



CHICAGO
INTERNATIONAL
SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE

goto;
conference

Conference: April 23-24, 2013 Training: April 25-26, 2013

Welcome to GOTO Night Chicago # 1

Embracing Concurrency at Scale – Justin
Sheehy, CTO Basho Technologies

Innovation in a Legacy - Dave Thomas,
Bedarra Research Labs

Mature Legacy Seeking Sexy New Technology for Fun and Profit

Innovating in a Legacy

Dave Thomas

Bedarra Research Labs YOW/GOTO Conferences, Queensland
University of Technology Australia, Carleton University Canada

dave@bedarra.com
www.davethomas.net

©2010 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Once Upon A Legacy

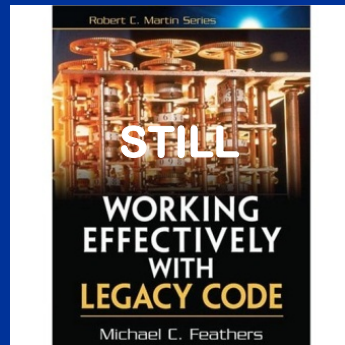
1. Dirty Jobs or Fame & Fortune?
2. No Fear - 1,2,3 Charge!
3. Agile in a Legacy Environment?
4. Time Something Completely Different?
5. Thinking Out of The Legacy Box – Case Studies of Legacy Innovation



© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

“Legacy Code is code that has **No tests**”

- has insufficient tests
- is older than 3 years
- technical debt written by others . . .
- Is written in a language, tool, platform we don't know or like
- is difficult to understand or change . . .



New Improved 16th Edition!
(c) 2020

70 – 90 % of Software Budgets are spent on Legacy Systems!

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Legacy – The Big Ball of Mud*



DILBERT © United Feature Syndicate, Inc.
Redistribution in whole or in part prohibited.

* “The Big Ball of Mud” Design Pattern – Brian Foote

Legacy = Big Ball of MUD which has significant business value!!!

©2010 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Oh My! It is our mess (debt)!?

Our framework adds so much value

Just add a little glue code and some SOA wrappers

Look we will just have to refactor it later!



Legacy ? No Fear ... 1, 2, 3 Charge!

Our vendor! Our consultants! Our outsourcer! Our team has the solution !!!



It will take years and lots of money but we can climb legacy mountain

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Rewrite It Using Modern Technology

Rewrite in my language/platform

high risk - most major rewrites fail

rewrites seldom provide sufficient business value

rewrites can be more difficult to maintain than the legacy

Automatic Migration – Rewrite Magic

Migration to equivalent runtime **perhaps**

Translation to another language is **seldom worth it**

Second Systems Effect: Read Mythical Man Month AGAIN!

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Outsource It!

Out Source: Make it someone else's problem

- may work for a short time
- risks of **loss of** skills, knowledge of **code base** and domain **knowledge**
- increased investment in **requirements and testing**
- Stress fractures **where local systems touch outsourced systems** compounded **by** different processes **and** tool chains

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Just SOA It!

Just Use SOA: Wrap It Into Services

- Assumes you have **interfaces**
- Assumes you have **tests**
- Assumes the service is **easily surfaced** and **encapsulated** when in practice the it may be **buried in several modules**
- Assumes that ESB/XML/Process Server **Performance, RMA** is acceptable when it often is **unknown**
- Analysis **paralysis** between **enterprise architects**, **vendor architects** and **development teams**
 - Which ESB, Process Server ...
 - SOAP, REST ...
 - XML ... JSON ...
 - BPM/BPEL ...

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

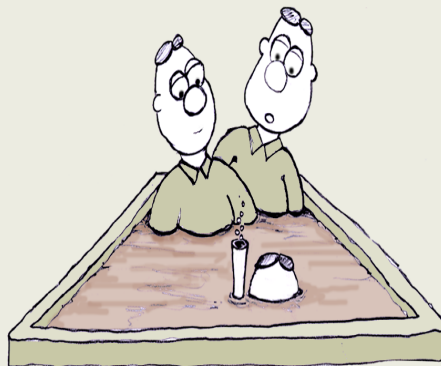
Agile It !

