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COMING SOON TO A BUSINESS NEAR YOU

RTTS Predicts the Technologies, Challenges, and Opportunities That Will Matter in 2008

New York, January 9, 2008 -- What are the top trends to look for in 2008? Which solutions, conditions, and concepts will impact business? RTTS, the premier professional services organization specializing in providing software quality for critical business applications, offers ten predictions to look out for in 2008.

Virtualization: Big business welcomed virtualization with open arms in 2007, and in 2008 businesses of all sizes will look to virtualization to get the best return on their computer hardware investments. But the whole process is still more complex and confusing than it should be, so tools and services intended to simplify virtualization deployments – easing existing migration, performance, and security concerns – will be snapped up eagerly. Testing and performance analysis to plan and fine-tune the consolidation of technological assets will also be critical.

Application Lifecycle Quality Management: Application Lifecycle Management ramps up development teams' productivity, simplifies deployment, and often results in better, more business-goal centered applications. The potential benefits are so significant that it's obvious more development teams will move towards this model. For ALM to really work though, software quality testing processes need to be part of the entire development process, rather than happening late in the application development lifecycle, as is traditional. Companies that don't test throughout the entire process will be deeply disappointed with ALM.

Rich Internet Applications: 2008 will be a big year for RIAs, which are increasingly becoming the lightweight, agile app model of choice for the development community. Look for RIAs to gain real traction within the enterprise (think Intranet 2.0), providing a simple way to mashup existing Web services and deploy them quickly for internal and external use. Look also for sticking points to arise that may hamper RIAs' potentials; primarily lack of existing solid back end services along with regulatory and compliance concerns. But in the end the ROI provided by thoughtfully planned RIA projects will win the day.

Service-Oriented Architecture: It's clear that SOA is an agile development framework, but if business process modeling and other parts of the puzzle such as RIAs and information management aren't already in place, SOA won't deliver benefits. 2008 is likely to be the year that enterprises take a cold, hard look at SOA and determine how to use it to its best potential, and start building structures to support it. Despite all the excited chatter about SOA, we don't expect to see wide deployments until 2010.

Software as a Service: Businesses are increasingly uninterested in upgrading software for financial and productivity reasons. For example, dealing with deploying patches has become a significant time and cost burden. The desires of software vendors and businesses dovetail nicely with SaaS: vendors get a steady stream of income, and businesses are relieved of licensing costs, deployment and maintenance chores. After previous years of fussing about potential privacy and security issues present in SaaS – which is still a concern for sensitive data -- look for an increasing number of companies to lease at least some of their applications this year.

Security across the Board: Security concerns are finally becoming firmly embedded into many corporate cultures and any company who consults/tests/deploys software now needs to have genuine security expertise. At RTTS, we've seen over the past year that application quality insurance testing is increasingly expected to include in-depth security analysis. As the costs of data breaches rise, real security will finally become the foundation and framework of software development and testing.

Open Source: Yes, each year of the previous decade or so was supposed to be the Year of Linux on the Desktop. But while we were watching for that fateful event to occur, other open source software, such as Subversion, crept into the enterprise. As we move into a web-centric, mashed-up, shared knowledge world of cloud computing, expect to see open source become ever more enmeshed in critical enterprise applications.

School's Back in Session: Companies have realized that the best way to boost productivity and retention is by investing in their employees' professional development. Employee training, whether conducted in person or via the internet, is becoming an important part of many businesses' profitability strategy, as is employee mentoring by outside consultancies. We expect to see an increase in training – in both hard and soft skills – as the IT talent pool shrinks (See "The Brain Drain" below) over the next few years.

Outsourcing Boomerangs: Companies such as Overstock.com are beginning to discover what many of us have long suspected, the challenges of offshore outsourcing technology consulting may outweigh the cost savings. Salary cost savings may be counterbalanced by the complicated management needs of remote projects, cultural differences, diverse security and regulatory standards, and lack of complete managerial control. Look for an increasing number of companies to move back to in-house or onshore outsourcing models.

The Brain Drain: The dot com crash, and widespread outsourcing of IT jobs, led to fewer college students choosing technical majors, something that was widely reported in the news four years ago. Security regulations for foreign students following 9/11 resulted in a further reduction of CS majors in the US. We'll begin to see the fallout of this situation in 2008, as fewer IT specialists graduate and enter the workforce. Over the next couple of years hiring IT personnel may become a challenge for companies lacking a strong recruitment and retention program.

About RTTS:

RTTS is the premier professional services organization that specializes in providing software quality for critical business applications. With offices in New York, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Orlando and Phoenix, RTTS has been serving Fortune 500 and mid-sized companies since 1996. RTTS draws on its expertise utilizing best-of-breed products, expert engineers and proven methodology to provide the foremost end-to-end solution that ensures application functionality, reliability, scalability and availability. For more information visit www.rttswb.com.

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