UNISYS

ClearPath Connection

A Quarterly Newsletter for Unisys ClearPath Clients

Contents

Software Is the Future and the Future Is Here

By Brian Herkalo, Director, ClearPath Solutions and Portfolio Management, Unisys

We opened the June 2015 issue of ClearPath Connection by looking back at the history of the ClearPath® program and sketching out the advances that will define it in the future. Essentially, it's a vision that centers on making ClearPath systems central players in tomorrow's software-defined data centers.

Although I use the word "vision," this isn't something we simply aspire to do. It's a real, tangible goal we've been building toward since we began the transition to an all Intel® foundation a decade ago. Completing that shift has opened up a vast new arena in which to innovate. We're no longer as tied to the hardware as we once were, and because of the freedom this affords, we've been able to build a software-defined compute environment running within the ClearPath fabric-based infrastructure.

In doing so, we've taken a monumental step toward redefining the enterprise applications of a ClearPath system. It's now positioned to serve as a central component of the modern, tightly integrated, software-defined IT infrastructure.

One of the ways we're capitalizing on this shift is with the revolutionary ClearPath Software Series. **>>**

ClearPath Channel
Over 120 Videos Online!

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ClearPath
Software
Series

The Software Revolution

The ClearPath Software Series is a game-changer on many levels. For starters, it's a bold evolution of the overarching strategies underpinning the ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 operating environments.

A suite of software-only deliverables is not just something new for the ClearPath program, it's an idea we could never have brought to life without the tireless work of our engineering team. Building the fabric wasn't enough for the group – they've continually pressed ahead to see what else the infrastructure is capable of.

So, to that end, the ClearPath Software Series also represents a significant step forward in terms of how we leverage the strengths of the fabric-based infrastructure. We're building on the fabric's inherent flexibility by using our Secure Partitioning (s-Par®) technology to create software-defined blades within the ClearPath environment. Because they're based entirely within the software, rather than hardware, you have the freedom to redefine virtually every aspect of these blades – size, memory, cores, I/O resources, and the like – as you see fit.

This unprecedented flexibility makes them an excellent foundation for the first phase of ClearPath Software Series deliverables – MCP Developer Studio, MCP Developer Studio Personal Edition, and MCP Express – as well as any future releases that fall under this umbrella.

The Deliverables

The first offering we delivered under the ClearPath Software Series umbrella is **MCP Developer Studio**. On the surface, MCP Developer Studio is fairly basic – it allows you to develop MCP applications in much the same way as you do today. But look deeper and you'll see the difference: because it's based entirely in software, it all but eliminates the need to purchase and maintain a dedicated development system. Everything can now happen on a blade directly within the fabric environment.

This means you have the ability to do a number of things you couldn't before. For example, you can give your top developers a dedicated environment in which to work – without requiring them to share resources with the rest of the team.

You can stage multiple MCP levels simultaneously or test an interim correction before moving it into a production partition. Or, you could even run different development processes in parallel, all within the same system. No matter how you leverage MCP Developer Studio, it's sure to help you increase developer productivity and extract greater value from your ClearPath environment.

Next, we have **MCP Developer Studio Personal Edition**. Much like MCP Developer Studio, this offering supports MCP development without the need for a dedicated system. But, MCP Developer Studio Personal Edition differs in the sense that, rather than residing within the fabric, it can be deployed onto a laptop, making it easy for developers to be productive from virtually any location.

The final item in the first wave of deliverables is **MCP Express**, a truly ground-breaking advance in how we're enabling people to interact with the ClearPath MCP environment. Designed specifically for the academic community – though it can also be used by clients for training purposes – MCP Express is a free download that allows students to immerse themselves in the MCP development environment. **>>**

We want students to learn how to use one of the world's most secure operating systems – and in doing so, make MCP development a ubiquitous skill. By fostering the next generation of programmers in this way, we'll be directly addressing a continuum of skills, agility, and growth. We hope that with the help of MCP Express, new hires come out of college with a passion for the mainframe and the skillsets to match, so they're ready to become productive members of our clients' teams on day one.

The Start of Something Great

The first three deliverables in the ClearPath Software Series are the beginning of an exciting new phase in the ClearPath program's history. But, they are also just that: the start.

As the technologies we build into the fabric evolve, improve, and mature, the ClearPath Software Series will follow suit. So while we're addressing the simpler aspects of development today, what we roll out in the next phase promises to be far more significant.

After all, the fabric is at the heart of the ClearPath Software Series. And as we like to say when discussing the possibilities created by the fabric: the options are limitless.

