Services, Frameworks, and Components What is really important to quality rapid application development?

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Workshop on Component-based software composition
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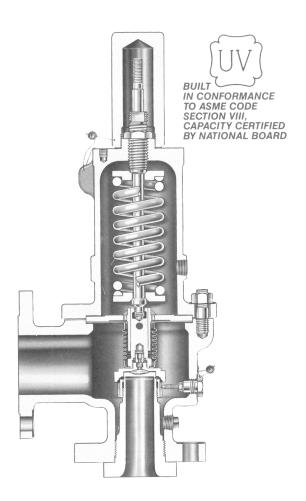
Outline

- The story of SizeMaster
- Services, Components, and Frameworks
- A slogan
- RAD issues
- Conclusion

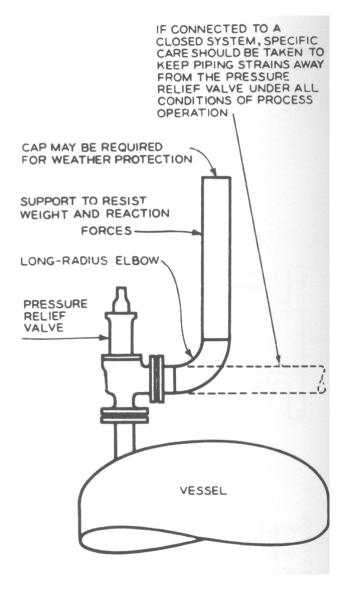
Pressure Safety Valve Engineering

- Teledyne Fluid Systems / Farris Engineering
- Sizing according to ASME and API standards
- Selection according to catalog
- Conformance to engineering practice.
 e.g. revision control, auditability, accountability
- Combine best of engineering and CS practice

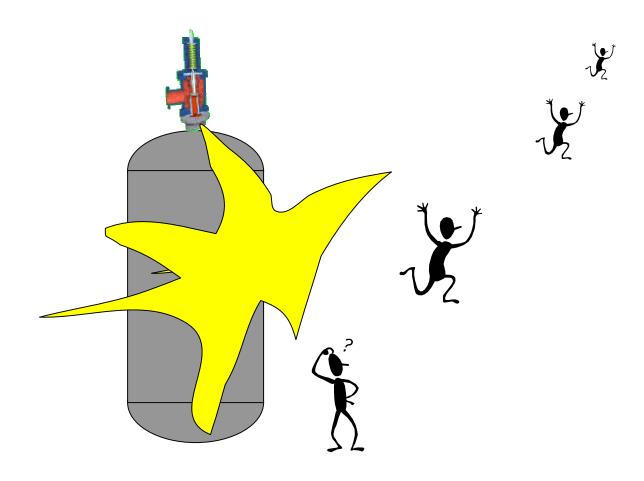
This:



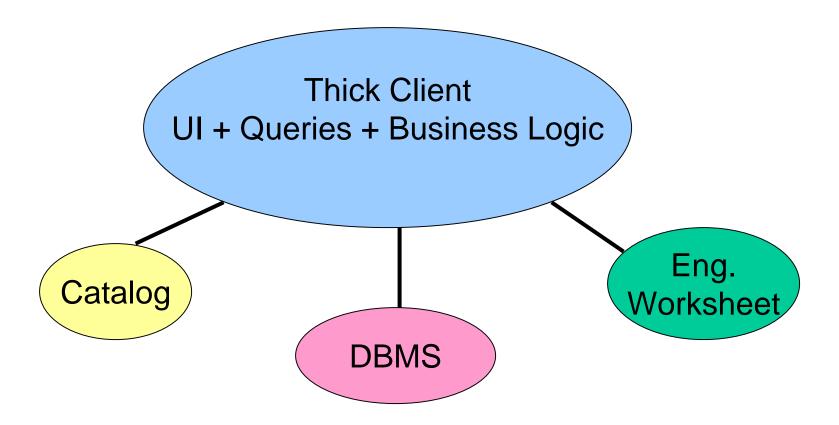
On this:

