



Application Integration Framework™

What is Programmatic Integration?

Application Integration Framework™ Advantages

Development / Runtime

- Java-based infrastructure
- Auto or pre-generated fully extensible code
- Server-based implementation - XP or any UNIX/Linux
- Efficient, scalable execution
- Built-in data stream emulator for 3270, 5250, VT, 6530, UTS and HP; Java browser

Connectivity

- Java programs to all EAI messaging systems
- Server-based implementation - XP or any UNIX/Linux
- Runs concurrently with Runtime Environment
- Bridge to .NET

The data stream emulation marketplace has changed dramatically over the last 10 years... In the mid- to late-90's many companies extended their "tried and true" legacy mainframe applications to a new wider user audience by presenting a mainframe terminal window as a desktop PC application.

Toward the end of the last decade, demand gave rise to a new presentation method called Web-to-Host. The mainframe terminal window was replaced by a PC-like user interface. Additional sophistication of new tools allowed the consolidation of multiple terminal windows to a single user panel. In fact, this new presentation methodology should more appropriately been called Host-to-Web.

In both cases, the goal was to make it easier and more productive for PC-literate users to access the rich functionality of production mainframe applications. Place these new user interfaces in a multi-functional browser window and you have created an Internet Portal application.

So, what then is Programmatic?

Programmatic is an industry-accepted term for functionality executed by a program called by and initiated by another program. A fairly straightforward concept, but it's distinguishing characteristic is that *there is no user interface* needed or required!

In essence, the "end user" is not a person using a keyboard and mouse. The end user is another program that needs to execute a transaction physically running on a different legacy system.

These programmatic solutions have been perfected in the last five years coincident with the turn of the new century.

What kind of programs require access to production applications running on a different system?

The answer is a myriad determined only by infrastructure and the intended audience. For example, "behind" the presentation of a new web application a purchase can be executed on the legacy production system without any awareness by the browser user. As another example, in response to a user prompt, an Interactive Voice Response system can send a message to execute an update via a real transaction on the mainframe. Or, an application integration middleware program can execute an inquiry by passing arguments to the host application.

So, Programmatic, in the application integration space, means a front end or middleware application program that requests a specific legacy transaction to be executed and to pass back the results. Or, data is passed to a legacy application to update the master database and confirm completion.

All of these types of programmatic integrations support full bi-directionality and are non-invasive to the host application. No changes are required on the legacy system to utilize the power, performance and security of the host application.

Programmatic integration is the most sophisticated of the three data stream emulation solutions and it clearly delivers the highest value to the customer. Programs requesting other programs to execute at system speed, providing superior performance with all of the attendant security that the mainframe provides.

Red Oak has focused exclusively for the last five years on perfecting and delivering the best "programmatic" legacy application integration solutions available.

They make products that enable customers to programmatically integrate legacy production application transactions running on: IBM, Digital, UNIX, Tandem, Unisys, HP and all browser-based web systems.

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