

Community Voice: SIG “Top 3” Lists for 2009

Sam Ayers

Chair, Advocacy Steering Committee
 CHASE Paymentech Solutions, LLC
 Dallas, Texas

Special Interests Groups (SIGs) are networks of experts from around the world who share common interests. SIG members network online throughout the year, and meet face-to-face at the major events such as this year’s HP Technology Forum and Expo. The Connect Advocacy Steering Committee, which I chair, has defined the Connect SIGs to be a primary source for HP user feedback.

At each of the face-to-face meetings, a SIG leader, an HP Liaison, a representative of the Connect Community Voice program and a representative from the HP Total Customer Experience (TCE) organization are present. Information flows immediately from the SIG membership

to the stakeholders and to those who can take action. The Advocacy Steering Committee works with HP to make sure issues and requested actions are all documented, and that there is follow-up.

SIG leaders are asked to work on their advocacy issues with their membership throughout the year, and to deliver their list to the Advocacy Steering Committee Chair prior to the annual face-to-face meeting. It is up to the SIG leaders and their members to determine the most fair and equitable way to specify and determine their Top 3 issues. The only requirement is that the SIG leader delivers the list of issues (on behalf of the SIG) at the time of the annual face-to-face meeting.

SIG Top 3 Advocacy Issues Collected at 2009 HP Technology Forum and Expo

I am happy to report that, despite reduced attendance due to the world economic conditions, the Connect SIG meetings were vibrant. The Advocacy Issues were intensely debated, and, in the end, the SIG leaders drew closure and delivered their lists including the prioritized “Top 3,” which I present to you now.

Open NonStop SIG

SIG Leader: Bill Honaker (bhonaker@xid.com)

HP Liaison: Sanjib Guhathakurta (sanjib.guhathakurta@hp.com)

SIG Requests:		HP Responses:	
1.	Help Java applications to provide consistent timing or response, suitable to use in meeting Service Level Agreements. Example of a problem: GC blocks application thread(s) and suspends processing for relatively long periods.	1.	Need More information Thank you for this request. We need more information regarding this enhancement request in order to further consider this request. For example, we would like to see data that confirms the apparent premise behind the RFE, which is that GC blocks application thread processing for relatively long periods.
2.	Fix operation of “Virtual Drives” so that OSS commands work with virtual drives, same as with physical drives. For example, one should be able to do common operations such as “ls,” “cp,” “ctoedit,” and “editoc” without having to copy files from virtual disks to physical disks. Presently OSS commands do not work with virtual drives.	2.	Useful but no implementation dates yet available Thank you for this request. At this time we have no plans for implementing this enhancement, however, we agree that this enhancement is worthy of future consideration and we will review this request as part of our future product planning.
3.	Provide access to the scheduling concurrent threads on multi-core Blade processors (i.e. kernel threads) for OSS and pthreads.	3.	Part of the Roadmap Thank you for this request. Your enhancement request for kernel-level threading has been included in our roadmap features. However, at this time we cannot commit to a release date but this is part of future plans for the product.

Java SIG

SIG Leader: Sam Ayers (sam.ayers@ChasePaymentech.com)

HP Liaisons: Swaroop Dutta (swaroop.dutta@hp.com), Sanjib Guhathakurta (sanjib.guhathakurta@hp.com), Dave Graham (dave.graham@hp.com)

SIG Requests:		HP Responses:	
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1.	Clarify the roadmap for NonStop users of full J2EE stacks including EJB's	1.	We agree that this part of the NonStop roadmap should be clarified and will do so as part of our future roadmap updates.
2.	Provide a user guide for tuning the iTP Web Server and NSJSP (Tomcat) configuration files and specific parameters within those files.	2.	Your request has already been implemented. There are two documents that are currently available in docs.hp.com pertaining to this request. They are: (1) Tuning Guide for iTP Secure WebServer and NonStop™ Servlets for JavaServer Pages™ (NSJSP) on NonStop servers (2) Configuring NonStop™ Servlets for JavaServer Pages™ (NSJSP) Whitepaper
3.	Provide a set of downloadable “Examples On Demand” for the new SASH framework; i.e. templates that can be used as a starting point for rapidly developing SASH-based projects targeting HP NonStop.	3.	Useful but no implementation dates yet available We agree that this enhancement is worthy of future consideration, however, at this time we have no plans for implementation and will review the request as part of our future planning.

