



CICS Integration Using XML

Fast. Easy. Reliable.

"Products such as HostBridge can save organizations time and money by allowing them to utilize and leverage in-house resources and proven technology while moving to the next-generation eBusiness environment."

Sally Cusack
IDC

HostBridge is mainframe software for sharing CICS application data as XML. Without requiring you to rewrite your applications or use poorly performing middleware, HostBridge makes CICS integration as painless and trouble-free as possible. Quickly transform your existing CICS business systems into web services, integrate them with business processes, or make them easily accessible to your partners' networks. Whether your strategic goal is to achieve new levels of efficiency in your own business processes, or realize closer collaboration with partners, HostBridge unlocks the full value of your legacy applications.

Extend ROI for Legacy Systems

With shrinking margins and tightened budgets, companies must develop integration strategies that extend the useful lives of legacy applications, embrace emerging technologies, and generate new returns on investment. HostBridge immediately extends the ROI of CICS transactions inside the firewall while bringing new returns through integration.

- Flexible, universal connectivity lowers implementation costs
- No middle tier servers lowers operation costs
- No screen scraping lowers maintenance costs
- Immediate access to CICS data speeds returns on migration efforts

Integrate CICS Anywhere

Integration is a never-ending process that spreads throughout an organization. HostBridge's ability to integrate any CICS application using a variety of connection methods makes it suitable for integration in any business situation.

- *Enterprise Application Integration (EAI)* – Most companies make the decision to get their own house in order before they try to integrate their systems with those of their partners. HostBridge provides a variety of connectivity options that make it ideal for internal integration projects.
- *Inter-Enterprise Integration (IEI)* – Demand from partners and suppliers to make corporate information visible requires loosely coupled integration. HostBridge supports the industry standards that make up web services and provides a high-performance SOAP server to speed up integration.
- *Application Migration* – Even if you plan to migrate away from your legacy systems, HostBridge instantly XML-enables your CICS applications so you can quickly see the benefits of integration without having to wait for migration projects to finish. Moreover, because web applications will already be receiving corporate data in XML, you can make seamless transitions to the new platforms when they go online.

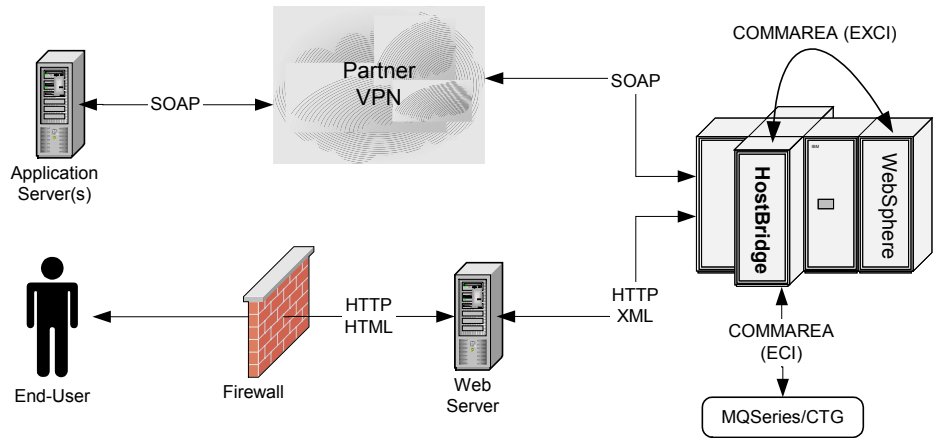
"Enterprise systems are often built on, and incorporate, multiple layers of mature technologies. It is rare to see a solution, such as HostBridge, that cuts the fat out of years and generations of technology deployments."

Darcy Fowkes
Aberdeen Group

Flexible Connection Methods

Flexible connection options ensure that companies can integrate CICS applications regardless of the method they use to communicate. HostBridge also provides flexible connectivity options that allow it to receive requests from almost any type of application.

- HTTP – Many integration efforts use HTTP to communicate with a web application running on a Windows or UNIX server.
- LINK (ECI/EXCI) – Mainframe applications often use COMMAREA to communicate with each other. This interface allows you to integrate CICS with other mainframe applications or with middle-tier applications that use COMMAREAs.
- SOAP – HostBridge includes SOAP support that allows companies to integrate CICS applications as web services.



Feature	Benefit
Integrate any CICS application	One HostBridge license XML-enables all your applications. No need to learn multiple integration tools and HostBridge XML-enables any all your BMS, COMMAREA, and terminal-oriented CICS transactions without requiring you to rewrite them.
No screen-scraping	More stable and scalable than screen-scraping solutions. Screen-scraping techniques are prone to scalability and application maintenance problems. Changes to host screens usually break screen-scraping integration. HostBridge does not rely on the use of row/column coordinates to identify field locations, so changes to the CICS application do not affect it and it does not suffer from screen scraper performance problems.
Mainframe-based software	On-demand scalability, no downtime, and high performance. HostBridge runs entirely on the mainframe and benefits from trusted mainframe scalability and stability. It has as few “moving parts” as possible to increase performance and ensure data integrity between integrated applications.
Dynamic XML	Ensures data integrity from mainframe to middle-tier. Programs that use templates or generate programs with hard-coded data structures are inflexible solutions that create maintenance problems when there are changes in the CICS applications. HostBridge builds XML documents on-the-fly and reflects changes in the host applications without requiring intervention by developers.
Ease of use	Shorten time to market and lower integration costs. HostBridge installs in less than an hour and instantly XML-enables all your CICS applications without any configuration. HostBridge documents conform to a fixed schema that ensure developers receive consistent information from the mainframe.
Standards-based	No new development tools, no new scripting languages, and future-proof integration. Your employees can turn their familiarity with technologies such as .NET and Java into increased levels of productivity and efficiency and rapidly XML-enable CICS transactions and integrate them with other applications.

Contact Information

For more information on HostBridge or to inquire about our free 30-day trial, please contact us using the information below.

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Conclusion

For companies integrating CICS applications with new technologies, HostBridge saves time, saves money, and eliminates complexity that usually accompanies integration. HostBridge provides the scalability and reliability expected of mainframe software and combines them with uncommon simplicity so it easily fits into any integration architecture. Because it runs entirely on the mainframe, HostBridge eliminates costs and performance problems that plague middle tier solutions. Ease of use, broad connectivity, and support for industry standards like XML and SOAP allow HostBridge to instantly extend the ROI of CICS transactions to business process integration.