

White paper



Understanding the value of IBM SecureWay On-Demand Server.



Control access and provide personalized Web applications to anyone, anywhere

SecureWay On-Demand Server value proposition

One way to understand the value of IBM® SecureWay® On-Demand Server is to think of it as an IT administrator's best friend. The formal definition of SecureWay On-Demand Server is "an intelligent, policy-based profile server that allows developers and administrators to control access and personalize Web applications." You may have heard that definition before and not understood its real meaning. This document explains what SecureWay On-Demand Server really is, what value you can realize using SecureWay On-Demand Server, and how it works with a product called IBM SecureWay Host On-Demand *Specially Developed for SecureWay On-Demand Server*.

SecureWay On-Demand Server delivers the following capabilities:

- Central administration of Web applications
- Secure access control to Web applications
- Profile-based personalization of Web applications
- Extension of Tivoli® systems management to Web browsers

We'll take an in-depth look at each of these capabilities in the following paragraphs.

Central administration of Web applications

There is a wealth of value hidden in the simple concept of central administration. First, there is the general concept of central administration. When you buy SecureWay On-Demand Server, you essentially get three things: an administrator console, a user console and a developer's toolkit. Administrator consoles (as well as user consoles) run in a Web browser, which means that administrators can go to any machine and get access to the SecureWay On-Demand Server administrator console. This is called roaming—and it applies to user consoles as well. You don't have to install anything on client machines except a Web browser, which makes thin clients and network computers perfectly suited to use SecureWay On-Demand Server.

Although the concept of central administration implies roaming capabilities for the administrator, there is more to its meaning than just roaming. At the heart of this concept is the ability to consolidate administration of multiple Web applications across multiple Web application servers. Web applications—such as Java™ servlets, Java applets and Java applications—are like other applications in that they require some means of configuration. Usually, the configuration method is built into the application itself. Administrators are required to manage many Web applications using many different configuration methods. Administrators also have to work from multiple servers, depending on where the applications are installed in the network.

With SecureWay On-Demand Server, administrators can configure all Web applications centrally from the SecureWay On-Demand Server administrator console and deploy that configuration information on demand anywhere in the enterprise. With SecureWay On-Demand Server, configuration information can be stored in a profile created for the Web application. The profile is stored on an LDAP server, making it accessible from anywhere in the network—no more dependencies on the individual configuration methods or the location of the Web application servers. Whenever someone using a client machine requests a Web application, SecureWay On-Demand Server automatically sends the appropriate profile and configuration information with the application. So, whenever or wherever the user logs on to the application, it is preconfigured according to the administrator's definitions.

Summary:

Central administration = roaming capability + central configuration

Secure access control to Web applications

Controlling access to Web applications is an important part of a Web environment, because the promise of global access from Internet technologies can mean just that: global access for anyone, anywhere to anything you've put on the Web. Whether your Web applications run on an intranet, extranet or the Internet, they are vulnerable to unauthorized access.

With SecureWay On-Demand Server, unauthorized attempts to access Web applications will fail. Remember the Web application profile for storing configuration information that was described earlier? That same profile also contains the user IDs and passwords for everyone allowed to access the application. When the user logs on to the SecureWay On-Demand Server user console or launches a window, he sees icons for only those applications that the administrator has designated. If he doesn't have an authorized user ID and password, he can't open the application—he can't even see it. It's as simple as that. And for added security, SecureWay On-Demand Server encrypts user IDs and passwords so they're safe from interception.

You may have questions like, "Does the administrator have to create a new user ID and password for every person in the company," or "Does the user have to memorize dozens of new user IDs and passwords?" The answer to both of those questions is no. SecureWay On-Demand Server has the ability to import user definitions from existing IT environments. For example, SecureWay On-Demand Server can import user definitions from IBM RACF®, Microsoft® Windows NT®, IBM AIX® and DCE, and Sun Solaris. Once these definitions are imported into SecureWay On-Demand Server, the administrator can click a checkbox from the administrator console to designate a user's access to a specific Web application. And, if the administrator creates a new user definition or changes a user definition, SecureWay On-Demand Server sends the updates back to the appropriate native platform control lists. The formal word for this is "resynchronization."

