



Developing Agility

A Quarterly Newsletter for Unisys EAE and Agile Business Suite Customers

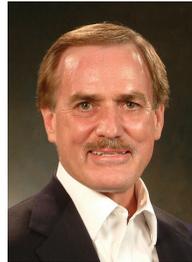
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Contemporary, Powerful, Strategic: AB Suite 3.0

By Bill Maclean, Vice President, ClearPath and Agile Business Suite, Unisys TCIS



We are very pleased to announce the release of Agile Business Suite (AB Suite) 3.0. Incorporating a host of industry-standard tools and features, this latest version builds on a long-standing heritage of providing organizations with a reliable, mission-critical application-development environment.

AB Suite is an industry leader in the advanced field of Model-Driven Development. While it addresses the fundamentals offered by other technologies in this space, it goes a step further by generating a total solution, rather than modules that still need to be integrated. This approach delivers more value for our customers.

Offering industry-standard development technology is an important aspect of expanding the potential pool of programmers. To this end, AB Suite 3.0 leverages Microsoft® Visual Studio® 2010 and supports advanced Object-Oriented (OO) programming concepts. The inclusion of a contemporary development toolset and a cutting-edge programming paradigm will make it easier for AB Suite shops to attract and train talented young developers – ensuring they can make positive contributions from day one.

These updates complement the mission-critical profile that has been a constant from LINC to Enterprise Application Environment (EAE) to AB Suite. So as always, you'll have the resources on hand to generate complete applications with fully coordinated elements – without sacrificing the high levels of performance and reliability you rely on to drive your development efforts. >>



AB Suite 3.0 integrates and qualifies all interim corrections (ICs) added to previous releases – many of which created a richer feature set and further improved performance and reliability. One such addition is partial generation – added via an IC to AB Suite 2.0 – which significantly improves productivity and performance when making changes to an application.

Additionally, we've integrated the new release with the latest version of [ClearPath ePortal for MCP](#). The ClearPath ePortal for MCP technology modernizes your existing AB Suite applications by enabling you to rapidly extend them to the Web. It leverages a service-oriented architecture (SOA) using Web Services and intelligent clients, such as smartphones and tablets, to help you reach new markets, customers, and business partners.

And because the ClearPath ePortal for MCP is also based in Visual Studio 2010, your application-development and mobile-enablement projects will share a common toolset, enabling you to further simplify processes, drive efficiency, and accelerate time to market. Plus, the ClearPath ePortal for MCP supports the latest Android™ and Apple® devices – including the recently released iPhone® 5 – so there will be no need to rewrite your mobile integration as new devices come to market.

Simplifying the Development Lifecycle

The integration of AB Suite 3.0 with Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Team Foundation Server (TFS) provides you with the resources you need to orchestrate all aspects of the development process. In prior releases you had to perform project-management, release-management, and version-control activities outside of the AB Suite environment. Now with TFS, all of these steps can be performed as a natural extension of the development process.

Being able to orchestrate a project from concept to in-production source code within the Visual Studio environment means you'll be able to make a positive impact on productivity and be confident

that you know what's happening at every point in the development process. And your auditors will appreciate the version control functionality available in TFS, as it will be much easier for them to see the changes – as well as the reasons for them – incorporated into specific releases of your application.

Best of all, incorporating TFS into AB Suite 3.0 adds yet another standard, widely accepted tool to the solution, one with which many development professionals are already familiar.

Building a Future-Ready Solution

The updates and enhancements built into AB Suite 3.0 reaffirm our commitment to providing a contemporary, reliable, and most of all, mission-critical development environment. In fact, we believe so strongly in the strategic nature of AB Suite that we have made it the foundation for several of our own vertical solutions, including UVMS (for voicemail and messaging in telephony environments), UFSS (for mortgage management), and Urbis (for wholesale banking).

