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ANSA Phase III

A Broucher for Quartz

World Wide Web Service,,8925,

Abstract

This is a brief introduction to Quartz for marketing purpose.

Quartz, an ObjectLab project, is about service distribution through electronic mail and the World Wide Web. The aim of the project is to make CORBA objects widely and easily accessible form desktops and consumers, making them simple to use and removing the need to learn a particular interface for each.

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Contents

Quartz: Making CORBA Objects Easy to Reach

Quartz is about service distribution through electronic mail and the World Wide Web (WWW). The aim of the project is to make CORBA objects widely and easily accessible from desktops and consumers, making them simple to use and removing the need to learn a particular interface for each.

Current situation

Since enterprises rely more and more on computer-provided information, so they regarded their IT applications as services provided to users, rather than as applications installed and run by those users. As world-wide electronic marketplace develops, these application service users are located far away from the central site and are equipped with a variety of different types of machine. Installing applications and data is a costly process, especially if they are not to be used frequently or if complete consistency has to be achieved across all sites. Often external users, such as customers of the company or corporate partners, are involved and there is an increasing need for this temporary use of an application or for a punctual connection to a service. Therefore, a simple-to-understand method is required for sending software and information to a user wrapped together as a service with an easy understand, familiar interface.

Idea of Quartz

Quartz uses familiar and commonly available tools, such as electronic mail and the World Wide Web (WWW), to make application services widely and easily accessible from various platforms. The core idea is to wrap application services with a Web interface, thus removing the need for users to learn a particular interface for each application service, and use email and Web infrastructure for delivering information and services, thus saving time and costs of installation and connection.

The strategy for achieving this objective is to enable seamless interoperability between WWW and distributed object systems based on CORBA by using the Java programming language. This will make CORBA-based system accessible to Web browsers. Since CORBA is the leading industry standard for system integration, it provides a pathway for linking the Web to a wide range of electronic information and business services.

Applications

- Providing public service
 - travel agents, theatre and cinema booking
 - bank services
 - remote training and learning
- Cooperative work
 - electronic holiday request
 - budgeting applications
 - health care claim reimbursement
- Gathering information
 - recruitment: filling application forms
 - surveys and questionnaires

Benefits

By making use of email and WWW as a simple and easily understood method to provide application services available to users, Quartz provides the following advantages:

- Accessible from different sites and different applications
- Easy connection and installation
- Simple but powerful interface
- Easy access to related information

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