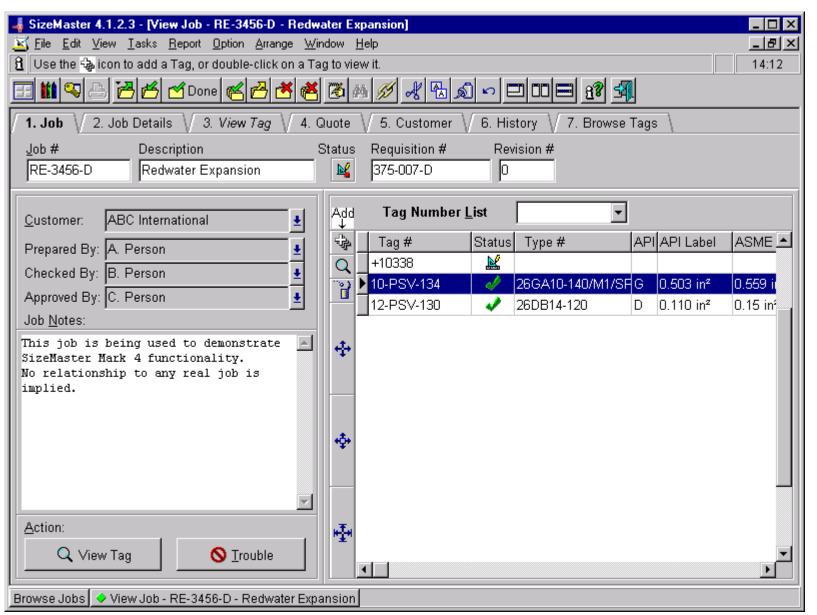


Prevents this:

