Anahata Technologies Announces It Will Be Using Java Web Start As Deployment Technology for Enterprise Applications

Software company Anahata Technologies announces it will be deploying Java Enterprise Edition Applications with a desktop interface via Java Web Start

Perth, WA (PRWEB) February 18, 2013 -- On Friday 15th Of February, Pablo Rodriguez Pina, co-founder and co-director of the Australian Based software company announced it will be relying on Java Web Start technology for deploying Enterprise Java Applications with a desktop based interface.

In the words of Pablo Rodriguez: “We develop Enterprise Applications using Java EE and GlassFish, in many cases, the majority or all of the functionality is to be used within the company the application is being developed for, or in other words, by company employees only. In such scenarios, we opt for desktop interfaces as it allows us to have a more fine grained resource usage on the client machine in terms of threading, accessing the local file system or network resources such as shared folders. We find desktop interfaces to give a better user experience and the ability to code the entire application using strongly typed java reduces maintenance costs as it provides compile time type error detection and makes it easier to write unit tests. Java code can be structured easier in Java with standard package naming conventions. Most important, we find our Java Developers to be more familiar and comfortable writing Java than writing Javascript. With desktop interfaces we can have very fine grained control of front end components such as domain specific input fields, integrate mouse or keyboard events directly into java code. If an exception is detected on the front end or the application encounters can’t connect to the application server, we have good API support to easily take a screenshot of the user screen and send an automated email to the system administrators with a detailed error report.

"The main advantage we find in web applications is the easy or zero end user deployment process. Users simply have to open a URL from a web browser and they can log in to the application straight away. Nevertheless, with Java Web Start, we also find that deployment is streamlined. We can send users a URL to a web page that detects if the correct Java Runtime Environment is installed and automatically redirect to the Java Runtime Environment download page if required, after that, the user can simply click on the Java Web Start launch button to have the launch the application. Additionally, with a few simple entries in the JNLP (Java Network Launch Protocol) descriptor, we can install a desktop shortcut and a start menu folders and shortcuts so the user can launch the application anytime without having to launch the web browser and navigate to a specific page.

"Another advantage of developing java desktop interfaces over web based interfaces is the browser compatibility issue, some companies often allow their employees to use their preferred browser and that translates into having to test the web interface in different web browser such as chrome, firefox or Internet Explorer and even different versions of them, this adds an overhead to the software development process in terms of testing and fixing browser compatibility issues which can, in many cases, be quite difficult to address. With desktop interfaces deployed via java web start, developers can specify a specific version of the Java Runtime Environment in the JNLP descriptor, meaning that there is only a need to test the front end in that one version of the Java Runtime Environment. In fact we normally require a minimum java version and allow the user to application to run in any version of the Java Runtime Environment greater to the one specified in the JNLP descriptor. So far, we haven’t come across a single backwards compatibility issue when upgrading to a more recent update of a given version of the Java Runtime Environment.

“Java Web Start has a mechanism to cache all application jars and to only download modified jars as part of an
application upgrade which means that most of the 3rd party libraries used in our application (which on an average could represent 80 to 90 percent of the downloaded binary code) only need to be downloaded once. Application upgrades are handled automatically by Java Web Start whenever the user launches the application and in many cases it is so quick that the user hardly notices an application upgrade has occurred. This allows us to do short cycled application releases or patch releases without requiring any specific action from the end user.

“The only drawback we see today in using Java Web Start technology is having to run end users through the Ask toolbar installation question as part of the Java Runtime Environment upgrade. We haven’t come across an end user who has benefitted from the Ask Toolbar installation. Having this option in the Java Runtime Environment installation wizard is not only an unnecessary step in the deployment process but it also creates uncertainty in the installation process. We would appreciate if Oracle could remove such software from the Java Runtime Environment installation”

About **Anahata Technologies** Pty Ltd

Founded in 2010, Anahata Technologies Pty Ltd is a Western Australia privately owned application development consultancy specializing in the analysis, design, implementation and support of cost-effective, custom built software applications.

Anahata’s preferred delivery approach is an iterative, customer centric software development process where business analysts visit customer premises to gather requirements, outline the current business processes and design an improved flow. Once the system requirements are complete, a continuous integration development process allows customers to test the application regularly as it is being built. Upon implementation, customer’s staff is trained on site on the usage of the new system

Anahata offers its customers a 3 month warranty and support period where users can have unlimited phone or email consultation. Customers can access an online task and issue management system to log requests for enhancements (RFEs) or report any defects encountered during the testing or production stages. Anahata seeks to be the most customers centric software company.

Anahata’s preferred technological choice is to deliver cross-platform solutions based on open standards and open source technology that ensure stability, compatibility, and security over a long application lifespan and reduces upfront and ongoing licensing fees.

Anahata is an Oracle Certified Partner and delivers custom software solutions based on Oracle, Java technology. As a registered MYOB developer partner, Anahata’s solutions integrate with any MYOB software package.

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