SIGAda Working Groups Reports

API Working Group BOF Session Summary

The Ada Application Programming Interfaces (API) Working Group (APIWG) held a Birds-of-a-Feather (BoF) session at the SIGAda 2004 Conference on Wednesday evening. Clyde Roby, Acting Chair, initially led the discussions. During this BoF, Geoff T. Smith of IBM was elected permanent Chair of APIWG. Geoff then continued the discussions.

Robert Leif, Chair of the APIWG eXtensible Markup Language (XML) Subgroup, was unable to attend the SIGAda Conference this year. He had emailed Clyde a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation file and Clyde displayed that on his laptop to all who attended. Robert's presentation file included sound files for each slide -- so Robert was virtually present to give his presentation! It is included on the SIGAda 2004 post-conference CD-ROM that all SIGAda members and SIGAda 2004 conference attendees will receive soon.

After Robert's presentation, discussions on the following were held.

More and more, people are using XML for data manipulation; for marshalling data, they are using XML as the output stream. Additional discussions centered around the need for a JDBC/ODBC equivalent in Ada.

Several attendees expressed interests in container classes and generation of Ada graphics packages.

Additional discussions included a need for command line parsing, too. It was noted, though, that a Command Line package will probably be included in Ada 2005.

Although many good discussions took place during this APIWG BoF, the best way to get something started is for someone to contribute something initially. Then other members of APIWG can add their comments and begin a lively discussion about the new contribution.