For this reason, it is critical to deliver the ongoing assurance that the investment you've made in AB Suite and EAE – as well as the applications you develop – is protected well into the future. Part of this is evident in the inclusion of leading-edge features and functionality, such as Visual Studio 2010, OO programming concepts, TFS, and ClearPath ePortal for MCP.

In addition, AB Suite 3.0 is qualified on the new ClearPath platforms released in October of 2012. As such, your AB Suite applications will benefit from the advances in performance and capabilities incorporated into these systems – and the stable foundation that will support your development needs as they evolve to address tomorrow's business requirements.

And given the wealth of new capabilities in AB Suite 3.0, I encourage our EAE users to give this release a hard look and start planning their migrations today.



Engineering Corner: Introducing Agile Business Suite 3.0

By Alan Hood, Consulting Engineer, Global Technology Center, Unisys TCIS



The November 2012 release of Agile Business Suite 3.0 delivers a wide array of new capabilities, including productivity enhancements for developers, stronger runtime security, performance and scaling improvements, and – via optional integration with Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Team Foundation Server (TFS) – the ability to use popular tools and processes to manage the application-development lifecycle.

Changes to AB Suite Developer 3.0

Newer Versions of Visual Studio and SQL Server

The first change you will notice is that this release is integrated with Visual Studio 2010, and that Developer can now use either Microsoft SQL Server® 2008 R2 or SQL Server 2012 for both the Model Repository and Debugger. This brings AB Suite up to date with contemporary versions of the developer IDE and databases – and makes some great features possible.

To begin with, the Automated Test Tool (ATT) is now integrated with Visual Studio, allowing you to define and run test cases right inside Visual Studio.

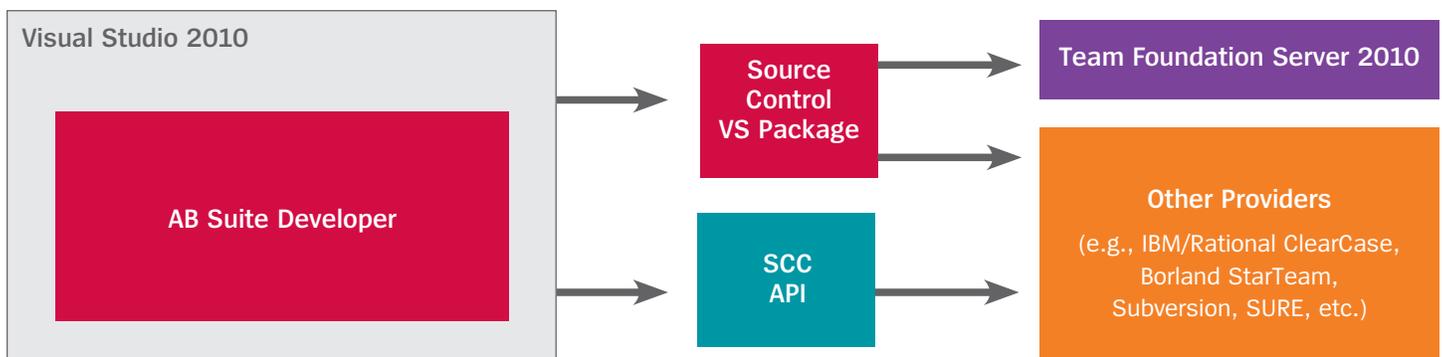
When ATT is installed with Developer it becomes a “Custom Test Type” in Visual Studio that is available even in a standalone configuration. This makes it even easier to run unit tests for the application components that are changing. Your developers won’t need to launch a separate program to run their tests – and they can even script the tests to have them run automatically.

Plus, if they are using TFS, a project manager can assign testing tasks – and track them to ensure they have been successfully carried out before changes are integrated into a release.

The end result is a more efficient and complete testing process, and fewer errors introduced into the production runtime environment.

