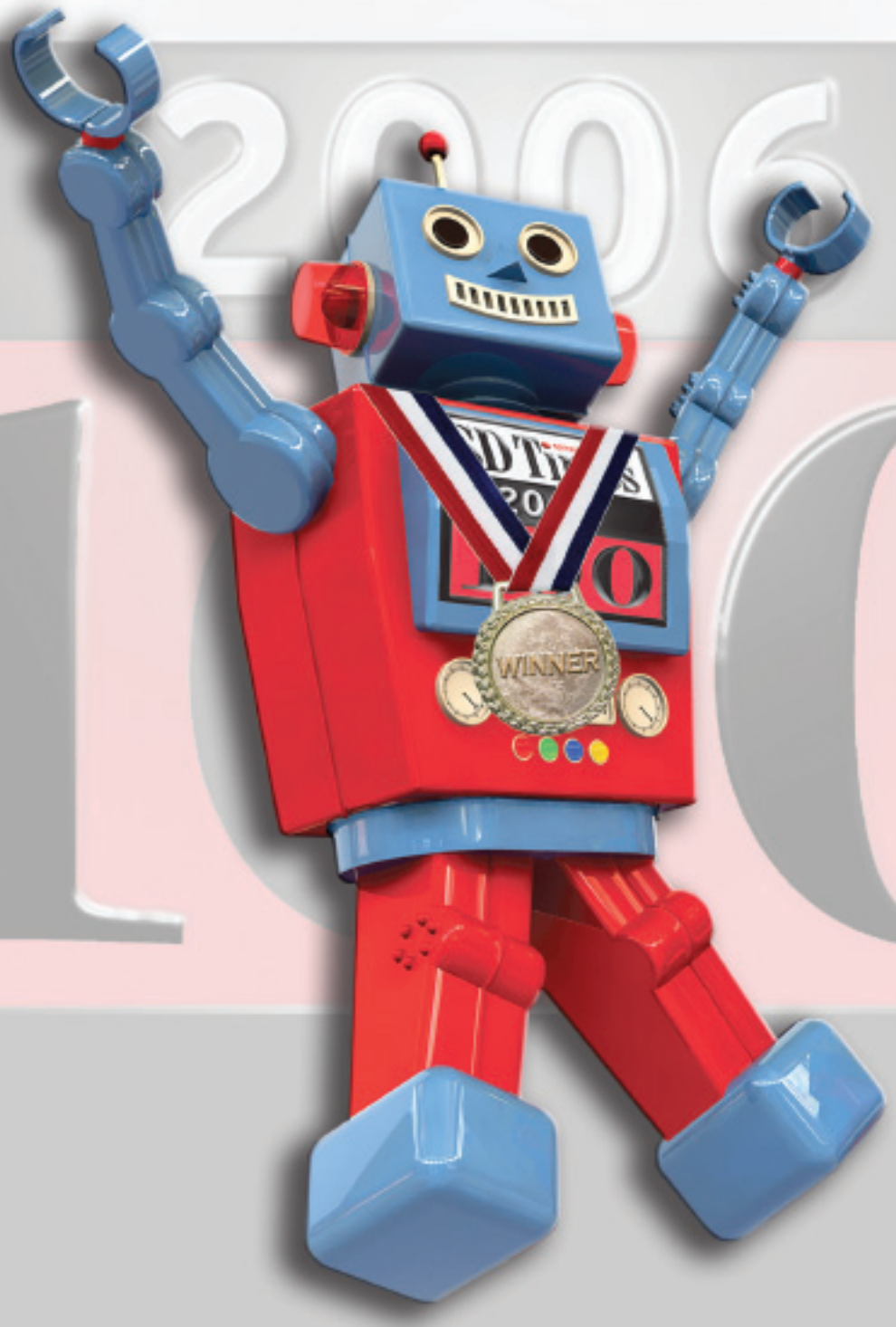
WINNER

SD Times

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

2006



IBM Rational Build Forge Wins for a Second Year For Their Leadership in Build and Release Management

