



Technology Developments at Franz in 2006

By
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Background

- Franz' market has changed. How?.
- US Universities' Computer Science enrollment has fallen significantly. New customers are growing more slowly.
- Significant outsourcing pressures – many large companies employ people in India, China and Russia. Lisp is largely unknown in these countries.
- Package software sales have declined in the face of Web-based applications (SOA).



What Kinds of Investments?

- Franz delivered AllegroCache in early 2006 – and this is an object-oriented database (for CLOS).
- AllegroCache is included with Allegro Common Lisp
- AllegroCache is the most complicated system Franz has ever built, and several customers are now deploying applications based on it.
- Franz also delivered AllegroGraph in 2006 – and this is a graph-based database. The recently released AllegroGraph version 1.2 includes a Java (and a Lisp) interface. AllegroGraph stores objects known as “triples” – and functions as a “black box” accessible to any other kind of application.



What Kinds of Investments -Semantic Technologies

- Franz sees an emerging market for Semantic Technologies – Tools that enable capturing meaning and performing “reasoning” tasks.
- AllegroGraph is part of a suite of products targeting this market.
- Franz distributes RacerPro – a knowledge representation system implementing a description logic system. RacerPro from Franz, is based on Allegro Common Lisp and comes from a German partner company named Racer Systems, GmbH & Co. KG
- Franz distributes PEPITEo – a Knowledge Discovery Tool for large databases. PEPITEo comes from PEPITE S.A., our partner located in Belgium, and is also written in Allegro CL



What Kinds of Investments – Semantic Technologies

- Franz developed and delivered Allegro Prolog as part of Allegro Common Lisp 8.0
- Franz developed and delivered an implementation of the W3C standard **SPARQL Query Language for RDF** – which we call TWINQL
- Franz and partner TopQuadrant, are jointly integrating AllegroGraph 1.2 with TopQuadrant's product - TopBraid Composer – a modeling environment for Semantic Web Ontologies – which is a successor to Protégé Owl – an ontology editor from Stanford.
- Once commercially released (in Q4) we expect AllegroGraph and TopBraid Composer to be the market leaders in the Semantic Web market.



What Kinds of Investments – Continued...

- Franz seeks to make investments in promising start-up ideas that use Franz technology.
- Franz invested in Symnosis – a new, very small startup (currently seeking additional funding) – deploying a Knowledge Operating System. The first application of the knowledge operating system is BioBike – a web server supporting knowledge acquisition and computationally assisted thought.
BioBike: A Tool for Biological Thought
- BioBike is an opensource application which uses AllegroCache to store computational results.
- Franz invested in a company called Teleonto located in India. Teleonto uses AllegroGraph and AllegroCache in Telecom applications – detecting fraud and supporting billing operations