Guide to Next Generation Host Access

Browser-based Host Access using a Java Applet

What is Java-based Host Access?

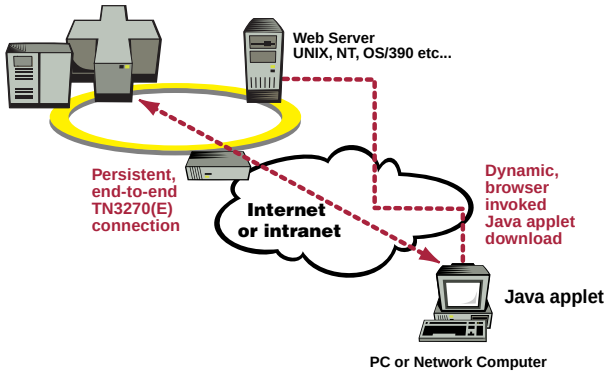
Java applet-based TN3270(E) emulation enables easy, transparent access to mainframe applications via a standard Web browser such as Microsoft's Internet Explorer or Netscape's Navigator. With this approach, the Java applet acts as a standards-compliant, feature-rich, TN3270(E) client that communicates via persistent end-to-end connections. This applet-based emulation is a genuine 'thin-client' solution that significantly lowers cost of ownership, speeds up software deployment, and dramatically reduces software maintenance costs.

The Java client is platform-independent and is invoked directly from a Web browser. (Traditional "fat" clients are platform-specific UNIX, Mac, NT, etc.). Easily deployed from a central location, customized configurations can be centrally defined and administered. SNA applications are Web-enabled without having to change the original application in any way.

How Does it Work?

Next generation "thin-client" Java applets provide a TN3270(E) emulation that communicates directly with any TN3270(E) server – including mainframe resident or channel-attached "off-load" servers using standard TN3270(E) protocol. These applets are compliant per the latest IETF standards, across TCP/IP.

Additionally, no intermediary 'SNA-Web' Gateway is required and no proprietary protocol between the applet and the 'SNA-Web' Gateway is necessary. Comprehensive security for Java applet-based emulation is achieved by using popular and standard techniques such as VPNs across the Internet and RACF, ACF/2 at the Data Center.



Advantages

- ◆ Unrestricted browser-based access to any mainframe 3270 application.
- ◆ True 'thin-client' solution.
- ◆ Accelerates deployment and dramatically reduces maintenance costs.
- ◆ Persistent end-to-end connections.
- ◆ SNA security, reliability and integrity.
- ◆ Seamless SNA access across intranets, extranets and the Internet.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the difference between Java applet-based emulation and 3270-to-HTML conversion?

A: Java applet-based emulation and 3270-to-HTML conversion both enable browser-based access to SNA applications. Both techniques allow centralized administration of configurations and management. 3270-to-HTML conversion is best suited for users needing 'casual access' to a few "screens" from an SNA application, such as home banking, travel reservations, financial updates, and status updates. Dedicated SNA users who may be logged on to SNA applications for an extensive period of time should consider a Java-based solution for full-function 3270 emulation over the Web.

Q: Will frequent downloads of 3270 applets affect the performance of the LAN?

A: Downloading a new applet each time a user opens their User Workspace is usually not a problem. However, if many users try to access the User Workspace at the same time, i.e.: at the beginning of the day, the strain on the LAN and the server may affect the speed at which the applet is downloaded. Next generation Java emulation applets can overcome this potential bottleneck by caching the applet on a user's workstation and reusing it. If the cached applet is the same version as the user applet on the server, the locally cached applet will be used, thereby reducing the time required to load. If the applet on the server has changed, due to modifications or an upgrade, the newer applet will download to the user's workstation.

Q: How does the administrator control users accessing the host?

A: The administrator creates sessions in a workspace, which is available to users. By default, users are granted all permissions, and can create and modify sessions. Even though other users are not affected by modifications made by one user, there are situations where you may want to prevent users from either intentionally or accidentally changing session properties. Granting permissions lets you control what users can and cannot change.

Q: Do I get the standard 3270 emulation functions I am used to, such as color and keyboard re-mapping, with a Java-based TN3270(E) emulation?

A: Yes. Java-based emulation can support dynamic font resizing, color mapping, keyboard re-mapping and keyboard function keys. Furthermore, user or session-specific customized configurations can be centrally defined and administered.

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Aviva Family	Upstream Protocols			Aviva HotConnect	Thin-Client Solution	Host Printing	PF Key Support	Centralized Management	Client Platform Independent
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Aviva for Java			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Aviva Web-to-Host Server	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aviva for Terminal Servers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Aviva HostPrint Server	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	

To learn more about browser-based host access using a Java applet, please see **Aviva for Java** on our Web site at **http://www.eicon.com/aviva** .

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Americas:

Tel.: (972) 417-5500

Fax: (972) 417-5600

In the United States:
Tel.: 1-800-80-EICON
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Tel.: 1-800-711-9800
Fax: (905) 566-8477

In Mexico:
Tel.: (525) 661-8623
Fax: (525) 662-1259

In South America:
Tel.: +55 (11) 3048-4015
Fax: +55 (11) 3048-4099

Europe, Middle East, Africa:
Tel.: +44 (0) 181 967-8000
Fax: +44 (0) 181 967-8050

In Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden:
Tel.: +45 4477 0000
Fax: +45 4477 0099

In France:
Tel.: +33 01 46 57 05 05
Fax: +33 01 46 57 40 76

In Germany, Austria, Switzerland:
Tel.: +49 (0) 180/55 99 111
Fax: +49 (0) 180/55 99 112

In Italy, Greece, Israel, Turkey:
Tel.: +39 (0) 35 204-300
Fax: +39 (0) 35 204-400

In Poland:
Tel.: +48 22 654 62 07
Fax: +48 22 654 62 07

In Slovenia:
Tel.: +386 (61) 137-90-80
Fax: +386 (61) 137-90-85

In Spain, Portugal:
Tel.: +34 (9) 3 494-8770
Fax: +34 (9) 3 494-8771

Asia Pacific:
Tel.: +61 2 9919-7200
Fax: +61 2 9929-6300

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Printed in Canada [GR98/36/314] 200-821-01