Incrementally Refactor It

Do you believe in Magic?


- Wizard's work
- **Absence of tests** significantly **increases risk**
- Tools are **not** up to refactoring **legacy** code bases or **databases**
- Off the shelf tools may **not be available** for your **legacy** language
- Takes **too long** for the business to **sustain it**

Refactor THIS Baby!!



"I don't know about you... but I find these 'legacy' refactoring tools leave a lot to be desired . . .
Yeah, Let's try some dynamite"

©2010 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

But  **Can Help!**

Archaeology
Agile Team
Tool Chain
Best Practices

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Legacy Archaeology

Legacy Story Telling
Listen to the dev and ops Data
Look at the Code and Data Assets
Look at the development value chain – people, process and tools
Publish the Stories, Data and Value Chain and put the essence on the wall

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Legacy Agile Team

- appropriate skills for all areas
- cross train /pair Legacy and non-Legacy Developers
- Use playing Coaches who know the territory

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Legacy Agile Tool Chain

- Workstation IDE with cross development
- Modern SCM environment (*in front of legacy SCM*)
- Unit and Acceptance Testing tools
- Continuous Build and Test appropriate to the technology e.g. HW/SW Emulators
- Sufficient Disk space for logging and testing

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

A Few Practices for Legacy Developers

1. **Isolate variability**
2. **Make it data driven** – validation, decision tables, state tables, constraints . . . it allows changes at runtime!
3. **Invest in mirroring, sampling backups, caching, emulation** if you can't test live . . . Hardware is cheap!
4. If necessary consider **live database TDD Using Transaction Roll Back**

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

A Few Practices for Legacy Developers

5. **Screen Scrape** if you must, but **automate from data definition**
6. When you renovate a schema **ask for lots of space, add fields, blobs, extension tables**
7. Use **in-memory DB testing** or a **server-side ODBC proxy** to split production DB changes from test changes
9. Enable **continuous inspection** (remote inspector) and **monitoring** or using system logging via **web enablement RSS/ATOM**

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

~~We need a miracle Innovation!~~



© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

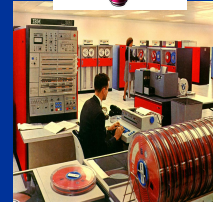
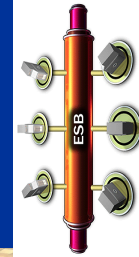
Thinking Out of The Legacy Box Case Studies of Innovation

1. Insurance legacy + EAP + ISV
2. HR Benefits System Bottleneck
3. Enhancing a 1M+ assembler product
4. Telecomm Legacy Product Enhancement
5. Banking Platform Migration
6. Factory Process Control Modernization
7. Massive Legacy Data Base Migration
8. Real Models to Code

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Insurance Legacy + SOA + EAP Challenge

Legacy L1, L2, L3, L4; Vendor EAP V1, V2, V3, V4, V5;
Integration Services I5, I6; Commercial Insurance V1, L1
Personal Insurance L2; Vehicle Insurance V2
Rating Engine L2, L3, V3; Billing System V4
Policy System of Record L4 + I5 + V5
Enterprise Software Bus I6



Solution

1. Outstanding BAs define all products in tables
2. Agile experts generate applications from BA tables
3. SI experts build simple interfaces to ESB + Interface Acceptance Tests
4. All vendors required to deliver acceptance tests

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

HR



Bottleneck

Challenge

- calculations very complex.
- analysts capture in Excel.
- 100 Devs in COBOL too slow
- Agile OO gave only 15% in productivity

Solution

1. Retain 2 Agile OO experts
2. Excel rule checker in java
3. Spreadsheet in Java on mainframe
4. Legacy team deployed on other systems



© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Enhance Mission Critical Assembler Application

Challenge

Enhance a 1M lines of assembler

product

No legacy knowledge of code base

Solution

Translate assembler into Prolog rules

Use Prolog to answer dataflow, control flow questions to enable safe modification of the code

```

00000000      push    ebp
00000001      mov     ebp, esp
00000003      movzx   ecx, [ebp+arg_0]
00000007      pop     ebp
00000008      movzx   dx, cl
0000000C      lea     eax, [edx+edx]
0000000F      add     eax, edx
00000011      shl     eax, 2
00000014      add     eax, edx
00000016      shr     eax, 8
00000019      sub     cl, al
0000001B      shr     cl, 1
0000001D      add     al, cl
0000001F      shr     al, 5
00000022      movzx   eax, al
00000025      retn

