



Terracotta Open-Sources Java Cluster Management

Analyst: Anne MacFarland

Terracotta's clustering and caching, of any Java object is a key element in making Java infrastructure s more robust¹. One can build a business out of this kind of small and necessary part, but often the better business is in managing and optimizing the evolution of that part and, particularly, in building the accessory enhancements that capitalize on what that essential part provides. Terracotta is working on other operations-centric features, starting with load balancing, and focusing on the abilities that allow a business to thrive. Terracotta's open sourcing comes, not from a weakness of market demand, but from a clear vision of where the larger opportunity lies.

Open sourcing sets session clustering on the fast path of wide and opportunistic use. It increases the number of innovations that will speed further development. However, Terracotta has been careful to open source its clustering in a way that will satisfy the enterprises that have the most urgent need of the transaction-level Java robustness that Terracotta offers. These are the enterprises that are impatiently awaiting the value of what can be built with a robust Java environment. No enterprise wants to depend on core technology if there is inadequate control. Ari Zilka, Founder and CTO of Terracotta, described enterprise requirements this way.

Enterprise Requirements for Strategic Open Sourcing

- *The open source element must have the right license structure, and the blessing of OSI.* Terracotta is using a minor variant of the Mozilla Public License.
- *The open source element must have the right support structure – an active community that can give advice, but also a more pro-active form of support.* It will respond promptly to trouble tickets and push patches and official product releases. This advanced support comes in both 5x12 and 7x24 incarnations. Buying support services provides a more stately cadence of tweaks and, in the future, will include some premium features, for environments, like the banking industry, which have particular session-level needs.
- *The open source element must have the right committers, and control of the product evolution.* Committers must be capable and active. The commitment process must be well structured. Terracotta was ready to accept commits from the day of their open source announcement last December 4th. Their process mandates that write privileges must be earned by the submission of good code. Several key OSS community members have agreed to participate in the project, including Adrian Colyer, CTO of Interface21; Filip Hanik, Tribes key contributor; and Jeff Genender, CTO and Chief Architect of Savoir Technologies and active contributor for Apache Geronimo.
- *The open source element must have the right steering committee* of highly intelligent folks from relevant organizations. Terracotta has fielded a Steering Committee that includes Rod Johnson, CEO of Interface21, and Jim Jagielski, CTO of Covalent and founder, developer and director of the Apache Software Foundation.

Besides meeting these qualifications, Terracotta has gotten up-front buy-in from Geronimo, GlassFish, Spring, Struts, and Tomcat. All are popular providers of J2EE frameworks, applications servers, and applet containers – the elements that need a session resilience element. All are delighted to have their basic J2EE infrastructure strengthened by a common resilience. Terracotta announced integration with all these open source software products last spring, and has key partnerships with Covalent and Interface 21.

All other clustering approaches “muck around with the application,” according to Zilka. Terracotta merely monitors and carefully replicates pieces of the java heap in memory. This heap of artifacts, like a compost heap, can nurture some very useful enhancements, once session resilience has provided them the seedbed in which to grow.

What would you like to plant to enhance your enterprise in 2007?



¹ For more information, see **The Clipper Group Navigator** entitled *The Scale-Out Cornucopia – Terracotta Enhances IT Strategies of Plenty*, dated July 26, 2006, and available at <http://www.clipper.com/research/TCG2006063R.pdf>

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