

An Intranet business-oriented Java workstation at French utility EDF

R. LE DELLIOU, T. BRETHERS

Electricité de France, Octo Technology

*EDF-DER, 1 Avenue du Général De Gaulle, 92141 Clamart
Cedex, FRANCE*

Tel : (33-1) 47 65 32 20, Fax : (33-1) 47 65 34 24

email : Juliette.Le-Delliou@der.edfgdf.fr

email : tbrethes@octo.fr

Abstract

Having to deal with a **great amount of documents and applications in a heterogeneous environment**, French state utility EDF decided to launch a two year IS project. Different prototypes, based on user requirements, were built to demonstrate technical solutions :

- a **repository tool** storing engineering process models to help engineers to carry out their activities in accordance with ISO 9000 standards [ISO],
- a **documentation consulting system** giving quick access to the right information needed in engineering doctrine documents,
- designing and developing **new reusable components** connected to legacy applications, in a heterogeneous hardware and software environment.

During the evolution of the project, a new need emerged : to allow a friendly, easy-to-use access to information. Therefore, it became obvious that an essential part of a modern IS system is a **business oriented unified workstation**.

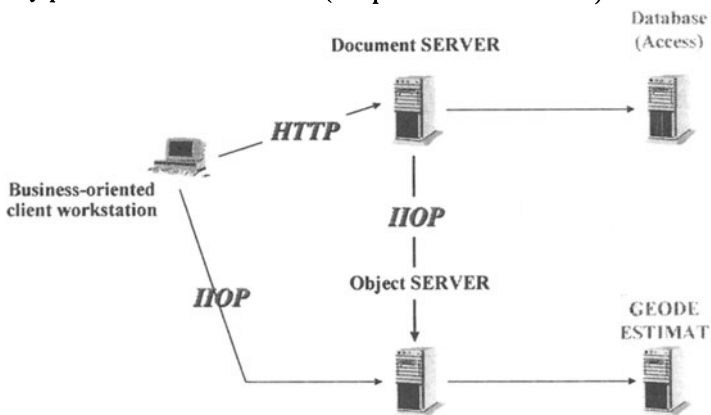
This prototype illustrates the technical feasibility and the functional use of the EDF universal future workstation for accessing different resources in an Information System :

- **electronic documents,**
- a « **repository** » storing pictures and information which describe processes (business model),
- **business computer applications** (EDM, CAD...).

It is **unified** : whether it be for consultation or for production purpose, the user will always access information the same way.

It is **business-oriented** : the user enters the system via the document, which is his usual work instrument. By « clicking » on an active part of his document (the ISO 9001 process diagram), he starts the tools related to his task (a CAD or management application). He can therefore concentrate on his task without having to ask himself numerous nagging questions : where and how to find my information in my documents? which tool it is best to activate for that purpose, EDM, CAD?...

This workstation fits into an **object-oriented architecture** based on new and standardised technologies (**CORBA, HTML, Java language..**). These technologies enable fully portable and unified GUI (Graphical User Interface).



The next step shall be to experiment this workstation in a full scale environment. The future prototype should integrate the functional needs of a company or a division and take into account its culture and its working methods. This next step will involve measuring relevancy between this technical proposal and the actual field needs. The long-term target is a high-performance tool helping the user to find accurate information and guiding him through the mass of available information with regard to his activity.