

Adobe Form Server for IBM

Executive summary

Businesses and government agencies have invested heavily in IT systems to automate crucial processes, yet most still depend on paper forms and documents to communicate with customers, constituents, suppliers, and partners. The processes for managing documents are disconnected from IT systems, creating obstacles to sharing critical information.

Adobe® Form Server for IBM is part of the Adobe Intelligent Document Platform, which automates and accelerates the flow of business-critical information across an enterprise. Using the platform, organizations can leverage the universal Adobe Reader® software and Web browsers to give people better access to forms and documents. The platform is built on the secure and flexible Java™ 2 Extended Edition (J2EE) architecture, and is optimized for the IBM® WebSphere Application Server and middleware, which extends the power and reach of enterprise applications within and beyond the firewall.

Adobe Form Server for IBM uses Intelligent Documents as intelligent forms integrated with the portal, business integration, and content management capabilities of IBM middleware. The combination of Adobe Form Server for IBM, IBM WebSphere, and a content management repository such as IBM DB2 Content Manager provides a common platform for building and managing processes and associated content.

This technical brief describes the components of the joint Adobe and IBM solution, how Adobe Form Server for IBM works, its key capabilities, and how to build a form process using this solution.

Adobe Intelligent Document Platform

Adobe Form Server for IBM is a member of the Adobe LiveCycle™ line of enterprise server software products that work together as part of the Adobe Intelligent Document Platform. Adobe Form Server for IBM provides intelligent forms that are integrated with IBM's enterprise-class middleware products.

The Adobe Intelligent Document Platform consists of Intelligent Documents, universal clients, and document services. An Intelligent Document lets enterprises extend information and processes to people inside and outside the firewall. Intelligent forms (Intelligent Documents used as interactive forms) include enterprise data to allow pre-population of form data and business logic to provide automatic calculations, data validation, and document routing and approval. Organizations can take advantage of the widely used and freely available Adobe Reader universal client to work with Intelligent Documents and forms in the Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). Adobe Document Services generate Intelligent Documents that integrate easily into business processes using form data defined in eXtensible Markup Language (XML) schemas.

Adobe intelligent forms combine the advantages of XML with the rich presentation and document control of PDF to make it easier for an organization's workforce and constituents to access and interact with enterprise data. By embedding XML within documents, disparate systems can work with and respond to user input and process interactions as they occur. The Adobe XML architecture separates data, visual layout, and business logic. People can work with familiar PDF forms, while applications can interact with XML data formatted properly in the schema used by the organization.

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The Adobe XML architecture simplifies integration with the enterprise software infrastructure and makes development smooth and efficient. Its data abstraction layer makes it easy to support arbitrary XML schemas while keeping form design easy. Complicated scripts from a Web development task can be cleanly encapsulated within the form definition rather than mixed in with layout design. Applications can interact with the form through published application programming interfaces (APIs) for file formats, making the development process easier.

Developers can integrate Intelligent Documents into existing workflows using JDBC/ODBC databases, WSDL Web services bindings, and XML schemas. Intelligent Documents can be rendered as either HTML forms for access online by a standard Web browser, or as PDF files that can be opened with Adobe Reader, completed offline, and then submitted online.

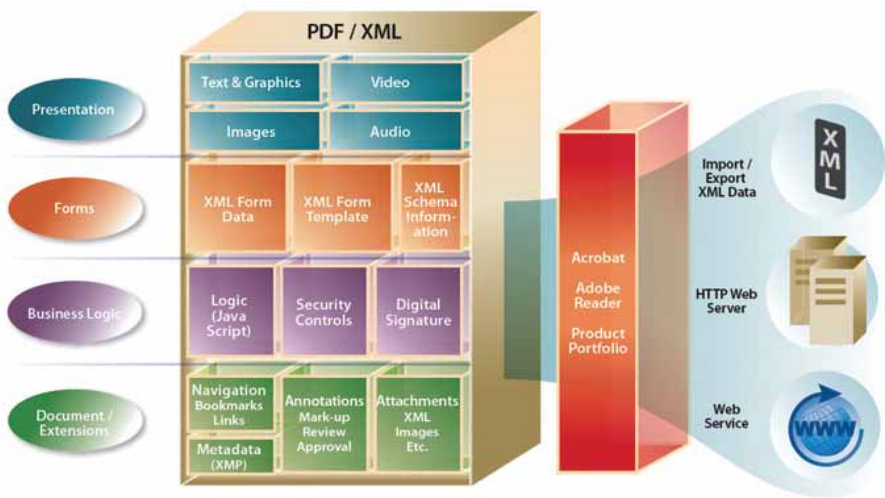


Figure 1. Adobe Intelligent Documents combine the powerful data and business logic capabilities of XML with the rich presentation and document control capabilities of PDF to make it easier for developers to deploy electronic forms as interfaces for capturing data for core systems and to generate data-populated documents from processes.

