Data-synchronization with tcACCESS

The customer operates an IBM 9672-R26 hosting OS390 2.6. Migration to z/OS is in the plans. CICS 4.1 is used as the online system. The customer uses tcACCESS now for several years. tcACCESS was purchased to implement mainframe access for a Document Management System (DMS), which ran under NT and UNIX. The system used at this time has been replaced by a more state-of-the-art system. The new DMS also is using tcACCESS. Mainframe data is directly imported into forms using the tcACCESS ODBC interface. The bank of the customer is using these forms. In addition to these applications, Client-Server-applications use tcACCESS to extract data from VSAM, DB2 and sequential files. A C++ application prepares mainframe data to be used by a NT based reporting tool. The customer uses the tcACCESS ODBC component to accomplish this.

During 2000 a feasibility study was performed to analyze data-synchronization and –exchange between a CRM application and the OS390 server. The reason for this study was a functional and technical renewal of the existing data-exchange procedures between the mainframe based systems and the CRM system from SIEBEL, which was UNIX based. The aim of the project was to achieve a more direct, permanent, secure and fast synchronization of the data. The expected solution should be able to process the data stream initiated in both directions and the data stream should be technologically reusable. A task, which was a real challenge. The customer started to look for a solution which was reliable, easy to implement and affordable.

MQ-Series from IBM was far too powerful for the job and too expensive. Being a tcACCESS user, the customer contacted B.O.S. Early 2001 a workshop with B.O.S: was scheduled and B.O.S. proposed an implementation-concept based upon tcACCESS. The concept was convincing and the decision was made to use tcACCESS. A pilot of the new system was developed in less than one week.

The initiation of the data-synchronization is controlled by a CICS application. The end user changes the data of the customer record. The CICS application starts a background task, which communicates with tcACCESS by starting a tcACCESS task. The changed data is passed as a set of parameter. The tcACCESS Listener is running on a SUN-SOLARIS Server and is waiting to be notified about the task. The Listener receives the changed data and starts a JAVA class, which merges the data with a XML template. This template is then passed to the SIEBEL system.

The application went into production at the end of 2001. So far there have been more than 80000 synchronization requests. And it's growing. In the meantime the system manages about 1000 changes a day. Employees from the headquarter, branch offices and sales organization of the customer are using the system.

The next project will be the data synchronization on the mainframe. The customer will use the JDBC component of tcACCESS to do this.

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