

Your Path to the Web

FlashCONNECT is Raining Data's connectivity product that allows you to take your existing character-based application to the Web. Once there, applications continue to execute feature-rich, time-proven business rules developed using Pick BASIC (D3 and mvBase database systems only) on the database server, while FlashCONNECT establishes the required links to the Web server.

FlashCONNECT conforms to HTML standards and works with any industry standard Web page development tool to create the graphic look and feel of the application. The use of templates allows you to separate the Web page look and feel from the database-driven data presented on the page. By using templates extensively within FlashCONNECT, you greatly enhance productivity and ease of installation.

The separation of user interface and business rules provides a convenient method for developing applications that may be easily modified or adapted to future environments. In addition, the componentization of the application provides for simpler and less expensive maintenance and customization.

Once complete, the application may be accessed from the Internet, intranet, or extranet by using a standard browser. Security is always in place to prevent unauthorized use. Most companies understand the significant benefit of separating their public Web server from their private database server to provide security for their information. The resulting firewall is easily navigated with FlashCONNECT, thereby providing both flexibility and security for private client data.

Specifically Designed for Pick BASIC Programmers

FlashCONNECT allows Pick BASIC programmers to quickly enable programs to

use HTML and HTML extensions using a simple Application Programming Interface (API) to port D3 or mvBase application code and data to the Web.

Easy and Seamless Integration

The rich FlashCONNECT API facilitates easy integration of Pick BASIC applications with Web pages. Users can connect any mix of D3 or mvBase database servers to single or multiple Web servers.

Leverage for Your Existing Knowledge Base

To use FlashCONNECT, the programmer needs to know Pick BASIC and some HTML. Conversely, the Web page designer needs to know Web page layout and no Pick BASIC. This feature not only allows programmers and designers to use their existing toolset, but also allows for independent development and maintenance.

Persistence & Non-Persistence

You have 2 options – 1) Persistence which consumes a D3 or mvBase licenses and provides record locks, variables and common variables across multiple Web pages as a transaction progresses for persistent connections. Audit features include assignment of a "user ID" that can be traced in the application, cookies, optional user authentication and click-through recording & 2) Non-Persistence which only consumes a D3 or mvBase license when the page is being read from database. Sites that do not write to D3 or mvBase would not require a persistent connection. You can avoid using a persistent connection by checking if the item being written to has been changed and if it has then do not update.

Dynamic and Static Web Pages

FlashCONNECT supports both static & event-driven applications. Java applets, JavaScript, Active X & VB Script may be incorporated. In addition to support for dynamic pages, FlashCONNECT can generate part, or all, of a Web site as static pages based on database content.

FEATURES

EASY DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE:

Enhanced user interface for better installation and maintenance ability. HTML and graphics are kept separate from the programs, facilitating ease of use by both graphic designers and programmers. This separation allows for independent development and more importantly, independent maintenance.

FlashCONNECT conforms to HTML standards that allow an unlimited number of forms per page, extendable APIs, etc. Extensive use of templates within FlashCONNECT greatly enhances productivity and ease of installation.

DYNAMIC ALLOCATION OF PROCESSES:

Provides an efficient use of resources by monitoring the level of activity and available Web servers (many Web servers to many D3 or mvBase database servers) to provide a balanced load across the domain.

WEB-BASED ADMINISTRATION:

Logging in to D3 or mvBase to administer your FlashCONNECT server is not required. Enhanced debugging options allow assigning names to debugging sessions without being concerned about which port the FlashCONNECT program runs on. Enhanced diagnostics troubleshoot the status and setup of FlashCONNECT and its corresponding Web components.

CREDIT CARD INTERFACE:

A Credit Card and Electronic Check API online payment allows creation of eCommerce sites without worrying about online payment validation.

FIREWALL

USE BY ISP:

Designed for easy implementation by an ISP.

USE BY NON-ISP:

Ease of use for non-ISPs as well, FlashCONNECT can be placed on either side of a firewall or in non-firewall environments.

JAVA SUPPORT

Java Servlets allow the Web page to communicate with the D3 or mvBase server without the need for reloading the page when data changes. This is especially useful for field validation. The Java Socket Server allows applications to communicate with the D3 or mvBase server without the need to go through a Web server. Built-in Java API support provides access to FlashCONNECT business rules from Java.

WEB SUPPORTED PRODUCTS

WEB SERVERS:

Utilizes popular interfaces to support most standard Web servers like IIS, Apache & Netscape. This allows organizations the flexibility they need to choose the right direction or change direction. By working with cutting edge Web servers, organizations can take advantage of the latest developments provided by the Web server of their choice, such as virtual hosting and other Web server specific functionality. Available for Web servers running on Sun, AIX, Red Hat Linux and Microsoft Windows platforms.

DATABASE PLATFORMS:

D3 runs on common operating system platforms including Red Hat Linux, Microsoft Windows and IBM AIX. mvBase runs on Microsoft Windows.

WEB INTERFACES:

ISAPI, CGI, Java Servlet

DATABASE SERVERS:

Runs on all D3 database platforms and mvBase 2.0 with Patch Set 3 or later

Contact Information

For further information on FlashCONNECT or any Raining Data products and/or services for these products, contact Raining Data Reseller Technical Resource Group (TRG) at:

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