

CROSSROADS DATA SHEET

Kabira Technologies, inc.

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BUSINESS CHALLENGE

To deliver next-generation network based services for convergent Internet, Telecom and Enterprise networks. These services include e-transaction and e-business services, ASP hosting, bandwidth-on-demand, e-content, combined voice and data services, 2.5G and 3G (UMTS) wireless, m-commerce and location based services, voice over IP and packet services.

THE ANSWER

Kabira's ObjectSwitch Infrastructure Software enables service providers to develop next-generation services, to integrate them with legacy enterprise systems, to meter them on an event basis for billing purposes, to deploy them across multiple network and device types -- and to change them whenever business needs dictate.

THE TECHNOLOGY

Kabira ObjectSwitch Server provides runtime support for service engines in high-speed cached memory, software fault-tolerance and fail-over, on-line service upgrades, scalability for millions of users, inter-process communications between distributed nodes and a reliable queuing architecture. The server supports dynamic event publishing and subscription by applications. Its object state manager supports object data caching in shared memory, along with transaction management with deadlock detection and recoverability. The Kabira Design center is a plug-in to Rational Rose that enables developers to use a high level environment such as UML or IDL ++ to specify new services and business rules, and XML to specify data flows. Core adapters are available for relational databases, CORBA, SNMP, TCAP, Java, Web and WAP. An upcoming release will add support for PHP and the automatic generation of adapters directly from IDL or XML interfaces.

REFERENCE CUSTOMERS

Kabira reference customers are leading-edge IT shops in the communications, hosting, and e-transaction services industries. They share a common approach to developing large, high-performance applications as a collection of object-oriented services.

BUSINESS IMPACT

Kabira ObjectSwitch is in production deployment in key areas of web service providers' sites, and is being used to develop the next generation of operating service systems (OSS) for communication service providers.

Because it insulates the application logic against technology changes, customers feel comfortable with Kabira's ObjectSwitch as the basis for long-lived line-of-business applications. There is no dependency on language, runtime environment or specific middleware to constrain business-driven enhancements.

Kabira ObjectSwitch helps customers develop radical new applications while preserving investment in older systems not originally designed to be integrated. The in-memory server architecture enables developers to implement transactional and high-speed links between new and old code bases, weaving them into a flexible, yet high-performance system.

Performance benefits of Kabira ObjectSwitch are as applicable to e-transactions and web based services as they are to communications services. ObjectSwitch provides a high performance mechanism for integrating key customer-facing areas of busy transactional web sites. For example, one customer uses ObjectSwitch as a persistence mechanism between key web services and its most write-intensive database. Because in-memory data access is so much faster than disk-based access, the user and session management performance is dramatically improved. The result is an overall improvement in the customer experience, better handling of peak periods, and more headroom to accommodate mobile, wireless users.

IT BENEFITS

Kabira facilitates an aggressive approach to model-based software development and extreme re-use. Developers use the Kabira Design Center to extend UML models with complete behavioral specifications. Thus, it is possible to develop entire applications -- including references to legacy systems -- working in a high-level meta formalism. The result is applications and integrations that are more easily extended, ported and maintained.

Kabira ObjectSwitch can provide an enormous improvement to service providers in areas where there is regular or peak-period contention for database access. ObjectSwitch can be phased into existing sites by focusing first on new services projects. Conventional publish-and-subscribe middleware can be used to update other, read-oriented database replicas used around the site.

The in-memory integration is an advantage for extending and integrating transactional applications. Because state, data and events are shared, new logic can be inserted into the middle of a transaction.

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

Hardware preference is a factor: ObjectSwitch is the optimal approach to integration and interoperability within the context of a centralized shared memory multiprocessor (SMP) architecture.

Kabira ObjectSwitch is a high-end platform for the largest applications with the most complex integrations and the most stringent performance criteria. It provides a unique combination of functionality that spans the various disciplines required to construct such service applications. Plan on a four-to-six month learning curve. The investment will be amply repaid because engineering teams can focus on service development, not infrastructure coding.

With Kabira ObjectSwitch, developers do not see Java or C++. Even so, customers say the learning curve for ObjectSwitch is shortest for experienced C++ shops. Why? From a language perspective, the reuse idea is more fully evolved in C++ than it is in Java, and C++ provides a greater range for expression for object-oriented developers. Moreover, many C++ developers are already familiar with Rational Rose and UML. Customers say Kabira ObjectSwitch is a good fit for service provider applications and e-transaction / e-business sites that require near real-time performance and huge scale coupled with flexibility and adaptability. Because one system converges isochronous requirements, synchronous systems, and synchronous/asynchronous transport, it enables the creation of new services possible only at the intersection of these domains.

COMPANY BACKGROUND

Kabira Technologies, Inc. is a privately held company founded in 1996. The company employs about 225 people.

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