Understanding J2EE

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Introduction to J2EE

- The Java 2 Platform, Enterprise Edition (J2EE) defines the standard for developing multi-tier enterprise applications.
- J2EE simplifies enterprise applications by
 - basing them on standardized, modular components
 - by providing a complete set of services to those components
 - by handling many details of application behavior automatically, without complex programming

To understand J2EE and its features, let us look at a scenario!

MaxMoney Bank

- MaxMoney Bank is a large multinational bank with global presence.
- Over the years, its activities have increased in terms of the services offered and the volume of transaction.
- Broadly, the bank has three activities regular deposits, loans, and credit. The bank also offers a credit card facility and ATM centers.
- The following slides describe how J2EE technologies were used to solve specified requirements and to automate various banking activities for MaxMoney Bank.

Requirement 1

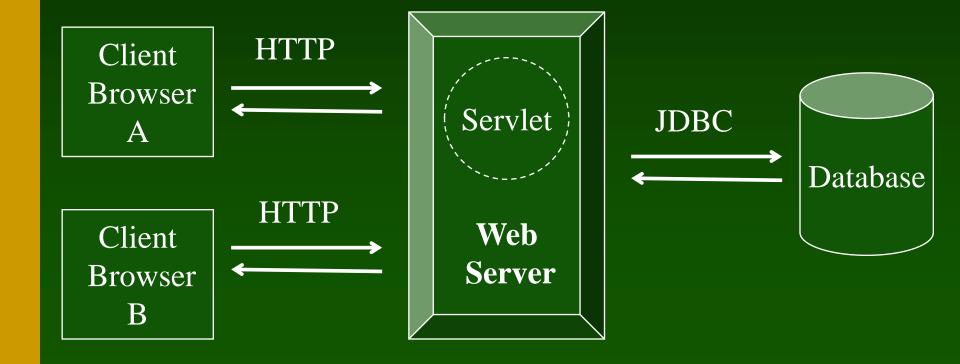
- MaxMoney Bank wants to find out the popularity of their newly created Web site before investing money on advertisements.
- The bank wants to keep track of the of users visiting the Web site.
- For this purpose, they want a Login/Registration page to be created for the visitors of the site.

Solution: Servlets and JDBC

- Whenever a user visits the MaxMoney Bank Web site, he will need to Login with authentic username and password.
- This information will typically be kept in a database at the bank.
- In this scenario:
 - A server side (Web) technology is required to generate
 HTML output for the client browsers
 - Database connectivity is required to check/validate usernames and passwords

Solution: Servlets and JDBC

Clients connect to the Servlet which accepts the login information and validates it in the database



Solution: (Contd...) Servlets

- Servlets are:
 - Java Components on the Web Server
 - Used for generation of dynamic content
 - Output can be HTML, XML, WML, or any other content type
- A servlet is loaded only once in the memory and is initialized.
- After the servlet is initialized, it starts accepting requests from the client and processes them till it is shutdown.

Solution: (Contd...) JDBC

- Java Database Connectivity (JDBC)
 provides a database-programming API for
 Java programs.
- Contains a set of classes and interfaces that are used to:
 - connect to a database built using any DBMS/RDBMS
 - submit SQL queries to a database
 - retrieve and process the results of SQL queries

