Electronic document systems for corporate database publishing

Originally just a stage in the preparation of printed paper, the electronic document is rapidly transforming the way that organisations handle information.

RedTitan has used its expertise with database printing to create new solutions to the electronic document needs of corporate users — from data preparation, through network document management, to viewing and printing.

Remote users can control complex server applications and view and print database documents from a regular web browser. Access to documents such as electronic bills is secure, even from the public internet, and is logged centrally.

All RedTitan's database publishing applications are now XML-data compatible and support document viewing/archiving as well as printer formats.

The RedTitan Advantage ▶
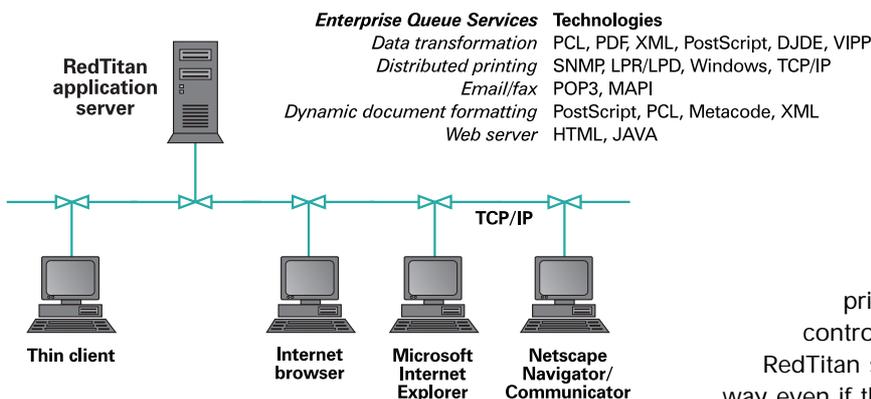
Network integration from a web server

At the heart of the RedTitan electronic publishing solution is an HTTP web server, with many extensions designed to automate document viewing and publishing systems.

The server complements existing RedTitan software for document design and management, data conversion and archiving. Privileged users may remotely control RedTitan applications from a browser interface.

The system provides a battery of communication protocol applets including FTP, LPD, LPR and Windows print capture. The host can process data from a remote site through any number of applications and provide job tracking and accounting. Bridging different host technologies such as AS400, UNIX and PCs becomes possible without risk.
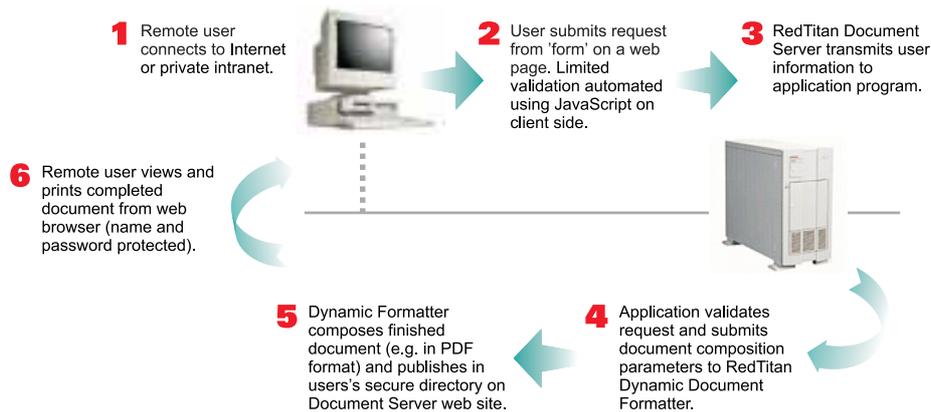
Remote viewing and printing, with logging facilities

The system includes a document server that controls access to documents by remote users. The host delivers dynamic HTML documents to the remote users that can be easily customised, without programming, to localise content or simplify routine operations. Any changes made to host documents or applications are immediately visible through the network to remote users.

The user web site shows a neatly presented list sorted so that un-read documents are clearly marked. Document access is logged so that the central site can prove if and when a document has been read.

Client access to viewing and printing systems is password controlled for confidentiality. The RedTitan system will operate in a secure way even if the public network is used.

RedTitan application server

Enterprise Queue Services	Technologies
Data transformation	PCL, PDF, XML, PostScript, DJDE, VIPP
Distributed printing	SNMP, LPR/LPD, Windows, TCP/IP
Email/fax	POP3, MAPI
Dynamic document formatting	PostScript, PCL, Metacode, XML
Web server	HTML, JAVA

TCP/IP

Thin client

Internet browser

Microsoft Internet Explorer

Netscape Navigator/ Communicator

1 Remote user connects to Internet or private intranet.

2 User submits request from 'form' on a web page. Limited validation automated using JavaScript on client side.

3 RedTitan Document Server transmits user information to application program.

6 Remote user views and prints completed document from web browser (name and password protected).

5 Dynamic Formatter composes finished document (e.g. in PDF format) and publishes in users's secure directory on Document Server web site.

4 Application validates request and submits document composition parameters to RedTitan Dynamic Document Formatter.

Design documents for printing or viewing

RedTitan's dynamic document design and composition software has always output to all standard printing platforms: high volume, midrange and desktop printers. It now creates both printing and viewing/archiving formats from the same source document.

Output formats include PDF for viewing with Adobe Acrobat, and TIFF and PCL for use with RedTitan's PCL viewer. The software can be configured to automatically open and view documents from a browser window.

Intelligent network printing

Large companies are increasingly opting for more flexibility and variety in printer procurement to reduce the cost of ownership. With the RedTitan solution, documents are printed straight from the browser interface to generic printers, allowing network attached printers to be pooled and shared intelligently. Printing is coordinated by an applet that can detect printer status using SNMP, so page accounting is accurate and unneeded spooler hold-ups are eliminated.

The RedTitan advantage is that our long-running expertise with laser printers means that you aren't left high-and-dry if you still want to use traditional production printers with your electronic document system. Check out what other companies producing network integration systems know about high-volume laser printing!

Migrate to XML

XML [eXtensible Markup Language] is rapidly becoming the new standard for data interchange and e-commerce. Using raw data such as XML makes sense any organisation who has experienced the disadvantages of embedding printer specific codes in mainfame applications.

RedTitan are experts in migration of legacy document datastreams and this now includes XML.

Data fields can be stripped out from a document into XML format so that you can migrate data from Xerox line printer datastreams and PCL documents (i.e. documents printed 'to file' from a Windows application). Raw data, including output from ERP [enterprise resource planning applications], can be converted to XML.

All RedTitan's database publishing applications are now XML-data compatible, so XML data can be dynamically merged and published using RedTitan's WYSIWYG page design and composition tools.

No special client-side software

It may not be possible to control the software installations at an end users' site, or it may be expensive and difficult to organise. With RedTitan, access to documents is from a standard web browser such as Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator/ Communicator. For launching programs, complex commands can be remembered as an Internet Explorer 'favourite'. This familiar interface cuts the time an enterprise needs to roll-out new applications to a user community.

Runs on any platform

The software operates on any Windows PC running Microsoft Windows and does not conflict with existing HTTP systems.

Consultancy

RedTitan will help customise the web browser user interface, create any bespoke software required to interface to mainframe systems and advise on the installation or adaption of suitable network hardware.

Electronic publishing The RedTitan Advantage