The Future of MCP Development Has Arrived

Here's an all-too-familiar situation: Tasked with executing a critical corporate initiative, a line-of-business head taps IT to develop and deliver the new capability that will help bring the strategy to life. Unfortunately, the development team is already managing a sizable backlog of projects, making it difficult to provide new functionality to the business within a timely manner.

This scenario speaks to the friction that arises when IT teams have to draw from a shoestring budget and finite supply of resources to address an ever-growing list of business demands. Moreover, it illustrates something we like to call the "agility gap" – the divide between what the business wants and what IT can actually deliver within a defined period of time.

In order to narrow this gap, many IT leaders must decide whether to maintain their existing sourcing practices or explore and initiate new pathways as business priorities evolve. And while cost will always be a primary determining factor in these decisions, risk should also considered. After all, an inexpensive development tool could turn out to be a poor decision if it ultimately results in delays, additional security risks, or the growing pains that frequently occur when waiting for new technology to mature.

Despite the challenges this situation presents, the demands line-of-business leaders place on their counterparts in IT show no signs of slowing. As a result, improving developer productivity remains a strategic priority.

So, how will you close the agility gap?

Introducing ClearPath MCP Developer Studio

ClearPath MCP Developer Studio is the first in a series of software-only solutions delivered under our new ClearPath Software Series umbrella. It represents our response to clients' requirements for more flexible, cost-effective, and agile development solutions that leverage their existing ClearPath infrastructures. This revolutionary, first-of-its-kind solution brings about a monumental shift in the ways you develop, maintain, and modernize the applications running on your ClearPath system, including distributed applications.

We're making this possible by providing a software-only version of the MCP operating environment. It offers the traditional Software Developer's Kit (SDK) that is familiar to host-based MCP developers, along with most of the MCP runtime software – including Unisys Enterprise Application Environment (EAE), Agile Business Suite (AB Suite), and the new Data Exchange product – required to support the testing of new features slated for production deployment.

With the help of MCP Developer Studio, your application development teams can break the logjams that typically plague the development pipeline and accelerate the flow of new business content into production. **>>**

How It Works

MCP Developer Studio leverages the power of the ClearPath fabric-based infrastructure to increase the flexibility and agility of application development on fabric-enabled ClearPath Libra 4300, 6300, and 8300 systems.

Deploying MCP Developer Studio into the fabric environment means you can simultaneously run multiple MCP development environments within a single ClearPath system – or even on a single node within the fabric – limited only by the number of Enterprise Partitionable Platforms (EPPs) a given system can accommodate.

This way, you can easily stage different MCP releases, or test changes to multiple MCP applications, in secure, isolated containers. Or, you could cost-effectively provide each member of your development team with his or her own environment in which to individually test newly developed MCP applications.

No matter how you choose to utilize MCP Developer Studio, pairing it with the fabric environment means you can enhance your development practices and accelerate the pace and impact of innovation – without making sizable hardware investments or purchasing an additional system complex.

What It Means to You

With MCP Developer Studio, you can:

- **Improve IT and business agility** by easily provisioning multiple virtual development environments that can be dedicated to specific projects or requirements

- **Remove the roadblocks that cause application backlogs** by provisioning additional partitions as needed and eliminating internal competition for development resources

- **Reduce business risk** by making it possible to develop, test, and release new functionality faster, at a lower total cost

- **Seize new opportunities for differentiation** by giving your organization's innovators the freedom to create and deliver cutting-edge projects

And if you need a development environment for a single developer, or are looking for something a bit more portable, check out the article about MCP Developer Studio Personal Edition later in this issue.

Be sure to visit our web site to learn more about MCP Developer Studio and download the product's spec sheet. Please contact your Unisys sales representative for information about pricing, configuration, licensing models, and support.

Get to Know Unisys Data Exchange

Data. It's everywhere and growing at an astonishing rate.

Not only are we producing, sharing, and storing more data than we ever have before, we're also using it to fuel an unprecedented number of business transactions – transactions that are executed by a diverse mix of customers, partners, and suppliers, from multiple locations, on a variety of devices.

And moreover, this data no longer lives in a vacuum. What's created by one business process is now shared with others, further increasing the complexities of data management.

Fortunately, we recently released a product that's designed to help you address many of these issues.

Unisys Data Exchange is a new data integration solution for ClearPath MCP and OS 2200 environments built to enable selective and near-real-time data replication and transformation from a source data store to one or more target data stores. It can propagate a selected set of data from one data store to another, and while doing so, apply transformations to the data as dictated by the business processes and applications that support it.

