

Tamino

X-Bridge

The XML Power Link

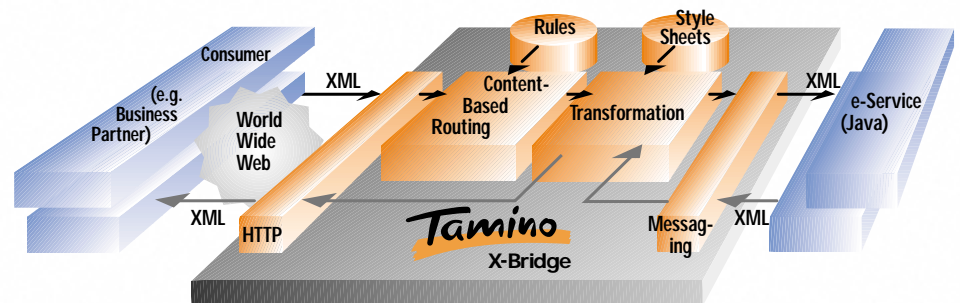
Tamino X-Bridge is a powerful XML integration broker for an enterprise's XML-based information exchange. It receives XML documents sent via the Internet, routes them to the appropriate receiving application, and, if necessary, transforms them to a format that the receiving application understands. Tamino X-Bridge is an integral part of the Tamino XML Platform, a comprehensive set of products for building enterprise-scale XML-based applications.

XML is fast becoming the technology of choice for managing the diversity of data, applications, devices and users of electronic business applications. Hundreds of industries - such as health care, banking and automotive - have defined or are currently defining standard XML-based document structures for e-business in their sectors, greatly simplifying information exchange between businesses.

With new electronic marketplaces or B2B portals being created daily, the ability to effectively manage incoming documents and respond immediately has become a necessity for organizations in today's connected economy. The speed and efficiency with which enterprises are able to exchange and process electronic documents with their customers and partners via the Internet will ultimately separate the winners from the runners-up in the business-to-business arena.

ROUTE AND TRANSFORM XML DOCUMENTS

Once an XML document arrives at an organization, a mechanism must



be available to evaluate which application will process the specific document type and to transform the document into the appropriate structure for that application.

Tamino X-Bridge, part of Software AG's Tamino Platform, provides a central communication hub for an enterprise's XML-based information exchange. At low cost and minimal effort, XML documents are received directly via Internet technologies and routed to the appropriate recipients(s) based on rules that analyze structure and content.

Message transformation ensures that the data is delivered in a format that the receiving application understands. Since Tamino X-Bridge accepts and understands native XML, no mapping to intermediate formats is required.

ROUTING: THE B2B MAILROOM

A business partner sending an XML document should not have to worry about which of the receiving partner's applications ultimately processes it. Just as with paper-based documents, there needs to be a central entry point that routes the document to the appropriate application.

As a central hub for XML-based communication, Tamino X-Bridge is able to decide where to route a document by applying rules based on the content or structure of the document.

Routing rules can be modified dynamically. For example, it is possible to add new applications for specific tasks without modifying existing applications or restarting Tamino X-Bridge.

TRANSFORMATION: THE B2B HANDSHAKE

If necessary, Tamino X-Bridge also adapts the structure and content of the received document to that of the processing application. This transformation is achieved by using standard XML document transformation based on XSLT (eXtensible Stylesheet Language Transformations). Stylesheets can also be used to transform XML data to numerous presentation formats, such as HTML for Web browsers, Wireless Markup Language (WML) for mobile devices, or to any other XML format, for example BizTalk.

FLEXIBILITY WITH SCHEMA ADJUNCTS

Since the rules for routing and transformation are organization-specific and not part of the business information, they cannot be included in the document's schema or DTD.

To remedy this, Tamino X-Bridge packs this information into schema adjuncts. Adjuncts are a powerful and flexible way of supplementing schemas with additional application-specific information. This ensures that all rules to be applied to a specific type of document are stored in one place and enables flexible, on-the-fly adjustment to new requirements.

Schema adjuncts are XML documents that are stored separately from the related XML document and schema. Any XML editor or schema editor can be used to edit schema adjuncts.

DESIGNED FOR INTERNET AND XML

Tamino X-Bridge supports HTTP, the standard Internet transport protocol, and can therefore be addressed directly from any HTTP-capable application. Adding a new business partner or application can be done on-the-fly by providing the Internet address (URL) of Tamino X-Bridge. No proprietary communication software is necessary at the partner's site. Where a firewall or HTTPS is used, it is also possible to send XML documents to Tamino X-Bridge via a Web server.

Building a Tamino X-Bridge application for receiving and processing XML documents is very easy - especially with Tamino X-Studio, the comprehensive tool set within Software AG's Tamino platform. In addition, any Java development tool can be used to write Tamino X-Bridge applications ensuring platform independence and portability.

Tamino X-Bridge specifically supports building applications to receive and process XML documents in Java, the programming language of choice in the XML world.

Tamino X-Bridge supports important e-business standards like Microsoft's BizTalk Framework, the Open Applications Group's (OAG) Business Object Documents and SOAP. Skeleton templates for routing decisions based on selected schema dialects are provided free to Tamino X-Bridge customers at www.softwareag.com.

INTEGRATE BACK-END PROCESSES

To leverage investments in existing IT infrastructure, business processes must be integrated with new XML-based solutions. In this case, Tamino X-Bridge can easily be extended with EntireX, Software AG's high-performance application integration platform. EntireX includes an XML wrapper that opens existing applications to the exchange of XML documents with suppliers and business partners. Information from XML documents is mapped to transactional back-end processes (running on OS/390, VSE, BS2000, Unix, etc.), and the results are then mapped back into XML documents.

PLATFORMS

Tamino X-Bridge is available on:

- Windows NT 4.0
- Windows 2000 Professional
- Windows 2000 Server

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