

GraphOn's GO-Global UX enables options exchange traders to use wireless tablet PCs

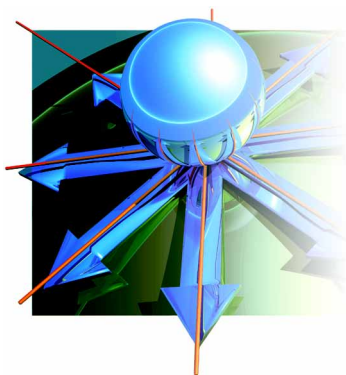
Background

Tradelink receives vital analyst info, manages real-time bids using pen-based Solaris trading applications over low bandwidth wireless connections.

The scene is the Chicago options exchange and traders are checking their computerized options prices amidst the frenzied daily mob scene on the trading floor. But there's a big difference. These traders are not dependent on the massive displays at the exchange. Nor are they tethered to a desk to obtain vital information from their analysts to make critical moment-to-moment bidding decisions. They're completely mobile running Tradelink's UNIX®-based proprietary trading software over wireless connections on Fujitsu Stylistic® Windows-based PCs using pen-based input over very low bandwidth wireless connections allocated by the exchange.

Challenge

Tradelink also wanted to make it possible for traders on the options exchange floor to be able to see options prices in real time as well as theoretical values determined by Tradelink's own analytics. Tradelink traders on the floor make markets based on both sets of figures. They enter orders using pen-based input and receive confirmation on the wireless tablet PCs, which transmit the orders instantly to the exchange or even other exchanges around the world, as well as to Tradelink's internal accounting system.



The tablet PCs are connected through the 16kbs wireless system to a common LAN that the exchange provides. The LAN, in turn, is connected to Tradelink's servers via a T1 line. But in order to run on the Windows-based tablet PCs, the Solaris™ - based Tradelink application must be able to run over the low bandwidth connection to the wireless devices on the trading floor.

"It's one of the few things we've actually bought from a third party that we've used and has worked well and we've continued to use for a long time."

– Jay Twery, Tradelink CIO.

Solution

There was only one product that could enable the Windows 98-based tablets to run Tradelink's Solaris-based application: GraphOn's GO-Global UX, which requires only 460k on the client device. GraphOn's GO-Global® UX was a natural to be selected as a viable solution for their fast remote access needs. "We had been using other software such as Hummingbird Exceed and PC X server and the performance was pretty poor when using dial-up connections from home," said Jay Twery, Tradelink CIO. "We needed a low-bandwidth solution and chose UNIX as our operating system because our application often runs for weeks at a time. Windows couldn't offer us that kind of stability and DOS didn't have the memory we needed."



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Benefits

In addition to enabling applications to run over low bandwidth on thin clients, Jay says another reason for using GraphOn's GO-Global UX was that this remote computing solution places very little demand on the client-side hardware. "There are other traders on the floor who are using wireless devices. But by running applications locally on Windows they're using the local hard disk instead of RAM, which means they have to change their batteries two or three times a day. That's not a good thing when you have to be ready to respond to changing markets at a moment's notice," says Twery. "By using GraphOn's GO-Global we're able to use the cache on the tablet PC and letting Solaris on the server side do all the work."

The only modification Tradelink had to make to its application was to enable the application's three mouse button interface to work with a single button featured on the tablet PC--a change that Jay Twery says took only half a day to make using X Windows. He did not have to make any other changes to our UNIX application. Twery chose to blank out some of the Solaris menus that his traders didn't need to see, enabling the Tradelink applications to appear right away on the tablet PC.

Tradelink's CIO says the company saved a phenomenal amount of time by not having to port its Solaris application to the tablet PC and consequently having to develop a version for Windows. Since Tradelink runs on UNIX, traders can see the same software at their desktops as they do on their tablets. Twery says it took Tradelink only a couple of weeks to bring its application to the tablet PC as opposed to months and years of development time other trading companies had to spend developing their tablet applications.

"It's one of the few things we've actually bought from a third party that we've used and has worked well and we've continued to use for a long time," said Jay Twery. "Typically we find shortcomings in most third party products that we use. We've written most of our software in-house to get the performance that we need and the features that we need when we need them. Typically all three of those don't come together at the same time."



About GraphOn's Technology

For over a decade, GraphOn Corporation has been an innovator and developer of business connectivity software. GraphOn's high performance software instantly provides fast remote access, cross platform capability, and a centralized architecture that delivers a dramatically lower cost of ownership to the user. Using GO-Global, any application can be simply and easily web enabled without any software modification required, allowing applications to be run from browsers or portals. GraphOn, which markets its solutions through OEM licenses, independent software vendors (ISVs), application service providers (ASPs), value-added resellers (VARs) and systems integrators, is headquartered in Silicon Valley and is traded on the Nasdaq under the ticker GOJO (Nasdaq:GOJO). For more information, please visit the company's web site at <http://www.GraphOn.com>.