

## **Mobilis Web Workflow Application Framework**

ViewStar applications have just entered a paradigm shift. Now, applications with the full features of a thick client, the ease of deployment of using a thin client, and the interoperability and rapid application design, development and deployment (RADDD) aspects of Web Services, can quickly be developed using the Mobilis Web Workflow (MWW) framework. It is the first application framework to leverage the powerful **ViewStar Web Services**<sup>™</sup>, providing a fully stateless, easily balanced and administered, fault-tolerant, n-tier platform. As an n-tier IIS application, MWW is flexible enough to meet stringent security, scalability and high availability requirements.

Traditionally, ViewStar applications were built using ViewStar's Application Designer module.

ViewStar workflow tasks and scheduled tasks, as well as all customization to ViewStar applications, had to be done using ViewStar's proprietary language, Script. Then, with the first release of ViewStar's Classic Business Process Interface (CBPI) OLE object set, the applications and tasks used to interface to the ViewStar system could now be developed using industry standard programming languages, such as Visual Basic and PowerBuilder. By allowing applications to be developed using these languages, ViewStar applications and tasks could now interface with an endless number of other products, such as, Microsoft Word, Novell GroupWise, and Attachmate Extra, just to name a few. With the release of ViewStar's new, lightweight BPI implementation, called



Enterprise BPI (EBPI), customers can now create Internet/intranet applications and utilize the ViewStar InfoStore@Work and Process@Work Internet/intranet products.

In order to ease the burden of developing new, browser-based imaging applications utilizing either the ViewStar EBPI or Web Services technologies, Mobilis has developed the Mobilis Web Workflow framework (MWW) as a front-end to the ViewStar system. In other words, MWW provides the user interface to any ViewStar workflow. The main purpose of the framework is to enable customers to rapidly deploy browser-based applications which enable access to folders in ViewStar queues for document viewing, indexing, and manipulation, as well as, the retrieval and viewing of library documents. MWW was developed using a combination of ASP.NET, XML, DHTML, VB.NET classes, and ViewStar Web Services. Furthermore, the framework is architected in such a way that each user session is stateless, which means that it does not utilize the IIS session and is not tied to a particular web server, thereby allowing each request to be handled by the next available web server. This is an important feature for customers who want truly fault tolerant systems with the ability to load-balance work between multiple servers via a web farm.

MWW was also developed using Object Oriented Design (OOD) principles. These principles allow the re-use of many of the MWW objects in all current and future application modules. The purpose of using an OOD approach is to provide a software foundation which can be reused, maintained, and is flexible. This approach establishes a layer of "Core" objects that are intended to be common across all MWW application modules. Various core objects control the application

functionality, presentation, and user interaction; others control the interaction with ViewStar's EBPI.

MWW provides customers with the following benefits:

- Fault tolerant and load balancing systems the stateless design provides continuous operation when a server fails and prevents an individual server from becoming overburdened during multiple application sessions.
- *Management reporting* one of the biggest benefits of implementing an automated workflow is the ability to capture and monitor employee productivity. MWW automatically records the statistics necessary for management to accomplish this.
- *Rapidly create new applications* Once familiar with the architecture, any developer familiar with MWW and ViewStar's WebServices interfaces can create new applications within hours, and have a fully functional application. The support burden is also reduced through MWW because all applications will be built using the same framework and code base.
- User Filters ability to control user access to documents in queues and the library with a high degree of flexibility.
- Attribute defaults this inherent capability greatly increases throughput and indexing reliability.
- Leverage web expertise because MWW is written using industry-standard technology, customers are able to fully support and extend MWW applications without reliance on ViewStar consultants.

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