opentext™

AcuConnect

Frustrated by bottlenecks? Tired of character-based screens on UNIX terminals? There comes a point in nearly every organization's development when business requirements exceed computing resources. So how do you meet the demands of your changing business without spending a lot of money? AcuConnect is the answer—a client/server solution that lets you distribute your resources for optimal performance and functionality.

Product Highlights

OpenText™ AcuConnect is an OpenText™ COBOL client/server solution that can be deployed in a distributed processing architecture or in a Thin Client architecture.

In a distributed processing deployment, you can divide application processing among multiple UNIX, Linux, and Windows machines for optimal performance. You can perform most of your processing on the client or most on the server, or you can divide the processing any way you wish.

In a Thin Client architecture, only the user interface portion of your application runs on the client, a 32-bit Windows machine. The rest runs on a UNIX, Linux, VMS, or Windows server where data access is local. Because only user interface commands are passed to the client, network overhead is minimized.

Key Benefits

- Improve performance
- Reduce network management costs
- Alleviate software distribution concerns
- Build a graphical front end for non-Windows applications
- Extend the life of older equipment

Key Features

AcuConnect is a versatile COBOL listener that lets you make the most efficient and strategic use of your existing computing resources. AcuConnect can be deployed in a Distributed Processing architecture or a Thin Client architecture.

Thin Client Architecture

The Thin Client technology consists of three components:

1. A small program on the Windows client called the OpenText™ ACUCOBOL-GT Thin Client (acuthin). The Thin client communicates with the application running on the server and handles the display of the user interface. Acuthin is available as an executable file, an Dynamic Link Library (DLL), or an ActiveX control (Web Thin client).

2. The AcuConnect remote COBOL listener service (acurcl) on the server. The listener waits for requests from the Thin Client to launch the COBOL program.

3. A standard ACUCOBOL-GT runtime on the server.

Few Requirements of the End User

In a Thin Client deployment, end users do not need to have a COBOL runtime or the application on the deployment environment. They just need acuthin, which requires fewer than 2MB of

Distributed Processing

Servers
- UNIX, Linux, Windows Server 2003, Windows Server 2008, Windows Server 2012

Clients
- UNIX, Linux , Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 10, Windows Server 2003, Windows Server 2008, Windows Server 2012

Thin Client

Servers
- UNIX, Linux, Windows Server 2003, Windows Server 2008, Windows Server 2012

Clients
- Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 10, Windows Server 2003, Windows Server 2008, Windows Server 2012

disk space. If you use the Web version of the Thin Client, acuthin can be downloaded and installed automatically when users visit your web site or click a link to launch your application.

Automatic Updates
The thin client automatically detects version incompatibility between itself and the server software and downloads and installs a compatible version of itself. This eliminates the downtime and cost associated with manually updating each end user's machine, especially beneficial for remote end users.

Graphical User Interface for UNIX, Linux and VMS
With the Thin Client technology, non-Windows applications such as those running on UNIX, Linux and VMS servers, can display a full Graphical User Interface on Windows clients. You can even leverage ActiveX controls and the Windows help system from your UNIX, Linux or VMS application.

High Performance
Many applications perform better when deployed in this fashion compared to other networking techniques.

When applications are run on the server, data access is local so retrievals and updates are faster Server machines are generally faster and more robust than client machines Only screen updates are passed to the client. This keeps network I/O to the bare minimum, reducing traffic and improving response times.

Centralized Application Maintenance
When an application resides solely on a server, program installation is easier than when application logic is split between a client and a server. Upgrades and distribution are simple to accomplish, and program maintenance is centralized and therefore easily completed.

Enhanced Security
Applications deployed in a thin configuration enjoy enhanced security, because all programs and data reside on the server. An alias file that holds all the information needed to invoke the appropriate application on the server ensures that only those applications you authorize can be launched from the client.

Distributed Processing Architecture
In a distributed processing architecture AcuConnect comprises a standard ACU-COBOL-GT runtime on the client, and a remote COBOL listener (acurcl) and an ACUCOBOL-GT runtime on the server. To launch a server program, the client uses standard COBOL CALL syntax. You embed a CALL in he client application, and AcuConnect launches the server application for you automatically.

High Performance
With AcuConnect you can offload the processing of programs with intensive disk I/O such as reports, CPU-bound calculations and sorts onto a server. Rather than causing an input and output transaction for every record, programs can process multiple I/O statements in "batch" on the server with the results being sent across the network in one block of data. This dramatically reduces network traffic and improves performance.

Maximum Resource Utilization
AcuConnect lets you balance your processing load between multiple servers to make the most efficient use of your existing resources. Interactive components, such as the user interface, can be processed on the client system while computation-intensive components, such as batch reports, can be processed on faster machine with newer technology. By utilizing your resources effectively, you can extend the life of older equipment and cut costs.

Flexibility
AcuConnect gives administrators complete flexibility in the location of their program and data files. The choice of servers is completely arbitrary and can be changed without modification of the client or server programs that have been deployed.

Simple Installation
AcuConnect runs as a self-contained process (Service on Windows, daemon on UNIX). All the systems administrator need to do is to create various configuration files to have the tasks execute on the appropriate server. These configuration variables can also be set programmatically so the choice of server can be made at run time.

Highly Configurable
You can specify the remote path of the server components in the CALL statement, or you can define the path in a configuration file on the client. Then without modifying or recompiling the original code, you can run the same program on any machine in your network just by changing the client configuration file.

Rapid Internet Deployment
Because it is not practical to distribute processing to client machines over the internet, AcuConnect is an ideal solution for rapid Internet deployment. With AcuConnect, the client program simply routes a request to the URL or IP address of the machine hosting the COBOL listener, and AcuConnect takes over from there.

Remote Program Debugging
AcuConnect configuration variables allow you to debug remote programs in a variety of ways: With a TTY, an xterm or the Thin Client. This flexibility enables users to easily debug their remote programs.

Other Key Features

- **File transfer capabilities:** You can transfer files between the application host and display host (client) and between directories on the display host. This lets you decide where you want certain files to reside, on the client or server machine.

- **Dynamic configuration setting:** AcuConnect lets you set server configuration/variables on the fly using the "acurcl-config" command. This simplifies system configuration and lets you respond to changing business needs.

- **AcuServer support:** AcuConnect can be used in conjunction with OpenText™ AcuServer to provide access to remote data files when the data and applications are stored separately. AcuConnect does not need AcuServer to provide file access if the data resides on the same server as the remote applications. With AcuConnect, you can store your data and programfiles where it makes the most sense, providing flexibility in the location of files.

- **Acu4GL support:** AcuConnect can be used in conjunction with Acu4GL to provide transparent access to data in relational database management systems. This allows users to access data in a variety of data sources, including relational databases.

Learn more at
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