



Front Office Fixed Income Application Integration - A Story

Edwin Park

Head, FICT Core Technology

December 9, 2008



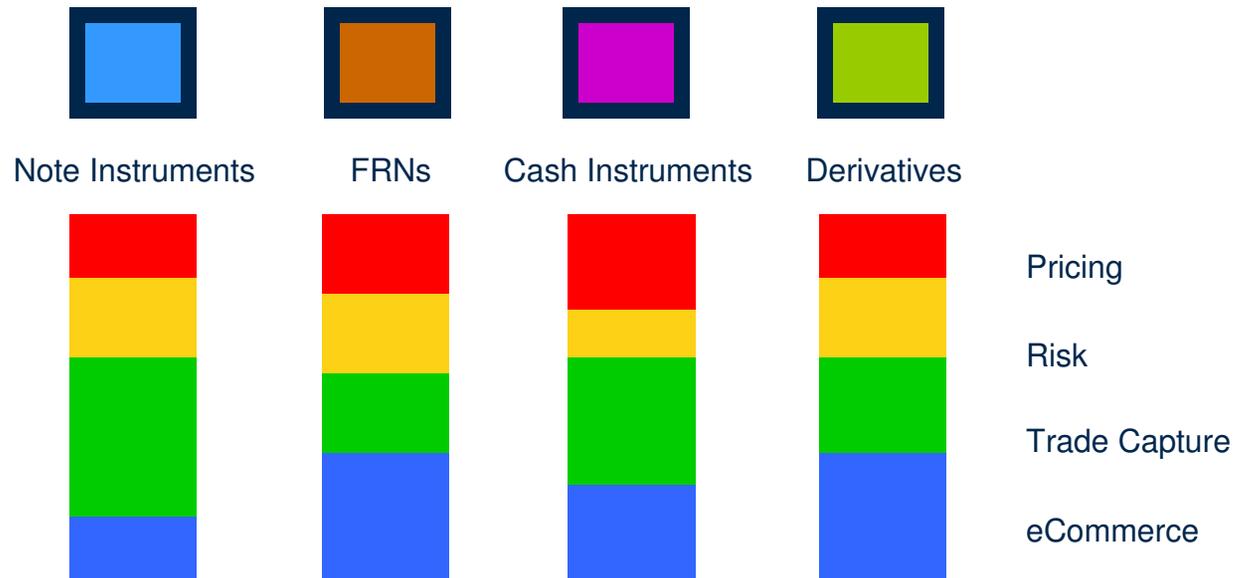
The Story Begins

- **RBC Capital Markets**
- **Global Fixed Income Division**

- **Global development and user base**
 - **New York, London, Toronto**
- **Main focus on front office trading applications**
 - **Real-time display of fast-moving market data**
- **Numerous trading products**
 - **Note instruments**
 - **FRNs**
 - **Cash instruments (bonds, futures)**
 - **Derivatives**

➤ **Application development historically product-focused**

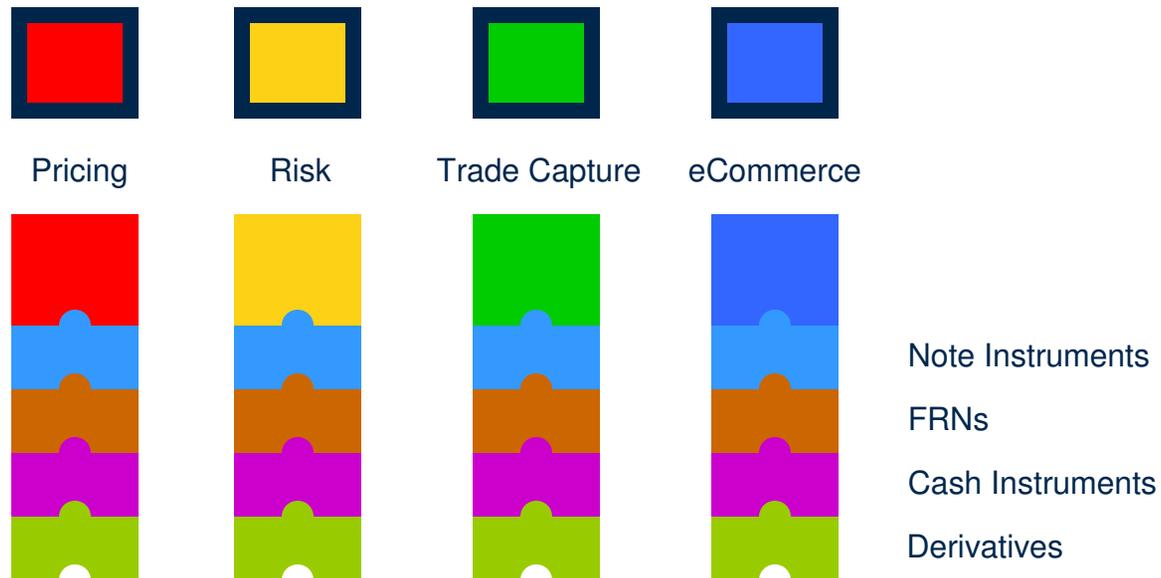
- Trading localized to product types
- Multiple product-specific application systems
- Customized to needs of individual products
- Varying levels of functionality across product application systems



