



Preface

Special Issue on Emerging Middleware Technologies

Y. Tanakura

Yoshiyuki Tanakura
Corporate Vice President
Group President, Software Group

Our customers' expectations and viewpoints about their IT investments are shifting emphasis from whether they improve business efficiency to whether they are aggressive and effective tools for expanding business. Furthermore, our customers' ideas have deepened and become much more oriented towards the coming ubiquitous computing age.

More specifically, the next business battle for companies will be whether they can quickly get the scent of the unpredictable changes of customers and then absorb and reflect those changes in their business by taking advantage of the massive amounts of fresh information that have recently become available in the explosively expanding environment of network equipment. Companies should be able to adapt fully to the revolution of end-to-end demand-chain and supply-chain management by proactively making full use of the ubiquitous computing environment. As a matter of course, they should promptly fulfill their customers' requirements. Companies should also share their customers' deep and changing needs among their departments and partner companies to work on providing high-quality services. Furthermore, companies should revolutionize their systems toward customer-centric ones by building new enterprise systems based on cross-sectional use of information.

At the same time, because of the ever-growing importance of network computing in the social infrastructure, the supporting IT systems need to operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year without stopping and guarantee universal end-to-end operation more than ever before.

Middleware plays very important roles in meeting these needs. Some examples of Middleware are Middleware used to connect to and use services such as Web services; Middleware used to collect, analyze, and use dispersed information; infrastructure Middleware such as Application

Servers and Databases; and Operation Management Middleware used to manage businesses for stable operation.

This special issue of the Fujitsu Scientific & Technical Journal introduces the Middleware that forms the spine of TRIOLE, which is Fujitsu's IT infrastructure for providing stable services in today's changing business environment.