NonStop Performance SIG

SIG Leader: Pat Klatt (patrick.klatt@cmegroup.com)

HP Liaison: Nestor Fernandez (nestor_fernandez@hp.com)

SIG Requests:		HP Responses:	
1.	Improve ability to measure and monitor Java processes and threads in real time (like measure).	1.	We have a program under consideration to provide kernel-level threading. As part of that effort, we would offer this sort of support. However, at this time we cannot commit to a release date but this is part of future plans for the product.
2.	Provide a programmatic interface for measuring available virtual memory.	2.	At this time we have no plans for implementing this enhancement, however, we agree that this enhancement is worthy of future consideration and we will review this request as part of our planning for next year.
3.	Provide a programmatic interface for file label utilization.	3.	We need more information regarding the enhancement request “provide a programmatic interface for file label utilization” in order to further consider your request. – How would this feature be used? – How would this feature improve performance measurements or tracking?
4.	Provide ability to monitor available SMF threads on a virtual disk process.	4.	The effort involved in this is quite high. At this time we have no plans for implementing this enhancement, however, we agree that this enhancement is worthy of future consideration.

NonStop Business Continuity SIG

SIG Leader: Michael Heath (michael.heath@t-online.de)

HP Liaison: Bob Loftis (Robert.Loftis@hp.com)

SIG Requests:		HP Responses:	
1.	Reduce latency for access to audit trail data.	1.	We have received a good description of some customer and partner requirements for this enhancement and had initial discussions among our DP2 and TMF development leads involved, but we need more time to identify and review options. We must then estimate what our combined teams can do to achieve the desired results. We can commit to a summary status and plan on this enhancement request by the end of September. We may also need more information from interested partners and customers and will ask accordingly. Moreover, if results are available sooner, we will report immediately to the SIG.
2.	HP please work with vendor partners to deliver SQL/MP DDL replication for all of the partner replication products (not just HP RDF but also for partner replication solutions)	2.	Our plan has been to first deliver SQL DDL replication for our RDF customers who use SQL/MP, representing our largest installed base. Then, based on the development experience gained, and our customers' interests, we would move towards possibilities for SQL/MX DDL replication and also for making automatic DDL replication easier for our partners' replication products to achieve. We are now working with RDF and “SDR” users (early adopters of the SQL/MP solution) to fine-tune our first product. Based on the SIG's recent feedback, we have asked our partners to estimate the number of their customers who request automatic DDL replication in their replication products. We are awaiting response. Once we have that summary estimate, targeted for September, we will update the SIG on prospects and planning to achieve this more complicated goal: DDL replication for any partner product.

<p>3. Provide DDL replication for SQL/MX tables</p>	<p>3. See #2 above - based on HP TF SIG feedback, we are investigating possibilities for partner DDL replication. Our decision regarding SQL/MX DDL replication will be based on demand for MX DDL replication from RDF users and from our partners' users. We have long known that SQL/MX will offer more challenging design considerations for automatic DDL replication, so having a good estimate of customer demand is important. Accordingly, a SQL/MX project will be more time and resource intensive than SQL MP, so we must factor those elements in our consideration. A decision and possible plan for SQL/MX would come after deliberation on #2 above, later in the fall.</p>
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One update: This SIG dialogue has led us to review current functionality, and it does appear that the first SDR product, for SQL MP DDL, may also be usable to replicate DDL changes in SQL/MX if the customer is using SQL MP tables. Look for confirmation in the near future, or, if needed, contact robert.loftis@hp.com.