IBM® Rational® Build Forge

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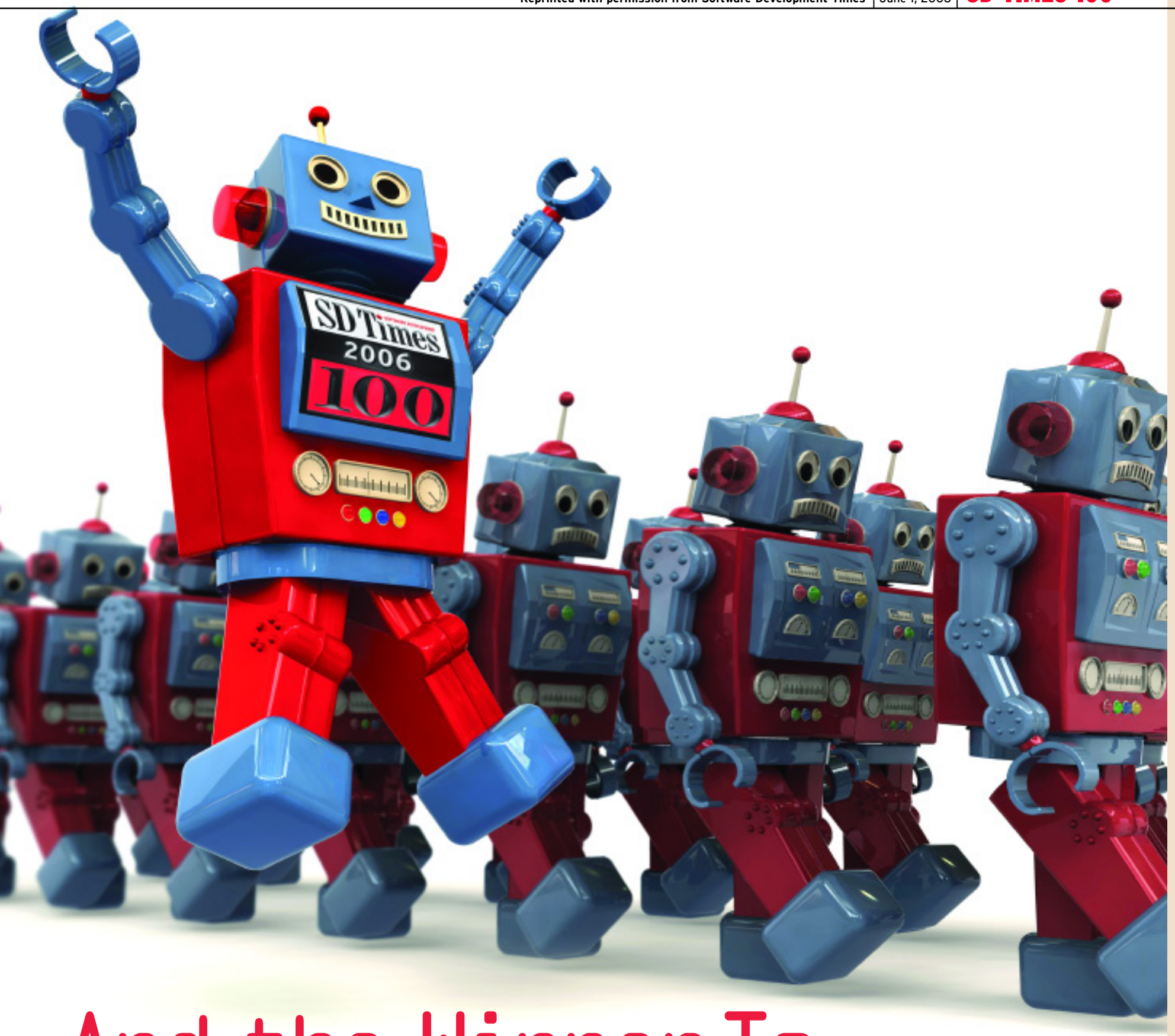

And the Winner Is...

It's time once again for the SD Times 100, in which we attempt to recognize the organizations or individuals that have demonstrated leadership in their markets, either through the strength of their products or the technological innovation that drives our industry forward.

This year, though, we're doing things a little differently. Instead of having 10 categories with 10 winners each, we've expanded the number of categories to 15, with no set number of winners in each. We believe that this better reflects what's happening in the industry, as organizations rush to follow the hot new thing while leaving the more mature markets to a smaller group of players. For instance, this year, we have added categories for software security, business process management and build management, which emerged in 2005 as areas that development managers needed to pay closer attention to as enterprises worked overtime to get their IT departments in line with their business goals.

