HOSTBRIDGE® TECHNOLOGY
COMPLETE CICS® INTEGRATION

Complete CICS Integration for Oracle Solutions

Oracle Product Support

Oracle products provide native integration points that make it easy to integrate CICS into new services and business processes.

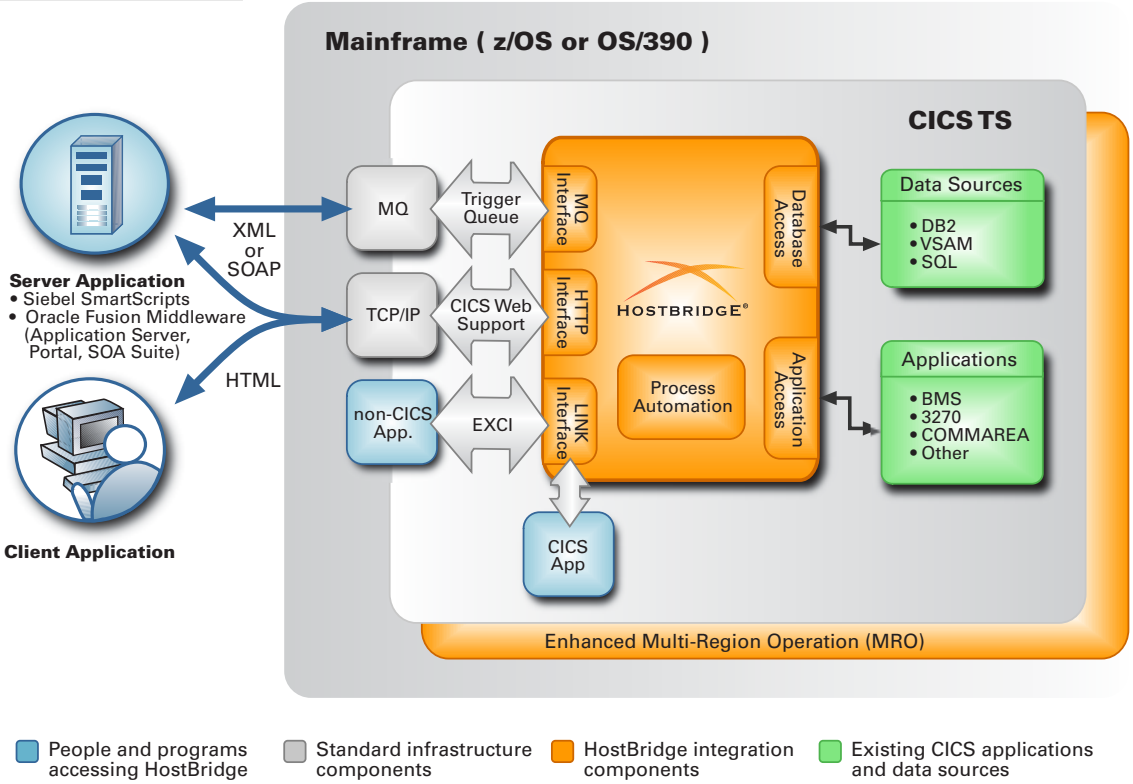
- Siebel® – use Siebel SmartScripts to call a HostBridge service and process the response data.
- Oracle Fusion Middleware –use native tools to send a SOAP request to a HostBridge service and process the SOAP response.
- Oracle Database – send a simple HTTP request to HostBridge to invoke a script and process the XML response document

Organizations worldwide have decades of business processes and data in legacy applications running under CICS. Dealing with those legacy applications is the single largest headache when they design integration frameworks. HostBridge provides a low-risk, high-value solution that preserves investments in CICS applications and lowers integration costs.

HostBridge is mainframe software that allows you to integrate CICS transactions and data with Oracle applications that support XML and Web services. This allows you to quickly access your existing CICS business systems and integrate them into new business processes.

