JNBridgePro Accelerates Java Integration for .NET Solution Provider

Fairfax Imaging

.NET-based Forms Processing System → JNBridgePro → Third-Party Java API

Business Challenge

Integrate a .NET-based document processing solution with Java-based Pharmacy Benefits Management system to meet the customer's rigid deployment schedule.

Solution

Use JNBridgePro to solve the complex task of integrating Java and .NET systems. JNBridgePro allowed Fairfax Imaging's .NET-based software stack to access a third-party Java API, enabling a successful on-time implementation.

"JNBridgePro bridged the gap between our customer's Java platform and our .NET infrastructure. It quickly solved the interoperability problem for us, allowing us to integrate our product cost-effectively and deliver an implementation within an extremely tight project deadline."

Donna Schmitz,
Director, Professional Services,
Fairfax Imaging

Situation

As a leader in forms and document processing, Fairfax Imaging is accustomed to integrating its premier .NET-based software product, Quick Modules, into different customer environments. However, for a prospective client — a large mail-order pharmacy — its professional services team faced a new challenge: quickly deploying a fully integrated solution into the customer's Java-based enterprise within a matter of months.

Fairfax Imaging offers products and services that automate document imaging, data capture, and payment processing for customers across a wide range of industries. Quick Modules is based on a pure .NET framework-based infrastructure, so the company employs a staff of developers with deep experience in Microsoft development tools. The mail-order pharmacy client, on the other hand, uses a third-party Java-based Pharmacy Benefits Management (PBM) system to track prescriptions, patient data, and benefits information. To implement the Quick Modules software and provide the customer with a fully functional solution, Fairfax Imaging needed to integrate the PBM system's Java API with their .NET infrastructure — they needed an easy way to expose data from the client's Java-based system to the Quick Modules software stack.

Challenge

"We are definitely a 'build-versus-buy' shop," noted Donna Schmitz, Fairfax Imaging's director of Professional Services "but if we can find a solution that is more cost-effective than building it ourselves then that's what we'll do." In rare instances Fairfax Imaging will purchase technology solutions externally, but the company does so only in the exceptional case where it makes good business sense. With the customer's implementation deadline fast approaching, Fairfax Imaging selected JNBridgePro to resolve the cross-platform interoperability problem because it could do so both quickly and cost-effectively.

"Quick Modules is .NET-based. The Java-based software with which we had to communicate did not have web services exposed," recalled Alex Umansky, Fairfax Imaging's Corporate Engineering manager, "and the third-party Java software vendor wasn't interested in providing this functionality." Initially Umansky considered having his team write code to access the Java-based PBM system directly. He soon dismissed that idea — his internal development team lacked sufficient Java programming experience and any learning curve would take too long and prove too costly. Instead, Umansky opted to use JNBridgePro because it could streamline the task of connecting Quick Modules to the Java-based back-end, delivering the needed functionality and accelerating time-to-deployment.

About Fairfax Imaging

Founded in 1994, Fairfax Imaging is a leader in the area of document imaging, automated data capture and remittance or payment processing.

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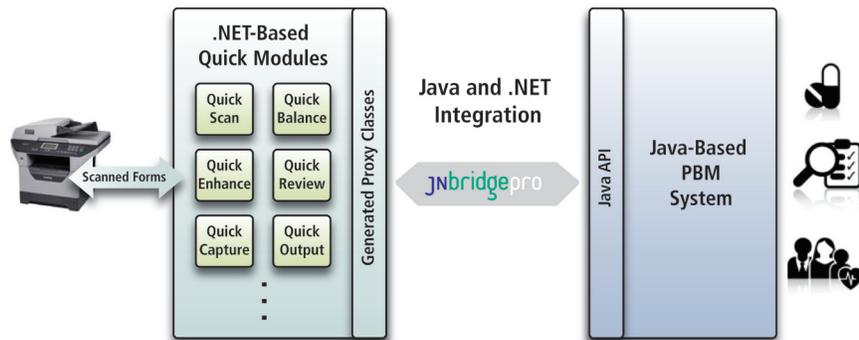SPANNING JAVA & .NET

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JNBridge connects Java and .NET components and applications together via easy-to-use tools and adapters, solving complex issues of cross-platform interoperability. JNBridge provides fast access to anything Java from anything .NET, and anything .NET from anything Java, including JMS, EJBs, Java SE, Java EE, .NET APIs, WinForms, or BizTalk Server. JNBridge has over 450 unique customers in 40 countries using JNBridge solutions in a wide variety of applications, including financial services, insurance, media, healthcare and manufacturing.

Solution

JNBridgePro is an interoperability bridge between Java and .NET that simplifies the issue of cross-platform integration. Using proxy generation tools supplied with JNBridgePro, Fairfax Imaging's developers built proxy classes for the third-party Java API. The developers could then call the Java API via those proxies, incorporating them into the .NET code just as if they were native library calls. In this way, JNBridgePro streamlined an otherwise complex integration task and provided an easy way for Quick Modules to access the pharmacy customer's prescription, patient, and benefits information.

JNBridgePro solved the problem of cross-platform interoperability for Fairfax Imaging, adding to the company's "arsenal of integration capabilities," as Schmitz stated. Indeed, soon after the completion of this project, Fairfax Imaging subsequently used JNBridgePro to integrate Quick Modules successfully into another mail-order pharmacy client with the same Java-based PBM back-end.

Benefits

Using JNBridgePro, Fairfax Imaging achieved these benefits:

- *Fast integration.* JNBridgePro quickly solved the problem of Java and .NET interoperability. Umansky estimated that JNBridgePro easily cut 4 to 5 months off the development schedule. This time-savings was critical to the project's on-time completion.

- *Cost-effective.* "JNBridgePro's licensing was extremely cost-effective for us," said Schmitz, noting that this was a key factor in their decision to use it.

- *Simplicity, ease-of-use, and full support.* Fairfax Imaging found that proxy generation was a simple and straightforward process, and their developers didn't require any significant knowledge of Java. JNBridge also provided responsive and comprehensive technical support, demonstrating that JNBridge is, according to Schmitz, "not just a interoperability solution vendor but a true business partner."

Get Started

To solve the complex problem of Java and .NET interoperability in your business, download a free trial copy of JNBridgePro from www.jnbridge.com.