Summary:

Secure access = user definition profiles + importing and resynchronization

Profile-based personalization of Web applications

It's clear how Web application profiles that contain configuration and application access control information are used for Web applications. Now, we'll consider how SecureWay On-Demand Server can use these same profiles for personalizing Web applications for users and groups of users.

SecureWay On-Demand Server has the unique ability to personalize Web applications based on what it knows about a user or group of users. It uses the Web application profile to store two types of information about the user. First, it can store information about who the user is within the company; second, it can store information about how the user wants to see the application.

From the administrator console, the administrator can define departments or other logical groups within the company. This might include the shipping department, sales force, human resources, marketing team and development. The administrator can also define a role for a particular user, such as vice president of sales, CIO, cashier or teller. These groups can also be arranged hierarchically. Figure 1 is an example of a group hierarchy for a bank.

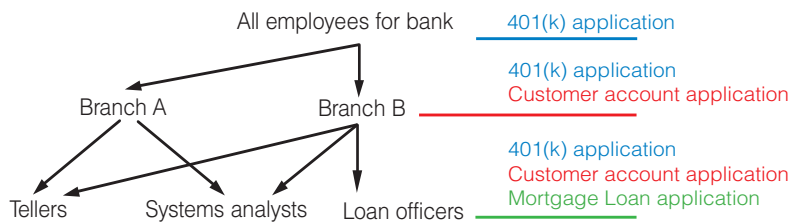


Figure 1

Each group in the hierarchy is represented by a SecureWay On-Demand Server profile. Using the profile, the administrator can specify which Web applications should be accessible to each group. In our example, the bank's 401(k) application is accessible by all employees. The employees working in Branch B will inherit the access to the 401(k) application from the "All employees" profile, and they will also get access to the customer account application for their branch office. Furthermore, loan officers in Branch B will inherit the 401(k) application and the customer account application, but they will also get access to the mortgage loan application.

When users log on to the SecureWay On-Demand Server launch window, they see a customized desktop with the applications they need to do their job. If a new employee is added to any of these groups, that person can instantly have a user desktop customized with the appropriate application icons. Alternatively, whenever a user is removed from a group, access to the group's applications can be instantly revoked.

Using the profile-based personalization feature of SecureWay On-Demand Server, the content of Web applications can also be customized. This can be done by the administrator or the user, adding another level of personalization to the profile. Let's use the same banking example; this time, we'll look deeper into the organization at a day in the life of Pat, a bank loan officer. Figure 2, which is an extension of the earlier diagram, now shows the names of the loan officers in Branch B and the individual personalization that Pat has defined.

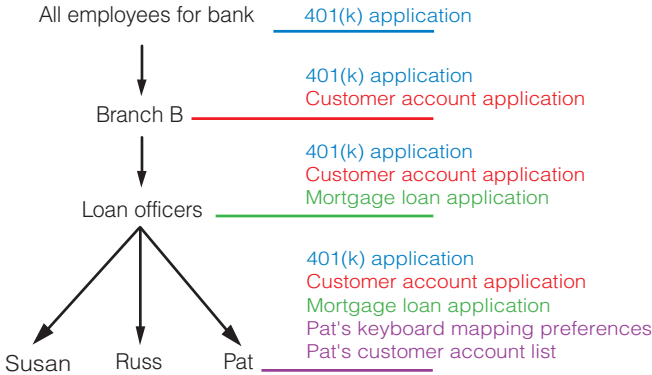


Figure 2

As you can see, Pat has inherited some applications simply because she is a bank employee, some applications because she works at Branch B and still other applications because she is a loan officer. But the personalization of the applications can go one stage further. The content of these applications can be tailored. From the SecureWay On-Demand Server launch window, Pat can define her keyboard mapping preferences for her mortgage loan application, and can specify that she only wants to see her own customer accounts when she accesses the customer account application. The personalization that Pat requests is stored in her SecureWay On-Demand Server profile along with the personalization that the administrator defined. Whenever she accesses her applications, SecureWay On-Demand Server customizes the launch window to include only Pat's applications with the content tailored according to the profile.