HostBridge supports a wide variety of connectivity options, which allows it to communicate with virtually any type of distributed application. These options ensure that organizations can accomplish their CICS integration objectives regardless of the networking or communication methods available. The most common connection methods include HTTP GET/PUT, SOAP, MQ, and LINK/EXCI. (This interface allows other mainframe applications -- CICS or non-CICS -- to invoke the facilities and services of HostBridge. It also allows distributed applications to invoke HostBridge using the ECI interface.)

The basic HostBridge architecture appears below.



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HostBridge ROI: Fast Return on Integration

With shrinking margins and tightened budgets, companies must develop integration strategies that extend the useful lives of legacy applications, embrace emerging technologies, and generate new returns on investment. HostBridge immediately extends the ROI of CICS applications – both "inside" and "outside" the firewall.

- Not having to change existing CICS applications lowers implementation costs
- No screen scraping lowers maintenance costs
- No middle tier servers lowers operational costs
- Immediate access to CICS applications and data speeds return on integration projects

Optional Features

HostBridge offers a set of components that significantly extend the capabilities of the HostBridge base product. These features provide a complete CICS integration solution for HostBridge customers.

- High performance CICS-based process automation and scripting
- Direct VSAM, DB2, SQL, and DL/I data access
- Native WebSphere MQ support
- Enhanced Multi-region Operation

Summary

HostBridge provides a generic CICS adapter that allows organizations to include legacy mainframe applications and data sources in new applications and business processes. Oracle products that support standard technologies such as HTTP, SOAP, and XML can request the services of HostBridge and receive data from CICS in any form required by the application.

A short summary of HostBridge features appears in the table below.

Feature	Benefit
XML-enable CICS applications and data sources	**Integrate all your applications and data sources instantly.** HostBridge XML-enables BMS and 3270 transactions and COMMAREA programs. It does not require any changes to existing applications and it eliminates the need to learn multiple integration tools for different application types. HostBridge also allows you to access VSAM, DB2, and DL/I data sources directly and receive the results as XML documents.
CICS-based process automation	**Improves integration performance and flexibility.** The HostBridge Extended feature set includes a CICS-based engine that allows developers to create process automation scripts using ECMAScript and run the scripts in compiled form on the mainframe. Middle tier applications can send a single HTTP request to invoke the new process using .NET, Java, or any other middle tier technology. This eliminates multiple round-trip HTTP requests for each step in a process and reduces latency.
No screen-scraping	**More stable and scalable than screen-scraping solutions.** Screen-scraping techniques are prone to scalability and maintenance problems. For example, changes to host screens usually break screen-scraper integration. HostBridge does not rely on the use of row/column coordinates to identify field locations, so changes to the CICS application do not affect it, and it does not suffer from performance problems that plague screen scrapers.
Mainframe-based software	**On-demand scalability, no downtime, and high performance.** HostBridge runs under CICS on the mainframe (under OS/390, z/OS, and VSE) and benefits from trusted mainframe scalability and stability. It has as few "moving parts" as possible to increase performance and ensure data integrity between integrated applications.
Dynamic XML and HTML	**Ensures data integrity from mainframe to middle-tier.** Programs that use templates or generate programs with hard-coded data structures are inflexible and create maintenance problems for developers. HostBridge builds XML and HTML documents in real-time and reflects changes in the host applications automatically.
Ease of use	**Shorten time to market and lower integration costs.** HostBridge installs in less than an hour and instantly XML-enables all your CICS applications without any configuration. HostBridge documents conform to a fixed schema that ensures developers receive consistent information from the mainframe. Thus, costs usually associated with learning how to use middle tier solutions decrease when using HostBridge.
Standards-based	**No new scripting languages and future-proof integration.** Your employees use their familiarity with technologies such as XML, SOAP, JavaScript, .NET, and Java to rapidly XML-enable CICS applications and data sources and integrate them with other applications. Reliance upon industry standards ensures that future developers will have the necessary skills to maintain and build upon work done by today's developers.

Contact Information

For more information about HostBridge, or to inquire about our free 30-day trial, contact us using the information below.

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