zapthink zapnote

Doc. ID: ZTZN-1174-2
Released: Apr 8, 2005

ZAPTHINK ZAPNOTE™

NETMANAGE
COMPOSITE APPLICATION PLATFORM WITH ROBUST HOST ENABLEMENT

Analyst: Jason Bloomberg

Abstract

Incorporated in 1990, NetManage has built a deep host integration and enablement capability, with its RUMBA host connectivity software, ViewNow applications for Unix connectivity, Librados adapters, and OnWeb Web-to-Host solutions. The NetManage Solutions have since expanded, leveraging OnWeb and Librados technology to provide a composite application environment with substantial host connectivity options. NetManage is now well-positioned to help companies implementing Service-Oriented Architecture to build composite applications that leverage heterogeneous host-based back-ends while providing diverse Web browser-based and Web Services interfaces to users and consuming applications.

NetManage: from WinSock to Web Services

NetManage, Inc. creates software and service solutions that allow its customers to leverage their investments in host-based business applications, processes and data. NetManage's history stretches back to WinSock, the leading TCP/IP stack they originally developed for Windows 3.1, and its current products include Rumba for the desktop, OnWeb Web-to-Host, OnWeb Presentation Services, OnWeb Integration Services, Librados Adapters and ViewNow X Server and ViewNow Interdrive NFS.
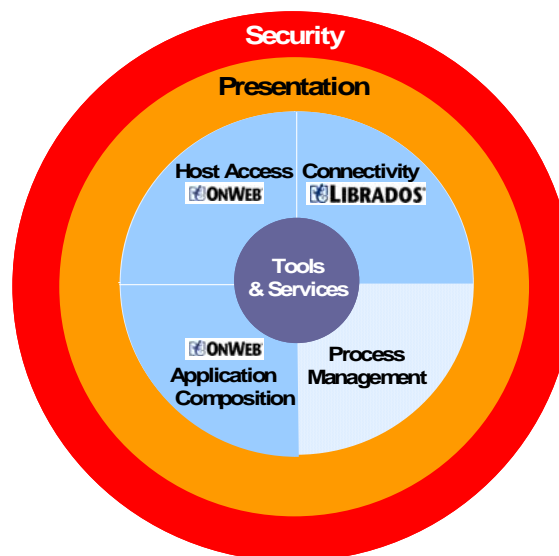
NetManage provides a single platform approach that allows customers to access their host applications in several ways, including traditional green-screen terminal emulation, access via Web browsers, or integration through Web Services interfaces. NetManage products allow customers to publish information from existing host systems through browser-based interfaces, and create new Web-based applications that leverage their existing business processes and applications. It also enables the presentation of existing business processes as composite applications based on Web Services, for consumption via .NET or J2EE applications.

At the core of NetManage Solutions is the OnWeb composite application suite, which offers a set of products for host integration, Web presentation, and integration services, including Web Services-based integration. Combined with the Librados adapters, OnWeb offers end-to-end composite application capabilities, critical for companies looking to bring host access to Web and Web Services interfaces, as well as companies building Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) implementations.

OnWeb: Composite Applications with Host Access

The OnWeb suite includes *OnWeb Web-to-Host*, *OnWeb Presentation Services*, *OnWeb Integration Services,* and *OnWeb Mobile*. Combined with the Librados adapters, OnWeb forms much of NetManage's composite application strategy, as shown in Figure I below.