TFS and Change Management

The optional integration with TFS provides several useful features for shops already using, or planning to use, TFS to manage the application-development lifecycle. As such, you can now use TFS for project management, requirements management, and advanced work item tracking within AB Suite. But the key feature you’ll use time and again is TFS Version Control, which can be employed as a Source Control Package. TFS Version Control is Microsoft’s replacement for Visual SourceSafe® (VSS), and has been redesigned specifically for team-based development environments. >>



AB Suite Developer 3.0 supports Visual Studio Source Control as well as the SCC API.

However, we do understand that TFS may not be for everyone. You may be perfectly happy with the source change management tools you are already using. And that's not a problem, as AB Suite 3.0 continues to support the Microsoft source change control (SCC) API. So if you want to use Unisys SURE Software Configuration Management system, an open-source product like Apache™ Subversion®, or any of the other tools that support the SCC API, AB Suite 3.0 will allow you to do so.

Additional Enhancements to AB Suite Developer 3.0

Recent interim corrections (ICs) to AB Suite 2.0 introduced major updates to Builder change analysis that improve the speed and quality of a partial Build. Adding to those changes are new reporting features that make it easier for you to determine what has been changed since the last Build, and the impact these changes will have on the next Build.

The first such enhancement is a new Build Preview, which can be run before a Build or Rebuild is initiated. It will tell you the type of Build, the percentage impact of the changes, the number of elements to be validated – or in error – and details of the changes. In addition, an updated change-analysis feature can recognize the size of a change and trigger the appropriate action. For example, if the percentage is large, it will force a Rebuild, as that would be the most efficient route. The Build Preview feature will tell you up front what will happen.

Knowing what has changed, and the impact of those changes on the Build, will help you determine how much time to allow for it to complete. Not only that, the number of Logics “in error” and “validated” will help you avoid situations where the Build fails. >>

Build Preview Summary Thursday, October 04, 2012 1:32 PM

Project	AndabloModel	Statistics	
Configuration	Release Windows	- Build Impact	19.47%
Build Node	ChocsysDeploy	- Build Type	Partial
		- Logic(s)	1 In Error / 1 Require Validation

Break down of items to be built: 1 Ispec(s), 0 Event(s), 6 Report(s), 0 Class(es), 0 Method(s), 0 SQL Script(s)

The report is saved in the project folder under C:\Users\hoodaw\documents\visual studio 2010\Projects\AndabloModel\AndabloModel\BuildPreview Summaries\BuildPreviewSummary_ChocsysDeploy 4-10-2012 13-32.xps

Details

Name	Description
ChocsysDeploy	Application Components, Database, Reports, Winform UI
Ispec(s)	
Chocsys.Menu	Menu
Report(s)	
Chocsys.CustEvents	Customer transactions
Chocsys.CustList	Customer listing
Chocsys.CustPurge	Purge deleted customers
Chocsys.Invoices	Invoices
Chocsys.SRepByArea	Sales Representatives by area
Chocsys.Statements	Customer statements
Logic(s)	
Chocsys.Menu.Prepare	Needs Validation
Chocsys.Menu.Main	Invalid

Details

Build Preview provides information on the expected changes for a Build.

Runtime Changes in AB Suite 3.0

AB Suite 3.0 also contains significant Runtime enhancements. For example, both the AB Suite Runtime for ClearPath MCP and Runtime for Windows® let you mask sensitive data in the runtime log files. If produced, these files are usually stored in a secured area of the file system, but there could still be a security risk if you have detailed logging turned on when transactions containing private or sensitive data are being executed. Now, you can tell the AB Suite Runtime to hide specific data fields in the log files, such as account numbers, PIN numbers, names and addresses, or any other information you wish to protect.

This feature has also been introduced into the EAE Runtime for ClearPath MCP and Runtime for ClearPath OS 2200.

We have added a couple of very significant enhancements to the AB Suite Runtime for Windows, as well. Most notably, “Side by Side” Runtime installation allows you to have two different versions of the AB Suite Runtime installed on a single server – allowing you to install upgrades or test an IC without keeping each version on a separate server.