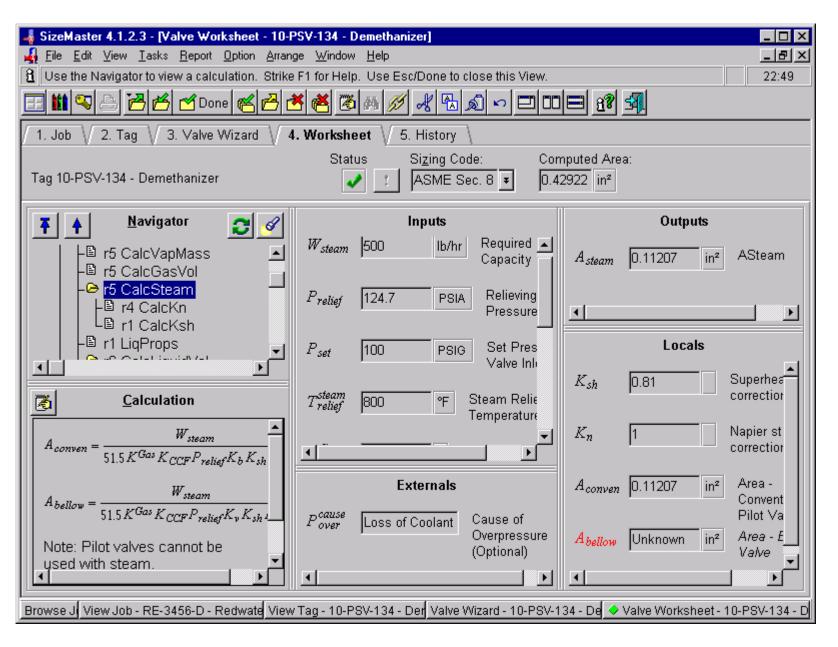


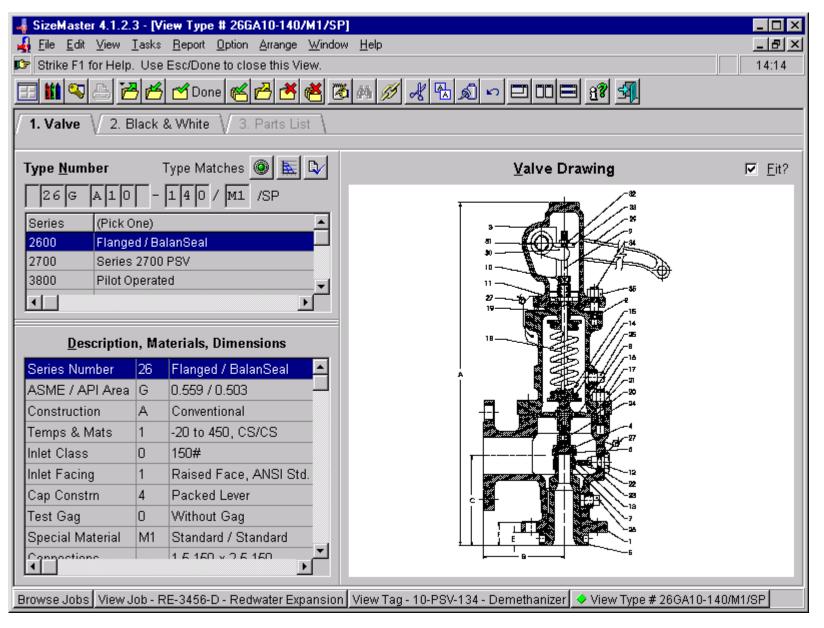
We needed to build one of these as SizeMaster:





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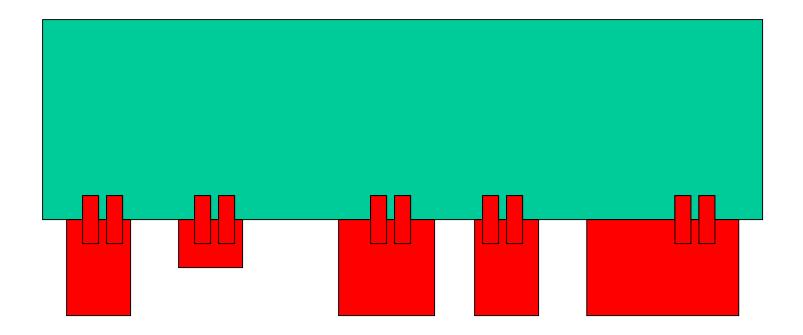




Clearly RAD project from beginning:

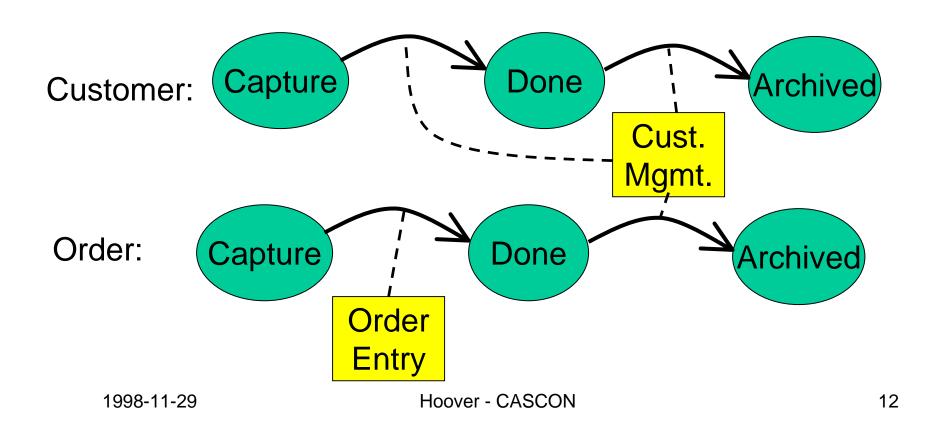
- Weak grasp of new workflow possibilities.
- Vaguely articulated services.
- Radical change in UI

Components + Framework are key to RAD:



How? Delphi IDE for "two-tier" model

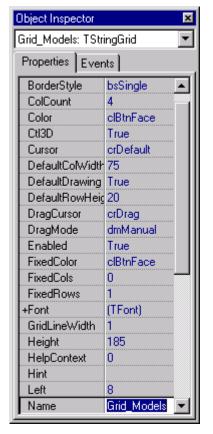
- Business objects are stored in a DBMS
- •Forms move objects between states in lifecycle.