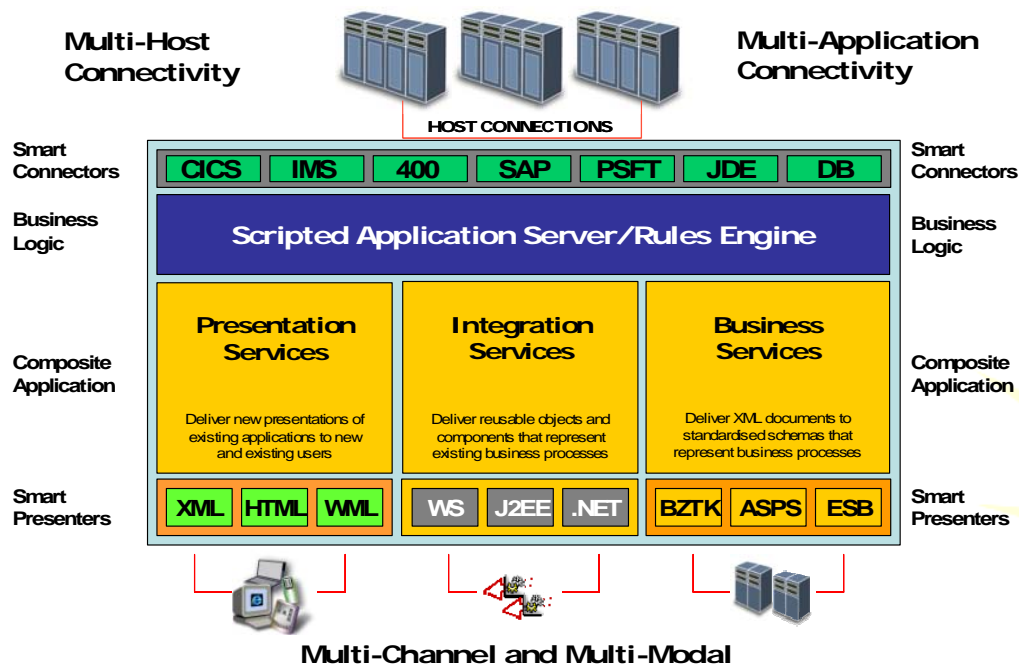### Figure I: NetManage's Composite Application Strategy

Source: NetManage

The figure above illustrates OnWeb solutions for application integration and host access, and Librados for connectivity. OnWeb also provides presentation and security, while third parties currently provide process management capabilities. The specifics of OnWeb are:

➢ OnWeb *Web-to-Host* is a browser-based product for deployment of host access solutions to any browser that supports either ActiveX or Java. OnWeb Web-to-Host runs on any Web server and takes advantage of the zero install capabilities of the thin client.

➢ OnWeb *Presentation Services* are server-based solutions that allow customers to leverage existing host applications, information and processes into new composite applications for publication to the Web. They also allow for the combination of information and application logic from more than one back-end system as well as the addition of new business logic into a loosely coupled composite application.

➢ OnWeb *Integration Services* present transactions from existing host-based systems as programmatic objects that .NET and J2EE applications can access. Integration Services take advantage of several Librados connectors allowing access to host applications as well Web Services. Presentation and Integration services also offer the *OnWeb Designer* development environment that supports Web Services, .NET Assemblies, Java Beans, Enterprise Java Beans, as well as COM and Microsoft transition server transactions.

➢ OnWeb *Mobile* offers tools for developing and deploying applications for mobile devices to deliver in a variety of formats. With OnWeb Mobile, mobile devices that do not have standard browsers can now access and interact with mainframes, AS/400s, enterprise applications, and databases.

OnWeb and Librados form the infrastructure of the NetManage Solutions, which offer a composite application platform with sophisticated host connectivity. The NetManage Solutions architecture is shown in the figure below:

Figure II: NetManage Solutions Architecture

Source: NetManage

Figure II illustrates the variety of host connectivity options the NetManage Librados adapters offer, as well as the multi-channel and multi-modal presentation options that NetManage provides to users. For the creation of composite applications, NetManage Solutions offer OnWeb Presentation and Integration Services, as well as business services that a future release of OnWeb will provide.

The ZapThink Take

The technology for integration with legacy systems has gone through a number of generations over the past few decades. The first generation of host enablement consists of screen scraping approaches, which NetManage offers through their RUMBA product line. The second generation brings host capabilities to Web pages, and NetManage's OnWeb Web-to-Host fulfills that capability. The third generation of host enablement products allow for the creation of composite applications that can combine multiple host screens or even applications on different systems into a unified user interface. NetManage Solutions, based on OnWeb and Librados technologies, offer this third generation of host enablement, as well as what's becoming the fourth generation: Service-oriented composite applications, sometimes called Service-oriented business applications, or SOBAs. ZapThink believes that companies will increasingly look to SOA as a way to further extract value from their existing, and ongoing, investments in legacy systems.

