

My Experiences Beta Testing AB Suite

EAE 4035

Tuesday 11 October, 2016 11:00 AM



Alan Hood

Hood Software Solutions

Alan.Hood@comcast.net

Copyright © 2016 Hood Software Solutions LLC



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

View this presentation online at

<http://www.HoodSoftwareSolutions.com/UNITE>

AB Suite Release 6.1 Beta Test Program

Beta testing was conducted in 3 phases

- Phase 1 – May-June 2016
 - Phase 2 – August-September 2016
 - Phase 3 – Currently ongoing
-
- About 20 participants (mostly Unisys technical services and support personnel)



AB Suite 6.1 release planned for December 2016

Watch for Unisys release announcements in Developing Agility, press releases, public media, AB Suite support web site, and contact your local Unisys representative for additional information.



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

Key Features planned for AB Suite 6.1

- MCP WebAppSupport integration
- DMSII Feature Extensions
- Visual Studio Logic Editor
- Team Foundation Build DevOps support for Windows
- XML Processing in AB Suite



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

AB Suite 6.1 Beta 2 Event



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

Documentation provided with Beta

- AB Suite 6.1 Beta Release Notes
- AB Suite Qualification Matrix

- How To: Team Foundation Build DevOps Support for Windows
- How to Use the Batch Script to Clone the MSI and Modify the Database
- How to Invoke Web Services for MCP
- Visual Studio Logic Editor
- How to Enable Model Extensions in AB Suite 6.1
- How to Process XML in AB Suite 6.1
- Model Extensions for AB Suite 6.1
- Migratedb and Staged Reorganizations Overview



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

Aim of Beta 2 Event

- The Beta 2 software includes most of the planned features for AB Suite 6.1. The development team is particularly interested in how well these features work together (for example, using the new logic editor with the XML framework, DevOps and SQL Server 2016 or the DMSII features in conjunction with calls to MCP WebAppSupport) and in real world production scenarios. We appreciate any feedback you are able to provide on the new feature content especially regarding how well these features fit (or not fit!) together in your client environments.



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

AB Suite 6.1 Key Features



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

MCP WebAppSupport Integration

- MCP's WebAppSupport feature is part of the MCP OS, and is designed to handle outbound calls to WebServices.
- For our MCP clients, AB Suite 6.1 applications can now seamlessly take advantage of the MCP WebAppSupport libraries.
- A new wizard will guide you through the creation of an AB Suite class that provides an example of invoking a weather service.
- The example can easily be modified to invoke other Web Services.



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

DMSII Feature Extension

AB Suite 6.1 provides much needed support for new DMSII capabilities, aimed at increasing flexibility for larger systems and reducing down time during operations.

- **Staged Reorganizations support**
 - Staged Reorganization Support has been added so that unlimited changes to the runtime database objects can be made in a single deployment.
- **Dynamic Schema Support (Migratedb)**
 - Datasets can be added or deleted using the DMSII Migrate DB feature, so that these changes can be made while the database is still active.
- **Small Overlaygoal value support**
 - DMSII Overlaygoal property can be set to extremely small values to help access larger memory addresses without the overhead of unnecessary overlays.
 - A value containing up to eight (8) decimal places may be used to specify OVERLAYGOAL.



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

DMSII Feature Extension

Increase Population Limit (on data base structures)

- A value of up to 545,755,813,887 may be used to specify the population of an Ispec or vanilla class.

Limitations

- The population of a Direct data set is limited to 268,435,455 (Model will validate this).
- Data sets whose populations exceed 268,435,455 must be sectioned.
- Sets and subsets whose populations exceed 268,435,455 must be sectioned.



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

DMSII Feature Extension

Extract file record count size increase

- Critical Point recovery and record pointer position capability is available for extract files with Expected Number values exceeding 100 million records.
- **Limitations**
 - For extract files with an Expected Number that exceeds 100,000,000 records, it recommended that the *Block Size Algorithm* configuration property be set to 'Large'. A large optimum blocksize will be calculated for the extract file, as well as appropriate AREAS and AREASIZE values.



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

DMSII Feature Extension

DMSII Resident Limit

- Users can now specify any value between 0 and the Allowedcore value as the value for the Resident Limit configuration property.
- The RESIDENTLIMIT option will appear in the DASDL with the specified value.
- How to use the Resident Limit
 - Use the DMSII Default configuration property to indicate whether you wish to use the DMSII default for the DMSII RESIDENTLIMIT option or whether you wish to specify the value for the DMSII RESIDENTLIMIT option.
 - Setting DMSII Default configuration property to True will cause the RESIDENTLIMIT option to be excluded from the DASDL to allow DMSII to use the default value.
 - Setting DMSII Default configuration property to False will cause the RESIDENTLIMIT option to be included in the DASDL with the value specified in the Resident Limit configuration property.



