Sun™ 3270 Pathway

Integrates 3270 transactions into Java.

Sun microsystems

Every CICS application owner knows the problem:

- You've got powerful business applications with maybe thousands of CICS transactions.

- Nobody wants to use them because of the awful 3270 green screen interfaces or because they have to jump across many transactions to complete a single business function or to obtain the appropriate information.

- Your users all want integrated applications with easy-to-use GUI interfaces.

- You want to enhance your legacy applications using state-of-the-art Java™ technology.

Sun's new 3270 Pathway provides the perfect answer.

With 3270 Pathway you can easily access multiple back-end CICS or IMS transaction applications or systems and deliver the integrated results as a single screen to your users. You can also create new applications in Java that integrate with your legacy applications. Based on the needs of the business, 3270 Pathway can be deployed in client or server configurations.

What's more, with 3270 Pathway, you can use the latest Java IDEs (Integrated Development Environments) or Java application servers such as the Sun ONE application server to create the user interface to your new integrated application.

Highlights

- Integrates data or results from multiple back-end 3270 transactions into a single Java application

- Automatically generates Java code to navigate to the selected mainframe transactions

- Provides access to any 3270 based host application (CICS, IMS, etc.)

- Concurrently accesses multiple back-end applications on multiple hosts

- Uses JavaBeans™ technology for easy integration with Java™ application servers such as the Sun ONE application server

- Uses logical data naming to identify the data selected for sharing or integration

The Pathway to integration.

Integrate Applications and Presentation

Over 90% of all CICS and IMS transaction processing applications today support 3270 interfaces. Sun's 3270 Pathway uses this universal interface to provide access to almost any legacy back-end mainframe application. 3270 Pathway provides the capability to concurrently access multiple back-end applications on multiple hosts and to integrate them together to present a single interface to the user. This enables you to transform isolated or "stovepipe" legacy systems into modern user-driven integrated applications.

3270 Pathway allows you to create new business logic in the middle-tier server using Java technology while integrating with your existing legacy applications. By deploying 3270 Pathway in a middle tier server, you secure your business rules by having the flexibility of using HTTP, RMI or CORBA between the client and the middle-tier server. This deployment also reduces network traffic.
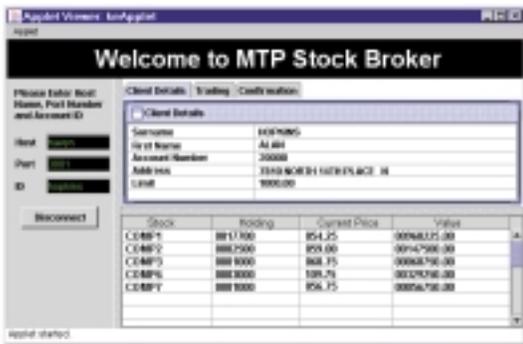
Figure 1

Client Presentation

Since 3270 Pathway uses JavaBeans™ architecture, it can easily be integrated with any of today's leading Java IDEs, such as:

• Sun ONE Studio

• Visual Age for Java technology

You can choose the Java development environment you want, and simply add 3270 Pathway as your mainframe access object. (fig. 1)

Programmatic Interface

3270 Pathway's easy-to-use field-level access methods allow you to navigate hierarchical 3270 applications. It allows you to modify and extract screen data without complex programming.

3270 Pathway presents you with field level access methods to your 3270 application — no 3270 data stream data parsing is needed — helping to make application development faster and easier.

Client or Server Architecture

3270 Pathway can be configured to be part of client Java applications or as part of a mid-tier server-side Java application. (fig. 2)

Application Mining

Attempting to build applications from scratch can sometimes take years. With 3270 Pathway, you can use Java technology style programming to extract existing business rules, append new Java technology coded functions, and deliver the innovative, business-oriented applications your organization needs now. (fig. 3)

Automatic Navigation

With 3270 Pathway, programmers no longer need to go through the laborious task of programming in Java the navigation path through your legacy transactions to the code or data you need. 3270 Pathway includes an automatic navigation recording function, so that as you navigate through the applications for the first time, 3270 Pathway automatically records this pathway, generates the appropriate Java code and delivers it as JavaBeans architecture. Once these navigation beans are created and integrated with your IDE, then all subsequent application accesses are automatic.

Data Naming

3270 Pathway also provides an easy way to pass data between applications and to integrate them. As you navigate with 3270 Pathway, you can identify and name the data that you need to share or integrate with other legacy or new Java applications.