NetManage Products

RUMBA, ViewNow, Librados, and OnWeb

Overview:

RUMBA for the Desktop is a connectivity software focused on connecting PCs to IBM mainframe and iSeries systems as well as UNIX host systems. RUMBA provides terminal and printer emulation, file sharing and file transfer solutions.

ViewNow X Server and ViewNow InterDrive NFS are connectivity software applications that allow PCs to share files with UNIX host systems using a network file system (NFS) and to access and run X Windows applications on UNIX hosts.

Librados' suite of Java and .NET Adapters integrate backend enterprise information system functionality and data into any J2EE application server, Web server or stand-alone JVM environment. Librados accesses standard or custom business functions and data from over 50 systems, including SAP R/3, Siebel, PeopleSoft, JD Edwards, and Oracle, and supports multiple formats including XML and Web Services.

OnWeb Web-to-Host is a browser-based product for deployment of host access solutions to any ActiveX or Java-capable browser.

OnWeb Presentation and Integration Services enable companies to create composite applications that leverage host data and functionality, and present those applications via Web or Web Services interfaces, and OnWeb Mobile brings host-based composite applications to the handheld format.

Value Proposition:

Companies implementing SOA seek to abstract back-end functionality as loosely coupled Services that they can then compose into business processes or business applications. The goal for SOBAs is to maintain flexibility at the application layer while abstracting a heterogeneous infrastructure. With the addition of the business services capability on NetManage's roadmap, they are able to provide the level of flexibility companies require to build composite applications in SOA.

Profile: NetManage	March 2005

Funding:
NASDAQ: NETM

Chairman, President & CEO:
Zvi Alon

Employees:
225

Products:
RUMBA, OnWeb, and Librados

Address:
20883 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Cupertino, CA 95014

URL:
http://www.netmanage.com

Main Phone:
408-973-7171

Contact:
sales@netmanage.com

Related Research

➢ *Prima Solutions* ZapNote (ZTZN-1177)

➢ *Webify Solutions* ZapNote (ZTZN-1172)

➢ *Seagull Software* ZapNote (ZTZN-0160)

➢ *SeeBeyond* ZapNote (ZTZN-0279)

About ZapThink, LLC

ZapThink is an IT advisory and analysis firm that provides trusted advice and critical insight into the architectural and organizational changes brought about by the movement to XML, Web Services, and Service Orientation. We provide our three target audiences of IT vendors, service providers and end-users a clear roadmap for standards-based, loosely coupled distributed computing – a vision of IT meeting the needs of the agile business.

ZapThink helps its customers in three ways: by helping companies understand IT products and services in the context of Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) and the vision of Service Orientation, by providing guidance into emerging best practices for Web Services and SOA adoption, and by bringing together all our audiences into a network that provides business value and expertise to each member of the network.

ZapThink provides market intelligence to IT vendors and professional services firms that offer XML and Web Services-based products and services in order to help them understand their competitive landscape, plan their product roadmaps, and communicate their value proposition to their customers within the context of Service Orientation.

ZapThink provides guidance and expertise to professional services firms to help them grow and innovate their services as well as promote their capabilities to end-users and vendors looking to grow their businesses.

ZapThink also provides implementation intelligence to IT users who are seeking guidance and clarity into the best practices for planning and implementing SOA, including how to assemble the available products and services into a coherent plan.

ZapThink's senior analysts are widely regarded as the "go to analysts" for XML, Web Services, and SOA by vendors, end-users, and the press. Respected for their candid, insightful opinions, they are in great demand as speakers, and have presented at conferences and industry events around the world. They are among the most quoted industry analysts in the IT industry.

ZapThink was founded in October 2000 and is headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts. Its customers include Global 1000 firms and government organizations, as well as many emerging businesses. Its analysts have worked at such firms as IDC, marchFIRST, and ChannelWave, and have sat on the working group committees for standards bodies such as RosettaNet, UDDI, and ebXML.

Call, email, or visit the ZapThink Web site to learn more about how ZapThink can help you to better understand how SOA will impact your business or organization.

ZAPTHINK CONTACT:
ZapThink, LLC
11 Willow Street, Suite 200
Waltham, MA 02453
Phone: +1 (781) 207 0203
Fax: +1 (786) 524 3186
info@zapthink.com
www.zapthink.com