

Keynote Address 2

Will Europe ever Produce and sell Objects?

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O2 Technology

Europe has progressively dropped out of a number of hardware markets (micro-processors, workstations, PC, scientific computers, etc.). It has never been very active (despite a number of bright exceptions) on the software product market (languages, databases, operating systems, tools, etc.).

The quality and the success of this conference is a good demonstration of both the quality of European research and of the interest European users have in object technology. In the long run, however, the presence of this active community can only be justified by its participation in a global industrial effort to deliver object technology to users. Object technology, as an emerging market represent a tremendous opportunity and it is worth wondering whether Europe will seize it.

I will try to identify some of the reasons for the current state of the European software industry, study some of the success stories in this area and try to draw some conclusions on what could be done to change the current situation.

Born in 1948, Francois Bancilhon got his PhD from The University of Michigan in 1976, and the University of Paris XI in 1980. He was a researcher at INRIA from 1976 to 1980, doing theoretical work on relational databases. He was a professor at the University of Paris XI from 1981 to 1984 where he worked on database machines. He was a team Leader & chief architect at MCC, Austin, Texas, from 1984 to 1986 developing a deductive database systems. He managed the Altair R&D consortium in France from 1986 to 1991. This group designed and developed O2, an object database management system. In 1991, he founded O2 Technology, (Versailles and Palo Alto). O2 Technology is Number One on the European object database market.