A Little History, continued

➤ Shift to functional focus

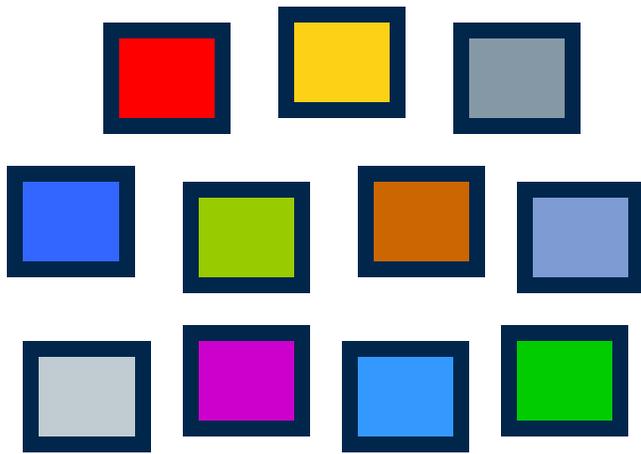
- Cross-asset trading
- Any product, any region, any currency
- Increased need for functional integration
- New development; Multiple function-specific applications



User Experience – What We Have

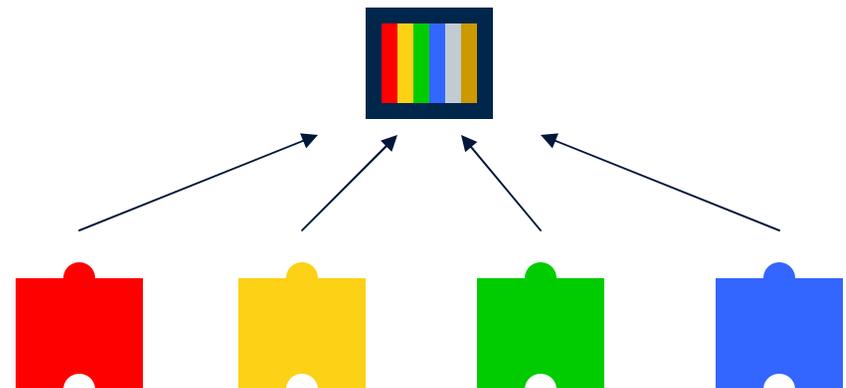


- n Product-specific applications
- m Function-specific applications
- Lots of user context switching across application UIs
- Reduced efficiency, increased cost
- Big problem



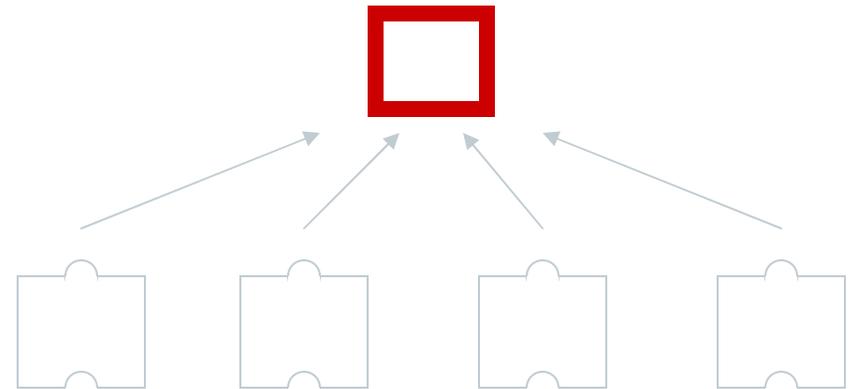
User Experience – What We Want

- **One integrated UI where users can access relevant product and functional application components**
- **Extremely high value to users**
- **It can be done!**
 - **Eclipse demonstrates this**
 - **Eclipse solves many of the hard problems**



