ASTECH Solutions Learn Now Discovery Sessions

Many iSeries customers have requirements to modernize existing AS/400-based applications. Typically they need new and better user interfaces, web-based access to applications, and lower IT costs. To do this is not simple, especially if customer skills are not current, and options are plentiful and confusing.

The Discovery Sessions are targeted to iSeries business customers who feel they need technical education on IBM WebSphere products before they can be comfortable with their modernization plans. The discovery sessions are a cross between lectures, hands-on training, mentoring and consulting and are conducted by ASTECH's own expert IBM-certified trainers and consultants. The sessions take no more than a single day each. The list of sessions includes WebSphere Application Server, WebSphere Studio, HATS, WebFacing and WebSphere Portal. The customer can chose any number, in any combination. The discovery sessions are delivered as custom offerings to individual customers at the location and time of their choice. There is no chance of cancellations and no per-student fee. Public, open offerings are also available.

ASTECH is an independent consulting firm, and does not sell any hardware or software offerings. Thus, the sessions are objective because they are not focused on selling products, but rather solving customer problems.

The discovery session does not force students through lengthy, structured, static material that may be too advanced, irrelevant, redundant, too deep or too boring. Instead, it is a customer-oriented, open-ended, expert-led mentoring session that provides all the necessary hands-on to visualize product function and business fit.

Students understand the concepts, touch the products, see the results and get questions answered. They envision a solution, value proposition and ROI.

What is a Discovery Session? -- *A one-day, customized learning forum which includes:*

- Consulting session to understand customer environment, business issues and goals;
- Overview presentation of products and components with emphasis on matching the customer environment including pros and cons;
- Demonstration of product features, options, benefits and results, customized to customer interest and needs;
- Hands-on labs using either instructor-provided examples or customer-provided code;
- Q&A for specific product, technical questions and issues; and
- Assistance in creating modernization plans and next steps.

What are the Discovery Sessions offered?

HATS (Host Access Transformation Server) (LNDS01)

HATS extends legacy applications to the web, making 3270 and 5250 applications available as HTML through the most popular Web browsers, while converting host screens to a Web look and feel. HATS does not require source code, can quickly yield results from its default rules, yet can be developed to include extremely refined and advanced user interface features. It utilizes a thin-client, WebSphere Application Server based infrastructure.

Topics include:
- HATS Fundamentals: What is Host Access Transformation Server? Terminology and Concepts, HATS Application Components;
- WebSphere Development Studio Client for iSeries: Perspectives, Help, HATS Projects and Deployment, Style Sheets;
- Project Settings: Template, Text Replacement, Components, Widgets, Keypads;
- Host Terminal: Using the host terminal, Creating screen customizations, Capturing screens, Creating and playing macros; and
- Screen Customization: Screen recognition criteria, Actions, Apply a transformation, Record and Play macros.

Hands-on Exercises: HATS Development and Deployment Overview, Template Modification, Screen Customization

WebFacing (Part of WebSphere Development Studio Client) (LNDS02)

WebFacing is a developers tool, available as part of WebSphere Development Studio Client. WebFacing creates new JSP-based web interfaces to existing OS/400 applications. Its highlights include the introduction of J2EE architecture, allowing for Java-based enhancements to existing applications, and utilizing WebSphere Application Server. Also, WebFacing does not require user-licensing and can be used to circumvent expensive interactive cycles.

The following will be instructed or demonstrated:
- Describe the WebFacing Concept/Model used to deploy 5250 applications to the Web;
- Introduce the Keyword Survey Tool and discuss circumvention methods for exceptions;
- WebSphere Development Studio Client for iSeries V5.1;
- Create WebFacing projects;
- Use WebFacing Perspective and Wizard to convert DDS sources;
- Use CODE Designer and Web Settings to enhance and customize interface;
- Use project and advanced customization possibilities and techniques;
- Perform Style customization for esthetic integration; and
- Deployment to WebSphere Application Server Express V5.0.

Hands-on Exercises available: Keyword Analysis of sample code, Introduction to WebSphere Development Studio Client for iSeries, WebFacing wizard, CODE Designer and WebSettings, and Style customization.

WebSphere Development Studio Client and Java (LNDS03)

One of the first steps in modernizing an AS/400 application is to update/modernize the tooling. Customers currently using older-generation, 5250-based PDM, SEU, SDA and assorted tools and compilers will need to acquaint themselves with WebSphere Development Studio Client for iSeries (WDSC) V5.1. The rewards are large, because WDSC enables developers to be highly responsive to new e-business initiatives while preserving the value of their legacy code investments and skills.

Topics include:
- Generic J2EE architectural concepts and application design including Model/View/Controller (MVC);
- Generic Java programming concepts including Servlets, JSP, Tag Library, Struts, XML, Web Services;
- Introduce WebSphere Development Studio Client for iSeries: workspace and perspectives;
- Develop a sample web application using WebSphere Development Studio Client (web project and directory structures);
- Work with HTML – Page designer, Web Site Designer;
- Wizards, templates and web tools to simplify and accelerate programming;
- Modeling of applications, Struts use; and
- Team (Concurrent Versioning System) development concepts.

WebSphere Portal   (LNDS04)

Discuss the issues involved in planning and deploying a Portal solution. The Portal value proposition lies in its ability to integrate disparate applications at the user interface level, increasing productivity, availability and reach to its users. Main advantages of WebSphere Portal Server are:
1. Virtualized Digital Desktop – freedom from the desktop.
2. Aggregation of key applications, which make us productive – portlet technology.
3. Single Sign On to a multitude of Systems – Enterprise Identity mapping.
4. Reach out to any device – Access through PDA, Language translation etc…
5. Personalization to user taste – or to maximize ROI.
6. Integration: "click to action" from one portlet to another.

Topics include:
- Portal Fundamentals: What is WebSphere Portal Server? Terminology and Concepts, WebSphere Portal Components and versions;
- WebSphere Portal Server: installation and feature demonstration;
- Administering and Securing the portal, including giving different users and groups access to specific portlets and pages, installing portlets, and creating and grouping pages;
- Portal catalog: Contains descriptions and downloads for hundreds of portlets; and
- WebSphere Studio: How to build dynamic portal applications using the Portal Toolkit.

WebSphere Application Server Administration   *(LNDS05)*

Customers want to transform their business to on-demand e-business. Fundamental to the infrastructure to support this is the Web Application Server. IBM WebSphere Application Server contains the principal tools to deploy, integrate, and manage web applications. Learn what it takes to install, configure, and maintain WebSphere Application Server V5.0 Base and Express Editions. Also, learn how to deploy applications in a single machine environment while addressing workload management, security, and performance concerns.

Topics include:
- J2EE Platform Technologies;
- WebSphere Product Family Overview including features and capability;
- WebSphere Application Server Architecture overview;
- Installation and Configuration of WebSphere Application Server – including server resource configuration;
- Application Assembly and Deployment including demonstrations;
- Security issues, discussions and demonstrations;
- Workload Management – including scalability and failover;
- Maintenance and Performance Tuning; and
- Troubleshooting.

If you are interested in attending or hosting a set of Discovery Sessions, or if you need further assistance or help regarding the Discovery Sessions, please don't hesitate to contact Denise Kennedy directly phone: (905) 727-4740 ext 516 or dkennedy@astech.com

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