



More About Aviva for Java

Aviva for Java (www.avivasolutions.com/products/java) is Aviva Solutions' secure, multi-host (mainframe, AS/400 and Unix) access solution for Java-enabled Web browsers. Providing complete, full-function emulation within a true thin-client solution, Aviva for Java extends host-based data safely across the corporate intranet, extranet or the Internet and directly to the user's Web browser or screen of their mobile device. It is a multi-faceted solution, providing a myriad of rich functionality including out-of-the box, intranet browser-based host access, tools through which to build intranet-based productivity applications as well as a business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-consumer (B2C) application enabler. The "Aviva for Java Solutions Guide" provides information on building flexible, secure e-business solutions with Aviva for Java. Aviva for Java is available in non-encrypted, 56-bit and strong encrypted versions and is localized for the US, France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

About Aviva Solutions Inc.

Aviva Solutions Inc. (www.avivasolutions.com) specializes in developing and marketing leading edge, innovative solutions that extend host information outward for e-business, e-commerce and wireless opportunities. Featuring the most comprehensive range of products for delivering host-based applications to the desktop, Web browser or mobile device via SNA, IP or wireless networks, Aviva Solutions offers flexibility of choice for secure access to enterprise servers. Aviva Solutions Inc. is a business unit of i-data international.

About Ventura Technologies, Inc.

Ventura Technologies, Inc. (www.ptsworks.com) develops, invests in and uses software and information technology to help businesses build leading capabilities in telecommunications, lending, document imaging, and portal-based application and information management. Ventura Technologies, Inc. is a subsidiary of the Ventura Group, Inc.

avivasolutions.com

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Building a Clean, Solid Bridge Between Legacy and e-Business with Aviva for Java

A discussion with Ventura Technologies, Inc. regarding Aviva Solutions' thin-client offering



"In selecting a mainframe host connectivity middleware for our Web-based TeleMONIES application, Aviva for Java was unmatched in terms of pure servlet functionality, solid source code foundation, clean applets and sensible pricing options. In fact, Aviva for Java was the only solution that enabled us to develop Java servlets so we didn't have to rely on applets for information download, as is commonly done with other middleware products. This was of vital importance to us."

*Ralph Stillinger
System Architect
Ventura Technologies, Inc.*



Players: Aviva Solutions & Ventura Technologies

Products: Aviva Solutions' Aviva for Java - a secure multi-host access solution for Java-enabled Web browsers. Aviva for Java can be used as a robust out-of-the-box terminal emulator providing centrally managed host access throughout the corporate intranet, or its powerful and feature-rich set of APIs can be used to create customized servlet-based applications that extend host information for e-business opportunities.

Ventura Technologies' TeleMONIES application - a Web-based ASP service developed to analyze and control communications expenditures across the enterprise for small to medium-sized companies.

Ventura Technologies, Inc. develops, invests in and uses software and information technology to help businesses build leading capabilities in telemanagement, lending, document imaging, and portal-based application and information management. Part of the Ventura Technologies Group (PTG)—a subsidiary of the Ventura Group, Inc.—Ventura Technologies also develops products and services for non-affiliated businesses that allow the technology group to broaden its business scope.

Ventura Technologies also works closely with its sister company, Stonehouse Technologies Inc. (STI), to develop leading telecom financial management solutions and services. STI is a leader in providing sophisticated telecom financial management solutions to the private and public sectors. The company has been involved for more than twenty years in the design, development and implementation of quality software system solutions that have reduced client telecom costs by millions of dollars. This is primarily accomplished with its flagship product, MONIES® - a fully integrated modular software system designed to provide a single point-of-entry database for all billing, voice and data provisioning, telecommunications asset management, facilities management, desktop and other resource management requirements. Today, MONIES® is a leading telecom financial management solution at Fortune 1000 companies, some of the largest banks and universities in the U.S., and federal, state and local government agencies. The software currently manages more than 100,000 wireless devices, making it one of the most complete telemanagement systems available.





Following an exhaustive search and evaluation process involving 14 other middleware vendors, Ventura Technologies selected Aviva Solutions' Aviva for Java for its superior Java servlet functionality.

