



Procession® Web Service Layer

Procession® Web Service Layer provides the basis for all web interaction with the Procession® Environment.

It enables internal and external components to interface with the design time, runtime and management aspects of a Procession® Installation.

Web Services

Procession® Web Services enables the businesses that use the web to become integrated with one another. In the Procession® Web Services Layer, Procession has created a Web Service into “middle-office” business processes that are at the core of an organisation’s operational efficiency.

Process Runtime

The Process runtime is a web service that enables interaction with the runtime aspects of a “middle-office” process environment. It enables external systems and clients to access lists of available processes, the state of tasks and the content of work queues as well as any aspect of the process flow instance itself. As with all the Services in the Procession® Web Service Layer, the Process Runtime web service is described by a Web Services Definition Language (WSDL) document enabling automatic interface creation.

XML Design Gateway

The XML Design Gateway enables the investigation of any part of the process definition repository as well as the update of that repository. This service contains the controls necessary to define the change management associated with a process update. It is used by the Procession® Process Designer to interact with the Procession® Process Engine. Being defined by a WSDL document it may also be used by any web services client application.

XML Runtime Gateway

The XML Runtime gateway provides a service that enables interaction with the runtime of the Procession® Process Engine itself. Unlike the Process Runtime service that focuses on retrieval of statistics and information, the XML Runtime Gateway enables a WSDL client to instantiate and control the state of process flows.

XML Data Server

Associated with every process in a Procession® Process Engine, is supporting process data. Not all of this data is available via the Process Runtime since much of it may span multiple process flows and process definitions. The XML Data Server provides a mechanism by which a WSDL client can access any aspect of the runtime or user data repository attached to the Procession® Process Engine.





Web Portal

The Procession® Web Service Layer comes with a complete HTML portal that enables anyone with a web browser to interact with the runtime and management aspects of the Procession® Process Engine.

Worker Portal

From a process workers view, this portal has five predefined work queues that are task state and user specific. The user can interact with the Procession® Process Engine via this portal on a “pull” basis, performing actions that move process flow so that the portal presents HTML forms to be completed by the user.

Management Portal

The management aspects of the portal allow a manager to manage running process flows, load balance work queues, manage users and roles as well as drill into historical process flows and individual tasks. The manager part of the portal has interfaces into process flow archives that help maintain systems response and performance. The presentational aspects of the web portal are template driven. This allows customisation of the look and feel to suit an organisation’s corporate standards.

XForms Tag Library

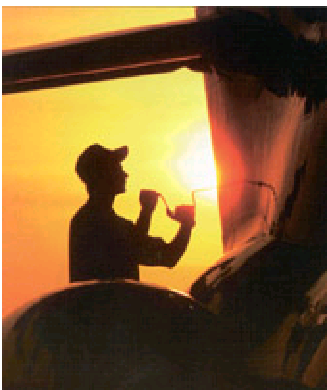
As a part of the normal operation of the Web Portal, forms are presented to the user. The XForms Tag library enables complex data aware forms to be created by declaration. The Procession® XForms Tag library provides a consistent object model underneath the presentational aspects of the form. This enables process designers and Web Authors to create complex, interactive, data bound forms without having to resort to JSP code. Typically the process designer uses the XForms designer and then a Web Author uses Dreamweaver Extensions to embellish the form for presentation in the portal.

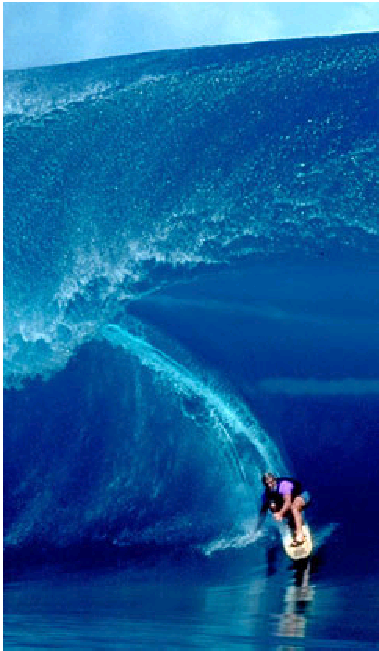
JSP Beans Interface

There are situations where the operations that need to be performed on a process aware page presented to a user cannot be serviced by declaration alone. In these instances there is a Java Bean interface into the web portal that enables a JSP Web Author to create a page that is integrated with the web portal. The services provided by the JSP Bean interface free the page designer from the worries of security. The JSP Bean interface allows engine, container or programmer control over most operations.

Security

Throughout the Web Services Layer there is service level security supplied by authentication and authorisation services through plain http up to 128bit Class 3 SSL client certificates. In addition to this level of security the Procession® Process Engine enforces a complete set of Management Structures and access control lists to every object within the system.





Standards Based Scalability

The Procession® Web Service Layer is built upon open standards. WSDL is used for service definition and SOAP is used as the message payload for many of the services. The presentational aspects of the Procession® Web Service Layer operate in a Java 2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE) web container and the service aspects operate within a J2EE beans container. Within the web container extensive modelling has been undertaken to eliminate all state, ensuring efficient sideways scalability. This enables high levels of redundancy to be employed in the outermost layers whilst minimising communication overheads. The service layer draws more heavily on the scalability characteristics of the J2EE bean container.

Requirements

J2EE Application Server

Orion,

Oracle 9iAS J2EE,

BEA WebLogic,

IBM WebSphere

JBoss/Tomcat/Apache

Java JDK 1.3 or later

128Mb RAM minimum

100MB Hard Disk

Solaris, Windows NT, Windows 2000, Linux.

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