With the help of these capabilities, Data Exchange makes it possible for you to effectively address the following critical needs:

- Facilitating timely access to data for business process integration
- Acquiring the data needed to power reporting, business intelligence, or big data analytics

Let's take a look at how Data Exchange makes these goals a reality.

Using Data Exchange to...Support Business Process Integration

Say you recently launched a new initiative that hinges upon two unique business processes becoming tightly integrated. However, doing so means you must first find a way to enable the near-real-time integration of operational data between two applications, both of which run on different operating systems and access heterogeneous data stores.

Data Exchange makes this integration simple by enabling you to work with existing applications and data, so you can minimize – or completely avoid – the costs associated with modifying the application and database schema. In addition, it also monitors the source data store for changes, allowing them to be propagated to the target data store as they occur.

Using Data Exchange to...Support Reporting, Business Intelligence, and Analytics

Imagine you're under pressure from business leaders to transform the mountains of data your organization collects every day into actionable insights. However, at the same time, you must also comply with demands from IT to offload reporting, business intelligence, or big data activities from production systems and data stores. >>

Data Exchange simplifies decision support by allowing you to copy only the data that is needed for a specific activity. This way, you can provide executives with the information they need to build a new business strategy without impacting the end users who rely on your production applications day in, day out.
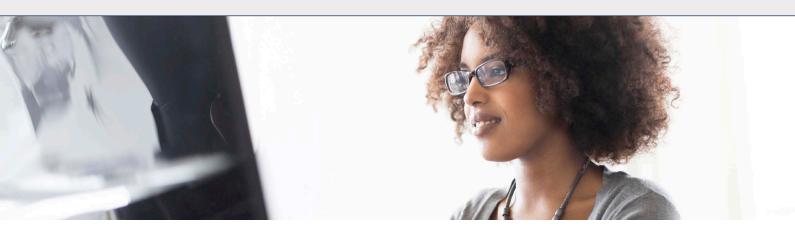
Making Data Work for You

As these examples illustrate, Data Exchange can make a significant, positive impact on the way you manage and integrate data. Specifically, it can help you:

- **Increase the efficiency of business operations:** By automatically capturing updates to source data stores as they occur, and replacing batch data transfers that use FTP and similar technologies, Data Exchange enables you to provide better customer service, effectively integrate and automate business processes, and accelerate decision making.

- **Reduce software development and maintenance costs:** Data Exchange can help you avoid the costs associated with developing, testing, and supporting your own data integration and transformation tools – as well as those related to changing existing application source code and database schemas.

- **Minimize overhead:** The ability to share a subset of the source data with the target data store helps you reduce costs while making it easier to support changing business objectives.

- **Increase IT flexibility:** Because it supports and enables the integration of heterogeneous data sources running on heterogeneous operating systems, Data Exchange helps IT innovate with greater ease and efficiency.

Data Exchange is an optional, separately priced, software-only product available for all fabric-enabled ClearPath Libra and Dorado systems. A Data Exchange development/test license is also included in the new ClearPath MCP Developer Studio product. To learn more about Data Exchange, check out the tutorial video on YouTube. Please contact your Unisys sales representative for pricing and configuration information.

MCP Developer Studio Gets Personal

Great news, developers!

In addition to the revolutionary new ClearPath MCP Developer Studio offering, we're pleased to announce the availability of a smaller, more portable package: ClearPath MCP Developer Studio Personal Edition.

MCP Developer Studio Personal Edition is a software-only solution designed, much like its bigger brother, to facilitate the development, testing, and demonstration of MCP applications. However, instead of residing on a ClearPath system, it provides a complete MCP runtime environment, as well as a comprehensive set of development tools and compilers, on Microsoft® Windows® based hardware that complies with a specific reference architecture. Because it follows this approach, the software can run on any hardware that meets the appropriate system requirements, giving you numerous deployment options.

As a successor to the LX Laptop program, MCP Developer Studio Personal Edition includes all of the software that is part of the existing LX Laptop SDK package, along with additional products that further enrich its testing capabilities.

It's important to note that MCP Developer Studio Personal Edition is meant for development, testing, and demonstration purposes only – not running production workloads. Moreover, only one Named User – developers or demonstrators authorized to use the software – is allowed to work with MCP Developer Studio Personal Edition at any given time. So for example, if you wish to have ten developers using MCP Developer Studio Personal Edition, each will require a license before he or she can access the software.