Recently Ventura Technologies was mandated with developing and implementing TeleMONIES™. TeleMONIES™ is a new Web-based solution by STI for analyzing and controlling communications expenditures across the enterprise. Based on its proven industry-standard MONIES™ system, and offered as an ASP service, TeleMONIES™ provides real-time inventory and tracking of all conceivable assets, products or services including, but not limited to, telecommunication circuits, lines, equipment, and switches. The new system is targeted at smaller companies that want the powerful main features of MONIES® but at a more affordable price than the full-featured MONIES® system.

In order to develop the TeleMONIES™ solution, portions of STI's MONIES® application that were running on an IBM 390 mainframe needed to be Web-enabled. Furthermore, Ventura Technologies needed a mainframe host connectivity middleware with thin-client, Java servlet technology in order to provide fast and seamless Web-based access to the new TeleMONIES™ application.

"We wanted a servlet-based solution because applets take several minutes to download, costing precious production time," recalls Ralph Stillinger, System Architect at Ventura Technologies. "Servlet-based applications are much faster because all computing remains on the Web server. There's nothing to download and no need for a help center because everything is localized. For instance, if you change the server, everyone immediately has the new version" Stillinger added. Moreover, servlet technology is more ASP-centric, making this technology an important requirement for STI's new application.

Following an exhaustive search and evaluation process involving 14 other middleware vendors, Ventura Technologies selected Aviva Solutions' Aviva for Java for its superior Java servlet functionality. Aviva for Java is a secure, Web-to-host solution offering full-function Java-based emulation for mainframe, midrange hosts and DEC and Unix servers. Aviva for Java offers a rich development toolkit to create server-based Web-to-host applications as well as client-based applets and applications. Regardless of the way it is deployed, Aviva for Java enables host-based data to be safely extended across the corporate intranet, extranet or the Internet, directly to a user's Web browser or mobile device screen for new e-business opportunities.


Stillinger recalls the basis for their selection: "Aviva for Java was the only pure servlet solution that we found at the time, and remains to this day, better priced than other solutions. It has a solid source code foundation from the perspective of an application server, which means that it doesn't require hard coded paths to flat files that you have to have on your system

in order to configure the servlet. Aviva for Java was the only solution we evaluated to provide truly pure Java servlet code." Stillinger continues that while other vendors claimed to have solutions that run on a server, these did require some flat file configurations. Without pure Java code, these solutions aren't portable as is the case with Aviva for Java. "Aviva Solutions' implementation allows us to run our application on SilverStream, Weblogic or any Web server we wish...it's fully J2EE-compliant," said Stillinger.

Stillinger sums up the main advantage between a servlet and applet solution. "I was at a show in Florida accessing our Texas-based Web server on which Aviva for Java is installed. Here I was, in Florida, talking to our mainframe in Dallas and getting information displayed with sub-second response times. You don't get that kind of real-time speed with applets because the software has to be downloaded first before you can run it on your machine."

Ventura Technologies also wanted the capability of having one applet that can be accessed by the system administrator as a terminal emulator. "We didn't want to Web-enable all the screens," explains Stillinger. "We wanted to be able to go in and perform administrative tasks through normal mainframe screens if and when the need arises. Aviva for Java provided us with this capability in a very slick manner. We can resize windows and the application automatically resizes the font, keeping things proportional and maintaining all colors. It's a very nice 3270 emulation."

Aviva for Java dramatically reduced Ventura Technologies software development and deployment times. The product's centrally defined and managed configuration enabled seamless integration into Ventura Technologies' Web application server repository. This in turn reduced the company's user and software management costs, providing one more way for Ventura Technologies to pass cost savings on to their clients.

Aviva Solutions enabled Ventura Technologies to develop and launch TeleMONIES™ while maintaining the integrity, reliability and maturity of its mainframe applications. Stillinger concludes by noting Aviva Solutions' exceptional support. "We get an immediate response to any hiccups in the implementation and deployment of Aviva for Java. The Aviva Solutions team is highly responsive; they even put a conference team together to resolve any issues we may have had. Their product is solid and clean, and they've nicely rounded off their offering with exceptional support. We will certainly use Aviva for Java again anytime we have mainframe integration to perform." 

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