Integration with ClearPath ePortal

In the middle of 2012, we introduced development and runtime support for ClearPath ePortal for MCP. And while that support remains in AB Suite 3.0, there is one significant new benefit: Now that AB Suite Developer and ClearPath ePortal leverage Visual Studio 2010, you will only need one version of this software to work in both tools.

Not only that, you also have the option to create a single Visual Studio solution that contains projects for your AB Suite model, an ePortal ClearPath Data Source project, and one or more ClearPath ePortal Presentation projects. This will make it even easier for backend application developers and front-end client developers to coordinate their activities.

Getting to AB Suite 3.0

We have tried to make it easier than ever for you to migrate to AB Suite 3.0, no matter your starting point. To that end, it's possible to import models from EAE 3.3, AB Suite 1.2, and AB Suite 2.0 directly into AB Suite 3.0.

The Windows Runtime database migration tool provides the ability to upgrade databases directly from each of those previous levels. It is not necessary to go through any interim steps to get to AB Suite 3.0. The Windows DBMigrate Utility now uses SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS) in place of the older Data Transformation Services (DTS), which provides more functionality and improves performance by moving data with greater efficiency.

The Fine Print

AB Suite Developer requires Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 SP1, and will work with SQL Server 2008 or SQL Server 2012 databases. For more details about specific hardware and software level requirements, please refer to the AB Suite 3.0 software release announcement (SRA) or the AB Suite 3.0 software qualification and support matrix. These documents are available under “Agile Business Suite” in the Public Information/Documentation section of public.support.unisys.com. No user ID or password is required.

Highlights of the AB Suite 3.0 Field Test

By David Bonillo, Senior Project Manager, Global Technology Centre – Australia, Unisys TCIS

Field testing activities for Agile Business Suite 3.0 wrapped up in June of 2012. For testers, engineers, and support personnel alike, this provided a great opportunity to run the new release under real-world conditions and learn first-hand how the newest features and functionality performed in the hands of actual users.



Part of what made this field test so successful was a new approach that emphasized collaboration with participants and implemented a less-formal structure than in years past. In addition, there was considerable groundwork established prior to entering field test.

From an engineering perspective, we treated the preparation of the field test software as if it were a GCA release – with all of the rigor and structure of that process employed every step of the way. So not only was the software built to a very high standard, we also made sure that key documentation and educational materials were available, too. Also contributing to the quality of the software going into the test was an intensified focus on setting strict deadlines for development and making sure that only complete features were included.

Streamlined Installation Facilitates Testing

Efficient installation of the software has always been critical to a successful field test – and something that has been a challenge in the past. To change this, we instituted a new communication process to ensure fast response to any installation-related issues. Engineers were on call virtually around the clock, monitoring email feedback to ensure any roadblocks the testers encountered were resolved as quickly and smoothly as possible.

To further help testers along, we held a pre-release webcast that reviewed important educational materials and background information, outlined testing logistics and support procedures, and listed the contact information for key Unisys personnel. In addition, we provided participants with documentation about the new features well ahead of time, so they could get themselves ramped up and ready to hit the ground running.

A Reshaped Testing Process Provides Greater Flexibility

Unlike previous field tests, the evaluation of AB Suite 3.0 followed a free-form structure that eliminated the requirement for participants to submit weekly test results and perform a considerable amount of formal, administrative reporting. This made for a much more natural evaluation process.

As a result, not only did many users test new features and other basics – like installation and loading and exercising of Sample – they also concentrated on their specific areas of expertise, such as Component Enabler, MCP generation, Client Tools, Version Control, Automated Test Tool (ATT), and more. Actual customer models, imported from such sources as AB Suite 1.2 and 2.0, were also validated, generated, and deployed. >>

Throughout the test process, we ensured engineering resources were at the ready to help participants work through any issues they encountered. The direct communication lines we established between testers and engineering helped us quickly pinpoint issues and develop a fix prior to finalizing the code. In fact, all UCFs uncovered during the field test have been addressed in the 3.0 release.