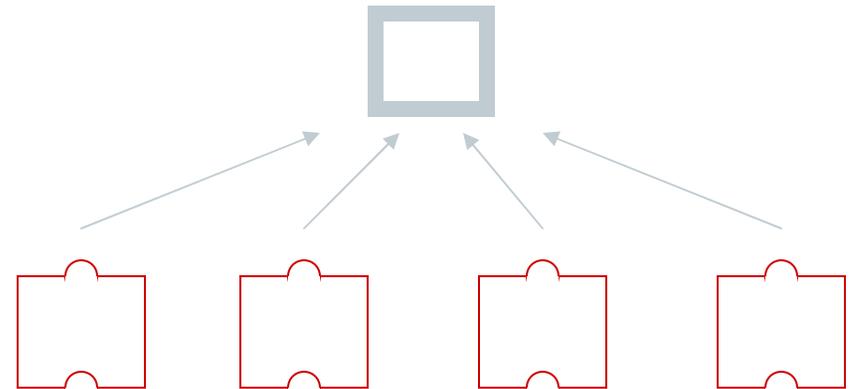
Things That Are In Common

- **Bootstrap installer**
- **Unified user authentication (SSO)**
- **Automatic application component provisioning**
- **Inter-component communication mechanisms**
- **Master application UI window**
- **UI extension points**
- **Common look and feel for components**
- **User preference management**
- **Component model**



Things That Are Different

- **Many different application components**
- **Multiple independent application development teams**
- **Different development, testing and release schedules**
- **Different users (e.g. traders, salespeople, support staff) will need different sets of application components**



Helios

- **Eclipse RCP-based UI container**
- **Hosts multiple application plugins**
- **Provides common services, mainly through plugins**
 - **Eclipse, Spring, etc**
- **Insulates component developers from some degree of complexity**
 - **Pre-built, pre-configured RCP application**
 - **Encapsulates common environment configuration, e.g. connection to RBC Active Directory LDAP**

- **A little less than a year old, 1 developer for most of that time**
- **Lots of functionality comes for free with Eclipse, Spring plugins**
- **Had to build some things; had to configure and integrate a lot of things**

➤ Installer

- One installer for everyone
- Simple, standard installation for all workstations



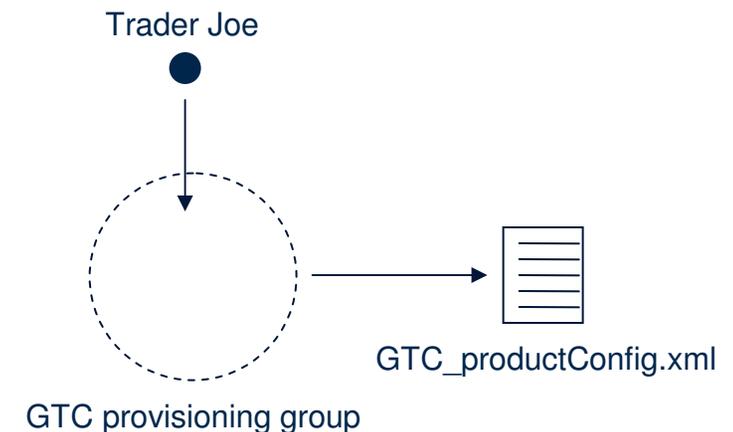
➤ Executable

- One executable for everyone
- Application components are automatically downloaded and installed when the user logs in



➤ Provisioning

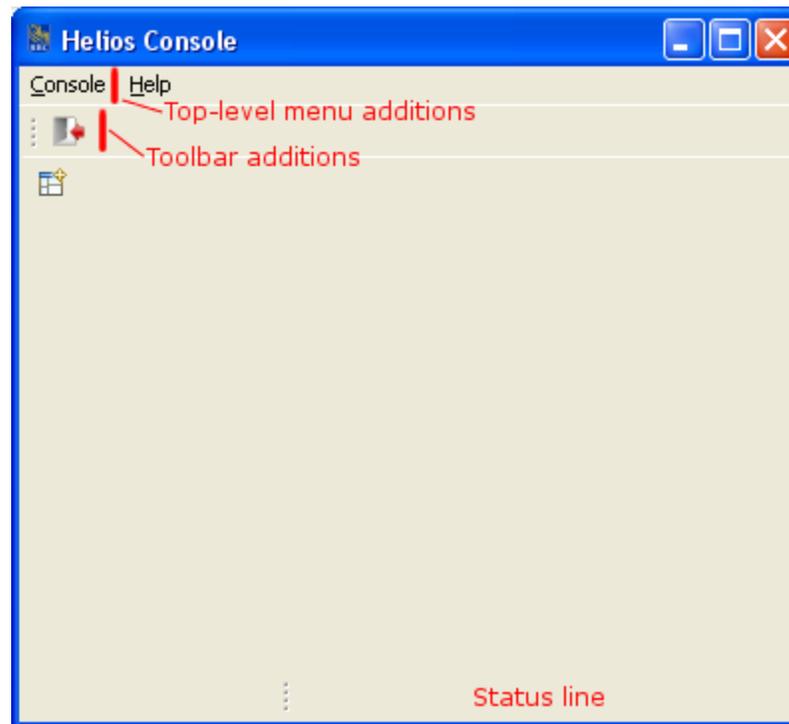
- Users are associated with provisioning groups
- Provisioning groups have associated product configurations which specify what components to install for members of the group
- P2-based automatic provisioning