Requirement: 2

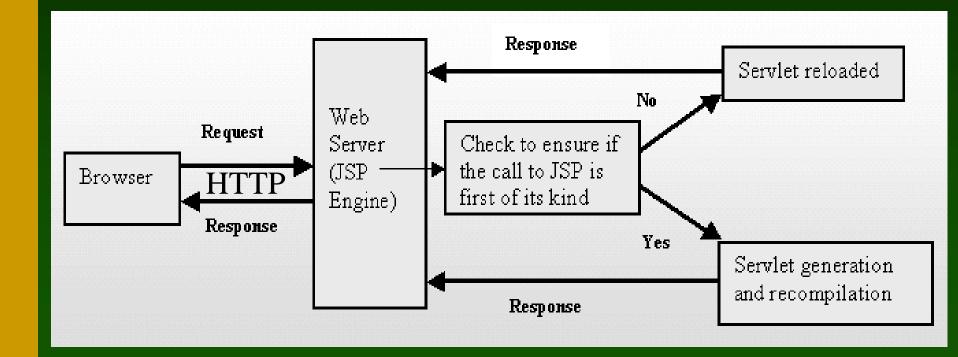
- After receiving various inputs from their customers, MaxMoney Bank decided to modify the Web site and enhance its presentation.
- To speed up the development cycle, the project development team is split into two.
 - The first team will create the static content of the application that involves designing the user interface
 - The second team, comprising the programmers, will be responsible for coding and creating the dynamic content of the application.

Solution: JSP

- JSP technology segregates the work profiles of a Web designer and a Web developer.
- A Web designer can design and formulate the layout for the Web page by using HTML.
- A Web developer working independently can use Java code and other JSP specific tags to code for the business logic.
- The simultaneous construction of the static and dynamic content facilitates development of quality applications with increased productivity.

Solution: (Contd...) JSP

A JSP page processes the request and returns the result to the Web Server, which in turn gives it to the client.



Requirement: 3

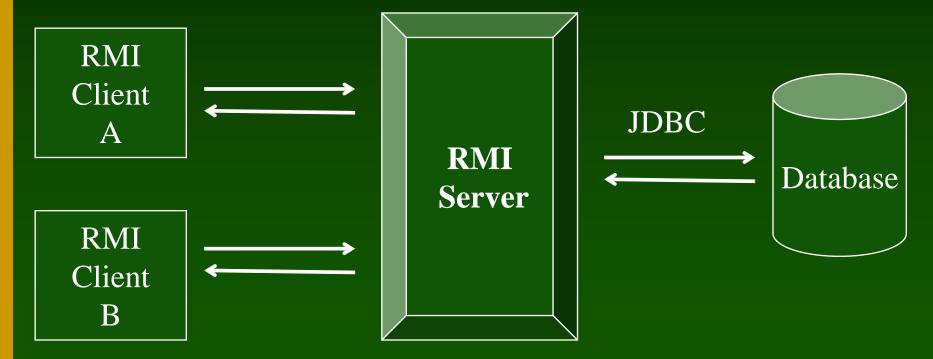
- MaxMoney Bank has ATMs in all major cities across the globe.
- They have a central database in Chicago.
- The bank wants to create a distributed application (which is NOT Web based) that will allow its customers to access an account with the bank.

Solution: RMI

- The ideal solution in this scenario would be to
 - have the clients access and submit information using the client application
 - information will be validated by components hosted on a server
 - Server, in turn (if the data submitted meets all the business rules), will create a connection with the database server and submit the data
 - To keep the load on the database server optimized, the application will need to be distributed across the network.

Solution: (Contd...) RMI

RMI-Clients invoke the methods stored on the RMI-Server which accepts the request and retrieves information from the centralized database at Chicago



Solution: (Contd...) RMI

- RMI is a specification that enables one Java Virtual Machine (JVM) to invoke methods in an object located in another Java Virtual Machine (JVM).
- These two JVMs could be running on different computers or running as separate processes on the same computer.
- RMI is implemented on the middle-tier of the three-tier architecture framework, thereby facilitating the programmers to invoke distributed components across a networked environment.

