

# DATABASE

## TRENDS AND APPLICATIONS

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## InterSystems Makes MultiValue Move



**Robert Nagle,**  
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InterSystems, whose post-relational Caché database is a favorite among applications developers and a leader in the embedded database space, began exploring opportunities in the MultiValue community last year. Database Trends and Applications talked to Robert Nagle, vice president, software development, to get an update.

**DBTA: You first approached the MultiValue community last year. Where do you stand now?**

Nagle: Our goal has been to work with a few partners who have applications that they are interested in migrating to Caché. We wanted to test the underpinnings of the extensions we have built to Caché to host MultiValue applications. We have been building out our basic compiler, our support for MultiValue queries and testing migrating large scale applications to that environment.

**DBTA: And what has been your experience?**

Nagle: The response of the people who have tried it has been universally good. There are a lot of differences among different PICK applications and most applications contain smatterings of lots of dialects. We want to provide a good environment as a target for PICK applications. And I think we are succeeding in that.

**DBTA: Why did you decide to invest in this area?**

Nagle: The similarities in the philosophy behind PICK and the philosophy behind MUMPS, which is our roots, are pretty tight.

So the people who are in this space believe in building applications quickly, and believe that the relational model is not a complete answer for certain applications, and unsuitable for many kinds of applications. We are like distant cousins.

**DBTA: But there are more than just technical reasons.**

Nagle: We also are a company that believes in long-term relationships and commitments and likes to offer partners a deep level of service in return for committing to our technology. That spirit is also true in the MultiValue community. And there is a hunger to have partners who will stand by you for the long term. We offer a business model that makes sense for ISVs and are committed to the ISV market.

**DBTA: What opportunities will the MultiValue market open for you?**

Nagle: We are looking to offer PICK application developers another option that will give them an exciting future as they take the applications forward. We are constantly investing in our development framework around Caché, whether people want to build Java applications or .NET applications or our built-in Caché Server Pages for Web applications. We feel we have a good and evolving story for ISVs. We are looking for application partners who want to continue to evolve their applications.

**DBTA: What are some of the benefits they get with Caché?**

Nagle: A great runtime environment. Caché is an extremely scalable, extremely robust runtime environment. Benefits will also come when partners are trying to add to their application through Java objects or within a .NET or J2EE framework, or providing reporting access to their application. Whatever it is they want to do, Caché has a

broad suite of interfaces and we keep expanding and improving them. That accrues to anybody running on Caché whether their application is written in our native object script or PICK Basic and MultiValue queries.

**DBTA: How mature are your MultiValue extensions?**

Nagle: We set the goal to get some applications migrated before we fully opened the doors. That was the right thing to do in terms of testing that what we have is robust enough. We have made good progress and are very close to opening the doors a lot wider.

**DBTA: What does this very prudent process say about you as a company?**

Nagle: First, we make long-term commitments and we keep them. We believe that technology evolves. We believe that there is a wealth of really rich applications in the PICK space that could benefit from having Caché as an application and InterSystems as a partner. We want to have a platform that works for them. When people move to Caché, they will find that they have a really rich environment; an incredibly robust database--our core kernel database is deployed at hundreds of thousands of sites, where the expectations are exceedingly high. People will find that we offer all the key features a successful PICK application should have, as well as a strong path forward.

**DBTA: What is your message for attendees at the Spectrum show?**

Nagle: That will be a surprise for Spectrum.



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