Distributed Applications for eBusiness

Informix

One of the biggest challenges facing today's corporate IS departments is the need to extend access to corporate applications beyond the firewall. This is required to enhance interactions with partner companies, develop closer relationships with customers, to support mobile workers, and virtual workgroups. The key to meeting these challenges is an easy-to-use, distributed application architecture. And Informix® Cloudscape™ is just that.

New Business Challenges

One of the biggest challenges facing the IS department of today is the movement of computing outside the firewall to support the integration of operations with those of partner companies, to enhance customer experiences, and to support mobile and virtual workgroups. Key to resolving these issues is an easy-to-use distributed application architecture.

Enhancing Business Collaboration

In today's Internet economy, no business can be an island unto itself. Instead, every corporation is embedded in a network of cooperating enterprises that act as a giant virtual corporation. Operational decisions can no longer be made in isolation, but require the assembly of operational knowledge about all aspects of the trading Web. Classical Electronic Data Exchange (EDI) solutions have proven clumsy and expensive, while central Web sites limit the ability of a company to integrate operational data from partner Web sites into its own core systems.

Enriching Customer Experience

With the competition only one click away, companies are realizing that they must differentiate themselves from their competitors by providing a better service, particularly to high-value customers. Often, this means enriching the customer experience beyond that which is available from a browser pointed at a slow, remote Web site.

Supporting Mobile Workgroups

Corporate intranets are an effective means for delivering a wide variety of information to employees, but are dependent upon a reliable, fast Internet connection. Increasingly, workers are mobile, and disconnected from the Internet for extended periods of time. Existing client-server and Web-based applications leave the disconnected worker unsupported.

Informix Cloudscape Offers a Distributed Solution

Informix provides compelling new technology that addresses these issues in a way that:

- reduces the total cost of ownership of the system;
- provides high performance and scalability;
- improves security;
- retains central control of data integrity;
- requires minimal central management; and
- requires no remote management.

The solution is made up of two main components: an embeddable, zero-management Java™ database management system (DBMS), and sophisticated application synchronization that ensures that data at remote sites is correct and timely, and provides transparent remote application upgrades.

Cloudscape DBMS

Cloudscape is the only 100% Pure Java™ DBMS from any of the major database vendors. Because it is pure Java, it embeds invisibly inside a Java application and runs on any Java-equipped platform. Cloudscape is ideal for remote locations where there is no IS support, because it requires no separate installation and no database administration. Most Cloudscape-enabled application users have no idea that they have it installed and that they are using a rich database management system. Cloudscape is a SQL DBMS. It supports standard SQL-92 with Java extensions and provides all of the multiuser facilities expected of a commercial database management system.

Cloudsync™ Application Synchronization

Cloudsync provides a new and superior way to ensure agreement between remote and central applications. Cloudsync moves subsets of data from central databases out to the remote computers in a totally reliable, secure, and efficient way. Rather than collecting database changes from the remote computers, Cloudsync captures the remote event in the form of a parameterized Java method call that is propagated back to the central site for replay through central applications. This ensures that complex data controls and interactions with other systems are performed by the central application, even though an event occurred remotely.

Because Cloudscape technology is written entirely in Java, Cloudscape can manage Java code in the database. Cloudsync can synchronize this code just like any other object. This means that a remote data refresh can carry an application upgrade with it, removing all of the expense and complexity from supporting remote applications.

Summary

Today's eBusiness environment requires collaborative interaction with customers and a mesh of partners. Informix Cloudscape provides a scalable, cost-effective way to deploy data-rich applications to enrich the remote user experience, enhance business collaboration, and to support mobile workers.

About Informix

Based in Menlo Park, California, Informix Corporation specializes in advanced information management technologies that help enterprises in the i.Economy get to market quickly, generate new revenue, build a unique strategic advantage, and solve their most complex business problems. Informix offers customers a complete software infrastructure for the Web that delivers highly scalable transaction processing, personalized content management, integrated business intelligence, full multimedia capabilities and complete e-commerce solutions. For more information, contact the sales office nearest you or visit our Web site at www.informix.com.

Informix®

4100 Bohannon Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Tel. 650.926.6300
www.informix.com

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