Customer ready
e-Business solutions

Prophecy e-Foundation Framework

Prophecy

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Prophecy's e-Foundation product suite provides organizations with a tailored enterprise wide solution. e-Foundation combines Internet technologies for logistics, e-commerce and back office applications.

The e-Foundation product suite consists of:

Framework

A rapid application assembly environment that has achieved productivity gains of up to ten times versus traditional development methodologies.

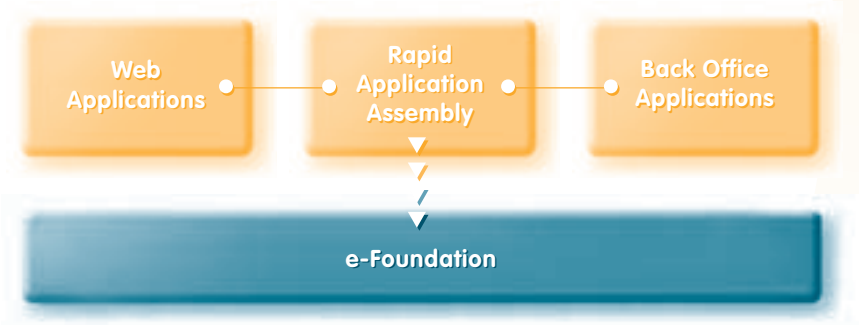
ProphecyOpen

Financials, Procurement, Distribution, Asset Management and HR business applications for medium to large organizations that require enterprise wide solutions.

e-Portal

Provides seamless deployment of e-commerce business processes via the internet.

From totally flexible, pre-built business applications to a complete customer delivery, e-Foundation offers a rapid application assembly environment to automate your strategic business processes.



Framework

Object Oriented technology is at the forefront of current software development trends. Developers are moving towards the assembly of pre-written components rather than writing code from scratch. The Framework, a component of e-Foundation supports this trend with the use of object oriented techniques.

Applications developed using the Framework combine rich functionality based on industry-expert knowledge with flexibility unheard of in most business solutions. In today's changing world, this flexibility is the key to increased sales.

Framework can be used to develop applications suitable to any industry. Vertical Application Partners (VAPs) with expertise in a particular industry can develop applications for re-sale, or customers can use Framework to create applications for their own use. Applications which have been developed cover areas as diverse as Human Resources, Banking and Finance and Utility Billing and Collections.

Benefits

Fast to Market

Our Framework customers have achieved productivity gains of up to ten times versus traditional development methodologies – resulting in business needs satisfied faster and business benefits beginning sooner.

Lower Cost

Framework's business objects and business rules result in applications that are assembled in less time with fewer resources, ensuring that products can be released to market more quickly.

Better for Business

Business applications built with the Framework offer unprecedented flexibility. Organizations don't need to change their entire software application every time their business changes.

What is the Framework?

The Prophecy Framework provides a rapid application assembly (RAA) environment for business software solutions. Customer specific functionality can be built by assembling pre-written components, reducing the time, cost and complexity of software development.

The Framework is rich in features designed specifically for developers and for end-users. Users have access to an object oriented fully developed repository, from which they simply select the fields they require, position them on their screens, attach business rules to them and assemble the resulting tasks into a menu.

If needed, users can also build database tables and invent new fields, which are not already in our data dictionary.

Automatic and tailorable browsing is provided for all query screens designed. Tasks can be assembled on button bars for ease of use, and the SQL QueryObject performs the database updating implied in the task. A comprehensive Help system is provided, and the source code of business objects can be made available if sub-classes are required.

Features

Object Repository

The Framework treats every unique data field in your system as an object which must be registered in the Object Repository. Each field object uses a nominated business object to control its behaviour, and to execute its business rules. The repository provides over 2,000 useful field objects, and users are able to add their own.

Once a field object is registered, it can be used on multiple tasks and database tables throughout your applications. The business object used by the field object determines the business rules that you can execute.

The Framework provides hundreds of business classes which divide into:

- generic business field objects, such as date, money, quantity
- specialised objects, such as product, employee, customer
- minor objects such as drill down buttons

These classes include the knowledge of the typical validation and business rules they might need to perform. Developers can change or extend the knowledge of an object by sub-classing it while end-users can tailor (without code change) the validation and business rules that are applied in any given circumstance.

Business Rules

The Framework provides ready to use business objects containing business rules from the generic ‘On File’ and ‘Must be numeric’ rules right through to Product and Customer objects. These hold the business rules and processing logic for numerous data fields.

These business object classes can be supplied in source code form, to enable users to sub-class or add new business rules. Each business rule has parameters that can further refine its execution.

Business rules can be used to set conditions, and other business rules can be executed when certain conditions exist, effectively achieving customised business logic, but without writing or compiling any source code.

Users can add their own specific business processes using the available business rules, without writing or compiling program code.

Tasks

Tasks define screen layout, fields, business rules and the parameters that are needed for a given process. Tasks are built from a blank screen to which fields are added and positioned by a simple drag and drop technique. Upon creation of the screen, the processing logic has also been assembled.

Each Framework object added to a task brings its own intelligence without programming. For example, the intelligence inherent in a business object like “Product” includes the ability to check availability of stock, and post all types of inventory transactions.

Visual Tailoring

The Task Builder is central to the development environment. By using the Task Builder, business objects are placed on tasks, inserted into the dictionary if needed, and the transaction screens are tailored as they are to appear for the user.

The user interface provided is a unique arrangement of tabbed ‘pages’. It is called the Workbook, which allows up to four pages of information to be worked on simultaneously.

Property Tailoring

The Property Sheet is used to display lists of values that apply to the current Workbook. By changing these values, the layout of the screen objects can be changed along with the methods used to enter and display data, and business rules.

The Database Layer

The Framework provides the necessary SQL to update data in the target database. This SQL is automatically generated. Additionally, objects are provided for Database Administration tasks such as creating database tables, indexes, views, triggers and procedures, and upgrading tables for new columns added by each site.

Database procedures are provided where needed by the Business Rules. They are executed on the database server and improve performance by cutting down network traffic, making the developed application more scalable. Framework supports Oracle and Ingres database systems.

Reporting and Help

Error Handling and Diagnostics

Fully featured error handling and diagnostic objects are provided for you to use in your application. These include tracing, and the output of diagnostic messages both interactively and to a log file. Standard objects are provided to handle messages that generally require acknowledgement or choice by a user. These include error messages, warnings, and choices.

Reporting

The Framework incorporates the POWER Report Writer. This report writer is a fully functioned and flexible report development tool that enables users to build the exact reports they require for their application. The ability to retrieve information from your application is very flexible and user-friendly.