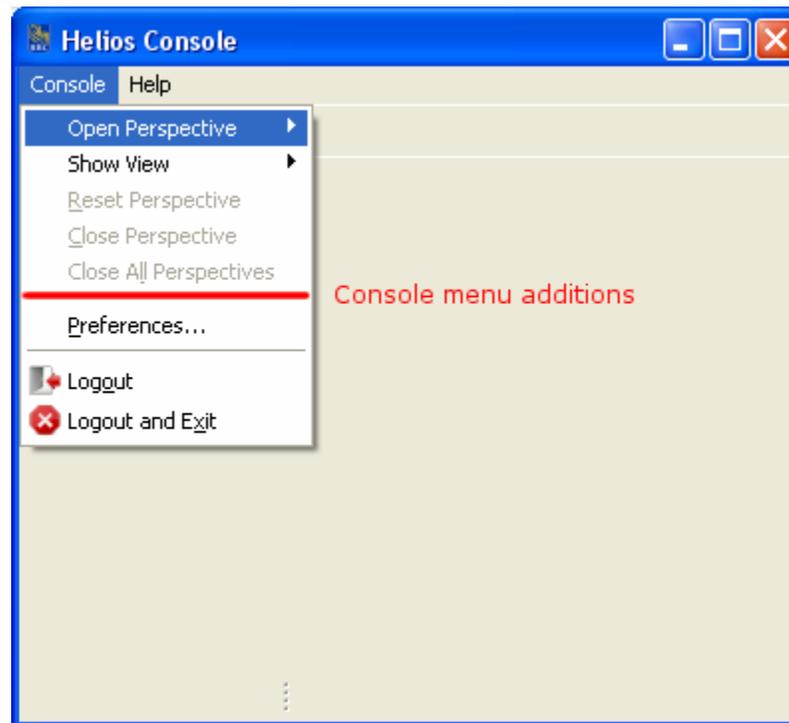
- Login dialog is the first thing the user sees
- Uses Spring Security
- Authenticates against RBC Active Directory LDAP
- Users can be associated with one or more security roles
- User security role info is installed in the SecurityContext on successful login
- The SecurityContext can then be queried for role membership to drive authorization behavior, e.g.:
 - ```
if (AuthUtil.hasAuthority("ROLE_ADMINISTRATOR")) {
 // do something
}
```
- The SecurityContext is available to any component hosted in Helios for authentication/authorization



