



21.11.2008: Midrange Dynamics announces Eclipse Plug-in for MDCMS

Midrange Dynamics announces the transition of its MDCMS Change Management tool to a graphical integrated development environment for managing changes to Multiple-Platform applications.

The currently published version of MDCMS, 6.x, is a process-oriented Change Management tool that lets you control software development, maintenance, and distribution activities across multiple iSeries. By automating the software development life cycle, MDCMS prevents overlays in parallel development, manages source code and objects, manages distribution and recovery, and maintains comprehensive audit-trails.

MDCMS will soon be available as an Eclipse based Plug-in, allowing it to work seamlessly within your development environment. The Plug-in will be compatible with native Eclipse builds as well as custom builds such as WDSC (Websphere Development Studio Client).

The redevelopment of MDCMS, using the Eclipse platform, keeps the change management solution in step with IBM's developmental direction of bringing a more open IDE to the iSeries platform via Eclipse. The Eclipse underpinnings were chosen specifically for interoperability reasons. The hooks into Eclipse will provide ease of use advantages, simplified setup and maintenance of the change management software, and faster delivery of enhancements as they are introduced.

MDCMS 7.x, together with the Eclipse Plug-in, retains all of the functionality of 6.x and makes this solution available to platforms beyond the iSeries such as Windows or Unix.

The MDCMS management repository will continue to be centrally located on an iSeries server, which allows MDCMS to continue taking advantage of all of the benefits of using an iSeries server (performance, security, reliability, etc...).

The primary benefit of using the Eclipse environment will be to comfortably manage non-iSeries objects, such as Windows or Java applications, using a look and feel that such programmers are familiar with.

The Eclipse environment also offers greater flexibility in how information is presented than do 5250 or client/server technologies. For example, users can customize their workspace by choosing which views are shown, how they are sized, and where they are located. They can also easily rearrange columns of information within views and filter data.

For developers who prefer a 5250 development environment, it is possible to switch between the 5250 and Eclipse interfaces without losing work.

With MDCMS 7.x, a single installation package may contain iSeries and non-iSeries objects. When the installation occurs, all iSeries objects are installed with all of the DB400-specific handling features such as data mapping, triggering, access path building, cross-referencing, etc... All of the non-iSeries objects in the package are installed onto the remote platforms. This allows inter-dependant objects across platforms to be installed at the same time.

Midrange Dynamics expects to release MDCMS 7.x/Eclipse Plug-in during Q1-2009. The Plug-in will be available to new and existing MDCMS customers for a single one-time fee regardless of the number of MDCMS server licenses.

Any questions about the Plug-in or any other Midrange Dynamics product questions may be addressed to info@midrangedynamics.com.