Week 8, Discussion Question 2, Ajax for Workplace

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1   Ajax in ERP-System-Development

As currently working in the field of ERP applications, I dont see any utilization for an asynchronous processing of data in this field. The reason behind is, that ERP-systems can be seen as huge database-systems in which operations like the update, insert or deletion of a data-record in the database must transfer the status of the database-system from one consistent state to another consistent state. Moreover, data like for instance an item of a customer order are often represented as one tuple in the database, the submitting of all items as a whole will limit the number of database-accesses, which will presumably increase if the Ajax engine will submit data to the database if the focus of a field is lost using asynchronous processing. Only if services for ERP-systems are made available as SaaS, the usage of asynchronous communication between client and server can be useful.

2   Ajax for Reporting-Systems

As off February next year, my responsibility will change from the development for ERP-systems (i.e. SAP as main processing-system) to the development of reporting solutions thus Data-Warehouse and Business-Intelligence systems.

In the field of reporting-systems, it is currently standard to use a synchronous connection to the data-warehouse. Therefore, the navigation within the data-pool is interrupted by the reload of the whole page (if the user-interface is web-based) or the spreadsheet (if an Excel-integration is used) (Deitel, 2008).

According to my understanding, the necessity and success of Ajax and asynchronous data processing between a client and a server is grounded on the fact, that it allows the browsing in huge applications without loading the complete amount of data into the browser (for instance using Google-Maps, or Street-View). The navigation in a huge data pool of a company in the same way as navigating in a map can be seen as one field of operation for data-warehousing especially when data are displayed via a web-frontend. However, the impact of sending asynchronous requests to a database system from a huge number of users must be analysed.

The disadvantage of Ajax processing is, that the data are made available through the Ajax-engine using XML. This is maybe not useful and designed for a huge amount of data to be processed (Wenz, 2010).

3   Ajax for the Workplace

In the year 2006, Andrew McAffee coined the term *Enterprise 2.0* in his article about *Enterprise 2.0, the Dawn of Emergent Collaboration* (McAffee, 2006). I believe, that within the next decade our working environment, the way we communicate and share information will change. It has already impacted our private lifes and so will also the communication within companies. It will shift from the synchronous communication (like mail) to a more distributed communication and sharing of knowledge using blogs, wikis and shared folders. For instance, for the *Microsoft Sharepoint* platform it is possible to use Ajax libraries. I believe, that these methods of communication will enhance the usage of Ajax or another framework allowing asynchronous communication.

4   References:

Content from the following sources was used for this document:

References

[1] P.J. Deitel and H.M. Deitel. Internet & World Wide Web, How to program (fourth edition 2008). Pearson Press

[2] McAffee Andrew (2006). Enterprise 2.0, the Dawn of Emergent Collaboration. [Online] Available from: http://www.wikiservice.at/upload/ChristopheDucamp/McAfeeEntrepriseDeux.pdf Accessed on 26th of December 2010

[3] Wenz Christian (2010). JavaScript (10th edition). GalileoComputing.