```

```

matchesResource(Req,Resources) :-
member(Res,Resources),
self_name(Req,RName),
self_name(Res,RName),
self_resourcetype(Req,Type),
self_value(Req,Rqv),
self_value(Res,Rsv),
comparevalue(Rsv,Rqv,Type).

canReuseOn(Componentid,Device) :-
self_type(Componentid,component),
self_type(Device,node),
self_requires(Componentid,
Requirements),
self_dependencies(Componentid,
Depends),
self_provides(Device,Resources),
forall(member(Req,Requirements),
matchesResource(Req,Resources)),

```

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Modernize Legacy Factory Automation

Challenge

\$\$\$ investment in proprietary automation system

Must to integrate new systems and new GUI-based control rooms

Solution

1. Modify interface to control units using TCP/IP
1. Implement HTTP and ATOM
2. Client devices are Web 2.0 appliances or PCs



© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Enhancing a Legacy Telecomm HW/SW Product

Challenge

Successful Legacy Telecom product needs be upgraded

Product built in proprietary hardware, Os, languages ...

3 Attempts to Greenfield replace have failed!

Solution

1. Move to VME bus , coprocessor, TCP/IP and DMA to legacy processor
2. New capabilities run on new processor
3. Eclipse tools + legacy unit + CI servers
4. DMA interface enables monitoring and debugging



© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Migrate Banking Legacy Apps

Challenge

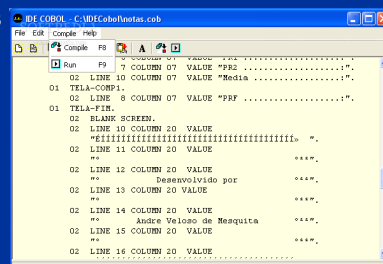
Legacy Hardware/Software Platform Too Costly to Maintain!

Rewrite estimate exceeds budget and has huge risk

Solution

1. Expert ISV ports software platform to modern commodity platform. ISV validates using ATs derived from monitoring.
2. Expert SI Migrates banking apps ATs using regression testing and selected new acceptance tests
3. Upgrade modern IDE tooling

Total Cost 10-20% of rewrite estimate in 25% of estimated time!



© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Product at Risk – Massive Legacy Data Migration

Challenge

Legacy Database Migration required due to **DB Vendor Risk**

Product Vendor **dependent on DB vendor**

Customers want **improved query and reporting**

Customers have massive **data locked in DB vendor at risk**

Solution

1. Product Team implements ODBC interface to legacy data
2. Product Team migrates product to ODBC and provides improved query and reporting . . .

BUT Customers and Product **locked to legacy physical data!**

and Product needs to change schema!

3. Expert SI retained by Product to perform high performance **bulk conversion to modern database.** (Agile DB Refactoring)
4. Independently developed **data comparison program** used for **acceptance testing**

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Real Models to Code

Use a high level language based DSL to describe model the intricate and often variable part of the application

Generate or tailor high performance code for the specific application

Examples

Smalltalk for Tailoring Analog Chip Simulators

Smalltalk for Tailoring Finite Element Analysis

Haskell and Scheme for Financial Models

Haskell for HW Models

...

©2010- 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Lots of Opportunities to Innovate!

Use the Cloud for Testing

Use Ruby, Clojure ... for Scripting Tests & DevOps

Use F# or Scala for algorithms, C# and Java for
muddlware – popular in financial engineering

Use NoSQL for speed => SQL for reporting

OLAP => High Performance FP

Continuous Release and Deployment – DeVOps
Clouds

Go Native – Provide access to the HW

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

Go for Gold!

Embrace and Extend Your Legacy

Be Agile! Think Lean!

Innovate! and Prosper!

Thanks!

© 2010 - 2011 Bedarra Research Labs. All rights reserved.

