

# Bridging the gap between Web development and host access.

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**A practical approach to Web-to-enterprise development at the program level.**

If your business and technology initiatives determine that EAI is right for your organization, you still may need to determine exactly how you will tie together the data and applications in disparate systems for your new integrated enterprise. If you decide to utilize Web technology in creating a single application and user interface, a gap exists between host applications and data, and a Web application. You can bridge that gap between host connectivity and Web development with a programming interface that allows you, as a developer, to easily add host access capabilities to a custom, server-based Web applications.

Because you're creating a custom application, you can provide a solution that directly answers specific user needs. The final applications do exactly what end users require. This approach lets end users deal with host applications and data through an easy-to-use, graphical Web browser interface.

**Attachmate e-Vantage Software Development Kit (SDK)** allows developers to create custom Web applications. e-Vantage SDK contains objects with Java or Microsoft COM interfaces that specifically focus on handling the back-end connections to the host. Using SDK objects to handle the connectivity eliminates much of the configuration effort typically associated with establishing host sessions. Once you have the back-end connections to the host applications and data established, you can then create the front-end graphical user interface for your application, and you are up and running.

## **Using e-Vantage SDK.**

There are two steps for implementing e-Vantage SDK within your custom application. The first is to establish a session with the host. The e-Vantage SDK provides this functionality through its session object.

Once the session is open, the application, begins communicating with the host at the screen level using the SDK's screen object. These two objects, the session and screen objects, allow a programmer to abstract the complexities of the host application and focus on developing the interface for the Web application populated with data from the host.

## **e-Vantage SDK session objects launch the host connection.**

The session object is used to instantiate a connection to the host. The configuration information for the session is provided by e-Vantage Host Access Server Management, a centralized management tool. e-Vantage Host Access Server Management is a Web application that allows you to define the configuration for your session including host IP address, session terminal type, and terminal ID to use for the session. After the configuration information has been defined, the next step is to create a WebView. A WebView is a named set of options that determine how the configuration is delivered. Together, the configuration and WebView define the type of host, the network protocol to use, and the configuration of the host session with which your custom application will interact. By using e-Vantage Host Access Server Management and its wizard-like interface for establishing configurations and WebViews, you further abstract mainframe specific information enabling you to focus on your Web development.

### **Communicate with host applications with the e-Vantage SDK screen object.**

In addition to managing the connection to the host, e-Vantage SDK also manages the transfer of data between the host application and your Web application. In general, the screen objects communicate with the mainframe applications at the screen level. That is, they interface using the same screen you see while using a browser, only they communicate on a programmatic, as opposed to user interaction level. The benefit is that there is no need to make any modifications to the host as the interface is already in place. More importantly, the custom application leverages the business logic already in place on the host. Your organization has spent considerable time and effort generating unique business logic.

### **You choose the flavor.**

Because e-Vantage SDK is available with either Java or COM interfaces, as a developer, you can choose the platform and development tools you are most comfortable with, such as Microsoft InterDev<sup>™</sup> or FrontPage<sup>™</sup>.

e-Vantage SDK also provides support for multiple host types through a common and consistent interface. e-Vantage SDK offers support for the Unisys ClearPath<sup>™</sup> HMP LX/NX and A Series, ClearPath HMP IX and 2200 Series, IBM mainframes and AS/400,<sup>®</sup> as well as UNIX<sup>™</sup> and DEC<sup>™</sup> VAX<sup>™</sup> mainframes. Because of the consistent interface, e-Vantage SDK is ideal for communicating with disparate systems. There's no need to spend time learning different APIs to communicate with each of these different host types.

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In most cases, it would be impossible or at least cost prohibitive to redevelop this logic elsewhere.

In order to expedite the development process, e-Vantage SDK provides a basic set of working examples you can use as a foundation for learning e-Vantage SDK and debugging applications. Sample code includes Active Server Pages created with VBScript to provide an easy starting point when developing your own custom server-based applications. e-Vantage SDK provides similar support for COM, and a Microsoft Visual Basic<sup>™</sup> Active Server Component application is also included. All of these sample applications reduce your learning curve and can get you started quickly.

### **Bridging the gap.**

e-Vantage SDK provides the tools required to tie together the data and applications in disparate systems for your new integrated enterprise; a consistent set of APIs for several development platforms that facilitate access to many mainframe types, centrally configurable objects using e-Vantage Host Access Server Management, and Java or COM interfaces to meet your development needs. You can connect to most mainframe applications using the proven screen interface that requires no host changes. With e-Vantage SDK you can integrate existing host business logic and data into your Web-based EAI initiatives.