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

DMSII Feature Extension

DMSII New Behavior for DUMPSTAMP and ADDRESSCHECK

- The options for the ADDRESSCHECK Required segment configuration property have changed to:
 - DMSII Default, No, Yes
- Default setting for ADDRESSCHECK Required is 'DMSII Default'.
 - This is effectively the same default as in previous releases. But in this release, you can set or reset the DMSII ADDRESSCHECK explicitly using the 'Yes' or 'No' option.

When ADDRESSCHECK Required set to	Behavior
DMSII Default √ Default Setting	Nothing will be generated in the DASDL and the DMSII default will be used for ADDRESSCHECK
Yes	ADDRESSCHECK = SET will appear in the DASDL
No	ADDRESSCHECK = RESET will appear in the DASDL



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

DMSII Feature Extension

DMSII DUMPSTAMP granularity

- The options for the DUMPSTAMP segment configuration property are:
 - DMSII Default, No, Yes
- The default setting for DUMPSTAMP is 'No'.
 - This is the same default as in previous releases.
 - Additionally, DUMPSTAMP is available as a class configuration property. You may specify a setting for the DMSII DUMPSTAMP option at the Ispec and class level and it will be used for the corresponding data set.
 - The default setting for the DUMPSTAMP class configuration property is to inherit from the segment property.



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

When DUMPSTAMP Configuration Property set to	Behavior
No ✓ Default Setting	DUMPSTAMP = FALSE will appear in the DASDL
Yes	DUMPSTAMP = TRUE will appear in the DASDL
DMSII	Nothing will appear in the DASDL and the DMSII default will be used for DUMPSTAMP

Visual Studio Logic Editor

- AB Suite will replace the custom editor with the Visual Studio Code Editor to provide a richer more natural editing experience. Visual Studio provides language-specific support for editing source code in the integrated development environment (IDE) by implementing a language service as part of a VSPackage.
- The logic Editor is now enabled by default.
- Quick Actions – resolve logic errors quickly and simply from a list of suggested fixes
- Debugger – conditional breakpoints
- Peek Definition – view and edit method and insertable logic inline of the current logic window
- Code Definition window – quickly view Method or profile logic without navigating away from the current logic window
- Improved auto-list to write more logic in fewer key strokes
- Dynamic Validation – logic is validated as it's entered to give early notification



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

Team Foundation Build DevOps support for Windows

Automate Build for Different Runtime Deployments

- You can automate the Build process from one Model to different environments, like test, acceptance, and production by leveraging Team Foundation Build.
- AB Suite 6.1 allows the user to set the location information (e.g., Extract File Location) for different environments without building the model again.
- You can add the Model into Team Foundation Server and use Team Foundation Build to build and deploy the AB Suite Model to different environments.
- AB Suite Runtime for Windows only.

Multiple TFS support

- AB Suite 6.1 is integrated with Team Foundation Server 2015, and also (in Beta 3) Team Foundation Server 2013 and Team Foundation Server 2012.



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

XML Processing in AB Suite

- Allows an AB Suite CLR runtime system to act as a message broker for XML messages.
- A client can submit XML messages to a runtime system where they are parsed, interpreted, processed, and a response returned to the client.
- The modelling enhancements to support XML processing are within a new type of model referred to as 'XML Framework'.
- To use these features you must now convert your model using a new Project Wizard – 'Convert an Existing Model'.
 - This will clone your model to a new model database and it will have all the new XML processing features enabled.
 - A 'Client Framework' model will also have all of the new XML Processing features enabled.

New in Beta 3

- A new kind of attribute called a 'List Attribute' has been included.
 - When you add an attribute you can indicate that you want it to be a 'List', and you can specify a Template to define the list item type. It is no longer necessary to create a separate 'List Type' to define a list, although this is still available.
- A new pop-up dialog box is used as the default way to add all new attributes and variables
 - The first field on this dialog box is the Template field, which encourages all attributes to derive from a type or class. You can specify that the attribute should be a 'List' on this dialog box.



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

My Experiences



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

My experience with AB Suite 6.1 Beta 2

- Installed AB Suite in a Windows 2012 VM
 - SQL Server 2014
 - Visual Studio 2015
 - AB Suite Developer 6.1.1551
 - AB Suite Runtime (CLR) 6.1.1551
 - AB Suite Client Tools 6.1.1551

- Did not install Team Foundation Server because this OS configuration would not support TFS



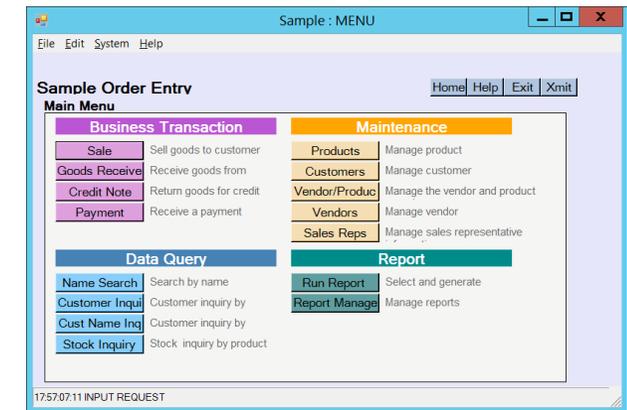
Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

Update for Client Tools came in the first week due to a minor installation problem. That is the one I installed.

