

Distributed Object Architectures

WITH CORBA

Henry Balen

Foreword by
BILL HOFFMAN
President of the OMG

FROM THE EDITORS OF
Application Development Trends

Distributed Object Architectures with CORBA

Henry Balen

with Mark Elenko, Jan Jones, and Gordon Palumbo



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Biographies

Henry Balen:

Henry has been designing and implementing object-oriented systems since the mid-1980s, when the technology was still in its infancy. His work emphasizes parallel and distributed processing. Since moving to the USA, Henry is involved with distributed object projects for the financial community at the epicenter of capitalism, Wall Street. Henry has been a frequent speaker on the subject of CORBA and distributed systems at various conferences. Henry co-founded Xenotrope in 1997. In his spare time he sleeps.

Mark Elenko:

Mark has concentrated on Java-based design and development since 1995, working on all types of systems. He has a B.A. from Columbia University, an M.S. from New York University, and an apartment full of modular origami. Mark is professionally fond of objects but tries to avoid them socially.

Jan Jones:

Jan has designed and developed applications since 1993, including client-server application, trading system development specializing in math intensive algorithms and user interfaces, and web-based distributed systems using Java and CORBA. She has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. When not working at Xenotrope she can be found performing with Fuschia Dance.

Gordon Palumbo:

Gordon has been entrenched in the CORBA front lines since 1995, and has designed and implemented CORBA- and Java-based systems for major financial institutions. While not working with computers, he can be found practicing his other avocation, juggling.

Foreword

When we started the Object Management Group a decade ago, we could only hope that writers of the caliber of Henry Balen would take up the cause. I can remember those early days where we spent most of our time trying to explain to anyone that would listen why object technology was important. In the last ten years it has become an ever increasingly complex world, one where homogeneity of platforms is almost unheard of, and where legacy applications continue to be an integral part of the mix. It has become apparent that the old does not always make room for the new when it comes to enterprise applications. It has also become apparent that understanding the architectural issues involved in designing and structuring systems based on distributed objects is one of the major keys for successful deployment. The industry consolidation behind such standards as Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA), the Unified Modeling Language (UML), and the Meta Object Facility (MOF) have immensely helped to make analysis and design easier. Moreover, there are better tools out in the market than ever before, but we have yet to automate architecture—which provides good job security for those who understand the issues!

Henry Balen's efforts in this book should provide a jump-start to those who are planning on building distributed systems using object technology. The importance of architecture cannot be overemphasized. Many projects have not achieved the desired results or in some cases even failed because of the lack of time or lack of skills spent up front on the analysis and design of the system architecture.

Achieving the stated project requirements, achieving the targeted return on investment, and making the time to market window are the key measures of an application's successful deployment. Good analysis and design work done up front has emerged as an important ingredient for helping to achieve these goals. This book provides a very useful guide with valuable insights, from lessons learned, which will hopefully save

the reader both time and money, and increase the probability of designing and implementing enterprise-wide distributed systems using object technology.

William Hoffman
President and COO
Object Management Group

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