Integration with IBM middleware

By leveraging the power of the Intelligent Document Platform to enable document-based processes to be integrated with core applications, Adobe adds value and extends the capabilities of IBM middleware to integrate intelligent forms and documents with portals, enterprise applications, and content management systems.

Adobe Form Server for IBM is optimized for the IBM WebSphere software platform, a suite of middleware products based on open standards. WebSphere provides a comprehensive integration platform to connect, model, monitor, and manage processes and applications across the extended enterprise. Adobe Form Server for IBM is integrated with IBM DB2 Content Manager to manage forms and content inside and outside an organization's firewall and drive business processes.

At the core of the WebSphere platform is WebSphere Application Server, a fast, scalable, and reliable server based on J2EE technology that enables enterprises to deploy, integrate, and manage dynamic e-business applications.

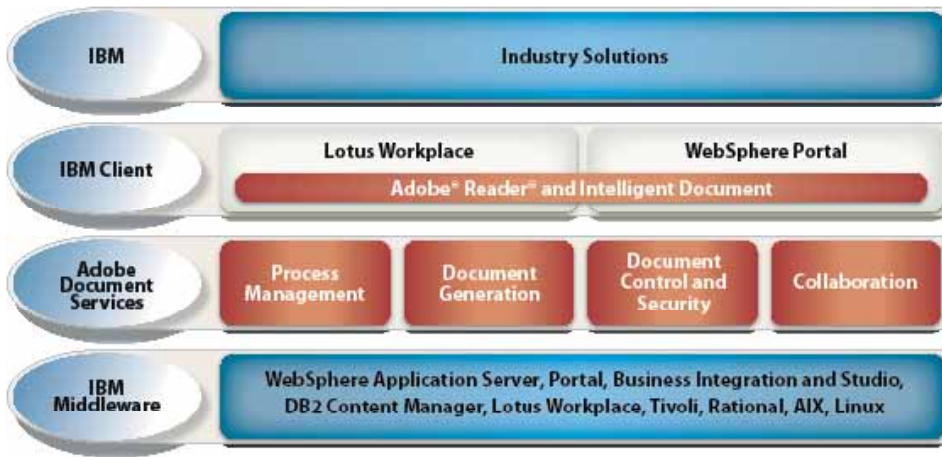


Figure 2. Adobe Document Services can be used throughout the IBM middleware application stack to extend business processes, provide better interaction between systems, and improve communications with partners and customers. Adobe Form Server for IBM provides process management services and integrates with other Adobe LiveCycle products to provide document generation, security, and collaboration services.

Adobe Form Server for IBM offers integration capabilities that provide flexibility in the ways that enterprises can integrate form processes into business systems:

IBM WebSphere Application Server. WebSphere offers integrated support for key Web services open standards—such as Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP); Universal Description, Discovery, and Integration (UDDI); and Web Services Description Language (WSDL)—making it a leading production-ready Web application server for the deployment of Web services. Adobe Document Services supports these open standards and the powerful interoperability offered by WebSphere between Web services and J2EE applications, which can enable key solution offerings for collaboration, B2B, portal serving, content management, commerce, and pervasive computing.

With Adobe Form Server for IBM optimized with WebSphere, enterprises can extend processes to people inside and outside the firewall with secure, intelligent forms. The combination of WebSphere system-level security and the document-level security of intelligent forms ensures that forms and documents are protected from unauthorized access, and form data is kept confidential.

IBM WebSphere Portal. IBM WebSphere Portal provides a flexible, open, and extensible framework to build successful business-to-employee (B2E), business-to-business (B2B), and business-to-consumer (B2C) portals. Enterprises can quickly build scalable portals to help simplify and speed up user interaction with personalized content, business processes, and applications.

Adobe Form Server for IBM enables organizations to provide form access, filling, and processing within customized portal environments. Use Adobe Form Server for IBM to deploy intelligent forms within portals as visually rich and universal interfaces to applications and services. Customers, constituents, business partners, and employees using Adobe Reader (either by itself or as a Web browser plug-in) can download, save, and fill out forms online or offline. Organizations can reduce costs associated with Java development and maintenance by using Adobe intelligent forms for data collection processes, within portal environments.

