

Connecting Your Programs to the Internet

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Connecting Your Programs to the Internet

Today's Agenda

- Customer expectations
- What does "connecting" mean?
- Your application: An Internet Server
- Your application: An Internet Client
- Some of the tools
- Example applications

What Do Customers Expect?

- Rapid application development
- Stable applications
- Reliable database
- Compliance with Windows standards
- Web access to applications
- Integrated email capabilities

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What does “connecting” mean?

- Connected applications may be
 - Servers that provide a way for “outside users” to access internal applications or systems
 - Software that includes client functionality to access existing servers

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What does “connecting” mean?

Server Applications

- Generally web-based applications that provide access to program and data through a browser interface
- Allow creation of a three-tier system
- May also be other servers
 - Email server
 - News server
 - Proprietary protocols

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What does "connecting" mean?

Client Applications

- Provide users access to existing servers
- Many of the standard protocols are available as libraries, OCXs, or Clarion templates
 - POP/SMTP (Email)
 - NNTP (News)
 - HTTP (WWW)
 - Telnet
- Windows socket libraries allow programs to use other protocols

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Your application: An Internet Server

- Several methods allow you to create web-based servers
 - Clarion Web Edition / Internet Connect
 - Internet Framework Templates
- Creating servers other than web applications generally requires writing your own code
 - Catalyst SocketTools
 - Windows Sockets

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Your application: An Internet Client

- Common protocols are available as libraries, OCXs, and Clarion templates
 - Catalyst SocketTools
 - Dart Communications PowerTCP
 - Crescent Internet ToolPak
 - Internet Framework Templates
 - Mail and Fax Templates
 - Send Internet Mail 3.0

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Your application: An Internet Client

- Other protocols can be implemented by using Windows Sockets to communicate and coding the protocol in your program
 - Instant messaging

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Some of the tools

CW Web Edition / Internet Connect

- Allows FAST conversion of an existing application to be an Internet application
- Clarion's web broker serves as the HTTP server
- Requires little knowledge of HTML
- Default implementation uses Java but can be modified to be "caffeine-free"
- Broker can provide multi-server scalability

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Some of the tools

Internet Framework Templates

- Gives you complete control over the output from the HTTP server
- Requires more coding than CW Web Edition, but also gives you more control
- Your application is the web server – no broker required
- Requires more knowledge of HTML

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Some of the tools

Catalyst SocketTools

- Implements most major client protocols as DLLs or OCXs
- Provides a Windows Sockets control to allow you to develop your own protocols
- Includes Clarion sample code written by a Clarion developer

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Example applications

- Quick conversion of a Clarion app
 - CW Web Edition
- Simple guest book
 - CW Web Edition
 - Internet Framework Templates
- Automated mailing from an application
 - Catalyst SocketTools
- Proprietary inter-application communication
 - Catalyst SocketTools