Please contact your Unisys sales representative for pricing, licensing, and support information, or to learn how to migrate an existing LX Laptop subscription to MCP Developer Studio Personal Edition.

New eBook Illustrates the Power of the Fabric

As we've <u>mentioned before</u>, the ClearPath fabric-based infrastructure is nothing short of revolutionary.
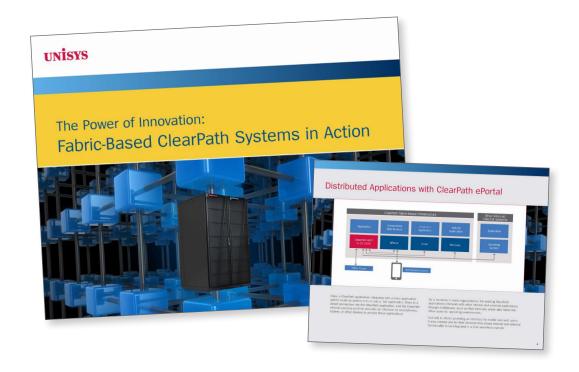
With its ability to seamlessly accommodate – and integrate – ClearPath MCP, ClearPath OS 2200, Windows, and Linux® applications, the fabric plays a central role in helping you launch innovative projects that drive significant business outcomes.

Our new eBook, "<u>The Power of Innovation: Fabric-Based ClearPath Systems in Action</u>," shows just how flexible the fabric can be. It features concrete examples of the many ways you can utilize the fabric – from message queuing to development to data virtualization and everything in between – to address a variety of business and IT requirements.

And the best thing about these examples? They're only scratching the surface of what's possible with the fabric. So, we encourage you to use the information included in the eBook as reference point for any current and future IT projects you'll be launching with the help of the fabric.

We'd love to hear how you're using the fabric. <u>Email us</u> to share your stories – you could even end up being featured in a forthcoming issue of ClearPath Connection or an update to the eBook! And if you'd like to learn more, please read "<u>The Power of Innovation: Fabric-Based ClearPath Systems in Action</u>" today!

Twenty-Three Ways to Learn About OS 2200 Release 16.0's Technical Details

Want to learn about the new products and features in ClearPath OS 2200 Release 16.0?

Wondering what changes were implemented in this release?

Unsure about what hardware and software levels are supported in OS 2200 16.0?

If you answered "**yes**" to any of these questions, then do we have good news for you!

For the first time ever, we've added a playlist to the ClearPath YouTube channel specifically designed to address these topics – and many more like them.

"ClearPath OS 2200 Release 16.0 Technical Update" features 23 technical videos dedicated to explaining the use and value of the major new capabilities in OS 2200 Release 16.0. It also outlines migration and upgrade considerations to keep in mind if and when you plan a move to release 16.0.

The playlist is designed for self-paced viewing. And although the topics are organized in the recommended viewing order, please feel free to watch them at a time – and in a sequence – that works best for you.

Ready to get started? Then head over to YouTube and check out ClearPath OS 2200 Release 16.0 Technical Update today!

ClearPath OS 2200 Release 16.0 Technical Update

OS 2200 Release 16.0 Migration Considerations

Ellen Sorenson, Lead Engineer

Resources

The list below contains quick links that will help you stay up to date on all things ClearPath.

- ClearPath homepage
- Agile Business Suite homepage
- Business Information Server (BIS) homepage
- ClearPath & Innovation Blog
- ClearPath How-To Videos on YouTube
- ClearPath Libra/MCP Webinars
- ClearPath Dorado/OS 2200 Webinars
- eBook: Built for Today, Ready for Tomorrow: Unisys ClearPath Systems
- eBook: Understanding the Economics of ClearPath Systems
- eBook: How to Shift Your IT Focus from Administration to Innovation
- eBook: The Power of Innovation: Fabric-Based ClearPath Systems in Action (**NEW**)
- Video Playlist: ClearPath OS 2200 Release 16.0 Technical Update (**23 Videos**)

- ClearPath Customer Education Homepage
    - Guide: ClearPath OS 2200 Course Catalog
    - Guide: ClearPath MCP Course Catalog
    - Guide: ClearPath OS 2200 and MCP Specialty Partitions Course Catalog
    - Guide: Agile Business Suite Course Catalog
- Newsletter: Developing *Agility* July 2015
- Newsletter: ClearPath Connection June 2015
- White Paper: ClearPath Middleware Strategy and Products for OS 2200 Systems
- White Paper: ClearPath Middleware Strategy and Products for MCP Systems