IBM WebSphere Business Integration Server. Adobe Form Server for IBM enables organizations that use a business integration layer for connecting and sharing information between multiple disparate business systems to provide access to the same data through Intelligent Documents. Enterprises can link data in forms to core systems and applications using pre-built connectors and leveraging WebSphere’s interoperability between Web services and J2EE applications. The solution uses the J2EE Connector Architecture (JCA) to integrate intelligent forms with SAP, PeopleSoft, Oracle ERP Financials, J.D. Edwards, IBM CICS, IBM IMS, and IBM Host On-Demand applications. IBM WebSphere Business Integration Server integrates applications using open standards, with targeted industry solutions for banking, insurance, and government.

IBM DB2 Content Manager. Adobe Form Server for IBM enables enterprises to manage forms and form processes as part of an existing content management infrastructure. Organizations can link intelligent forms and documents to supporting documents such as e-mails, project files, scanned images, and audio and video files.

Adobe Form Server for IBM can define Adobe forms within IBM DB2 Content Manager as a unique type of content with its own item type definition. Systems administrators can use the native capabilities of IBM WebSphere Application Server or DB2 Content Manager—including authentication, security, storage and search, workflow routing functionality, and more—to design, monitor, and maintain electronic forms and form processes. Enterprise employees can access and interact with Adobe forms through the same environments and application clients as they can for other content processes.

Organizations can also use intelligent forms to enhance records management by defining them as records that can be securely managed by IBM Records Manager using standard access controls and retention rules. Adobe Form Server for IBM can also integrate with other content repositories.

IBM WebSphere Studio Application Developer. WebSphere Studio provides a comprehensive integrated development environment for visually designing, constructing, testing, and deploying Web services, portals, and J2EE applications. WebSphere Studio accelerates J2EE development with templates, wizards, and a comprehensive visual XML development environment for building document type definitions (DTDs), XML schemas, XML, and Extensible Style Language (XSL) files. It also supports integration of relational data and XML.

Adobe Form Server for IBM enables forms created in Adobe LiveCycle Designer to work with Web services developed in IBM WebSphere Studio to link form completion activities with back-end transactions. The solution offers the complete Adobe LiveCycle Designer functionality installed as a plug-in within the WebSphere Studio Application Developer environment.

How Adobe Form Server for IBM works

Adobe Form Server for IBM combines Adobe PDF forms with XML data schemas to create intelligent forms. The self-contained logic and rich security capabilities of Adobe PDF make it an ideal form format for broad use across the extended enterprise. The solution uses XML to describe form template layouts and represent data stored in the form. Using XML as the data submission syntax makes it easy to incorporate form information into enterprise systems. Describing the template in XML makes it simple to generate a variety of presentation formats from a single template design.

Adobe Form Server for IBM includes several required and optional product components, providing flexibility for integrating forms with an organization's IT stack:

- *Adobe Form Server for IBM*—software that serves forms in PDF or HTML and manages server-side form interactions and submission processes
- *Adobe LiveCycle Designer*—a Windows[®] compatible GUI-based tool for designing and laying out form templates
- *DB2 Content Manager Connector*—a set of integration components that enable the Adobe forms components to interact seamlessly with DB2 Content Manager
- *File system reference implementation*—an additional repository implementation using the file system, which organizations can use as a reference to integrate Adobe Form Server for IBM with other proprietary and third-party repositories
- *Adobe LiveCycle Reader Extensions*—optional software that enables organizations to turn on capabilities within the free Adobe Reader software, including the ability to digitally sign Intelligent Documents and fill out intelligent forms offline
- *Adobe Acrobat[®] or Reader*—Adobe client applications for interacting with intelligent forms

ADOBE FORM SERVER FOR IBM CAN BE USED WITH THE FOLLOWING ADOBE LIVECYCLE SOFTWARE AS PART OF THE ADOBE INTELLIGENT DOCUMENT PLATFORM:

- Adobe LiveCycle Policy Server manages the use of and access to electronic documents across the enterprise.
- Adobe LiveCycle Document Security provides digital signature and encryption capabilities.
- Adobe LiveCycle Barcoded Forms enables Adobe PDF forms to be enhanced with dynamic 2D barcodes, which are machine-readable symbols storing information, in order to eliminate manual data entry and help reduce the costs, errors, and time to process fill-and-print paper forms.

