



WHEN THE
SOLUTION
MATTERS

A Commitment to Technology Standards

With the 4th Dimension family of integrated application development tools, as well as our firm commitment to technology standards, your data management demands will be met today and be prepared for the future.



The Challenge

Today, more is being asked of the IT professional than at any other time in the history of IT in the enterprise. Competitive pressures are as high as ever, yet budgets are fractions of what they once were. Essentially, IT professionals are being asked to deliver more with fewer resources. Large scale CRM (Customer Relationship Management) and ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) projects are multi-million dollar failures of the past, but the demands that drove people to initiate such projects are still present. The need to identify and focus on the most profitable customers is one that is driving every business during these harsh economic times.

The Solution

The IT professional of today must not only think in terms of technology but also in terms of the business benefits that the technology will bring. The rigid business rules of Business Process Redesign promoted by the ERP vendors no longer offer solutions in fast moving fast changing environments. Loosely coupled business processes that can be changed and modified quickly are the keys to

being successful in business today.

Likewise the technology to manage these business processes must also be loosely coupled and lightweight enough to be changed as business needs change.

Web services offer a solution to integrate legacy and future applications over low-cost, flexible connections even if the applications have been developed by diverse technology platforms.

The impact of Web Services

Utilizing XML (eXtensible Markup Language) to encode data, SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) to transfer the data, and WSDL (Web Services Description Language) to describe a Web service's capabilities via an XML-formatted language, different applications have the ability to integrate, "talk," and exchange information with each other as if they belonged to a single application. Unlike ERP systems, a company's information flow does not have to stop at the edge of business, but can be integrated with others such as suppliers and customers. No longer do impenetrable boundaries exist between software applications; with Web services, information can travel more freely, and business can run more efficiently.

COMPANY HISTORY

Businesses of all types and sizes, from single-person operations to Fortune 500 companies, use 4th Dimension products to manage their data with power and efficiency. 4D, Inc. is the first company to offer a single, integrated database and Web development tool capable of designing cross-platform, standalone, multi-user and Web server applications with just one set of code. Whether you want to run an application on your desktop or enable co-workers or clients to access information via a server/client setup, a single tool can be used to fulfill all of your needs. In addition, the comprehensive and complimentary development technologies of 4th Dimension allow users to produce complex Web sites without purchasing additional tools and to migrate easily from single-user to client-server to Web-based and now Web service enabled applications.



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4th Dimension - A Legendary Commitment to Standards

4D has been committed to technology standards in a variety of areas. Built-in support for Internet standards include an integrated HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) server, SSL (Secure Sockets Layer), language support for SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol), POP3 (Post Office Protocol), and IMAP (Internet Message Access Protocol).

4th Dimension tools have always firmly adhered to connectivity standards as well, apparent in the powerful set of plug-ins offered. The 4D ODBC plug-in allows 4th Dimension databases to communicate with ODBC databases, while the 4D for OCI plug-in allows for communication with any Oracle server using the comprehensive Oracle Call Interface™. The 4D Open family of APIs further extends connectivity capabilities. 4D Open for 4D allows distinct 4D servers to connect to each other. The 4D Open for Java plug-in provides client connectivity for any machine that has an available Java Virtual Machine (JVM). With the addition of a Java-based 4D Server connection, data access from Linux, Unix, Windows, Mac, and mobile devices are now possible.

Data exchange standards are covered with 4th Dimension as well. 4D Write, the cross-platform, integrated word processing plug-in, not only supports standard word processing functions, but multiple document format support including Unicode text, Windows text, Microsoft Word, RTF, HTML, and Mac OS text. 4D Draw, the cross-platform, object-oriented drawing plug-in, supports both standard and advanced graphic functions as well as the document formats of JPEG, GIF, TIFF, BMP, EPSF, MacPaint, and PICT.

4th Dimension 2003 - Bring Contemporary Standards to your Existing Enterprise Applications

With 4th Dimension 2003, the built-in database and Web application features are now combined with the capabilities and standards of Web services and application integration. Moreover, 4th Dimension 2003 has been designed to provide seamless integration with existing 4th Dimension applications, with virtually no re-development required. This results in an easy path toward acquiring an extremely powerful team of data management technologies. 4th Dimension 2003 is compatible with .NET and any other Web service platform. By supporting SOAP as both a client and server, 4th Dimension 2003 also gives you the flexibility needed for any kind of solution. Existing database methods can be made as publishable SOAP methods with just one click, and WSDL files are automatically generated as well.



Technology is finding its future in open standards, particularly those related to Web services and application integration. Applications can now integrate with each other more freely, reusing data and functionality, and for the enterprise developer, this translates into greater flexibility and versatility as a technical professional.

Database Standards

- ODBC
- One-click Web services publishing
- XML import/export
- W3C XML
- DOM (Level 1 and Level 2)
- XML Schema

Web Server Standards

- HTTP
- 40- or 128-bit SSL (RC2, RC4, DES)
- FTP tools
- XML, WML, CGI
- FastCGI
- ISAPI, NSAPI, and WSAPI

Mail Standards

- POP3
- IMAP
- SMTP
- SMTP Auth

Connectivity Standards

- Oracle (OCI 8)
- ODBC
- SOAP 1.1
- 4D Open

Web Service Standards

- Supports SOAP 1.1 as both a client and a server
- WSDL
- Seamless integration with existing 4th Dimension databases
- "One-click" enabling of existing database methods as publishable SOAP methods
- Support for SSL and user authentication
- Compatible with .NET, J2EE and any other Web service platform

More information at:
www.4D.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS



WINDOWS

- Pentium II minimum
- Windows 98 (SE), ME (64 mb RAM minimum)
- Windows 2000, XP (128 mb RAM minimum)
- 800 x 600 resolution or higher
- Compatible with Citrix Meta Frame and Windows Terminal Server



MAC OS

- PIII or better processor
- Mac OS X 10.2.2 or higher (128 mb RAM minimum)
- Mac OS 9.2.2 with CarbonLib 1.4 (64 mb RAM minimum)
- 800 x 600 resolution or higher