



Legacy Systems and Web Services

Using MitemView to Expose Mainframe and Midrange System Applications as Web Services

MitemView is the industry's proven non-invasive integration solution that is used to create composite applications from legacy system assets. MitemView supports programmatic integration with the broadest range of legacy systems, middleware infrastructures, application and Web services and vendor-specific interfaces. By adopting a non-invasive approach to integration, MitemView serves as a truly universal adapter, able to interface with any existing or future system regardless of the underlying operating system, programming language, database or communications protocol.

Composite Applications

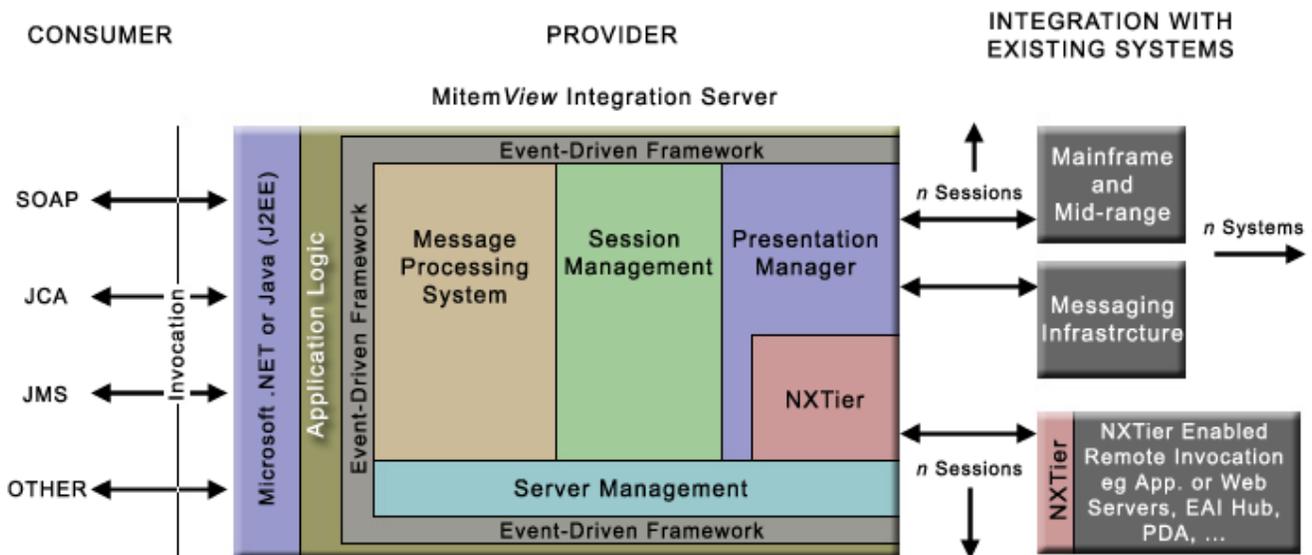
Composite applications combine functions from multiple systems to execute a single, larger process that is invoked as an autonomous business transaction e.g. changeOfAddress or enterNewOrder. Such transactions are usually accessed by a human operator from a Web browser or other graphical user interface, but they can also be published in the form of a composite Web service. In this mode, business transactions can be invoked by any duly authorized consumer that supports standard Web services protocols like XML, SOAP and WSDL. Because the Web services publishing model is loosely coupled, the consumer may potentially be any application, running on any platform, located anywhere on the network.

This flexibility allows isolated business transactions previously locked behind the proprietary interfaces of mainframe and midrange systems to become active participants in new business processes.

It is important to note that the family of Web services protocols only handles the publishing, discovery and invocation elements of a total integration solution. The formidable 'last mile' gap between existing legacy applications that are not yet Web service enabled still must be bridged; a specialized programmatic integration server – like MitemView – is required to provide a complete end-to-end solution.

While every integration software vendor has rushed to enable their products with Web service functionality, few have the underlying system architecture to support true composite application development – the bedrock of any reliable Web services implementation. Composite applications are the most closely knit and hardest to implement of all possible integration patterns, and are therefore prone to errors and poor design. MitemView reduces the complexity of building composite applications by providing a proven integration framework that actively manages the development and runtime tasks. MitemView reduces the application development effort by at least 80% [compared with traditional methods] and enables enterprise-class applications to be routinely delivered on the first attempt.

(More)



MITEM believes that any technology choice that is promised to last is doomed to fail; therefore, the most valuable integration solutions are those that are technology agnostic, and are built for adaptability and change over time. In keeping with this fundamental belief, *MitemView* has been engineered to function equally well in either a Microsoft .NET or J2EE operating environment. *MitemView*-based applications can be developed using the Java or Visual Studio.NET languages, and can be deployed in any technical architecture. Some enterprises deploy *MitemView* as a stand-alone integration server, providing a direct path between legacy applications and Web service consumers. This approach is particularly suited to opportunistic projects that require the rapid delivery of a low-cost but scalable solution. Other enterprises deploy *MitemView* as part of their IT infrastructure in which case the *MitemView* integration server(s) coexists with myriad other platforms including web servers, application servers, portals, BPM engines, EAI hubs, messaging middleware, web services gateways etc.

Summary

MitemView can quickly and easily expose legacy business transactions as Web services that can be invoked by any authorized consumer from anywhere on the network. Composite applications created with *MitemView* are able to marshal many different underlying transactions into a single, reusable service. All of the necessary composing and orchestration logic can be developed on either a Microsoft .NET or J2EE platform and invoked using programmatic interfaces like SOAP, JCA and JMS or, more traditionally by a human operator via a Web browser or other graphical user interface. Building on top of the proven *MitemView* integration framework saves at least 80% of the typical application development effort and enables enterprise-class applications to be delivered on the first attempt.

MitemView represents over sixteen years of research, development, testing and customer feedback - producing one of the most sophisticated and trustworthy solutions that can be deployed to bridge the 'last mile' gap that exists between existing applications that are not yet Web service enabled.



Business Benefits

- Accelerates the deployment of end-to-end integration projects using open standard protocols
- Makes legacy mainframe and mid-range systems active participants in new business processes
- Distributes critical business data to all enterprise levels
- Reuses existing assets to reduce integration cost and complexity

Technical Features

- Connects Web services layer to myriad legacy systems: IBM OS/390, AS/400, DEC VAX, Unix, Unisys, Tandem, Bull, ICL, and Data General
- Engineered to support Microsoft .NET and J2EE environments with equal functionality
- Patented technology reliably maintains synchronization and state information between disparate systems
- Can be deployed as a stand-alone integration server or in combination with other IT infrastructure components

About MITEM

Established in 1985, MITEM is the leading provider of legacy integration software. MITEM's signature product, *MitemView*, integrates differently designed systems to share critical data and automate business processes. MITEM has been deployed in diverse industries including health care, public utilities, financial services, manufacturing, education and government. MITEM's global customer base includes: Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, General Electric, Harley-Davidson, Con Edison, American Electric Power, Bayer, Swiss Life, Lockheed Martin, ABN Amro, and CalPERS. MITEM is headquartered in Menlo Park, California and can be reached at:

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