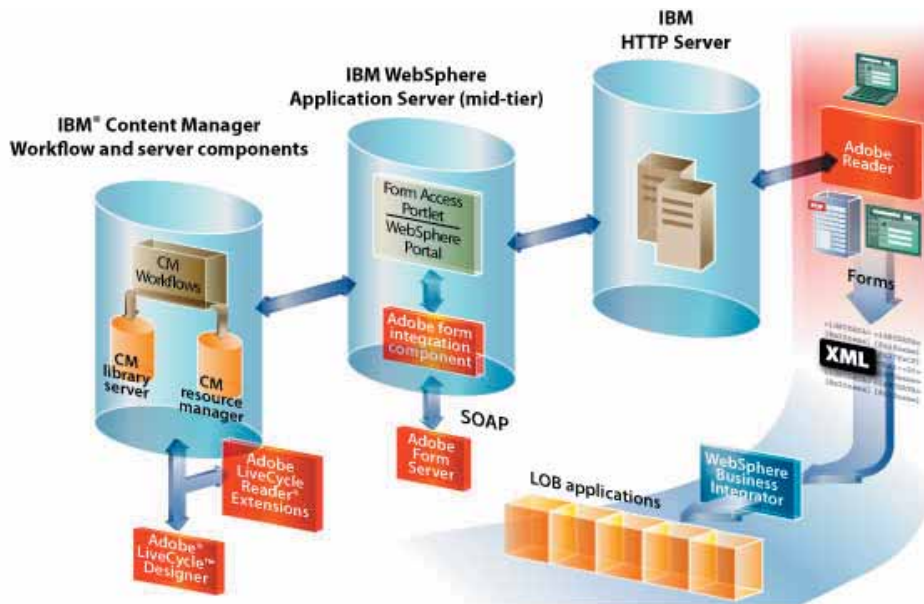


Figure 3. This diagram illustrates how Adobe Form Server for IBM integrates with IBM middleware products to provide a unified solution for form process management.

Adobe Form Server for IBM renders a form template into a form, validates server-side scripts, and merges data into the form. The steps to build a form process are as follows:

1. Form designers use Adobe LiveCycle Designer to design forms, which can be stored in a content repository.

Adobe Form Server for IBM includes a plug-in that lets you check in and check out forms directly from IBM DB2 Content Manager, so you can use the content repository to store versions of form templates as part of your overall enterprise content management (ECM) environment.

Adobe provides a second plug-in, available separately, that works with WebSphere Studio Application Developer to enable recognition of Adobe forms as valid components within a Java development project. Java developers can automatically launch Adobe LiveCycle Designer to edit forms in context. Developers can include URL or Java Server Page (JSP) references to forms in custom Web applications, using the form as a medium for people to enter information and interact with the application.

2. (Optional) Add offline form filling and digital signature capabilities.

With Adobe LiveCycle Reader Extensions, form designers can add tokens to forms that automatically turn on advanced features for Adobe Reader that are normally hidden, such as digital signatures and offline filling. These features are assigned to a specific document only. They can include the ability to:

- Save the file locally
- Fill out forms and retain a personal electronic copy
- Share documents with others to review and add comments using markup tools such as electronic sticky notes, highlights, and text strikethrough
- Sign, certify, and authenticate documents by applying digital signatures, using industry-standard technologies
- Submit the complete document and its data electronically

3. Set up intelligent forms for enterprise use.

Adobe Form Server for IBM enables enterprises to deploy forms stored in DB2 Content Manager or another content repository, and provide access to forms through a client that accesses the content repository (such as IBM eClient for DB2 Content Manager) or through a Web portal using a standard browser.

Adobe Form Server for IBM provides a Form Access portlet for IBM WebSphere Portal that enables those who log into a portal to view a list of available forms, select a form, and open and fill out the form.

Organizations using DB2 Content Manager can use the IBM eClient or other customized client browser to search the repository for Adobe forms. If you use the document routing engine in DB2 Content Manager to implement the form process, the form appears in the person's work list, triggering the filling or review process. The business rules governing this process are defined during the document routing workflow design.

4. Merge the form data and template.

The Adobe integration agent, a Java component running on WebSphere Application Server, communicates with DB2 Content Manager via IBM's Information Integrator for Content (II4C) layer, or with another content repository using the generic repository API and file reference implementation, to retrieve the source template and XML data file. The integration agent creates a new working form in DB2 Content Manager or another content repository that represents an instance of a particular form for a particular user, based on the original master template.

Multiple instances of forms may be at various stages of filling and processing at any given time. If the form is routed to other users for review and approval, the system generates a new version of the working form for each workflow participant.

