

The “foster parent” of DataKeeper

-- Passion for developing software that contributes to society #2
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Ernie Coskrey, software development architect at SIOS Technology Corp.

Ernie Coskrey, software development architect at SIOS Technology Corp., who has played a key role in the development of software such as DataKeeper. In the second part of the interview, we asked him about his thoughts on the product and what new challenges he would like to take on in the future.

The future he sees as the product's foster parent.

- You are the creator of DataKeeper, one of SIOS's solutions, right?

Ernie: DataKeeper has been developed through the hands of many different people, so I am more like an adoptive father than a father figure. DataKeeper has evolved significantly to meet the needs of our customers and the technology around it.

For example, DataKeeper Cluster Edition (DKCE), which works with the Windows Server Failover Clustering feature to create HA cluster systems without shared storage, is one such solution. DKCE has also been developed with new members' knowledge and is evolving further.

- Can you tell us about the state of communication between the development team and other departments?

Ernie: Our development team shares information frequently with other teams such as sales and customer experience. We also collaborate remotely with the Japanese development team using business chat tools and project management tools.

I have more than 30 years' experience as a software development engineer and architect, but the challenges faced by our customers are becoming more diverse and complex, and the advancement of surrounding technology shows no sign of stopping. This is certainly true in the High Availability area, where LifeKeeper and DataKeeper are used. Cloud services are evolving, and we need to accumulate knowledge about how they perform as well as develop and improve our products to work optimally in these environments. In this respect, there is no limit to the amount of learning that is necessary as an engineer.

I have a lot to learn from other talented colleagues at STC. I recently gained new knowledge about debugging from one engineer who has a lot of experience in the industry. Also, young people often have interesting perspectives that are different from ours, and working with them brings fresh inspiration and stimulates my mind.

- How do you refresh yourself in your off-time?

Ernie: I like to spend a time playing pickleball and playing guitar. Pickleball is a popular sport in the USA. It is a ball game similar to tennis, but the court is not as large, so it is a fun way to get some exercise. I also like to play classic rock music on the guitar as a hobby.

- Can you tell us what challenges you would like to do in your future work?

Ernie: We are working with customer support to document processes, such as how to use debugging tools, to help customers better understand LifeKeeper and DataKeeper, and to communicate this knowledge in an easy-to-understand manner. We want to make it easier for customers to solve problems on their own.

I believe that there is no finish line in the world of HA. In fact, there are several new software development projects going on in parallel to solve our customers' problems. In this sense, many more 'software children' will be born from the SIOS Group. I would like to grow with my colleagues in the SIOS Group while growing these projects greatly.