Meanwhile, the old Integration & Middleware category became SOA & Integration, and Collaboration & SCM became Software Configuration Management & Change Management, to align better with the work that development organizations—and the companies that serve them, such as software vendors, consultants and, yes, even industry analysts—are doing.

The addition of some categories and the renaming of others has also resulted in a whole slew of newcomers to the SD Times 100, such as AJAX tools vendor ClearNova and Catalyst Systems in build management. Of course, no honor roll of the software development world would be complete without heavyweights IBM, Microsoft and Oracle, which appear on numerous lists. Their sheer size—of market share, of R&D spending—make them the companies to look to year in and year out.

So then, here, in the estimation of our editors, are the trendsetters, newsmakers and noisemakers of 2005.

IBM and Rational Win Top Honors

For Excellence Across-the-Board to Improve the Efficiency and Quality of Software Development

INFLUENCERS

IBM:
Big Blue spins up the dev tools with new Atlantic software development platform, and spins out open-source projects to the broad community.

DATABASES

IBM:
Still pushing petabytes after all these years, DB2 continues to hold sway. And IBM's free edition doesn't hurt adoption numbers any.

MODELING

IBM Rational:
The bloom isn't yet off the industry-leading Rose, as new UML-based patterns for writing messaging into apps enhances modeling framework.

APPLICATION SERVERS

IBM:
Its app server platform keeps finding itself in increasingly narrow roles. Will there some day be a WebSphere Kitchen Appliance Edition?

SOFTWARE CONFIGURATION MANAGEMENT & CHANGE MANAGEMENT

IBM Rational:
The granddaddy of 'em all, IBM Rational's ClearCase has had a dizzying run with its DSEE-based version control system created in the 1980s.

SOA & INTEGRATION

IBM:
WebSphere continues to be the all-knowing, all-doing orb of integration as the company bestowed Web services capabilities to MQ, Business Integration Modeler and Server Express products.

BUILD MANAGEMENT

BuildForge:
It can rebuild it. It has the technology. Emphasis on end-to-end control puts BuildForge in full control of all releases, past, present and future.

TEST, QA & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

IBM Rational:
There's nothing Rational can't test, and there's no one in the world better at building the tools that aren't there yet.

IBM® Rational® Build Forge

formerly BUILDFORGE ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT™

IBM Forges Deal for Build Management

BuildForge purchase to build on current integration with Rational tools

BY JENNIFER DEJONG

IBM announced last month that it has acquired BuildForge, a privately held, Austin, Texas-based company that makes tools to ease the process of managing software builds and releases.

The terms of the deal were not disclosed.

The acquisition builds on an existing relationship between the two companies. "We have bought a company that is purely complementary," said Roger Oberg, vice president of marketing for IBM Rational software. BuildForge FullControl, which automates builds and release management across multiple projects, is already integrated with ClearQuest, ClearCase and Rational Functional Tester, he said, referring to three tools included in the Rational Software Developer Platform, for configuration management, defect and change tracking, and test automation, respectively.

BuildForge's tools, which compete with offerings from Catalyst Systems, also include FullThrottle, which optimizes server usage to speed build time; and Prism, which lets developers execute test builds to see if their code works.

IBM plans to retain the packaging of the BuildForge offerings, tightening up the integrations with Rational tools over time. He did not specify what "tighter integration" would entail. IBM will sell the BuildForge tools as separate offerings, and as part of the Rational Software Development Platform, he said.

'GOOD STRATEGIC SENSE'

"This acquisition makes good strategic sense for IBM and BuildForge, and it strengthens an existing relationship," said Ovum analyst Bola Rotibi, in a comment published on the U.K. company's Web site last month. Almost two-thirds of BuildForge's customers are users of ClearCase, according to Ovum.

"Although a vital part of the overall software development and delivery process, the build and release management process has long been a traditional source of pain," said Rotibi. "By buying BuildForge, IBM strengthens its own capabilities for smoothing the process between developing software code, packaging and releasing it for production, and maintaining and managing it once deployed. This will enable IBM to provide a more complete and integrated application life-cycle management platform."

BuildForge operations will be integrated into IBM's Rational software business. Its 41 employees will remain in Austin, Texas, said Oberg. Last September, BuildForge was able to secure some US$6 million in venture funding, which it used to flesh out its product line to address life-cycle issues. Its Prism tool, released in March, gives developers a sandbox environment in which they can execute their own builds as a sort of "preflight" test to see if their code works correctly.