5. Render the form as PDF or HTML.

The integration agent makes a Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) request to Adobe Form Server to generate the PDF or HTML form from the source template and data. Adobe Form Server transforms the original XML template and the most recent version of the associated XML data to generate the template. For HTML forms, Adobe Form Server automatically determines the optimal HTML version for the browser environment.

6. Deliver the form.

The system delivers the PDF or HTML form over the Internet. Typically, users will see the PDF or HTML form opened in their Web browsers or in the Adobe Reader window using the browser plug-in.

You can deliver forms in a portal built with WebSphere Portal so that a new portlet opens on the portal page and renders the form in the portlet window. Adobe Form Server for IBM includes a portlet for WebSphere Portal that accepts click-to-action (C2A) events from other portlets in a portal page. Configuration options allow the portlet to appear in a window or full screen. The portlet processes form rendition and submission operations and manages the storage of submitted forms.

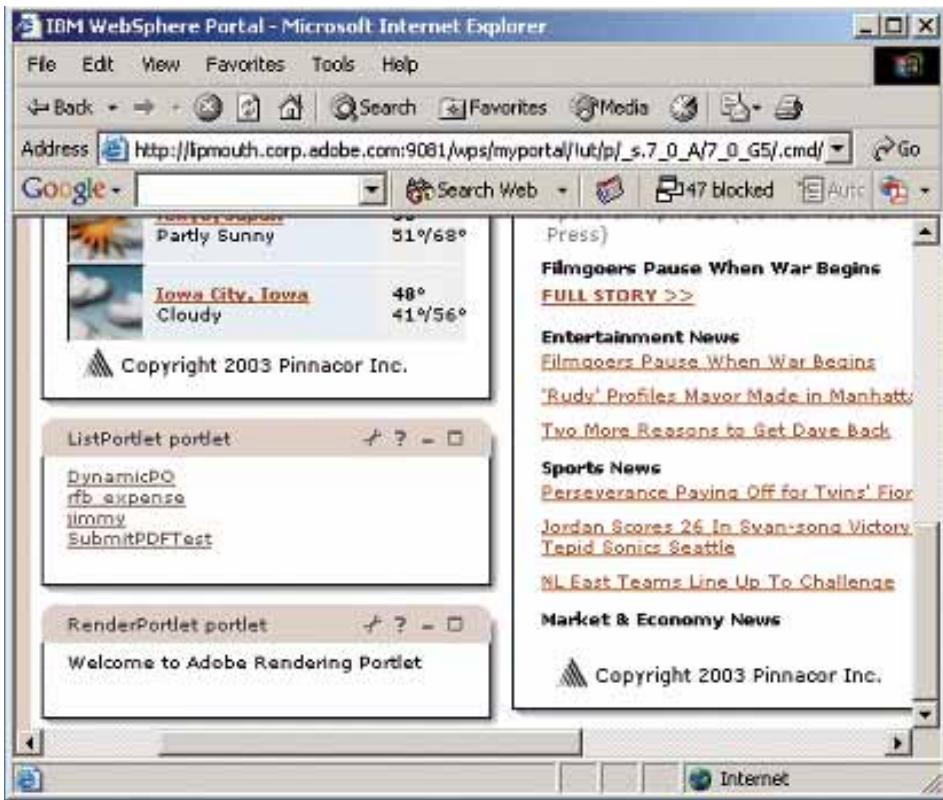


Figure 4. Adobe Form Server for IBM offers portlets to incorporate intelligent forms in portals developed with WebSphere Portal.

Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Reader can open PDF forms in a browser window. HTML forms open in a standard browser. A person can interact with and fill out the form, invoking various automated features such as calculations, data lookups, and validations.

7. A person submits the form.

After filling out the form, the person submits the form back to the server. This operation produces an XML data stream. During the submission process, you can use common XML tools to parse the XML data and map it into other databases and applications.

For enterprises using IBM WebSphere Business Integration Server, the data stream can be integrated with enterprise line-of-business (LOB) applications. The data is sent as a SOAP message to Web Services Gateway, which applies security and routes the request to the Web Services Adapter. The SOAP Data Handler converts the SOAP message to a business object. Developers can configure the WebSphere InterChange Server (WICS) and Web Services Adapter, and create business objects using the Business Object Designer associated with the information to be collected in forms.

Enterprises using DB2 Content Manager can store the XML data stream and associate it with the person's working version of the form. If you created a data map in conjunction with the form's item type in DB2 Content Manager, data from selected fields in the form are automatically populated into attributes of the working form item. You can later use the data stored back into DB2 Content Manager attributes to run searches or queries on the data from previous form submissions.

