



Adding A Java-based XMLA Provider to Panoratio's Portable Database Image Product

Case Study

Challenge

Panoratio wished to add a XMLA interface onto its Portable Database Image (PDI) Engine to achieve maximum interoperability with multiple vendors' products. Since the Panoratio product suite is Java-based, Panoratio deemed that a Java-based XMLA interface would best ensure optimal performance and easy maintenance through seamless integration with its product. A Java-based XMLA interface would also provide a platform independent solution and offer Panoratio the flexibility to port its server-side solution to non-Windows platforms. To gain a XMLA interface, Panoratio needed to explore the best method. Building a XMLA Provider from scratch would pose many challenges, including requiring Panoratio's developers to devote time to learn the standard, as well as requiring significant investment. Given Panoratio's timeframe to complete the project, it determined that partnering with a XMLA expert would prove more efficient.

Solution

Knowing Simba's expertise in data connectivity and having worked with Simba in the past for OLE DB for OLAP (ODBO) connectivity, Panoratio looked to Simba for Java-based XMLA connectivity. SimbaProvider SDK incorporated the Java-based XMLA Provider that Panoratio needed. Simba's SDK would provide Panoratio with the utmost interoperability, enabling Panoratio's customers to achieve standards-based data connectivity with the largest number of BI and data analysis tools available. From earlier experience, Panoratio knew Simba's solution would provide superior stability and easy maintainability. With SimbaProvider SDK, Panoratio would be able to quickly and efficiently deploy its new XMLA interface with minimal cost and development effort.

Results

Panoratio built a fully-functional, Java-based XMLA Provider in a very short time. SimbaProvider SDK provided the wide interoperability with third party software that Panoratio required for its customers. Because Simba's solution is Java-based, it integrated seamlessly with Panoratio's existing Java code base, as well as provided the flexibility Panoratio sought for future product advancement. Panoratio was able to achieve its ease of maintenance and performance objectives, while saving both time and money, and it launched its XMLA Provider on time.



"Simba's SimbaProvider SDK provided us with an easily implementable XMLA solution for our Portable Database Image Engine. Simba's SDK was easy to use and contained all the components needed to quickly complete a XMLA interface – fully customizable for the functionality we wished to build out. Simba saved us time and money compared with what it would have taken us to build our XMLA Provider from scratch."

- CTO, Panoratio Database Images, Inc.

Panoratio is a leading software solutions company specializing in database imaging technology for quick data query and analysis. Panoratio's products help customers from a variety of industries to better tap into their Business Intelligence (BI) tools, providing them with the means to perform detailed analysis on multi-dimensional data sources. Its solutions include Panoratio Generator, Panoratio Explorer and the revolutionary Portable Database Image Engine, which enables data analysis on virtually all dimensions of an OLAP cube.

To ensure the utmost interoperability with the different platforms and the growing number of BI tools on the market, Panoratio wished to add a XMLA interface onto its Portable Database Image (PDI) Engine. Doing so would allow its customers to use a vendor-independent application of their choice to access, analyze and report on data via Panoratio's PDI.

"SimbaProvider SDK provided Panoratio with all the pieces it needed to quickly and efficiently add XMLA connectivity to PDI."

To gain XMLA connectivity, Panoratio considered both build versus buy options. Building a XMLA Provider from scratch would pose many challenges, including requiring Panoratio's developers to devote time to learning the XMLA standard, as well as requiring significant development effort and investment. Maintaining an internally developed solution would also prove time consuming and challenging later, as industry products and the standard evolved. Time spent to develop an internal solution would also take away time from developing the company's core product. Given that Panoratio wished to add XMLA connectivity to PDI in a short timeframe, it chose to explore an alternate, more efficient SDK solution.

Knowing Simba's expertise and track record in providing data connectivity to companies like Microsoft, SAP and Hyperion and having worked with Simba itself in the past for OLE DB for OLAP (ODBO) connectivity, Panoratio looked to Simba for a SDK solution to add XMLA connectivity to PDI. Panoratio needed a solution that would enable wide interoperability with multiple vendors' products and provide commercial-grade stability. It also needed a Java-based XMLA solution, as its own products were developed in Java. A Java-based XMLA solution would ensure seamless integration with Panoratio's existing code base. Simba's membership in the XMLA Council and the fact that Simba chaired the XMLA Council's Interoperability SIG meant that Simba's product would keep pace as the industry and the XMLA standard evolved.

Offering a native, Java-based XMLA connectivity solution (in addition to a .NET-based XMLA solution), Simba's

SimbaProvider SDK provided Panoratio with all the pieces it needed to quickly and efficiently add XMLA connectivity to PDI. From previous experience, Panoratio knew Simba's solution would deliver wide interoperability, superior stability and easy maintainability.

Panoratio quickly and efficiently deployed XMLA connectivity to PDI. In addition to saving time and money, Panoratio's developers were also assured that minimal effort would be needed to maintain the solution going forward. The modularity of Simba's SDK enabled Panoratio to implement the functionality best suited for its objective and its customers' needs without having to learn the data standard. Panoratio was able to achieve its performance and ease of maintenance objectives, while saving both time and money, and it launched its XMLA Provider on time.

About Simba Technologies Inc.

Simba Technologies Inc. is the recognized world leader in standards-based data access products and solutions. Simba works with the world's leading software companies to deliver first class data connectivity solutions.

Simba is a pioneer in ODBC, MDX, ODBO and XMLA. Since 1991, Simba has developed advanced data access solutions for thousands of end users. Today, more than half of all MDX providers have been built with Simba technology, and through a partnership with Microsoft, Simba's SQL technology has been installed on more than 30 million desktops worldwide.

Simba's firm commitment to delivering the highest customer value through innovative solutions and expert support has gained the company a reputation as the industry leader for data connectivity solutions.

For more information about Simba's data connectivity products and services, visit www.simba.com, or call 1.604.633.0008.

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