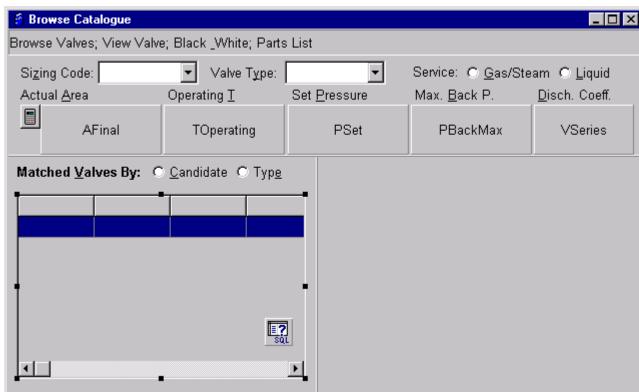


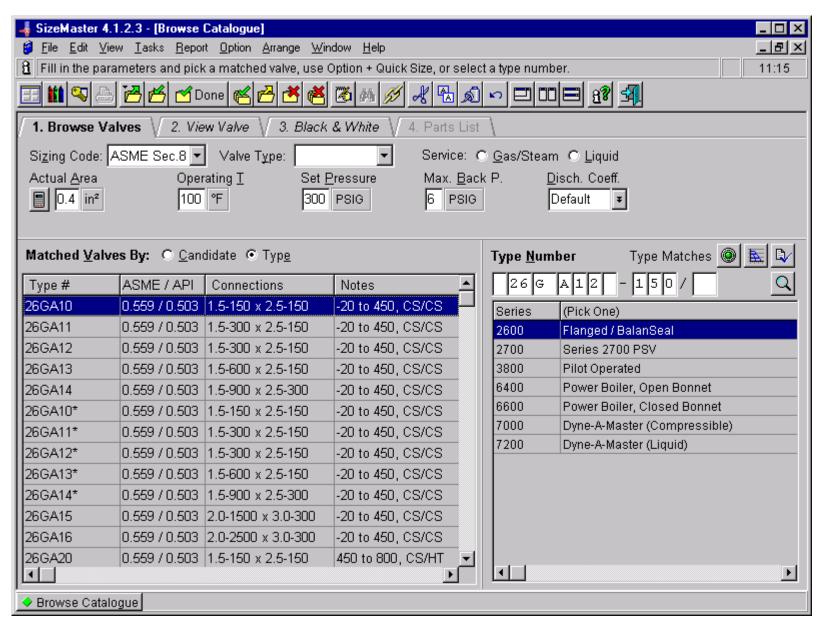
Delphi IDE for "two-tier" model

- IDE focuses on building forms
- •Forms are containers for the components, e.g. UI and DBMS connections
- Business logic is spread over forms









But . . .

RAD does not imply good quality application

Instead often get:

- no encapsulation of business objects, schema overly exposed
- mixing of UI and business logic
- services unarticulated, diffuse in implementation
- no unity over applications in same domain
- ad hoc, brittle architecture, hard to evolve

Why?

Can look at RAD from two perspectives:

- User: business objects and workflow evolution
- Architecture: basic services identification and factoring

Most RAD is architecturally weak, even though components are good.

Slogan

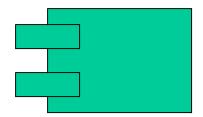
Services + Frameworks + Components

⇒ Quality RAD

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What is a component?