In addition to the data file, the system can generate an Adobe PDF image of the form and store it in DB2 Content Manager as a permanent record of the form submission. This image can be used as a means of keeping an audit trail for any process interactions governed by legal or legislative guidelines.

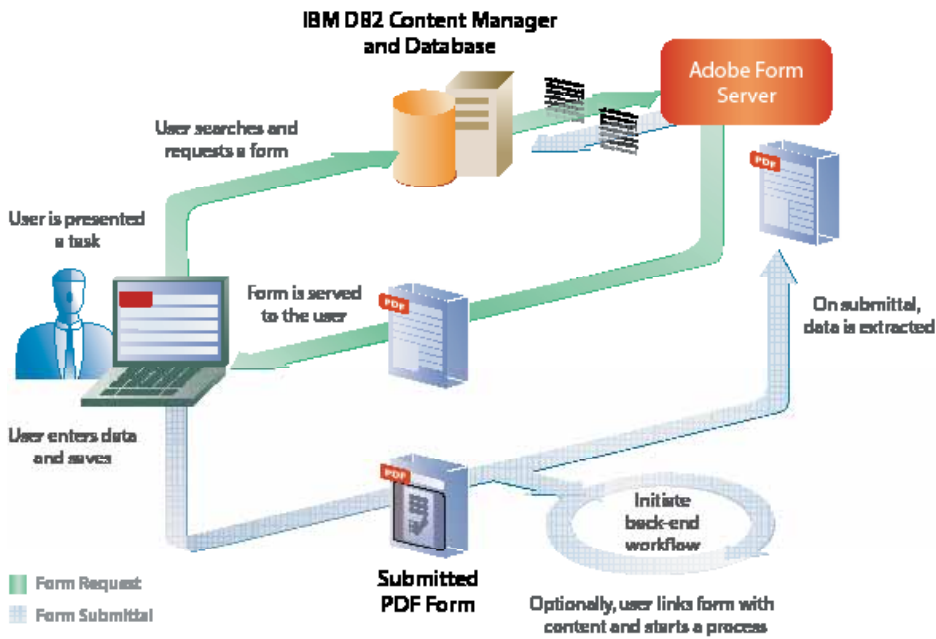


Figure 5. This diagram illustrates Adobe Form Server for IBM integration with IBM DB2 Content Manager and Database to provide form request and delivery.

Key capabilities

- **PDF or HTML viewing options.** Adobe Form Server for IBM offers HTML and PDF presentation options to provide universal access. For more advanced form capabilities, such as digital signature support and online and offline form completion, Adobe PDF combines high-fidelity presentation with the power of XML for data. The XML template transformation process allows the same source template to generate PDF or HTML forms, which enables enterprises to deploy forms for a broad range of uses and environments.
- **PDF digital signatures and security.** Organizations can use electronically signed documents that have the same legal validity as a signature on a paper document, eliminating one of the last barriers to enabling fully electronic form processes. Adobe PDF also offers rich security, encryption, and access control features that protect confidential form information from unauthorized access, tampering, or theft.
- **Convenient form completion.** Forms can be conveniently filled out online or offline and saved locally, retaining all of their intelligence and interactive features while eliminating the risk of data loss that can occur when you are filling out a long form online. Enterprises can build form completion and submission functions into portals using WebSphere Portal Server. Constituents can fill out browser-based forms or use Adobe Reader to fill out, edit, and submit forms, as well as apply digital signatures.
- **Intelligent data collection.** Organizations can store and process form data as XML and use the form data to guide business processes. You can pre-populate forms with data from IT resources, and extract data from completed forms for back-end systems, increasing overall data quality while decreasing form cycle time and processing costs.
- **Connect form processes to content repositories.** Enterprises can connect Adobe Form Server for IBM to content management solutions or content repositories to store forms and drive processes. Adobe Form Server for IBM includes a generic repository API and file system reference implementation for developers. The API framework defines an interface that abstracts the operations of an enterprise content management system: authenticating, authorizing, retrieving form templates stored in the repository, publishing templates, and storing form data.

- **Enhanced records management.** When used with IBM DB2 Content Manager, intelligent forms can be declared and classified as records with IBM Records Manager, and can utilize all Records Manager access controls and rules. You can use IBM DB2 Content Manager administrative tools to manage forms, processes, reports, and searches. Forms and form data can be archived directly within the IBM DB2 Content Manager repository.
- **Enterprise ready.** This solution optimized for IBM WebSphere meets the needs of IT and form designers for scalable, integrated solutions. You can convert multiple processes quickly with enterprise-level capabilities to design, manage, control, and repurpose large volumes of form templates.

