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Topic III: Object-oriented technologies, component architecture

COMPONENT DEVELOPMENT AT STATISTICS SWEDEN

Contributed paper

Submitted by Statistics Sweden¹

Summary

Introduction

1. Visual Basic has been the main development tool at Statistics Sweden (SCB) since 1993, when we decided to move the production environment to the client/server platform. Earlier everything had been done in the mainframe environment. The development of Visual Basic applications started in those early days in Visual Basic 3 (VB3). Today we are using Visual Basic 6 (VB6). It took the rest of the 1990s before the platform change was done. It was a great number of Visual Basic applications that was written at that time. For various reasons the quality of those applications differs a lot today.
2. Today, in 2001, we have taken a new step with the SCBWizard and the SCBComponents. The SCBWizard is a production tool for programmers at Statistics Sweden that generates Visual Basic 6 projects. The SCBComponents are a set of COM (Component Object Model) components that can be used by every Visual Basic developer at Statistics Sweden.

Component-based web development

3. In the late 1990s dynamical services were added to the website. Those services were implemented for the Microsoft platform. The first applications used idc and htx files to fetch data from databases. Later ASP² was used for the same action. Often the code was a mess. What we needed were guidelines for how to create good web applications.

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² Active Server Pages

4. Cap Gemini Ernst and Young were consulted to help us. The collaboration ended up in a framework designed for component-based development on the Microsoft DNA 2000 platform, and a Wizard for support in implementation of the framework