Achieving High Performance with Accenture Foundation Platform for Java™

Open source-based architecture platform speeds development of Java-based custom solutions
Automated code generation techniques, code reuse and improved development methodologies can boost efficiency. Even greater benefits can be achieved for organizations developing Java-based solutions with an integrated Java architecture platform built with enterprise-ready open source software. These organizations focus less on the technical aspects of software development and more on the rapid creation of innovative business solutions, while cutting software development and infrastructure costs.

Comprehensive “Architecture in a Box”

The Accenture Foundation Platform for Java™ (AFP-J) is a rich and integrated collection of architecture services, standards, guidelines, frameworks and tools. It is specifically designed to address challenges common to software development, such as incorporating unproven implementation approaches and frameworks. It achieves this by standardizing resources, helping to reduce IT costs and ultimately speeding up the development of software.

The platform, made up of an integrated set of leading, open source frameworks and tools (such as the Spring Framework, Terracotta and others), provides the right features for developing reliable, enterprise-ready custom applications. Yet its modular design allows for easily swapping out unneeded components, as well as adding supplementary components allowing customization based on functional and technical requirements.

AFP-J’s design philosophy is based on the idea that it is faster and more cost effective to start with an end-to-end architecture platform that can be customized, rather than to build an architecture from scratch; this platform can help reduce overall development costs by 10 to 25 percent.

Accelerating Java Development

Accenture research on high performance businesses shows that high performers pursue sustainable IT cost reduction to deliver predictable savings in tandem with greater business agility. The Accenture Foundation Platform for Java™ helps organizations achieve high performance by reducing overall development costs and accelerating software development productivity. It does so by providing an industrialized software development platform that integrates architecture, tools and processes. Accenture’s aggregation of tools and component frameworks promotes fast and reliable design, build and test of Java-based software applications.

The Accenture Foundation Platform for Java™ (see Figure 1) consists of:

- **Core Architecture:** Consists of the run-time architecture services recommended by Accenture and is built on leading open source frameworks.
- **Execution Architecture:** Frees development teams from investing time and resources to create a structure for a project’s application architecture. The Execution Framework combines various frameworks into a standard application structure, or “application scaffold,” which is required for application styles such as Web, Batch or Integration. Where no proven open source frameworks exist, Accenture incorporates proven solutions from its vast Java systems implementation experience. Execution Architecture also offers a detailed development process through collected standards, guidelines and “cookbooks.” Such documentation is key to the successful application of Java development for large-scale enterprise systems.

The Accenture Foundation Platform for Java™ (AFP-J) is a rich and integrated collection of architecture services, standards, guidelines, frameworks and tools. It is specifically designed to address challenges common to software development, such as incorporating unproven implementation approaches and frameworks. It achieves this by standardizing resources, helping to reduce IT costs and ultimately speeding up the development of software.

The platform, made up of an integrated set of leading, open source frameworks and tools (such as the Spring Framework, Terracotta and others), provides the right features for developing reliable, enterprise-ready custom applications. Yet its modular design allows for easily swapping out unneeded components, as well as adding supplementary components allowing customization based on functional and technical requirements.

AFP-J’s design philosophy is based on the idea that it is faster and more cost effective to start with an end-to-end architecture platform that can be customized, rather than to build an architecture from scratch; this platform can help reduce overall development costs by 10 to 25 percent.
“Using the Accenture Foundation Platform for Java™ freed up vital development time and enabled us to meet a four-month development phase for a functionally rich and highly visible professional sports association website.”

Eric Portman, Senior Executive, Accenture

**Development Architecture:**
Speeds the software development build and test phases by providing integrated open source development tools. Pre-integrated environments can be downloaded easily and installed within minutes, potentially saving weeks or months of design, tool selection and approval, installation and configuration. Accenture is able to provide a hosted environment for client use, incorporating robust monitoring, backup/recovery and other supporting infrastructure and tools.

**Deployment Stacks:**
Offer recommended practices and standards for developing and deploying enterprise applications on a broad range of vendor and cloud platforms, as well as pre-configured virtual machines and images based on Accenture Foundation Platform for Java™ recommended technology stacks.

**Operations Architecture:**
Supports Operations Enablement, including a series of prescriptive guides to assist with rapid development of operations as well as monitoring architecture solutions designed for enterprise production environments.

**Infrastructure Architecture:**
Describes hardware, networks and system software infrastructure services required to support the application software and business systems of an enterprise. Provides deployment blueprints for application style for cloud and datacenter environments based on best-of-breed open source software and VMware vFabric.

**Developer Tool Suite:**
Generates code based on industry standards, AFP-J application stereotype models and Architecture Domain Specific Language (DSL), automating the production of application scaffolds in the Execution Framework.

**Reference Application:**
Illustrates how components of the platform work cohesively in a functioning application. The Reference Application provides developers with a real-life, working example that accelerates the training learning curve. Furthermore, it can be continuously enhanced or tailored to showcase an organization's favored approaches to Java development.

**Why Accenture**
With today's business challenges and technology complexities, many organizations choose to work with a trusted development ally to harness the full potential of Java. Accenture is such an ally. Accenture has a 30-year track record of delivering large-scale, complex systems implementation projects, including thousands of innovative, Java-based solutions.

Through our significant experience, industry know-how and more than 40,000 skilled Java professionals worldwide, we harness the Accenture Foundation Platform for Java™—as part of a wide range of industrialized assets and methods—to help clients design and implement Java-based applications, speeding time to market and improving the quality, usability and agility of IT systems.

As part of Accenture’s commitment to open standards, several components of the Accenture Foundation Platform for Java™ are the result of our contributions to open source communities (e.g., Spring Batch developed by Accenture and SpringSource).

**A sporting success**
Accenture worked with a professional sports association to develop a compelling application for its fan-facing website. Rapid development was a key driver as was scalability to meet high user demand from the outset. The platform assisted with accelerating application and site development so that the website, with 15 million unique visitors a month, could be implemented and pushed into production on time—rapidly generating fan loyalty and advertising revenue.
About Accenture

Accenture is a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company, with approximately 259,000 people serving clients in more than 120 countries. Combining unparalleled experience, comprehensive capabilities across all industries and business functions, and extensive research on the world's most successful companies, Accenture collaborates with clients to help them become high-performance businesses and governments. The company generated net revenues of US$27.9 billion for the fiscal year ended Aug. 31, 2012. Its home page is www.accenture.com.