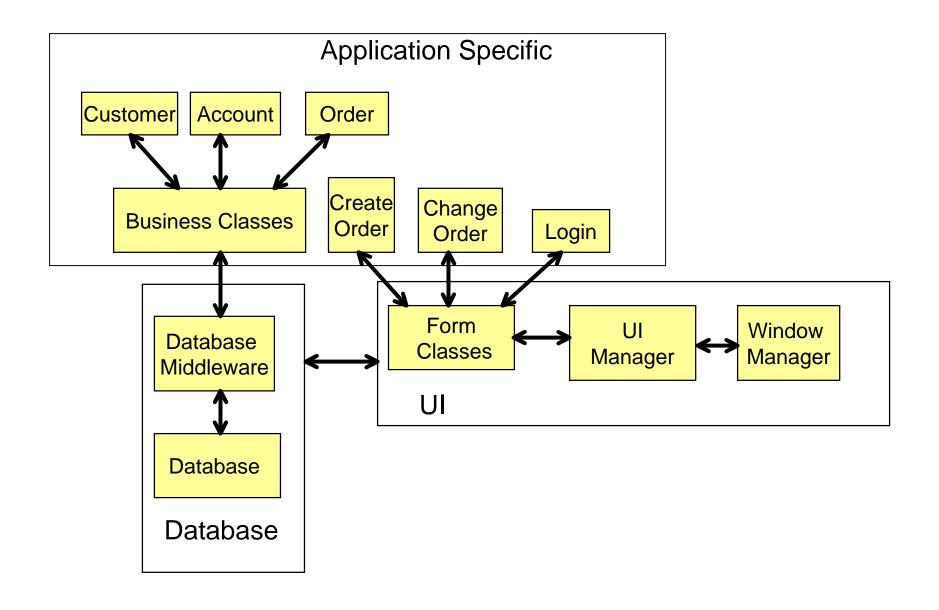
physical, precise thing



- replaceable
- •realizes a set of *export* interfaces, its *capabilities*
- •conforms to a set of *import* interfaces
- •exists in an architectural context or *framework*
- combine into assemblies, themselves components

What is a service?

- An exported interface that addresses some group of tasks.
- A collection of imported interfaces that establishes the context of the service.
- A service is not a component, it is an architectural element.



A service is not a component

- A component is one way to realize a service, by exploiting the component's capabilities.
- but a service can be realized by a set of classes in the application framework, or even some piece of code.

What is a framework?

- software architecture + implementation + hooks
- provides generic capabilities in some domain
- custom application specific code added at hooks

Examples:

Inprise Delphi spreadsheet DBMS - DB2, Access San Francisco

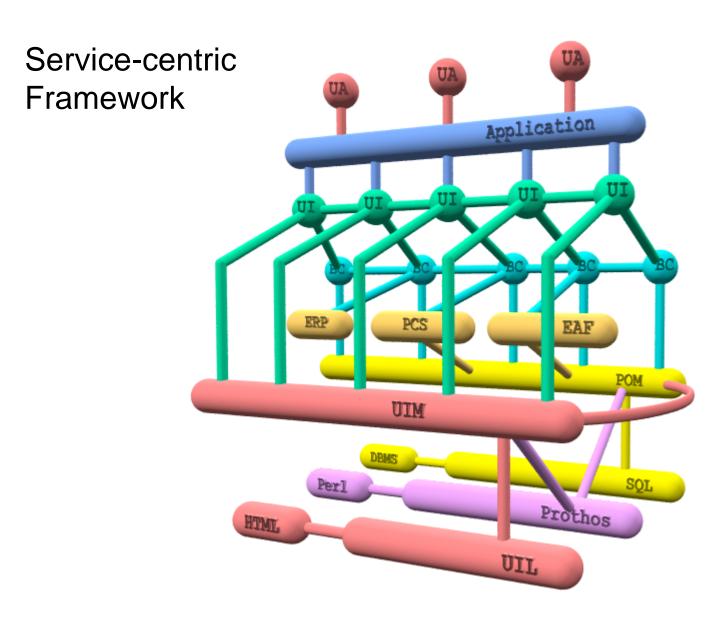
Frameworks

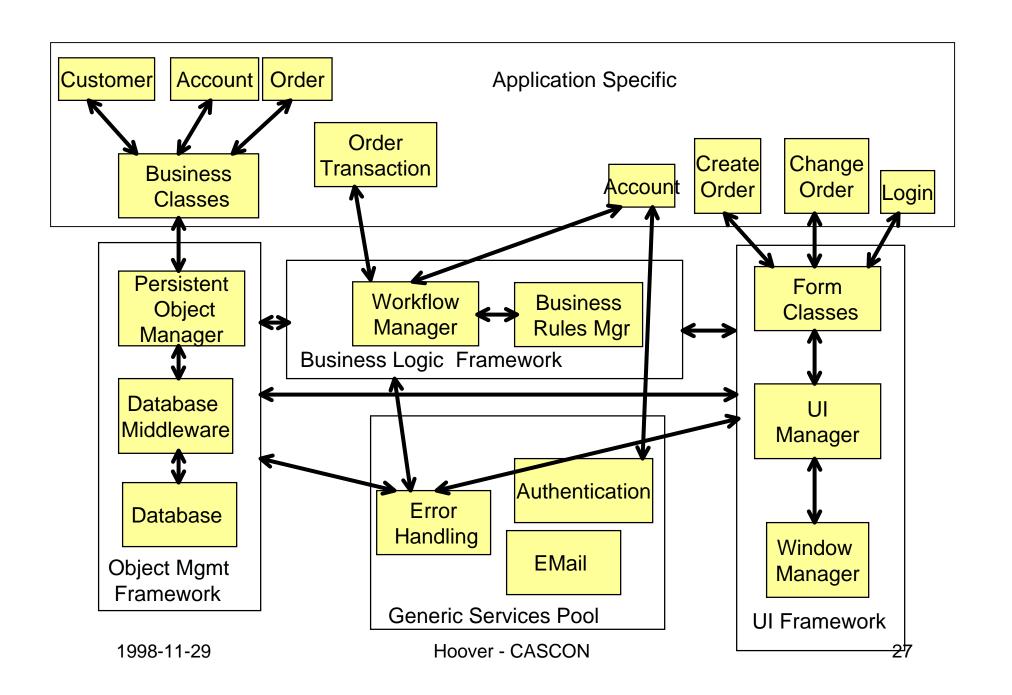
Promise:

Leverage existing design and implementation common to all applications in a domain.

Cost:

Must yield design authority and adapt your application to the overall architectural solution dictated by framework.





Claim: Quality applications are built by

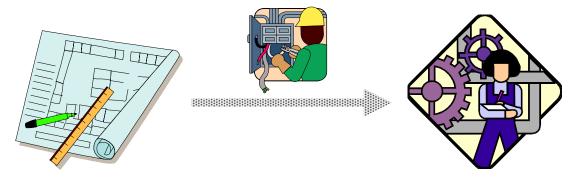
- identifying required services
- allocating services to components
- using frameworks to hook up and build components

This process is iterative and evolutionary.

A workshop is required to assemble components into a product.

The workshop provides:

- service decomposition
- an application framework
- a collection of components
- •tools for customization



Problem with unadorned off-the-shelf workshops:

- Few developers are good architects,
- Do not understand the underlying services and frameworks,
- Workshop provides no services, framework, or process guidance

RAD Management Issue

Crucial to *choose the right workshop* for your RAD style.

Basic workshop IDE's like Delphi, ACCESS, VB, Java or workshop technologies like CORBA, DCOM, are *only good for Waterfall RAD*

What about Evolutionary RAD?

- The success of evolutionary RAD depends crucially on identifying and factoring services.
- Services are provided by components.
- Can acquire small and large commodity components from vendors.
- Construct service components by customizing a service-providing framework.
- All services are coordinated by a domain-specific application framework.

Dangers

- Wrong level of abstraction for services
- Bad factoring of services
- Cross-component services,
 E.g. trouble handling

Conclusion

- functional decomposition isn't dead yet, we just call them services
- commodity components can be bought
- some large scale ones need to be built
- good domain-specific application framework is key