How to build a form process

Implementing an electronic form and related workflow process using Adobe Form Server for IBM requires several steps. Before starting, the implementation team must understand the fundamental requirements of the business process, including:

- Inefficiencies in the previous form process implementation
- What data needs to be collected and how it must be captured into back-end systems
- Workflow routing rules
- Business rules that apply when filling out and submitting a form
- Specific business systems and processes to integrate with forms
- Necessary security at various stages of the form workflow
- Definition of end users, access rights, and the environments they use to access the form
- Degree of necessary automation and interactivity
- Regulatory issues that apply to the form process

The answers to these and other questions guide the requirements for form implementation. Once these requirements have been detailed, the implementation team uses the following general steps to design and deploy the form process:

Form design. During the form design process, designers set up field and graphical elements in the template, and add intelligence and interactive features. Adobe LiveCycle Designer provides a range of pre-built controls so that designers can quickly add sophisticated features—such as automated calculations, data validations, form field pre-population, digital signature fields, and help features—to speed the process of filling out forms.

Form deployment to the application repository. Once the form is designed, it needs to be deployed to the storage repository for the appropriate application. For enterprises using IBM WebSphere Portal, Adobe Form Server for IBM includes a portlet that processes the form rendition and form submission, and manages the storage of the submitted forms. The portlet supports a reference file system repository or the IBM DB2 Content Manager repository. For other repositories or content management systems, developers can implement connections for Adobe Form Server for IBM using the file system reference implementation.

For enterprises using IBM DB2 Content Manager, the system administrator must define the item type that will represent the form within DB2 Content Manager. Adobe Form Server for IBM maintains consistency with other document types by using the DB2 Content Manager Document model to represent form items. At the same time, the administrator must configure a default access control list (ACL) for the form, as well as other unique attributes such as whether to present the form in PDF or HTML. This setup information governs how the form will be used and managed, and can vary for different forms.

Data mapping setup. To map data, administrators create an XML file that specifies the form field elements that they want to map to item attributes within an application or content repository.

The Adobe XML architecture supports arbitrary XML schemas. It also supports standard Web services protocols, such as SOAP, HTTP, ADO, and JDBC, so that forms can be directly connected to Web services, databases, and core systems. Enterprises can use Web services bindings to enable data to be exchanged through IBM WebSphere Business Integration Server.

For enterprises using IBM DB2 Content Manager, the data map is stored as a separate file, which is associated with a specific form type. Later, when a form that matches the item type definition is submitted back to DB2 Content Manager, the mapping will define—at the individual attribute level—what data elements from the form will map back to the item.

Workflow setup. Enterprises can connect forms to workflows in the IBM WebSphere Business Integration Server environment using WebSphere MQSeries Workflow.

For enterprises using IBM DB2 Content Manager, the Adobe form is defined as a DB2 Content Manager item, so administrators can set up workflow processes using the DB2 Content Manager native Document Routing workflow capability, just as they would set up any other workflow. The implementer must simply know the details of the form process—including workflow participants, access rights, and routing logic—and implement those requirements using the built-in document routing features.

Customizing form system implementations using Adobe Form Server for IBM

Although Adobe Form Server for IBM provides strong out-of-the-box functionality, organizations often have unique application environments that require a customized solution. Adobe and IBM provide a set of components and resources to help enterprises customize their solution. The components include:

- **Integration Agent.** This Java servlet component manages the integration between Adobe forms and content repositories, including DB2 Content Manager, and provides all the functionality necessary to manage interactions between the Adobe and IBM products. It also exposes APIs that custom applications can use to retrieve forms for custom end-user presentation and to store form submissions back into content repositories.
- **eClient JSPs.** As part of the standard integration, Adobe ships a sample customization of the IBM DB2 Content Manager eClient that includes an additional user interface, created through eClient JSP customizations, for interacting with Adobe forms inside DB2 Content Manager. Developers can use these customized JSPs to add equivalent user interface functionality to their own custom applications.
- **Non-UI JavaBeans and JSP tag library.** Developers can apply these components, which are also used within the standard solution, to build programmatic calls to the Adobe form solution directly into their custom DB2 Content Manager applications.
- **Sample application.** Adobe Form Server for IBM includes an independent sample application that exposes all form functionality available through Adobe's form solution. This sample describes the functionality available through the Adobe form solution, some of which is masked by eClient due to limitations in IBM's client application. Developers can use the Adobe sample application to understand the full range of building custom applications. For example, Adobe Form Server for IBM provides ways to extend applications, such as building complex processes using WebSphere MQSeries Workflow that work with WebSphere Business Integration Server.
- **Portlets.** Adobe Form Server for IBM provides portlets for exposing Adobe Form Server functionality in the context of the IBM WebSphere Portal environment.

