



## Web Enabling Legacy Applications

An Alpha Information Systems India Pvt. Ltd. Perspective

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### WEB ENABLING LEGACY APPLICATIONS

The new millennium has ushered in an exciting phase in enterprise computing. Business today demands greater performance efficiency and tremendous constituent (employee/ partner/ customer) interactivity for survival and success. eBusiness, business performance on the internet, has begun an evolution in business processes and transactions to expedite enterprise value. In such a scenario of flux, maintaining legacy applications on staid, costly, cumbersome and limiting mainframe systems becomes difficult to justify. Organizations need to decide between the knowledge residing in their legacy applications, and realizing the performance potential of latest technologies.

**Web enabling legacy applications delivers a fresh, new, vibrant paradigm in distributed computing, information manageability and reduced enterprise costs.**

Converting from a mainframe to web-based system allows companies to continue moving forward in the world of technology while facilitating straightforward access to information. To this end, key Internet architectures like XML and web services defined by technologies like SOAP, WSDL, WSFL, and UDDI have gained popularity across the world. Web services facilitate a model for exchanging XML information, where existing standards are extended and new layers are added to leverage existing software.

According to the Gartner Group, by the end of 2006, 85 percent of Fortune 500 companies will be using XML in at least one prototype project. By 2007, Gartner expects 90 percent of Web traffic to be XML-based.

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### PITFALLS OF LEGACY SOFTWARE TODAY

Leaving a legacy application untended will only turn it into a liability. This is because an application goes through a definite lifecycle, with an initial maintenance phase where bugs are fixed and functionality added. After this phase, the owner needs to invest in the application with both resources and time in order to enhance its performance, value and capabilities. If left neglected at this stage, all of the initial investment will be lost. The increasingly web-centric world is placing tremendous pressure on executives to deal with the limitations of legacy applications. These include.

- Inability of legacy applications to meet strategic and tactical operational needs.
- High costs - shrinking developer pools, platform retirement and increased levels of support.
- Overall upward pressure on transaction costs that threaten profitability.
- Customer demands for improved services and real-time information.

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### CAVEATS

Replacement may not be a viable option for your business. Because an important reality is that the mission-critical legacy application running in your enterprise today is the most accurate model of your current operations. It represents many years of investment and valuable corporate experience and knowledge, which is impossible to replicate. Modernization, adding a new, high speed and web-centric environment, may well be the best way to enhance this crucial enterprise resource to a better performance in future.

#### **Perspective for web enablement**

Let us cast an eye over the most common legacy applications in an enterprise: all information software already in production, including host-centric, client/server, and standalone desktop applications. Web enabled legacy applications must be distributed efficiently to enable users to access and use this software transparently. There is no need to transport or migrate the entire application to each remote desktop computer.

- Create an environment that supports legacy transformation
- Support with strategies, organizing disciplines, techniques, and tools
- Move incrementally to component architectures
- Minimize risks of deploying J2EE, .NET, and/or Web Services
- Offer Legacy data to application mining, integration, and transformation

### MAJOR APPROACHES

The most effective transformation strategy needs to deliver value - maximize the business value of legacy systems, provide a flexible, high-value, component-based architecture, and contributing to enterprise competitiveness. The development of expedited legacy usage should provide coverage over.

- Web's HTTP protocol for delivery of screens, code, and data to users
- Application-specific (HTTP) protocol to enable communications between user and server
- Secure transmission of communication and data

The four mainstream approaches to Web deployment are: to build a 'thin client' front end; Use 'thin client/server' technology; Use a 'push' technology; Use client-side caching.

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### KEY BENEFITS

Key purpose of web enabling legacy applications is to assist customers with the dual objective of leveraging the knowledge captured in their legacy applications, while exploiting the performance potential of latest technologies.

- Robust life extension for applications with enhancement of business logic
- Better end-user experience
- Judicious upgrade to the latest technology
- Mitigate maintenance cost by exiting domains and platforms with no support
- Avoid personnel shortage

The overriding advantage of web enabling your legacy applications is the continuous leverage of crucial legacy systems with a smart layer of new technologies.

