



AGETOR®

Document overview

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1 Introduction

This guide will introduce the AGETOR Development Kit and present all the documents that explain how to develop and deploy fully integrated internet solutions applying the full capability of the tools included.

1.1 What is AGETOR

Basically what the AGETOR Development Kit provides is software enabling creation of client applications interacting directly with multiple backend solutions. The client application is independent from the backend system so the only existing binding is the data actually needed by the client application.

Many e-commerce solutions facilitate data access to one specific backend system, or data access through standard database mechanisms. E-commerce solutions directed to specific backend systems may be appropriate if you will never need client applications using other backend systems. Any reuse of client applications across different backend solutions is impossible using these solutions.

1.1.1 Database Access

Direct access to the database may be sufficient if the client application can work directly on the server-side data. However the backend system usually contains a lot of complex business logic which dictates the correct 'interpretation' of the data in the database. Direct access to a database forces you to re-implement the business logic in the client application.

This re-implementation of existing server-side business logic is both error-prone and counterproductive. You are not really creating any web application only replicating existing code. Since the re-implementation is often done in a new language and seldom exactly identical to the existing backend code, errors are unavoidable, jeopardizing the entire solution because erroneous data may potentially be introduced in the database.

1.1.2 Business Logic Access

What is required is direct access to the existing backend business logic. Accessing data only through well tested business rules will protect against erroneous data entry, and leverage the years of work put into the backend system.

This kind of access requires the backend system to process external procedure invocations so that client applications requesting for instance customer specific pricing information will be processed by the existing price calculation functions.

We use the term 'service' to denote a collection backend procedures supplying and accepting information from the client application. Client applications simply call procedures on services, without knowing what backend system actually processes the request or where this backend resides.

1.1.3 Client Applications

Client applications may be any program requesting service functionality. Typical client applications are Internet Browsers viewing HTML pages with information from a backend system and entering data back into these. Browsers may also contain Java applets or ActiveX components similarly calling service procedures. However client applications can be anything from a standalone Windows program installed on a PC to WAP enabled cell phone. Services may themselves be clients to other services, if for instance the order processing systems requires credit authorization information it may request this information from a separate service, perhaps residing on a different host on a different network connected through the internet.

The AGETOR Development Kit assists you in creating this diversity of client applications however leaving you free to choose from a wide range of integrated development environments.

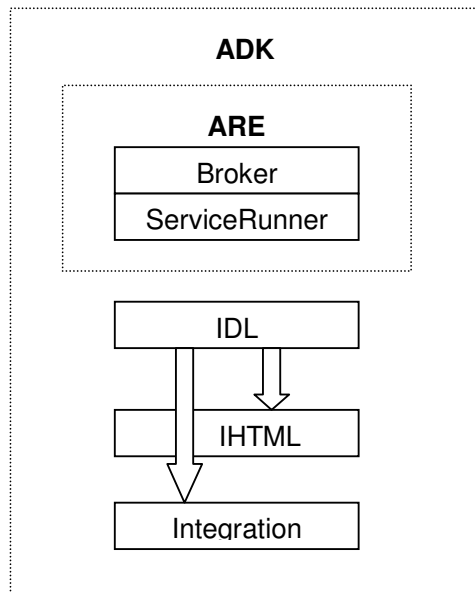
1.1.4 Distributed solution

Client applications access services through the central Broker which is the only entity that knows the actual machines involved in the solution. Clients access services through the Broker and need only know the location of this.

Several instances of identical services may be running at the same time, leaving the Broker free to balance load between these. This means that AGETOR provides a scalable distributed solution enduring heavy load conditions.

1.2 Documents overview

The AGETOR Developer's Kit contains the following parts:



Each of these parts is presented in a separate document (ARE guide, IDL guide, IML userguide, JSP userguide and Integration guide).