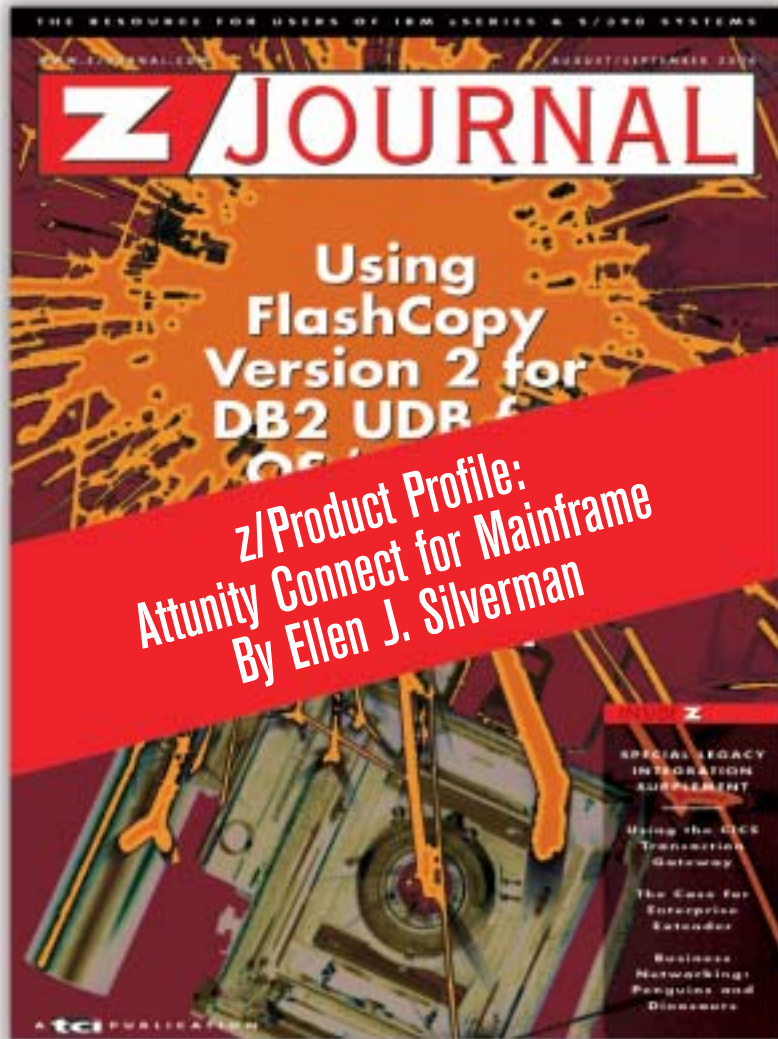This article appeared in the
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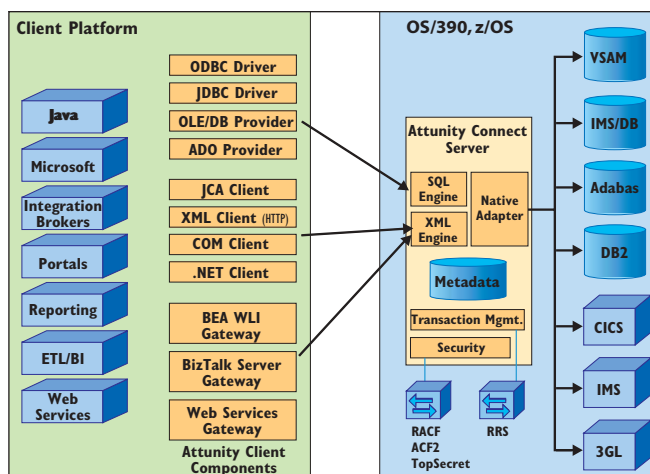# z/JOURNAL

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Attunity Connect for Mainframe

XML and SQL Adapters Define Reusable Legacy Services

With 70 percent of the business data, logic and processes running on mainframe systems, their value and importance are critical for the success of the enterprise. While new Web and composite applications are built to enhance customer service and streamline business operations, the core IT value in many enterprises remains locked within these legacy systems. Leveraging the huge investments in business knowledge put into these systems and integrating them with new technologies is the key challenge for enterprises today.

Attunity Connect for Mainframe has addressed this issue with an integration middleware product that provides a set of standard adapters to numerous legacy systems on OS/390 and z/OS, as well as on many other platforms. Attunity Connect is built as a real-time, direct integration solution, providing SQL- and XML-based interfaces to mainframe

data, transactions and applications. With the Attunity Connect adapters, enterprises can leverage their legacy systems for: new application development; enterprise application integration and business-to-business integration; reporting using standard tools like Crystal Reports; publishing information to corporate or customer portals; and real-time, event-driven integration of enterprise systems. Attunity Connect offers a single integration solution for all the key systems, including CICS, IMS/TM, COBOL, VSAM, IMS/DB, Adabas, and DB2. Attunity further guarantees system integrity by supporting native mainframe security, including RACF, ACF2, and TopSecret, as well as the native transaction management services.

SQL Access to Mainframe Data

Attunity Connect includes JDBC, ODBC, OLEDB, and ADO drivers to all the data sources on the mainframe. Attunity's distributed query processor can join data from multiple and different data sources, and optimize query execution. Attunity Connect manages distributed transactions and supports client-managed transactions.

XML Access to Mainframe Applications

To make legacy functions accessible for enterprise applications, it needs to be provided as a service that can be accessed via some API or protocol that the client application will find easy to consume. Attunity Connect supports Java/J2EE clients, Windows/.NET clients, and Web clients by providing JCA, COM, .NET, and SOAP interfaces. All of these interfaces use XML, the leading standard for application integration, as the interface for the adapter interactions. The advantage of using XML is that it hides the native data types and structures, and exposes the interface as a document that can be processed anywhere.

Leveraging Legacy Metadata to Define Adapters

A major part of legacy integration requires setting up adapters and defining metadata that represents their interfaces. Such information typically exists already in the form of legacy metadata. By leveraging legacy metadata, the integration effort can be minimized and shortened dramatically. Attunity Connect provides comprehensive support for metadata, with tools and utilities to edit, manage and harvest metadata. Legacy metadata can be imported automatically to quickly set up adapters and their schema definitions. Attunity provides metadata-harvesting utilities for all its mainframe adapters.

The Attunity Benefits

Attunity Connect for Mainframe offers the means to make existing mainframe investments in data and business logic a part of new business initiatives, leading to cost reduction and streamlined operations. Attunity provides out-of-the-box adapters that shorten the implementation time of mainframe integration projects. The multiple standard interfaces enable developers to leverage existing skillset and known protocols to increase productivity, and can support virtually any client application and environment. Attunity provides adapters to all the key mainframe systems, as well as adapters to many other systems, enabling the use of one adapter technology and architecture for all legacy integration needs. **Z**