AB Suite activities

- Created a new project using the Sample.model from the release
 - Explored the model in Developer
 - Adjusted configuration properties for my environment
 - Built and deployed the runtime application
 - Ran with Winform client – Worked first time, no issues!
- Created a new project using my MyMDB.model
 - Built and deployed the runtime application
 - Ran with Winform client – Worked first time, no issues!



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

Off to a great start!

Ongoing activities – using 6.1 in daily work

- I began treating AB Suite 6.1 as my “go to” version of AB Suite.
- Loaded and Built a large customer application
 - ~300 Ispecs, 200 Reports
 - Generated ASP .NET WebForms client
- Migrated and loaded a large EAE model
 - ~400 Ispecs, 500 Reports
 - Used AB Suite to analyze the EAE model
 - Searching and viewing the model in different ways, Diagrams, Build Comment Pages....
- Began writing a new application to help analyze EAE models



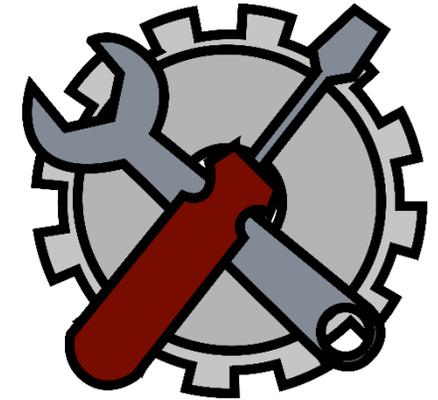
Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

Being careful to remember this is “beta” software

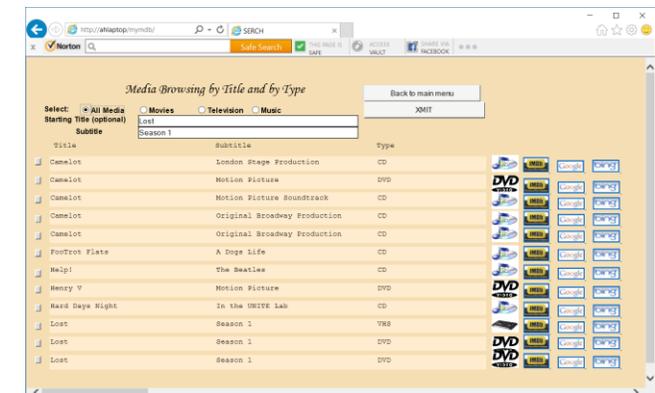
Plans for Beta 3

- Continue working with AB Suite 6.1 on a regular basis
- Investigate more new features
 - XML interface
 - DevOps integration with Team Foundation Server
 - Logic Editor
 - Client Framework
 - Client Tools (ASP .NET WebForms / WebFormRenderer)



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems



Overall



- About the product
 - It contains some key features that people have been requesting for a long time
 - Overall quality and stability seems to be good
- About the Beta program
 - Program seemed to run smoothly (Kudos to Leanne Bates, ACUS)
 - Engineering was quick to respond when I had questions or problems
 - More interaction with other Beta testers would have been welcome
 - It's always good to know what others are doing, and how they are progressing



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

About Hood Software Solutions

- I have been associated with AB Suite and its predecessors for many (many, many, many) years, as an engineer, architect, program manager, and technical consultant.
- Last year I formed Hood Software Solutions to help people solve their business problems with the aid of software solutions.
- I do not represent Unisys, but I do work closely with them.
- My expertise includes EAE and AB Suite, but also much more.

How can I help you?

- Application Design and modernization
 - Restructuring
 - Web, GUI, Mobile modernization
 - Requirements gathering, prioritization, planning
- System Architecture and Planning
- AB Suite or EAE training and mentoring
- AB Suite migration
- Agile development processes
- AB Suite or EAE application design audits
- Application development, coding and mentoring

Contact me at:

Alan.Hood@comcast.net

<http://www.HoodSoftwareSolutions.com>



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

Thank you

Alan.Hood@comcast.net

<http://www.HoodSoftwareSolutions.com>



Hood Software Solutions

Software Solutions For Your Business Problems

Content and format of this presentation is Copyright © 2016 Hood Software Solutions LLC. Trademarks and third party products referenced are the property of their respective owners.