Requirement: 4

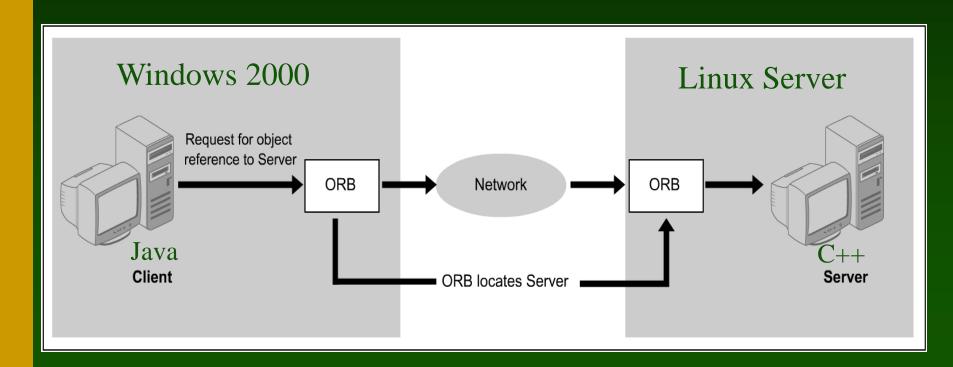
- MaxMoney Bank has an existing application written in C++. Unlike the newly developed solution (which is hosted on Windows 2000 server), this C++ application is residing on Linux server.
- The bank wants to integrate this application to the newly developed Java applications.

Solution: CORBA

- The ideal solution in this scenario would be to:
 - have the clients(Java) access an interface that will allow it to submit request to the server (C++) application
 - The interface will enable the C++ and Java applications (over dissimilar platforms) to communicate with each other

Solution: (Contd...) CORBA

CORBA, or Common Object Request Broker Architecture, provides a standard architecture that enables distributed and heterogeneous objects to interoperate



Solution: (Contd...) CORBA

- Using CORBA, a client can remotely communicate with the server irrespective of the:
 - hardware
 - operating systems
 - software development language

Requirement: 5

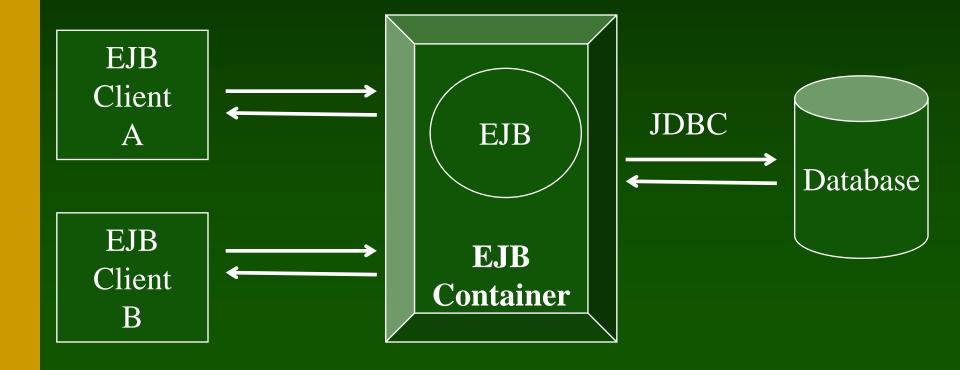
- MaxMoney bank wants to enhance the ATM application.
- A customer should be able to do multiple transactions (cash withdrawal, request for account summary etc.) once he has logged into the ATM.

Solution: EJB

- The application needs to be designed to validate the card information entered by the user, and this information, if valid, must be carried over until the user leaves ATM.
- Considering that the information must be retained while the user traverses across screens, it is best suited to create an EJB.

Solution: (Contd...) EJB

EJB is a specification for creating server-side components that enables and simplifies the task of creating distributed objects



Solution: (Contd...) EJB

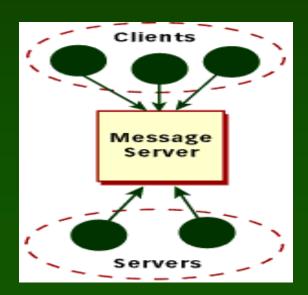
- EJB components are server-side components written using Java
- EJB components implement the business logic only
- EJB components provide services, such as transaction and security management
- EJB can maintain state information across various method calls

Requirement: 7

- Other integral requirements of any realtime enterprise solution are:
 - Messaging Service
 - Transaction management
 - Directory Service
 - Security service

