout.com**
        TabStrip, TreeView etc.
    - learned something new (‚interesting‘ learning-experience, though)
    - More nice links:
        - More tools:
            - jQuery – JavaScript-addon: **http://jquery.com/**
        - People:
            - Matt Berseth: **http://mattberseth.com/**
            - Jeff Atwood: **http://www.codinghorror.com/**

COPA-MS: …the bad…(1)

- ASP.NET (sometimes) sucks
    - ViewState leads to HUGE files
    - ‚strange‘ effects during stress-tests
- ASP.NET is continously expanding / evolving / whatever:
    - ASP.NET 1.1 (2003): no gridview
    - ASP.NET 2.0 (2005): GridView (Read-Only, Edit)
    - ASP.NET 3.5 (Nov 2007): ListView with features to build a GridView with Insert!
    - oh yes, and there never was a ASP.NET 3.0 (Thanks, Bill!)
- Sharing session-variables (or session-state) between ASP.NET 1.1 and ASP.NET 2.0 is not possible on IIS6 (but should work on IIS7, I heard)
- ‚Challenges‘ with cross-browser-compatibility and their buggy CSS-implementations

COPA-MS: ...the bad...(2)

COPA-MS: ...and the ugly...

Microsoft !!!

„I'd like to say that I was able to figure it out on my own because if I had to depend on Microsoft's documentation I'd be still looking.
As usual it is horrid."
(http://channel9.msdn.com/forums/TechOff/177112-SQLDataSource-OnSelected-Event/)

„I virtually live in Google..." (Peter Blum)

Varying levels of competence & experience in the stuff you find – but how to tell what is good and what not?
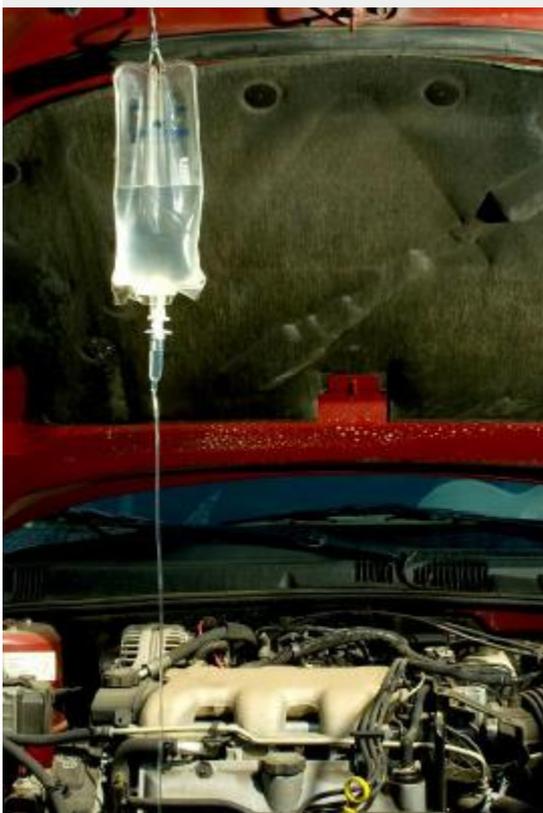
COPA-MS: Summary / Recommendation

It's not about APL *or* C#

The ‚real' question is how deep you want to get into ASP.NET *(i.e. if you use its controls & events)* **or if you** *(want to / can afford to)* **stay away from it**

I don't have a real recommendation for all cases and everyone, it is an individual decision.

Good luck, whatever you do!

...and finally:

Michael Baas
Dynamic Logistics Systems GmbH
Hailerer Strasse 24
63571 Gelnhausen

Phone: +49 6051 13068
Mobile: +49 163 4322330

http://www.dls-planung.de
http://www.dls-planning.com
m.baas@dls-planung.de

Networking on XING
https://www.xing.com/profile/Michael_Baas
LinkedIn
http://www.linkedin.com/in/mbaas
ecademy
http://www.ecademy.com/account.php?id=114405