Objectivity Case History

Customer Information

Customer:	Lexis-Nexis
Industry:	Information Search Service
Application Domain:	Legal Information and Electronic Publishing Info.
Status:	End of Development to Deployment Phase
Platform:	Sun/Solaris – Web Server Application – New SA
Compiler:	C++
Other Tools:	STL Interface and Web-based GUI

Application

[Leon] The AnswerSet online service will run online or scheduled queries against the LexisNexis legal database. Students, legal clerks and lawyers will be able to submit complex queries using a Query By Example interface, then refine and save them to be run on a scheduled basis or when certain events trigger the need to rerun the query and inform the user. The query results ("Answer set") are saved as objects and are automatically referenced whenever the saved query is rerun in order to report changes to the user.

[2025: Lexis+ Answer is an AI based version of this service].

Buying Criteria

This Web-Search Server Application must scale to a huge amount of concurrent users as well as being distributed across many servers and clients worldwide. They required a database which can scale with respect to numbers of users and a large amount of data based on a distributed data model. In addition, being capable of being on-line on a 24 X 7 basis is critical to Lexis-Nexis. This is a 3 tier application which was embedded into the middle tier. Client is getting ready to turn the system live as of 9/30/98.

Why Objectivity

Objectivity/DB is at the core of their Web-Search Server Application which updates information requests (searches) from their MVS mainframes. The data is then passed through to the clients who are searching for specific information they have requested. Objectivity/DB was selected at Lexis-Nexis due to the ability to scale to a large number of users and large volume of data based on a distributed database architecture. Furthermore, Objectivity/DB was selected because of its Fault Tolerance and Data Replication features which allows Lexis-Nexis the ability to achieve the goal of a worldwide exposure of a 24 X 7 type of an environment. Lexis-Nexis would like to move away from the MVS mainframe hardware platform which currently "houses" all the data. This old type of hardware strategy is too costly for Lexis-Nexis. Their goal is to have all the information reside on each "Super Search" Server with Objectivity/DB at the core of their long-term database strategy. This will drive their "cost-of-searches" down considerably, while this new search product brings in additional market share and profits.

Issues

The LexisNexis team were making extensive use of C++ multithreading and needed some modifications to the Objectivity/DB caching and transaction model that eventually became a powerful part of the standard product as Objectivity/DB Thread Pools.

Contact Information

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