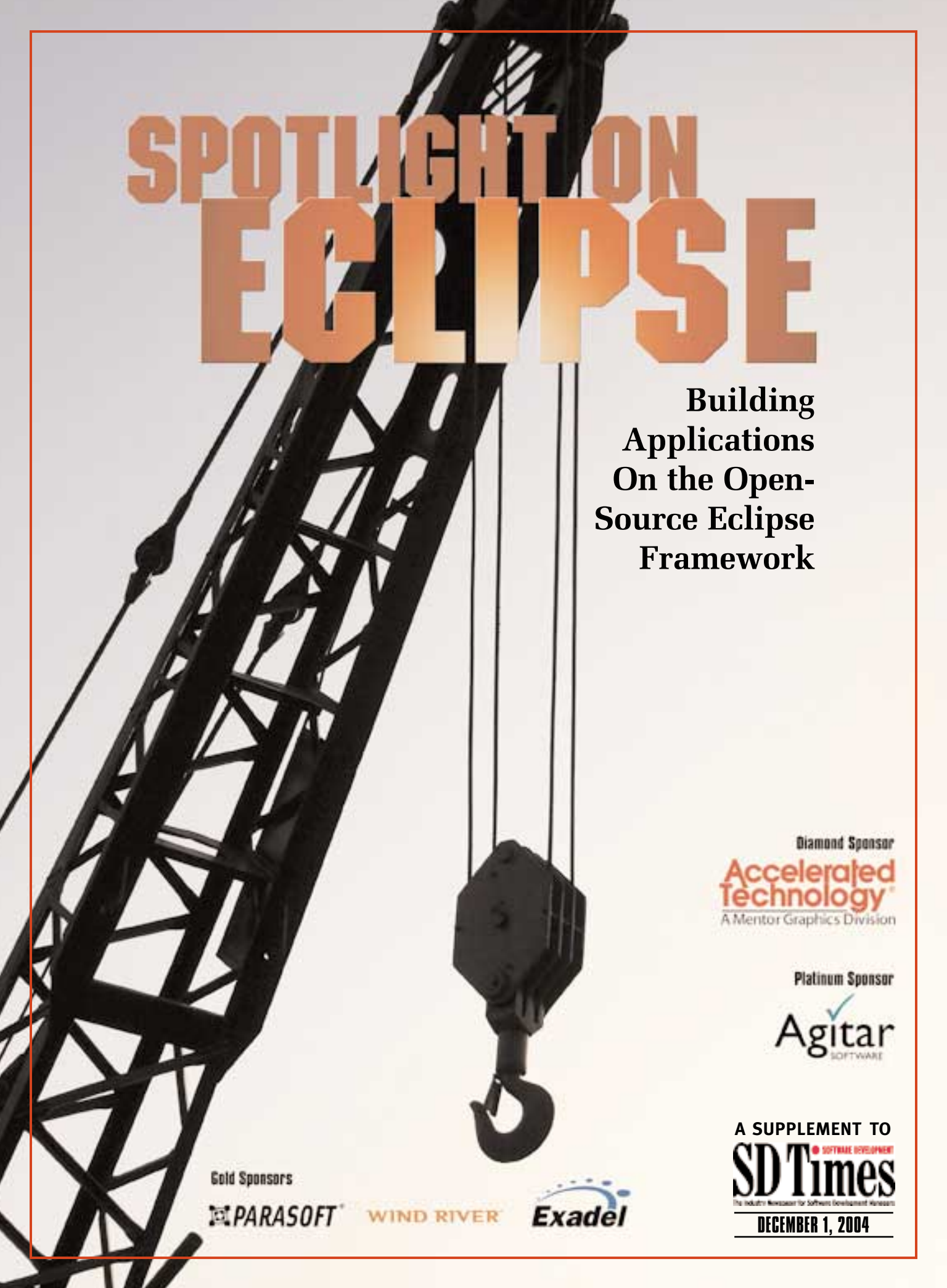

SPOTLIGHT ON ECLIPSE

Building Applications On the Open-Source Eclipse Framework

Diamond Sponsor

Accelerated technology
A Mentor Graphics Division

Platinum Sponsor

Agitar SOFTWARE

Gold Sponsors

PARASOFT WIND RIVER Exadel

A SUPPLEMENT TO
SD Times SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT
The Industry Newspaper for Software Development Managers
DECEMBER 1, 2004