Successful Test, Successful Release

All in all, the field test for AB Suite 3.0 was a resounding success. So much so that one tester even said, “This field test has been amazingly easy. When can I get the GCA copy?”

The flexible, collaborative, communication-focused approach we adopted for this test proved extremely valuable and has set a standard we will follow for future tests. On behalf of the AB Suite engineering organization, I would like to thank everyone who participated in the field test. Your input greatly improved the quality of AB Suite 3.0.

If you weren't able to join the 3.0 field test, I encourage you to give it a go next time. It's a great opportunity to get an early view of the latest release and all of its new features.

CSC Spotlight: Bernard Eilers

This article is the latest in a series showcasing the Unisys Customer Support Center (CSC) Analysts who support EAE and Agile Business Suite. Interested in seeing a support analyst featured? Send your nomination to ABSuite@unisys.com.



Bernard Eilers began his tenure with Unisys (then Burroughs) in 1977, when he was just 21 years old. After spending his first eight years servicing B1000 systems and related peripherals, Bernard transitioned to the CSC and has called the organization home ever since. Today, Bernard brings the expertise he's accumulated over nearly three decades in the CSC to ClearPath MCP software, EAE, and AB Suite users throughout Europe.

Developing *Agility* recently talked with Bernard about his role as a CSC analyst, what he likes best about the job, and what he's most excited for in AB Suite 3.0

Developing Agility: Tell us a bit about the services you perform and the customers you support.

Bernard Eilers: My first job in the CSC, back in 1985, was to support B1000 and A Series systems. My focus shifted to LINC, DMS II, and printing when LINC 15 was introduced. And from there, I moved on to EAE, AB Suite, and MCP software.

I work with customers in the Netherlands, as well as others in Russia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Spain, and even Turkey. In addition, I've given a course on OLTP on MCP and EAE in Mexico City, and one on DMS II administration in Bangalore.

I also serve as a Support Account Manager (SAM) for Achmea, a Dutch insurer. As the SAM for Achmea, I am considered part of their DBA group,

so I work closely with them to keep the databases up and running – and proactively introduce new features of the DMS II software they may not have time to investigate on their own.

DA: What do you like best about being a CSC analyst?

BE: I take great pride in working closely with customers and helping them resolve any issues they are struggling to address. And traveling to numerous countries means I'm exposed to new cultures and ways of working, which is always interesting.

I also enjoy testing out new software releases and collaborating with our development teams to suggest improvements prior to release. Plus, I've spent many years working with DMS II, so I'm always happy to help customers in that area, too.

DA: What were some highlights of the last year?

BE: From a professional standpoint, I was very satisfied by the help I provided to a customer in Belgium that was having trouble generating from its EAE environment. I accessed the system via a VPN and was able to solve the issue remotely in a couple of days. The customer was so pleased that they sent me what can only be described as a "love letter" thanking me for my help.

And from a personal perspective, the marriage of my son in July and the birth of my fifth grandchild in August were definitely high points this year. >>

DA: You work with Post & Co. quite often. Tell us about the recent work you've done for them.

BE: One of my first projects with Post & Co. was to help them migrate to AB Suite 1.2 in 2007. This actually made Post & Co. the first company in the world running AB Suite on MCP. In late 2011 we launched a new project to move Post & Co. to AB Suite 2.0, which is the version they're currently running.

I actually used their application to do my testing during the AB Suite 3.0 field test, and invited Jan Piet Slot, IT Manager of Post & Co., to take a look at some of the release's new features. He was particularly impressed by the integration of Automated Test Tool (ATT) and Microsoft Visual Studio, and is looking forward to getting up and running on AB Suite 3.0

DA: In your opinion, what are some of the most exciting features of AB Suite 3.0?

BE: The ATT and Visual Studio integration I demonstrated to Post & Co. is certainly a standout – as is the new integration with Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 Team Foundation Server (TFS). The new TFS functionality is impressive because not only does it improve version control, it also helps users create and control development workflows.

DA: What would you think customers don't know about the CSC that they should?

