

MOVEX USER'S ASSOCIATION - UNITED KINGDOM CONFERENCE

By Laurie Hester, Tribex Consulting

The Movex User's Association Conference held this year in Warrington, near Manchester, UK, was delightful, informative and well-organized. From the smooth, on-time execution, to the planned-to-every-detail organization by Graham Maxfield and his wife Angela, to the Intenia announcements to the welcome presentations by several third party vendors, this conference was very worthwhile.

The highlight for me was Intenia's Cormac Watters' talk about the newly stated position of cooperation and expansion with third party vendors, from third party sales to peripherals to service providers. It looks like the new CEO's stated position is becoming reality with a newly announced program to accredit selected business partners. If a company feels they can more effectively sell Movex to a particular market, either a small niche market sector or to large accounts, Intenia will work with them. They are partnering with OS Solutions to provide the long-awaited archiving solution for Movex. They are looking to work with service providers to provide consultants to cover peak periods and more. This new direction for Intenia looks very promising, offering new choices and better service for Movex customers.

Intenia also seemed to be acknowledging problems with customer service, Java installations and i-support and a new willingness to listen to customer criticism via the focus interest groups (FIGs) and to respond to it. The FIGs appear to be working well as a way for Movex customers to have a voice and communicate with each other and Intenia. MUA also has implemented a program to actually develop common modifications, through either joint development or by making a mod developed by one company available to others. I would like to see this program developed further, and have a greater influence in future Movex development.

Dinner was excellent and complete with lovely folk singers Waking The Witch, a quartet of women, all with lovely voices and harmonizing and guitar skills. By far, the most interesting and energetic speaker was Jonathan Dingwall on day two on the subject of What Did Java Ever Do For Us? He started with the hilarious clip from the Monty Python movie "Life of Brian", where the question is asked, "What did the Romans ever do for us?" This woke everyone up (many attendees were boozing and schmoozing until the wee hours the night before) and set the tone for a fascinating look at the potential for the future with Java. A demonstration of a customer portal, making use of Web Services and interfacing with Notes and Excel and Movex looked great; I wonder if more companies will take advantage of this module?



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