Componentization

Since many of the legacy transactions will have multiple decision points and pathways within them, many users choose to break each application into separate beans at each decision point. This makes it easy to link selected beans together to form the correct pathway through applications to meet different decision criteria. In effect, the legacy transaction application has now been decomposed into separate bean components.
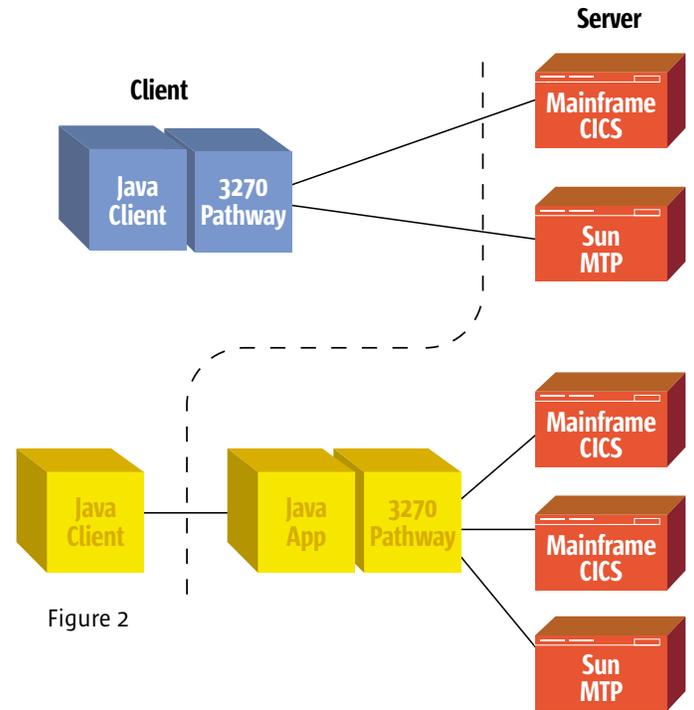
Figure 2
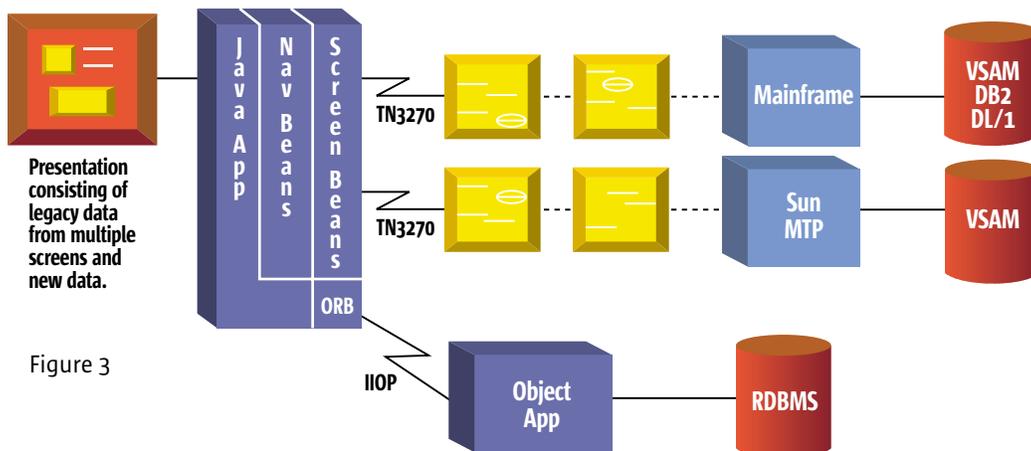
Figure 3

Sun™ 3270 Pathway

The Complete Solution

3270 Pathway now provides the easy way for Java developers to create the navigation beans needed to navigate through the many pathways of legacy CICS or IMS applications. Together with 3270 Pathway emulator, you now have the beans you need to integrate and transform multiple legacy applications into your new Java customer-focused business solution.
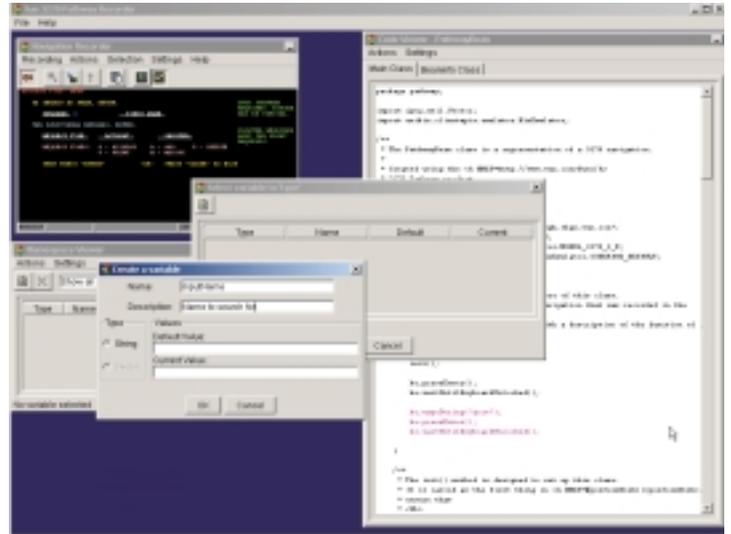

Figure 4

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We make the net work.