NonStop SOA SIG

SIG Leader: Grady Keith (Grady_Keith@HomeDepot.com)

HP Liaison: Keith Evans (keith.b.evans@hp.com)

SIG Requests:		HP Responses:	
<p>1. Provide ability to do field mapping of internal field names to user-friendly, externally published field names in the HP SOAP developer UI.</p>	<p>1. Useful but no implementation dates yet available We agree that this enhancement is worthy of future consideration, however, at this time we have no plans for implementation and will review the request as part of our future planning.</p>		
<p>2. Provide ability to specify message orchestration for pathsend messaging in HP SOAP by scripting the message orchestration in the developer UI, without the need to develop a new "proxy" server to wrap the backend pathway servers.</p>	<p>2. Rejected This goes to infrastructure to support Business Process Orchestration and is beyond the scope of the NSSOAP product.</p>		
<p>3. Provide Representational State Transfer (REST) support in HP SOAP and in its developer UI.</p>	<p>3. Approved and Implementing "Rest" support will be provided by NSSOAP 4.0. Useful but no implementation dates yet available We agree that this enhancement is worthy of future consideration, however, at this time we have no plans for implementation of "Rest" support in the NSSOAP developer UI and will review the request as part of our future planning.</p>		

NonStop SQL SIG

SIG Leader: Klara Franko (klara.franko@t-online.de)

HP Liaison: Ajaya Gummadi (ajaya.gummadi@hp.com)

SIG Requests:		HP Responses:	
<p>1. MXCS server response time should not degrade when connections are opened and closed many times, using JDBC Type 4 driver.</p>	<p>1. RFE – Approved and Implementing Thank you for this request. We appreciate your time and effort for proposing this enhancement. Your enhancement request is under investigation by Development and should be implemented in an upcoming RVU. Thank you again for your recommendation.</p>		
<p>2. DROP INDEX should not invalidate a program that does not use index.</p>	<p>2. RFE – Approved and Implementing Thank you for this request. We appreciate your time and effort for proposing this enhancement. Your enhancement request is under investigation by Development and should be implemented in an upcoming RVU. Thank you again for your recommendation.</p>		



<p>3. Add column should not cause similarity check failure.</p>	<p>3. RFE – Rejected Thank you for this request. We appreciate your time and effort for proposing this enhancement. Your enhancement request will not be implemented for reason(s) shown below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The product is not designed for such behavior and/or the enhancement is not technically feasible. • This change in product behavior would negatively impact some customers. <p>The SQL plan has attributes associated with the project expression – within the Attributes are offsets to specific column values and possibly PCode directly to specific column values. If the plan is not invalidated then these offsets can be wrong. If you have a table of all fixed fields and do an ‘add column’ of a varchar then all column offsets shift. The old offsets are correct for the old row data but not for any new data rows that have been added. This gets worse with the Aligned Row format. The newly added column does not have an offset associated with it thus would never be projected out.</p>
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NonStop Security and Audit SIG

SIG Leader: Kurtis Holland (kurtis.holland@sabre.com)

HP Liaison: Karen Copeland (karen.copeland@hp.com)

SIG Requests:	HP Responses:
<p>1. Provide solution for all cases where credentials are “in the clear.”=</p>	<p>1. RFE – Part of the Roadmap Thank you for this request. We are already working on closing the gaps for products sold by HP that send credentials “in the clear.” We should be able to provide a list of these products and HP’s plans to provide solutions in a future Security Roadmap presentation before the end of 2009.</p>
<p>2. Provide user exits for SEEP for Safeguard/OSS.</p>	<p>2. RFE – Under Investigation Thank you for this request. We are currently analyzing this RFE. We need to understand design feasibility and priority in the OSS and security roadmaps before we can provide a response.</p>
<p>3. Provide SQL/MX security enhancements regarding placement, roles, ownership.</p>	<p>3. RFEs – Under Investigation Thank you for this request. We are currently analyzing these RFEs. We need to understand design feasibility and priorities in the SQL/MX roadmap before we can provide a more detailed response.</p>

Enterprise UNIX SIG

SIG Leaders: Marty Anilane (manilane@csc.com), David Ledger (david.ledger@ivdcs.co.uk)

HP Liaisons: Bruce Henderson (bruce.henderson@hp.com), Suzanne LaForge (Suzanne.LaForge@hp.com)

SIG Requests:	HP Responses:
<p>1. Make Eclipse remote development work for C, C++, debugging, etc.</p>	<p>1. Formal Response in Process</p>
<p>2. Clarify application, middleware, and development tool strategy in light of recent Oracle acquisitions (BEA Tuxedo, Weblogic, etc.)</p>	<p>2. Formal Response in Process</p>
<p>3. Make it easier for developers to find/access documentation.</p>	<p>3. Formal Response in Process</p>
<p>4. Make it easier for system administrators to find/access troubleshooting documentation.</p>	<p>4. Formal Response in Process</p>
<p>5. Do more promotion of benefits and differentiation of HP-UX vs. other mission critical system platforms.</p>	<p>5. Formal Response in Process</p>

