



Left to right: Mike Stateler, technical lead, DON eBusiness Operations Office and Jason Hall, director of Sales and Marketing for Herres & Lee Corp., demonstrating the Integrated Interactive Data Briefing Tool at FOSE 2004.

day as it needs, and the update no longer relies on static information that was potentially out of date as soon as it was presented.

Using Web services also allows users to dynamically access information in response to questions from the admiral or other officers attending the brief. Before, when the admiral had a question, someone would have to find the information and get back to him later. Now, those questions can be answered on the spot because the IIDBT allows users to interactively tap into data sources.

Technical Advantages

By presenting the update in HTML format instead of the large PowerPoint files that were formerly used, the IIDBT also helps reduce the presentation's bandwidth demands. Using HTML format is a major advantage whenever there is a need to share the presentation with ships afloat with low bandwidth data links. The PowerPoint files could grow to 20 megabytes in size, which made downloading very difficult for ships with smaller pipes.

Another critical advantage of the IIDBT's methodology is that using XML Web services does not require special modifications to existing data sources. Regardless of how the IIDBT evolves to meet the admiral's information needs, the fleet's back-end data repositories are not affected.

Using XML Web services also simplifies ongoing management of the IIDBT platform by providing a layer of abstraction that allows the fleet to modify and

replace technology within the data management layer without affecting the applications or services that consume the data. In addition, while many of the fleet's data sources run on Microsoft SQL Server, the IIDBT's XML Web services interact just as seamlessly with the fleet's legacy platforms.

Wide-reaching Benefits

The Navy and Marine Corps can apply the savings provided by the IIDBT wherever data must be transformed into knowledge to support critical decisions. Speedy information retrieval and use of state-of-the-art technology tools to empower decision makers are realized on demand.

In the future, instead of relying on massed forces, we will achieve information superiority by leveraging the power of technology. National defense, homeland security and e-government are dependent on information systems. The real payoff of IIDBT comes when data are translated into knowledge superiority used by decision makers to empower the warfighter.



Lt. Cmdr. Eric Higgins is the collaboration officer in the Information Management Division at Commander Second Fleet. He was the lead project officer for the IIDBT project. Jason Hall is the director of Sales and Marketing for Herres & Lee Corp., a Springfield Va., based information technology consulting firm and Microsoft Certified Partner. 



DON eBusiness Operations Office Solicits Pilot Project Proposals

The Department of the Navy eBusiness Operations Office is now accepting pilot project proposals from Navy and Marine Corps ashore and afloat personnel, both military and civilian. Evaluation of these proposals for funding under the FY 2005 pilot program will be ongoing through July 30, 2004.

The eBusiness pilot program provides seed money for projects that use technology innovation to improve business processes across the entire DON. Successful eBusiness pilot proposals are of limited scope, cost and duration in order to rapidly develop working prototype solutions. Proposals are expected to address improving current DON business processes and to provide a positive return on investment.

The DON eBusiness Operations Office helps solve Navy and Marine Corps process gaps by combining business process reengineering with information technology infusion. Any business process improvement opportunity can be a focus area for a pilot proposal from maintenance or medical to logistics or learning. The proposal submission process is simple. Go to the eBusiness Operations Office Web site at www.don-ebusiness.navy.mil/, click on "Submit a Pilot Project" and complete the online submission form. This Web site also contains valuable information about proposal criteria and the selection process.

Pilot submissions are evaluated in the last quarter of the fiscal year for funding in the following fiscal year.

Phone (717) 605-9359, DSN 430-9359 for assistance. 