

Web-enable your 5250 solutions

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Eliminating the Roadblocks

IBM is helping you extend your legacy investments by eliminating roadblocks to e-business. Today, you probably have the WebFacing Tool because IBM has shipped more than 65,000 copies since May 2001. It can help you cost-effectively Web-enable several programs or your entire 5250 application portfolio. No Java™ or HTML skills required !

Using the IBM WebFacing Tool is a quick, easy, and cost-effective method of creating a Web interface to your existing 5250 applications. The GreenStreak promotion introduced by the iSeries™ division provides affordable servers to run the new e-business applications.

Conversions with the WebFacing Tool are easier

Computer Guidance first attempted to convert their ERP package in November 2001 with the WebFacing Tool running service pack 2. They were able to convert 95% of the display files without any changes. However with more than 18,000 screens to convert, this meant that 900 screens would have to be modified. Computer Guidance converted their application in April of 2002, with service pack 5. All but five screens converted without change. Web-enabling your applications using the WebFacing Tool has got a lot easier.

Web applications created with the WebFacing Tool are faster

APPCON commented that they noticed a significant performance improvement with the Web application generated by the WebFacing Tool in WebSphere Development Studio Client V4 with service pack 2. APPCON moved to the latest version of the WebFacing Tool because it provided support for function keys in the browser interface. This made it easier for their existing 5250 customers to move to the Web. When they reconverted their application with the latest version of WebFacing Tool, they were delighted with the 50% to 100% improvement in application execution performance. Not only are we making the tool easier to use, but also the generated application is getting faster.

However, many iSeries organizations lack the skills and resources to convert their applications. To address this need, IBM is recruiting WebFacing Tool conversion service providers to help partners and customers Web-enable their 5250 applications and deploy the Web application to the WebSphere Application Server. The service providers must demonstrate their capabilities with a published case study about a successful conversion using the IBM WebFacing Tool. The service providers can help you:

- Overcome your lack of development resources
- Supplement your development resources while they're occupied with maintenance requests
- Capitalize on the value and popularity of WebSphere Application Server
- Supplement your current skills with on-the-job training for WebSphere Development Studio

Seeing is Believing – Role of conversion services providers & seminars

Service Providers and IBM are working together to deliver free half-day seminars that demonstrate the capabilities of the IBM WebFacing tool together with various offerings that help you overcome the roadblocks.

The conversion service providers are now providing the following services to iSeries customers.

Free Seminars

In the seminars, we will convert a 5250 application on the spot, show how to customize the converted application and how to publish the Web interface to WebSphere Application Server. Check online for the seminar content outline, schedule of locations near you and registration for free attendance. Go to www.eserversoftware.net and use the "Free Seminars" button on the left side of the home page frame.

Field Code Changed

Display File DDS Analysis

The service providers will provide a free analysis of your display file DDS to determine if your application has any DDS keywords that are not supported by the IBM WebFacing Tool. If you have some keywords that are not supported, the service provider will (upon request) submit a bid to make the required changes to your application.

Proof-of-concept conversion and implementation plan

The service provider will do a "proof-of-concept" conversion on a sample of your application (up to 200 screens). All of the screens will be converted and a subset will be enhanced with customized GUIs, graphics, drop-downs and updated menus. Internet access to the Web-enabled application will be provided for 30 days.

A detailed implementation plan will be created outlining all of the activities, dependencies, schedules, resources and system enhancement required to Web-enable your entire system.

There is a money-back guarantee if the sample application cannot be Web-enabled successfully.

Turn-key conversion

If your company lacks the resources to Web-enable your applications, the service providers will submit a detailed bid to convert an application or your entire portfolio of applications. All of the screens will be converted and selected screens will be customized per your requirements. After the applications have been sanity tested, the customer will be provided with Internet access to the converted application for 30 days for conversion validation and testing.

Education Services

Although many companies will want to engage service providers to do a major application conversion, most will not want to be dependent on them for day-to-day operations. To make customers self-sufficient, the service providers are offering customized education and mentoring.

The education offerings are based on the IBM education courses for the IBM WebFacing Tool. These courses are customized to address each customer's unique training requirements.

Summary

There is an ever-increasing demand for Web-enabled applications in the iSeries marketplace. The WebFacing Tool has made it easy and cost effective to web-enable existing 5250 solutions. GreenStreak has made the iSeries servers affordable for running converted applications. The service providers are providing the skills and resources to help customers move their solutions to the Web.

What's holding you back? There are no more excuses for ignoring the benefits of e-business computing.

Seminars from IBM & Service Providers

Free half-day seminars are rolling out throughout North America to demonstrate the capabilities of the IBM WebFacing Tool to convert a 5250 applications, to customize the converted application, and to publish the Web interface to WebSphere® Application Server . Check the schedule at eserversoftware.net for seminars in your area.

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