Organizations interested in building nonstandard solutions should contact Adobe, IBM, or an authorized joint systems integration partner to discuss their needs and explore potential solutions.

Features, capabilities, and benefits

FEATURE	CAPABILITY	BENEFIT
Common work environment and easy-to-use tools	Allows direct access from Adobe applications to the IBM DB2 Content Manager repository and other content repositories, and native access to Adobe forms via the IBM DB2 Content Manager client, Web browsers, and custom clients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures rapid adoption • Makes optimum use of IT resources • Reduces administrative overhead
Form workflow automation	IBM's workflow engine can be used to drive processes involving forms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces costs and overhead • Increases workforce productivity
Accessible from outside the firewall	Allows organizations to extend their business processes outside the organization to end users, regardless of their desktop environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves customer communications • Delivers new services to customers • Improves partner collaboration
Built-in business logic	Business rules—such as security and access rights, filling sequence, signature requirements, automatic calculations, and other intelligence features—are contained within the form and will be preserved even when the form is filled out offline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upholds and preserves business rules and their associated processes through every processing event and in any environment • Increases data accuracy • Speeds filling process time
Multi-format delivery options	Generates PDF or HTML forms from the same source template in DB2 Content Manager or other content repository. Design a single XML template, and deploy it to Web browsers and desktop components.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives real-time visibility into business-critical information • Increases business agility • Boosts efficient sharing of information among business systems
Zero footprint	Makes electronic forms available to end users via any device or browser.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for instant deployment within or outside the enterprise, without the need for training or special software
Security	Extends security capabilities at the system and document level to protect sensitive information inside and outside the enterprise. WebSphere offers system-level security, and DB2 Content Manager offers extensive authentication, security, and access control features that protect content and information in its repository. Adobe Intelligent Documents and forms can carry these security attributes with them when they leave the enterprise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects sensitive information • Reduces risk • Enables compliance with regulatory mandates
PDF form support	Users can fill out and print forms or save data to an electronic record.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adheres to legislative requirements • Speeds user adoption • Provides documents of record
Point-and-click design tool	Easy-to-use tools with precision formatting and design options make it simple to create forms that replicate paper documents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create forms quickly, with low training costs • Simplifies maintenance
Scripting executes on the client or server	Determines whether the browser supports script execution and automatically executes the script in the appropriate location—on the client or server. The system thus ensures that form-filling rules are the same regardless of the form-filling device.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client-side scripting benefits include improved performance, increased usability, reduced network traffic, less form-filling time • Server-side scripting benefits include access to back-end services, independent scripting environment, batch processing
Extends Form Object model to the browser	Comprehensive scripting model enables designers to create advanced scripts more easily and isolates developers from differences between browsers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeds development and deployment • Requires less skilled development resources
Scalable	Sessionless and stateless operation enables vertical (support for multiple CPUs in a server) and horizontal (support for load balancing) scalability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High reliability for mission-critical applications • Handles high-transaction volumes • Extends to meet organization's requirements

Conclusion

Adobe Form Server for IBM provides a single, unified system to manage all types of business content, documents—including forms—and related processes. The solution empowers organizations to access, create, and manage content using automated, streamlined business processes and workflows. Organizations gain the ability to use and administer forms along with their other business documents and content, efficiently reuse and share information across forms and other business applications, reduce costs associated with paper processing and handling, streamline business processes, and improve workforce productivity. Organizations further benefit from faster access to information, greater data accuracy, reduced operational costs, and improved customer service.

Appendix: Supported platforms and environments

Adobe Form Server 6.0

- Windows 2000 Advanced Server
- Windows 2003

Adobe LiveCycle Reader Extensions (optional)

- Windows NT[®] 4 or Windows 2000
- Sun[™] Solaris[™] 7 or 8

Adobe LiveCycle Designer 6.0

- Windows 98
- Windows 2000
- Windows XP
- Windows NT

Adobe Acrobat

- Windows 98
- Windows 2000
- Windows XP
- Windows NT
- Macintosh

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