5250Toolkit

5250Toolkit is a comprehensive set of tools and building blocks for the rapid development of distributed network applications that connect the NEXTSTEP and IBM operating environments. Applications developed with 5250Toolkit can control AS/400 processes, execute jobs, transfer information and seamlessly integrate AS/400 resources into the NEXTSTEP environment.

5250Toolkit includes the 5250Palette Object Library, 5250Vision application with extensive Application Programming Interface (5250VisionAPI), Conextions' AS/400 Emulator and a complete set of programming examples.

5250Palette.

5250Palette includes the CX5250 object class, CX5250View subclass, the CX5250Keys panel and 5250Keys menus which offer a variety of methods that operate on the 5250 Presentation Space. Using 5250Vision, programmers can record any AS/400 application and use the AS/400 Emulator to emulate it. The AS/400 Emulator allows programmers to develop the NEXTSTEP interface for their AS/400 application without real time connection to a AS/400.

5250Palette provides AS/400 connectivity over TCP/IP and SNA networks. It offers NEXTSTEP programmers complete transparency from network topology, protocols and communication media. Using 5250Palette, you can easily develop an application that will access multiple AS/400 computers through various networks and gateways (i.e. TCP/IP, CoaxAccess, SDLC, Token-Ring, etc.).

5250Vision API

5250Vision Application Programming Interface (5250VisionAPI) allow user-written extensions and modifications to be added to the 5250Vision functionality. It also allows to alter the 5250Vision user interface quickly and easily to adapt to customer specific needs, i.e. to control the number of sessions that an end-user can initiate, to eliminate 5250Vision functions that are not needed by an end user or a group (i.e. Batch File Transfer, Attribute Inspector, etc.), to add customer specific functions (custom menus, autologin, environmental variables, etc.).

5250VisionAPI offers a comprehensive set of methods that can be used in a variety of ways:

Runtime Loadable Object

An object module that can be loaded during run-time that will act as a 5250Vision delegate. This approach can be used to add custom extensions to the 5250Vision functionality. Users can:

- add or remove functions or features to (or from) 5250Vision;

- automate all or part of the interaction with the AS/400 application;

- recognize specific situations (i.e. commands, screens, key sequences, etc.) and take appropriate actions (i.e.logging on, logging off, sending user keys, presenting a custom panel, etc.);

- interpret all datastreams and present the data in NEXTSTEP window and panels (a user may never see a 5250 screen).

Remote Message Interface

A standalone custom application can launch 5250Vision and communicate with it via remote messages. This approach can be used to monitor and control the 5250Vision operation for remote diagnostic, statistic gathering, SNMP/NetView network management, etc.

5250VisionAPI interface can be logically divided into to two distinct groups:

- Vision5250 interface object controls application wide functions. Messages sent to it will control the look and feel of 5250Vision, define application operation and preferences.

- Vision5250View interface object controls controls individual sessions. This matches directly the CX5250 functionality, as well as method names.

5250VisionAPI provides a comprehensive set of methods for developing custom extensions and modifications to 5250Vision. 5250VisionAPI interface is consistent with CX5250 object class which allows it to be used interchangeably with CX5250 class in the process of developing mission critical custom applications.

5250Vision

5250Vision is an integrated NEXTSTEP application that connects NEXTSTEP computers to IBM AS/400 computers over a variety of network configurations and protocols. Architected as a distributed application, 5250Vision keeps the network's topology, protocols, and media transparent to its end-users.

5250Vision users can access their IBM AS/400 through a variety of networks and gateways. In traditional SNA networks, Conextions' CoaxAccess gateways connect NEXTSTEP Computers to IBM 3x74 Terminal Controllers.

5250Vision also supports popular TCP/IP gateways found in large heterogeneous networks including those available from vendors like IBM, Open Connect Systems and others.

5250Vision can operate concurrently with numerous gateways on the network allowing the user to access multiple IBM AS/400s at the same time. As new gateways (Token Ring, SDLC, others) are added to the network a user's investment is preserved as different gateway types can be accessed from the same 5250Vision application.

Please see the 5250Vision entry in this issue of EAW for complete details and product demo.

AS/400 Emulator

The AS/400 Emulator allows users to customize the look and feel of 5250Vision or to design a completely new interface for the AS/400 application without a real time connection to a AS/400. The AS/400 Emulator uses the trace produced by the 5250Vision for application "Play Back".

Designed as a UNIX network daemon, the AS/400 Emulator promotes the collaborative development process and allows multiple NEXTSTEP developers on the network to work concurrently on the same or multiple AS/400 application.

The AS/400 Emulator eliminates the AS/400 load during the development process, improves the response time and creates an efficient development environment for NEXTSTEP users.

Ordering Options:

5250Toolkit

5250Toolkit includes a 5250Vision site license for 3 designated machines and a 5250Palette site license for 10 designated machines at a particular site. Also included is Conextions' Mainframe Emulator software.

5250Palette Runtime Object Site Licenses

Mutli-user Runtime Object Site Licenses are available in license sizes for 10, 25, 50, 100, 250, 500, 1000, 2500users. The licenses are assigned to a specific application developed using the site license object for a designated set of users.