### RATIONALE FOR OUTSOURCING

Migration is not the core for most businesses, which at the same time is a resource intensive task. Outsourcing this critical effort provides enterprises with the advantages of relief from cost and resource shortage. With application behavior changing rapidly, and zero- and thin- client architectures dominating enterprise computing, complexities are growing in the organizational information landscape due largely to ERP and database driven applications. In this context, a relationship based on trust and partnering is imperative for the project success, especially between developer firm and internal managers of communications infrastructure.

You need to connect the enterprise infrastructure with a trusted, experienced development partner. The right partner helps you select the right path, the right processing domains and the most beneficial cost/ time ratio. This provides a great safety net – both for future technology shifts and a strong development and application life enhancement.

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### ABOUT AALPHA INFORMATION SYSTEMS INDIA PVT. LTD.

Aalpha Information Systems India Pvt. Ltd. provides development, customization and integration services in enterprise applications, eCommerce and mobile solutions, to companies of all sizes.

#### **Meet your Deadline/ Improve your Bottom-line**

With our expertise in a wide range of technologies and industry-specific competencies, you will realize the true value of software solutions - aligned to your business goals, and deployed just when you require them. Put simply, our business processes deliver cutting edge results.

#### **Accelerate your technology ROI.**

To help you achieve this, we develop, deploy, and host customized, scalable technology solutions that integrate seamlessly into our customers' existing environment. We pride ourselves on the fact that almost all our customers have experienced a faster time-to-market and an attractively low total cost of ownership.

#### **Global Intellect + Local Advantages (Cost)**

Welcome to a brand new global technology partner. We sustain relationships with major international corporations and engaging partnerships with leading application vendors. We build capabilities and specialized expertise in different domains across a huge range of geographies across the world.

#### **Action + Intelligence + Expertise**

Aalpha Information Systems India Pvt. Ltd. is that unique consulting partner with whom you can understand past results, identify trends and plan for the future. With great confidence, and deep assurance. We give you the much-needed release from technology pinpoints, powering your processes and moving your information to the edge of effectiveness. **Go ahead.**

#### **Proven enterprise scale capability**

Aalpha Information Systems India Pvt. Ltd. rests strongly on the foundation of proven mission-critical solution deployments and rapid development cycles to meet intense milestones. This comes from working for and adapting to some of the most demanding industry leaders across the world. Our technologists and consultants offer extensive experience in building e-business and mobile computing solutions, as well as an exciting array of horizontal business functions.

#### **Extra-ordinary breadth, solid solution bandwidth**

With its comprehensive IT skills and capabilities, Aalpha Information Systems India Pvt. Ltd. offers and manages groundbreaking software solutions spanning a range of technology platforms. We use modern software development platforms, software development tools as well as latest project management techniques and software engineering practices.

**Consider this:** Our excellence is evident from highly satisfied and repeat customers across the world for areas like Enterprise Solutions, E-Commerce Portals (B2B and B2C), M-Commerce Applications, ASP Portals, Client Server business applications and product development.

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#### **India Advantage : Aalpha Leverage**

On Demand access to experienced technology intellect  
Leading edge offshore project management  
Advanced project management and application testing frameworks  
Deep, versatile domain knowledge  
Quality processes, proven methodologies  
State of the art 24 X 7 secure, risk free development facility in India  
Assured Smart Economy – low overall cost and higher ROI  
Satisfied customers across USA, Europe, Australia and Asia

#### **Stretch your Technology ROI with our Flexibility**

With Aalpha Information Systems India Pvt. Ltd., you enjoy smart control and progress overview of the project in development while experiencing reduced overheads and technology issues. We provide versatile project delivery models – fixed price, time and material, variable, hybrid and dedicated development/ competency center models – **to suit any, and every, requirement.**

#### **Knowledge leadership @ Aalpha**

An emerging new world leader in high performance Outsourcing solutions, Aalpha Information Systems India Pvt. Ltd. boasts of an exceptionally talented intellectual base: scores of product/ technology/ platform specialists with a wide ranging expertise and insight into many industries.

We are powered by ideas, backed by solid intellect. For every project, we target full performance of technology for business needs, and always deliver a connected, high touch commitment - **even beyond the development lifecycle.**

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