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Versant Supports Science Factory's New Bioinformatic System

Object database manages powerful biological object model for überTOOL,
a new genomic integration and analytic system

Fremont, California, November 13, 2002 - Versant Corporation (NASDAQ: VSNT), a leading provider of middleware infrastructure technology, today announced that SCIENCE FACTORY GmbH has built the Versant Developer Suite (VDS) into überTOOL™, the company's new workflow-based bioinformatic analytic system. überTOOL allows scientists to easily integrate and analyze molecular biological data from a wide variety of standard bioinformatic sources.

By utilizing Versant's object database to store a flexible model in a multi-layered database structure, überTOOL enables the integration of large amounts of molecular biological data from diverse sources while providing automatic format conversions and data compatibility checks. überTOOL also provides over 200 analytic methods from all areas of bioinformatics, such as BLAST, Multiple Alignment, Hidden Markov Models (HMM), and others. überTOOL's graphical workflow editor enables users to combine these methods visually into complex analysis procedures.

"überTOOL delivers a powerful bioinformatics data integration and analysis system because it is based on a powerful biological object model. We built this model on Versant's object database because it can manage networks of instances of objects from our complex hierarchy of 500 classes with ease," said Olav Zimmermann, Director of Customer Relations of SCIENCE FACTORY GmbH. "A vast network of objects stores molecular and experimental datatypes including sequences, expression data, metabolic pathways, and more. Eliminating object-relational mapping of this network by using Versant VDS enabled us to get a powerful and polished product to market fast."

Today, biological data is available on a scale that has never been seen before. "Bioinformatics requires flexible and scalable object technology that can handle the size, diversity and complexity of the data" said Adrian Jones, Versant's Vice President, Europe. "Versant's object database is designed to support the most complex biological object models, such as the models used in science factory's überTOOL application. When using the inherent power of complex objects is critical, the leaders in scientific technology rely on Versant."

Versant Developer Suite, now in its 6th generation, is the industry's only truly scalable, enterprise-capable object database management system. It has been designed to ease development and enhance performance in complex, distributed, Java and/or C++ environments. Through features such as online schema evolution, dual caching, replication and fault tolerance, Versant customers have enjoyed superior performance, reliability and scalability, reduced development times and the ability to adapt to changing business conditions.
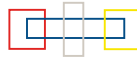
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About SCIENCE FACTORY GmbH

The bioinformatics enterprise was started up in January 2000. The international team combines the latest software technology with customer-oriented product design. science factory reacts quickly to new scientific developments based on its modular bioinformatics platform technology while customer-specific adaptations are efficiently implemented. Since the summer of 2001 science factory has been exclusively marketing the BRENDA enzyme database worldwide. A large number of biotech and pharmaceutical companies can already be counted as part of our satisfied customer base.

For more information about SCIENCE FACTORY GmbH, please visit http://www.science-factory.com.

About Versant Corporation

Versant Corporation (NASDAQ: VSNT) has led the industry in highly scalable, reliable object management solutions for complex enterprise-level systems since its founding in 1988. The company's Object Data Management System (ODBMS) serves as the core database for fraud detection, yield management, real-time data collection and analysis, operation support systems (OSS) and other large-scale applications in the telecommunications, financial services, transportation and defense industries. Versant enJin and Versant Developer Suite, based on the same proven technology and seamless object persistence, help accelerate both the development cycle and the transaction speed for e-business and Internet infrastructure companies. For more information, call 510-789-1500 or visit www.versant.com.