Storage SIG

SIG Leader: Gary McCready (gmccready@jri-america.com)

HP Liaison: Yvette Adamo (Yvette.Adamo@hp.com)

SIG Requests:	HP Responses:
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1.	Produce EVA roadmaps	1.	Formal Response in Process
2.	Develop sessions for targeted groups – e.g. the Department of Defense (this can go beyond storage as an idea)	2.	Formal Response in Process
3.	Get the meet the experts scheduled and advertised much earlier – it was too late	3.	Formal Response in Process

Integrity Migration SIG

SIG Leader: Wolfgang Breidbach (wolfgang.breidbach@BV-Zahlungssysteme.de)

HP Liaison: Francine Polidori (francine.polidori@hp.com)

SIG Requests:		HP Responses:	
1.	Provide ability to configure an NS2000 type system with same number of CPU's and resources as a production system (for test validation purposes)	1.	If it is a requirement to match exactly the hardware configuration of production for a test environment, then purchasing the exact same hardware configuration of production as your test environment is your best option. While the NS2000 shares the same NonStop multi-core Operating System, I/O infrastructure (CLIM based), and NonStop fundamentals as the NB50000c, it is available in different configurations.
2.	Stabilize the ACS middleware so users can take full advantage of the new hardware.	2.	Your request has already been implemented. RFEs have recently been released as SPRs for TS/MP 2.3 and 2.4, which address two issues: – obviate the need to restart requesters after an ACS abend – automatically restart ACS after an abend The net effect of these is that manual intervention and downtime after an ACS abend is avoided. In addition, we are taking further steps to avoid ACS abends in the first place.
3.	Provide documentation and guidance regarding how to size XP drives for new blades systems. (Capacity planning/ migration issue).	3.	Still working this one...

OpenVMS

SIG Leaders: Bill Thomas (Bill@family-thomas.net), Michelle Popejoy (popejoy@encompasserve.org)

HP Liaison: Sujatha Ramani (sujatha.ramani@hp.com)

SIG Requests:		HP Responses:	
1.	Market / Communicate to a larger audience (from C-Level to students) that OpenVMS remains a viable and desirable technology with superior scalability, availability, security, and lower TCO.	1.	Formal Response in Process
2.	Review licensing, especially for smaller systems – it can be higher than the hardware cost so acts as a disincentive to buy. Perhaps a special SMB configuration.	2.	Formal Response in Process
3.	Better education of sales force and ensure they are compensated equally for OpenVMS sales and HP-UX sales.	3.	Formal Response in Process
4.	Please add subtitles for Webinars etc. from India For the technical presentations can Connect Members: – Put up questions in advance – Interact and raise hand in the virtual room for attention – Members to get access to content – Targeted for the SIG but other members can access	4.	Formal Response in Process



NonStop Operations SIG**SIG Leader:** Gus Estrada (Gus.Estrada@Zionsbancorp.com)**HP Liaison:** George Haskell (george.haskell@hp.com)

SIG Requests:		HP Responses:	
1.	Tokenized interface for other OS's (CLIM) – needs improvement	1.	Formal Response in Process
2.	Guidelines required for the settings for alerts that should apply for certain types of workloads.	2.	Formal Response in Process

Business Continuity SIG (Cross Platform)**SIG Leader:** Michael Heath (michael.heath@t-online.de)**HP Liaison:** Bob Loftis (Robert.Loftis@hp.com)

For all Operating systems, but especially End of Life (EOL) products, there is a requirement to preserve Intellectual Property (IP) beyond the timetable set by HP as some organizations cannot meet these deadlines – for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to:

- Their own migration timetables
- Third-party software development and deployment
- Regulatory requirements
- Loss of source code and need to reverse engineer some programs
- The scale of the application software and the linkages to other software

1.	Education materials
2.	EOL knowledge preservation
3.	System Crash support
4.	Transitioning programs