Customer Profile

Momentum Systems
Division of Maverick Momentum LLC

Cutting-Edge E-Commerce Featuring *BSCLIB*

Serengeti Systems

Highlights

BSCLIB, from Serengeti Systems, is a software tool kit that emulates both the point-to-point Binary Synchronous Communications (BSC) protocol specific to IBM 3780 and 2780 data terminals and the multi-point BSC protocol found in 3270 terminals. The tool kit's Applications Program Interface (API) enables complete control of the information flow between an application and a BSC communications link. BSCLIB is available for all of today's most widely used platforms, including Windows 95/ 98, Windows NT, UNIX, AIX, and still available for DOS, OS/2, and Windows 3.x.

"Serengeti's BSCLIB product has allowed us to develop the kind of automated, multi-port bisync communications product that's required by today's expanding electronic commerce market. What's more, BSCLIB has en-abled us to deliver our product in a Windows NT environment. We are confident that as we continue to deploy our NT version of Intelligent Network Gateway, BSCLIB will help us tremen-dously in achieving a competitive edge."

Joe Regina
VP, Operations
Momentum Systems

Automating NT Server-Based File Communications

Increasingly, business-to-business electronic commerce is integral to the success of today's large corporations and financial institutions. For an e-commerce solution to produce the competitive edge these companies seek, it must support and manage the wide variety of communications protocols in use by hundreds or even thousands of trading partners. It must provide seamless integration with a wide range of electronic data inter-change (EDI) translation mechanisms. And it must enable businesses to exchange information in a way that is fast and reliable.

A tall order, to be sure. Which is why a growing number of powerhouse U.S. commercial banks, including Bank of America, Chase Manhattan Bank, and Signet Bank -- not to mention leading manufacturers, computer service providers, govern-ment agencies, insurance firms, and healthcare organizations nationwide-

have turned for help to Momentum Systems. Since 1989, Momentum's flagship Intelligent Network Gateway product has provided companies like these with the sophisticated, auto-mated file communications capabili-ties they need to do business online. Because the Intelligent Network Gateway facilitates the automatic movement of files among different hardware platforms, operating systems, and communications proto-cols including BSC, async, SNA, and TCP/IP, it is indispensable to banks for sharing information with corpo-rate cash management clients. And, since it is easily integrated with any EDI translation software, the product enables manufacturers to establish direct connections with their vendors and trading partners for exchanging information across value-added networks which are the backbone for EDI transactions.

In 1997, Momentum decided to port the Intelligent Network Gateway from a proprietary Unisys platform to the Windows NT server -- which offers the superior performance and additional connections needed to meet the market's expanding communica-tions requirements. Recalls Joe Regina, vice president of Operations at the Moorestown, New Jersey firm,

BSCLIB™
Multi-Platform Bisync API

Cutting-Edge E-Commerce Featuring
BSCLIB & Momentum Systems

"The port to NT required that we find a completely dependable solution to facilitate the connection of the new NT Gateway to mainframe systems which still utilize IBM's bisync protocol. Believe it or not, this communications technology first introduced in the 1960's is still in widespread use today throughout the U.S."

After evaluating all the options, Momentum chose BSCLIB from Serengeti Systems. "BSCLIB is a product that's been proven in the marketplace," Regina says. "Its easy-to-use, highly flexible API has been crucial in creating our own application to automate the bisync communications process. Serengeti is very easy to work with and has been extremely supportive throughout our NT project. Thanks to Serengeti and BSCLIB, we have produced a single automated NT server-based product that allows customers to send and receive files regardless of platforms or protocols."

A Straightforward API for Controlling Information Flow
According to Regina, BSCLIB's Applications Program Interface (API) is key to the effectiveness of the NT-based Gateway product. "We have to support both the IBM 3780 and 2780 protocols, and automate communications so that a user can sit down at the NT interface and create profiles for how files should be distributed or moved." With the NT Gateway, files show up in the NT server and are matched dynamically to the pre-defined customer profile. Through this profile NT Gateway obtains the necessary parameters which are sent via BSCLIB's API to specify how to transfer a given file.

"All this happens automatically," Regina says. "Without the flexibility of the BSCLIB API, there is no way we could dynamically customize the communications link for every file that comes through -- and this is a key selling point for the Gateway."

Commonly referred to as an open/close/read/write interface, the BSCLIB API provides a comprehensive set of functions to control bisync communications sessions. The product's software development kit (SDK) includes sample programs demonstrating each function -- one of the features that enabled Momentum programmers to complete the NT port in just a few months.

A Productive Relationship With Serengeti
As it was creating the new NT product, Momentum relied on Serengeti for a great deal of critical support. "Serengeti helped us resolve problems and made changes to BSCLIB to accommodate the needs of our specific environment," Regina says. "For example, we needed the software to load without asking for input from the keyboard and Serengeti made the necessary change."

"Moreover," he adds, "Serengeti qualified and helped test a specific modem, which we needed the library to work with. This modem hadn't been on their list, but they made sure it would work with the product. These are just some of the ways in which Serengeti has stepped up to the plate to make our job a lot easier."

Momentum began installing the NT Gateway product in July, 1998. All new customers will receive the NT version, and the company will upgrade its existing customer base

over time. "We're confident that as we continue to call upon Serengeti, they'll respond with whatever support we require," Regina says.

A Multi-Port Board to Support High-Volume Communications
Another way in which Serengeti supported Momentum's NT porting effort was with its 1998 release of the new SmartSync/DCP PCI-bus adapter. This new multi-port intelligent communications adapter enables BSCLIB to maximize the possible bisync connections on the NT platform, thereby allowing users to efficiently exchange a higher volume of data than was possible before.

"Our large customers have lots of lines open simultaneously within the NT server," says Regina. With multiple PCI-bus adapters, Momentum customers can have as many as 40 bisync clients talking to the NT Gateway server at one time -- a capability, says Regina, that is "increasingly crucial to the success of today's massive e-commerce systems."

About Serengeti Systems
Serengeti Systems is a recognized leader in BSC and SNA Remote Job Entry (RJE) PC-to-mainframe connectivity. The company has developed PC-to-legacy systems integration products for MS-DOS, Windows 3.x, Windows 95/98, Windows NT, OS/2, UNIX and AIX systems since 1986.

Give Serengeti a call, and find out why customers like Momentum Systems choose Serengeti as their communications provider. For more information about Momentum's powerful e-commerce solutions, call 800/279-1384, or visit them at www.momsys.com.

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