



Poet Secures a Compelling ODBC Connectivity Solution from Simba

Case Study



Challenge

The FastObjects ODBMS already had its own proprietary API that developers could use when writing custom applications, but the API was not compatible with off-the-shelf query software. Many vendors of shrink-wrap desktop tools were supporting an ODBC interface, which provided a common way for all query tools to talk to Relational Database Management Systems. But building an ODBC driver from scratch was a labour-intensive and time-consuming affair.

Solution

Simba Technologies' SimbaEngine SDK offered everything Poet needed to create a prototype driver for FastObjects in just days. The SimbaEngine Data Record Manager (DRM) contains all the basic functionality required to describe, access and manipulate databases. Because Poet started with the SimbaEngine template, all it basically needed to do to create the DRM driver code was to describe their data.

Results

Built with SimbaEngine, the FastObjects ODBC Driver provided a standard data access API, enabling a FastObjects database to be read and updated by any ODBC-enabled application, such as Microsoft Access or Crystal Reports. Poet's ability to rapidly attain a cost-effective ODBC interface on FastObjects provided a compelling value proposition for its customers.

"Simba provided Poet with a low cost/low risk evaluation of our product, and described how they could increase our connectivity by enabling our database to be read and updated by any ODBC-enabled application. We decided to license SimbaEngine SDK to add ODBC connectivity to our Object-oriented Database Management System, 'FastObjects'. Because of this, our customers could now use any ODBC-enabled application that they preferred. This expanded our market significantly."

-President/CEO - Poet Software GmbH

With FastObjects™, Poet Software GmbH (Poet) provides developers with a flexible Object-oriented Database Management System (ODBMS) solution optimized for managing complexity in high-performance applications using Java technology, C++ and .NET.

Tight Java, C++ and .NET bindings allowed software engineers throughout the world to implement and manage complex data models with ease. Industrial-strength performance and reliability allowed them to deploy mission-critical, zero-maintenance applications with confidence. A developer's workbench guaranteed to significantly improve their time-to-market performance.

Furthermore, Poet is a provider of comprehensive catalog infrastructure solutions for B2B eCommerce and Supplier Relationship Management. Leading buying organizations, suppliers and their resellers count on the Poet X-Solutions product family to efficiently buy and sell their products online.

Simba Technologies Inc. (Simba) offers SimbaEngine SDK, a Software Development Toolkit that incorporates a full SQL Engine and provides ODBC, JDBC, OLE DB, ADO and ADO.NET connectivity to underlying proprietary data sources.

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In order to increase FastObjects' competitive advantage by allowing increased interoperability between their ODBMS and many popular desktop tools that support the ODBC standard, Poet chose to license SimbaEngine SDK from Simba, the world leader in standards-based data access solutions. Simba was considered a perfect partner for Poet—a partner who could both update and maintain the resulting ODBC driver embedded in the FastObjects ODBMS.

The FastObjects ODBMS already had its own proprietary API that developers could use when writing custom applications, but the API was not compatible with off-the-shelf query software. Many vendors of shrink-wrap desktop tools were supporting an ODBC interface, which provided a common way for all query tools to talk to Relational Database Management Systems. But building an ODBC driver from scratch was a labour-intensive and time-consuming affair.

Simba Technologies' SimbaEngine SDK offered everything Poet needed to create a prototype driver for FastObjects in just days. The SimbaEngine Data Record Manager (DRM) contains all the basic functionality required to describe, access and manipulate databases. Because Poet started with the SimbaEngine template, all they basically needed to do to create the DRM driver code was to describe their data. The finished FastObjects ODBC Driver maps the FastObjects database so that it is presented as a series of two-dimensional tables, enabling users to view and process an object database as if it were a relational database.

Built with SimbaEngine, the FastObjects ODBC Driver provided a standard data access API, enabling a FastObjects database to be read and updated by any ODBC-enabled application, such as Microsoft Access or Crystal Reports.

In addition to providing an open and standards-based interface for popular desktop tools, the FastObjects ODBC Driver also facilitates the graceful coexistence between FastObjects and existing applications written in dBase, or other database languages. Simba continues to fully support Poet with ongoing upgrades.

Poet's ability to rapidly attain a cost-effective ODBC interface on FastObjects provided a compelling value proposition for their customers. Today, with the powerful presence of the Microsoft desktop, FastObjects' ODBC Driver rounds out an ODBMS that must integrate with existing tool environments and support the demand for workgroup collaboration.

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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