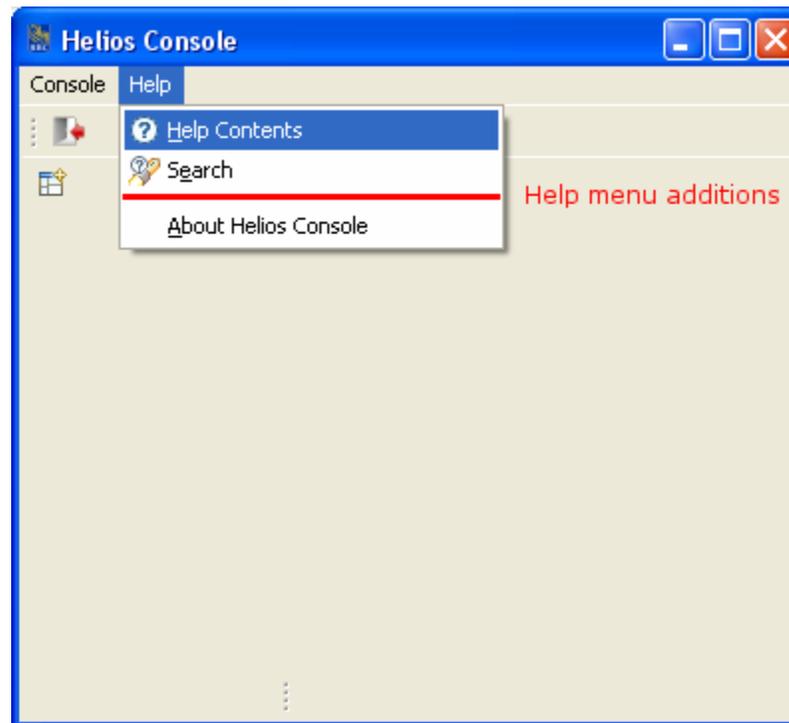
# Master Application Window



# Master Application Window



# Master Application Window



# Common Look And Feel

- **Standard set of UI controls**
  - **Mostly stock SWT controls**
  - **A few custom controls (date picker, data grid)**
- **Eclipse Forms Framework**
- **Built UI framework on top of above to encapsulate higher-order behavior and associations**
  - **Labels associated with form fields**
  - **Required field rendering**
  - **Etc**
- **Looking to also provide declarative UI specification**
  - **Eclipse modeling tools**

TextFieldLabel

Selections

Check Box

Date Stamp

| October, 2008 |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sun           | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 28            | 29  | 30  | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 5             | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 12            | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19            | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 26            | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  | 1   |
| 2             | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   |

## ➤ OSGi services

- **Can easily expose classes as OSGi services or get references to OSGi services via Spring DM**
- `<osgi:service ref="application" interface="org.eclipse.equinox.app.IApplication"/>`
- `<osgi:reference id="ldapAuthoritiesPopulator" interface="org.acegisecurity.providers.LdapAuthoritiesPopulator"/>`

## ➤ Eclipse extension points

## ➤ Spring Remoting

- Eclipse automatically saves user preferences on application shutdown and restores UI state when the application is restarted
- Eclipse normally stores user preferences in the workspace folder
- We want to move preferences to the server side
  - Allow preferences to be shared between users
  - Allow support to retrieve and locally apply a user's preferences for troubleshooting purposes

## The Wider World

- **Major shift from monolithic to component-oriented development**
  - **Developing parts rather than entire applications**
- **Much more reliant on common/shared stuff**
  - **Technology stack, component model, development infrastructure**
- **Requires coordination across development teams**
  - **Shared vision of macro application functionality**
  - **Need to make sure parts can work together**
  
- **The most crucial issue in making component-oriented development work is not really a technical one – it is figuring out how to work together as part of a larger development community**
  
- **Not just interested in Eclipse technologies, but also Eclipse development model**

- **Moniker for shared development at RBC**
- **Emulating Open Source development model**
  
- **Core**
  - **Core Technology team**
  - **Coordinate and are 100% allocated to Fusion projects**
- **Contributors**
  - **Individuals from other teams that develop for Fusion**
  - **Allocated part time**
  - **Represent application requirements in Fusion development and communicate Fusion knowledge back to application team**
- **Community**
  - **People and teams that use Fusion products**

- **Version control – source code repository, release tags, maintenance branches**
- **Automated build – build from source, continuous integration**
  - **Custom maven plugin wrapper for PDE Build**
    - **Encapsulates build conventions (directory locations, etc)**
    - **Reduces number of required configuration parameters**
- **Artifact repository – well-known location to find released artifacts**
- **Issue tracking system – plan and track releases**
- **Wiki – knowledge repository, reference information**
- **Forum – public discussions, support**
  
- **Favor lots of transparency, accessibility**
- **Always looking to improve our process and tooling**

# Rules Of Thumb



- **Make sure you're building something people need, with the quality that they want**
- **Make others part of the solution and then you won't have to worry so much about adoption**
- **Get support from the top (management) to make resource and schedule accommodations for shared technology projects**

## Epilogue

## So Here We Are



- **Helios currently used by 2 FI applications in standalone mode**
- **Those and several other applications will be starting to migrate onto Helios in shared mode in early 2009**
  
- **Strategic application integration platform for RBC Fixed Income applications**
- **Impacting how applications are being developed and composed**

- **Combination of Eclipse and Spring is extremely powerful**
- **Technology alone is not sufficient for success**
- **Need to pay a lot of attention to how the technology will be used and who will be using it**
  
- **Eclipse allowed us to address the really high value problem first**
- **This is just the beginning, there's a long way to go from here**
  - **Adding additional shared functionality to Helios**
  - **Other middle and backend integration infrastructure**