SPECTRUM BRINGS INTEGRATED SCM TO ECLIPSE

Software configuration management can be an important aspect of a development effort—especially in large enterprises with disparate systems and programming needs. If you think that SCM may benefit your enterprise, Atlanta-based Spectrum Software (www.spectrumscm.com) is offering the capabilities of its truly integrated SCM solution to Eclipse 2.1 and 3.0 users via a plug-in for the Eclipse platform. SpectrumSCM, however, is more than just a software configuration management system, it is a *source* configuration management system that will enforce the sound disciplines of CM practices in a seamless way.

SpectrumSCM is the first platform-independent, truly integrated enterprise-level SCM solution, which includes version control, issue tracking, process management, release management, advanced branching and more, all integrated into one tool.

"We provide a complete enterprise SCM product," says Sarathi Srinivasan, president and CEO of Spectrum Software. "Traditionally people associate the acronym SCM with software configuration management. The actual definition, however, should be source configuration management. Source can be source code, software code or anything else in electronic form. As an organization, you want to have processes in place to track the life cycle of these assets, so that if something goes wrong, you can track the problem back to its source."

Organizations used to handle different types of assets using different kinds of tools, explains Srinivasan. "Our product, in addition to giving companies a very solid, comprehensive SCM system, also integrates with very popular IDEs. For example, Eclipse developers traditionally have not had very powerful SCM tools available. They can now have more sophisticated, process-centric CM, with version control and issue/change management available from within their IDE."

With SpectrumSCM, change-based configuration management allows users to focus on the reason for changes rather than file versions and labels. SpectrumSCM provides all of these functions in the context of product life-cycle tracking for any electronic asset or product source. All sources are tracked from the day they are placed under SpectrumSCM control through any and all product builds or releases.

"The SpectrumSCM plug-in for Eclipse provides all the necessary functionality for associating projects in the Eclipse workspace with a SpectrumSCM repository," says Sudarshan Raghavan, Spectrum's senior software engineer. "SpectrumSCM acts as a team provider for Eclipse and gives developers direct access to advanced SCM, all from within the Eclipse environment. Through the SpectrumSCM perspective and views, the plug-in lets developers associate and track why a change was done and immediately have access to the change request. This provides a full-blown, process-oriented SCM system for all Eclipse and enterprise users."

ADRIAN RAYBOULD
Director of Product Development

The biggest advantage that the plug-in provides to users is access to version control and integrated issue tracking/change management from the Eclipse environment. Unlike other team solutions, users have not only the ability to check in and check out files but can create new change requests, and review and progress assigned change requests.

The SpectrumSCM perspective lets users associate multiple projects in their Eclipse workspace with corresponding projects in SpectrumSCM and provides a consolidated view of all the managed objects and change requests in these projects. The plug-in supports synchronization, compare/merge and the powerful branching paradigms used in SpectrumSCM.

The SpectrumSCM plug-in also supports Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) to encrypt communication and thus allows secure access to proprietary information across untrusted networks. The plug-in-based architecture provides a tight integration not only with the Eclipse IDE but also with Eclipse-based tools like IBM's WebSphere Studio Application Developer.

"Users can work with the Eclipse plug-in, our client or Web interface, the command line interface or any SCCI-compliant IDE. SpectrumSCM supports any way the user chooses to work," says Adrian Raybould, Spectrum's director of product development. "It's a 100% Java solution, so it's completely platform independent. It's also a highly configurable and extensible system, which allows users to construct automated workflow engines and interfaces to external systems through the SpectrumSCM API and Wrappers."

SpectrumSCM uses a floating licensing model that should be appealing to many organizations. Users don't have to hold onto a license long-term while working within Eclipse, Raghavan explains. "It's hard to envision a better solution for combining ease of use and a solid return on investment." –*George Walsh*