In this example, the bank was able to deliver two types of personalization by using SecureWay On-Demand Server: one at the administrator level; the other at the user level. The formal word for this is two-staged personalization.

Summary:

Two-staged personalization = Administrator-defined customization + user-defined customization

Extension of Tivoli systems management to the Web browser

As you move your business applications to the Web, it's important for the health of your e-business that you know when a Web application has stopped running, when the Web browser is not available, or if someone is trying repeatedly to log on to a Web application using the wrong password. By combining the value of SecureWay On-Demand Server with Tivoli systems management, you get a world-class systems management solution extended to the Web. SecureWay On-Demand Server provides event logging and tracing information about the Web browser, Web applications and even the application usage. SecureWay On-Demand Server records this data and sends it back to the administrator. Because SecureWay On-Demand Server is Tivoli-enabled, it can also send the information to Tivoli systems management, enabling the administrator to use Tivoli to send alerts or to take other action based on the status of the Web environment.

Summary:

Extending systems management to the Web = Tivoli + SecureWay On-Demand Server

Using SecureWay On-Demand Server with Host On-Demand

Now that you understand the value of what SecureWay On-Demand Server can bring to your network, consider what you can get when you combine the power of SecureWay On-Demand Server with Host On-Demand.

If you are a Host On-Demand customer, you can see the value of being able to keep track of Host On-Demand sessions with SecureWay On-Demand Server. Using the products together gives you LDAP strengths as well. The greatest value, though, is the ability to pull existing RACF (mainframe) user IDs and passwords into SecureWay On-Demand Server and use these to create the necessary IDs and passwords for Host On-Demand.

Following are two hypothetical examples of how companies can maximize the combined value of using SecureWay On-Demand Server and Host On-Demand.

*Example 1**

Buyer: CIOs or IT managers

Influencer: IT managers or system support

Pain: The University of Smithtown wanted to use a Web-based emulator to access its host applications and wanted to Web-enable its host applications. At the same time, the university needed to use existing DCE-based authentication. (Remember, SecureWay On-Demand Server also allows you to access Web applications—including Host On-Demand—using RACF authentication.)

Solution: Host On-Demand combined with SecureWay On-Demand Server met the university's needs. SecureWay On-Demand Server allowed Smithtown to continue using the required DCE authentication.

*Example 2**

Buyer: ISP

Pain: JonesCorp was looking for a framework it could use to Web-enable its IBM S/390®-based ERP applications to enter the enterprise portal market. JonesCorp needed this framework to be open and capable of handling a large number of users.

Solution: SecureWay On-Demand Server, together with Host On-Demand, provided that framework. JonesCorp was able to provide Web-based emulators for its customers to use for the S/390 applications, which can remain 3270 applications.

For Host On-Demand and SecureWay On-Demand Server to work together, you need to use two products: SecureWay On-Demand Server and Host On-Demand *Specially Developed for SecureWay On-Demand Server*. When you purchase Host On-Demand, you get Host On-Demand *Specially Developed for SecureWay On-Demand Server* at no extra charge.

Summary

SecureWay On-Demand Server brings a broad cross-section of business value to an e-business environment. SecureWay On-Demand Server complements products such as Tivoli and Host On-Demand. It is superbly suited to intranet and extranet Web environments. And SecureWay On-Demand Server has the unique ability to implement profile-based personalization of Web applications.

For more information

If you would like more information about SecureWay On-Demand Server, visit our Web site at:

www.ibm.com/software/network/on-demand



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IBM Corporation
Department VK4A
3039 Cornwallis Road
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

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*This scenario is a composite based upon typical customer requirements and not intended to represent a specific customer engagement. Individual customers will have different requirements. Contact your IBM representative to discuss your specific needs.



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