



Datastream 7i



Web Services Toolkit

Ideally, companies would like interoperability between multiple applications. They would like to access maintenance data in a variety of formats and programs. Datastream 7i enables this by employing open industry standards and protocols, such as extensible markup language (XML), that provide cost-effective interfacing capabilities.

Datastream 7i includes the most extensive implementation of Web services of any asset management solution today. This architecture allows companies to use the Web Services Toolkit to easily link central enterprise systems and expose real-time critical asset management functionality using familiar applications.

Because of the Web services architecture, even users unfamiliar with Datastream 7i can submit work orders directly from a familiar interface. The Web Services Toolkit arms companies with a tool to share real-time asset information with other enterprise applications.

Adaptable Business Processes

The Web Services Toolkit is a guide that exposes the business components of Datastream 7i and shows customers how to interactively link those components with complementary applications. Applications could include ERPs or interfaces written in Visual Basic, Java, and .Net frameworks. The Web Services Toolkit gives companies an extensive roadmap for creating business processes that are suitable to their specific environments—which may be through Microsoft Excel, a portal, or an intranet site.

By allowing users to choose their interface, companies can leverage their existing business processes or tailor specific business processes to their operations. The Web Services Toolkit defines the Web services and provides specific examples. The code can then be used and deployed so that asset data becomes accessible and is properly formatted. For example, if a company wants to coordinate production schedules with preventive maintenance schedules, they can do this directly from an ERP system but using data from Datastream 7i. Another example could be a facility management company who wants to create a Java interface to their call center, enabling users to submit service requests through an HTML interface into Datastream 7i.

Ease of Use

In the past, companies dedicated numerous IT resources or paid consulting fees to develop customized interfaces between applications. With the Web Services Toolkit, companies have the ability to open up Datastream 7i functionality to other applications, reducing expenses and saving time.

The Web Services Toolkit shows customers how to use the code and then deploy it so the document will be submitted. Because Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) messages are sent over HTTP to utilize Datastream 7i functionality, users never have to leave the preferred application's native interface. By building such an interface, it is easy to connect to Datastream 7i but requires few resources. Customers can save time and money on application development but still connect to Datastream 7i.

The Web Services Toolkit also reduces training time. Because customers have access to Datastream 7i through applications such as Microsoft Office, ERPs, and Web browsers, they are able to work in a familiar environment without having to schedule time to learn a new application. For example, this means that a user can submit a work request to Datastream 7i through the most common application of all, Microsoft Outlook.

Operational Freedom

Creating connections between Datastream 7i and other business applications frees companies from expensive IT projects, redundant processes, and the confines of “silo,” or stand-alone, applications. With the Web Services Toolkit, companies have a guide to create interfaces that improve enterprise support, usability, and performance.



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