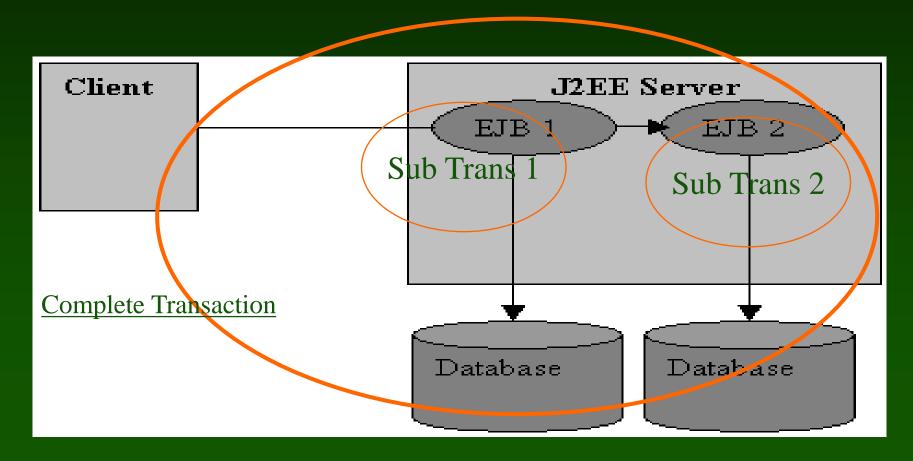
Solution: Messaging Service

- The components in a message-based application send messages to a message server.
- The message server, in turn, delivers the messages to the specified recipients.
- The message service model is much like the model behind the postal service



Solution: (Contd...) Transaction Service

The transaction is completed when all the subtransactions are also completed individually



Solution: (Contd...)Directory Service

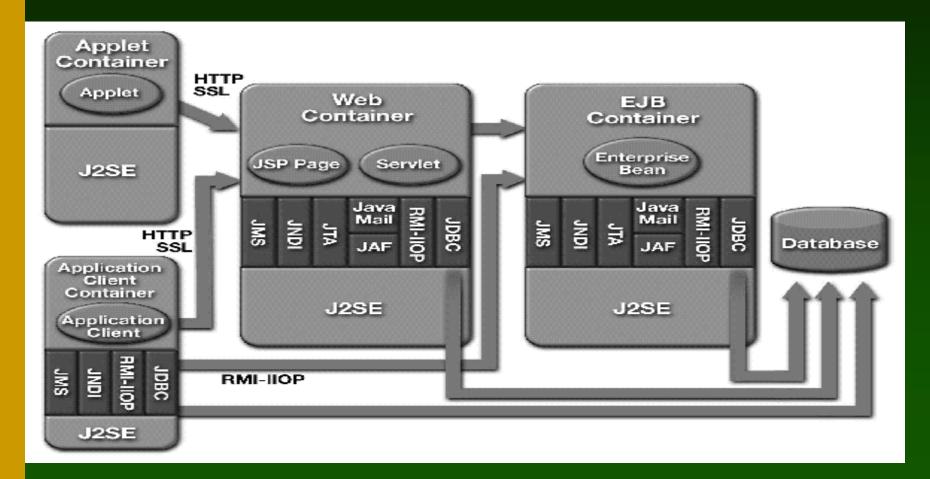
- JNDI is an API specified in Java that provides naming and directory functionality to applications written in Java
- Using JNDI, Java applications can store and retrieve Java objects across networks

Solution: 7 (Contd...) Security

- J2EE platform supports the following types of security: Authentication, Authorization and Integrity mechanisms
- In the J2EE platform, a container establishes the authenticity of both inbound calls and outbound calls
- The Java Cryptography Architecture (JCA) API provides you the mechanism to encrypt/decrypt messages in Java applications
- Java Authentication and Authorization Service (JAAS) and Java Generic Security Services Application Programming Interface (GSS-API) are used to secure messages

J2EE Components and Services

All the technologies/services of J2EE can be viewed together in the following diagram:



THANK YOU

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