BE: Customers may not know that the CSC functions as a global team, so analysts from all over the world are always available to help one another address support needs. In addition, many of us work on both MCP and AB Suite, so we're able to help customers on a wide array of topics.

DA: If there was one thing customers could do to make your response more effective and efficient, what would it be?

BE: Be sure to upload support requests to our dedicated portal. This allows every CSC analyst to see the call and ensures that response time is not dependent on whether or not an analyst is present in the customer's region.

In addition, any supporting materials, such as logs and models, a customer uploads to the Unisys FTP server are available worldwide to CSC analysts and our counterparts in engineering. This infrastructure is a big advantage because it means we're able to work on a customer's issue around the clock.

“Bernard is our lifeline when it comes to solving problems fast. Further, he is much appreciated for his in-depth knowledge of MCP, AB Suite, and DMS II, as well as his support at our site. Last but not least, he is a great guy and a lot of fun to work with. We always enjoy having him around.”

– Jan Piet Slot, IT Manager, Post & Co.



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EAE and AB Suite Videos on YouTube

Good news: We've recently added videos to [YouTube](#) that will be of particular interest to EAE and Agile Business Suite users.

This new [playlist](#) about the ClearPath ePortal specialty engine features six, three-minute videos that will help you modernize your applications by showing you how to create an EAE/AB Suite data source and different types of presentation projects in ePortal Developer.

Before you watch any of these new videos, though, it may be good to start with a quick overview of how easy ePortal makes it to optimize your existing applications for use on smartphones and tablets. So, please check out [ClearPath and Smart Devices](#) before you dive into the videos listed below.

Each video in the playlist builds on the steps performed in the previous videos, so it is best to watch them in the specified order:

- **[How to Generate Bundles for an AB Suite/EAE Data Source Project](#)**: Outlines the steps required to generate an ePortal bundle containing the Ispec XML files, Model dll files, and related artifacts that will be imported into an EAE/AB Suite data source project.
- **[How to Create an AB Suite/EAE Data Source Project](#)**: Shows how to build a data source project that can be used to create the content for presentation projects and orchestrate the flow of data between newly designed web or web services interfaces and the existing application.
- **[How to Create an AB Suite/EAE Web Presentation Project](#)**: Describes the process for creating an EAE/AB Suite web presentation project that will allow users to access the modernized application using a standard web browser.

- **[How to Create an AB Suite/EAE Smartphone Presentation Project](#)**: Illustrates how to create a web application that closely emulates a native smartphone app on Apple iOS, Android, and BlackBerry® devices.
- **[Customizing an AB Suite/EAE Application in ePortal](#)**: Explains what you need to do to customize a default EAE/AB Suite application created in ePortal using the “Table for Copy Ispec” and “Set Control Label to Field Description” import options.
- **[How to Create WCF RESTful Service Application](#)**: Outlines how to build a WCF RESTful Service application and expose it to one or more web services.

This series is just a sampling of the content available on the [ClearPath YouTube channel](#). Your go-to source for short, informative videos on all things ClearPath, the channel features everything from highlights of the platform's capabilities to specifics about specialty engines and supporting software.

And since we are routinely uploading new videos, we encourage you to check back often. Or, better yet, subscribe to the channel to receive notifications whenever new videos are posted.

Info Center

Reference Materials Available from Unisys Support Site

Be sure to check out the Documentation Libraries available in the [Public Information](#) section of the Unisys Support Site. They hold a wealth of information for EAE and AB Suite users alike.

New additions to our libraries of How To documents, white papers, and other useful information include:

- **How To:** Use Application Pooling and Recycling in Windows Runtime (**updated**)
- **How To:** Use Registry Keys with Windows Runtime (**updated**)
- **Utility:** How To: Use ReEldor Utility (**NEW**)

No special login is needed. Visit public.support.unisys.com, choose “Documentation” in the “Public Information” box located on the left-hand side of the screen, agree to the terms of service, and you’re good to go.

Specifications are subject to change without notice.

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