



THE DELPHI GROUP

Worktiviti Flotiva®

One-Click B2B Applications

OPINION

Overview

Product Assessment

Flotiva is an enabler of business to business (B2B) e-business applications. It allows users and developers to work together in an object-oriented graphical environment to rapidly design e-content and e-process applications and to then deploy them in a Web-based environment with a few clicks of the mouse.

More specifically, Flotiva is an integrated workflow and content management environment that runs on Windows 32-bit clients and supports a variety of database management systems (DBMS.) The product is provided through Universal Document Management Systems, Inc., located in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Flotiva's key strengths are:

1. *Point and click client/server application development with one-click Web deployment.*
2. *Integrated e-process (workflow) and e-content management functionality.*
3. *The ability to work with virtually any DBMS or multiple DBMS products concurrently, including native access to Oracle, SQL Server and Lotus Notes. All other databases are accessible via ODBC.*
4. *Server independence achieved through the use of a DBMS client/server architecture that requires no server-resident workflow application software.*
5. *A set of APIs that allow virtually any third party GUI development environment to be used as the front end to the Flotiva workflow server.*

Product Positioning

Flotiva enables point and click development of Web- and intranet-based applications that integrate e-content and e-process functionality. Flotiva employs pre-configured screens and templates to enable users with no conventional programming knowledge to create workflows and to construct document and content management applications by dragging and dropping objects on their workstation's screen. Once an application is completed, it can be deployed with just a few mouse clicks using Flotiva's WebPlus component, which generates HTML and JavaScript-based Web pages. Flotiva's easy to use

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development tools and its quick deployment capabilities are well suited to the high-speed nature of e-business.

Flotiva's user-friendly environment is not, however, an indication of its production capabilities. It is a serious development tool that IT professionals should consider when setting out to create a client/server or Web-based content management application or to engineer an electronic process. Worktivity provides a set of APIs that allow a developer to use his or her preferred GUI development environment as the front end to Flotiva's process engine. Flotiva's open architecture makes it a valuable tool for developers creating complex applications requiring the integration of e-process and e-content functionality.

Flotiva offers a full array of basic document management features, including check-in/check-out, revision and version control, unlimited levels of security, and DBMS integration. Using Flotiva, businesses can develop applications that enable employees to create, edit, approve, and reuse e-content for virtual document assembly. Flotiva is portal-ready, so e-content from various sources can be deployed in personalized Web pages. e-businesses will welcome the addition of these new content management features to Flotiva.

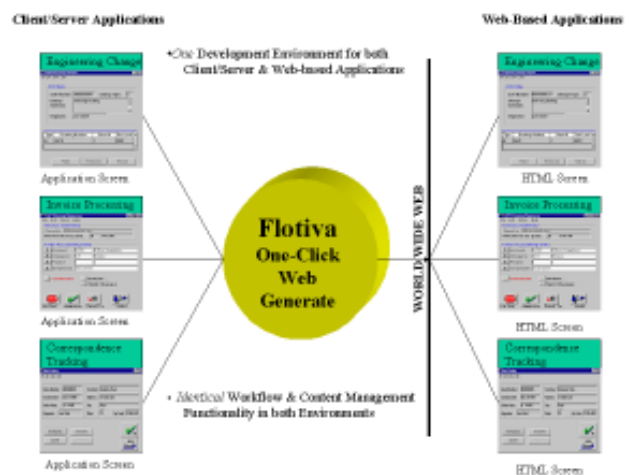
Enterprise-wide and B2B electronic processes form the core of e-business. The workflow functionality that Worktivity has included in Flotiva enables users to create and deploy e-processes with drag and drop techniques. Flotiva's workflow capabilities are so strong that it is embedded as the core process engine in one ERP vendor's product. Yet they are so intuitive that line-of-business managers and their employees can quickly develop e-processes that link their business to other value chain partners.

Flotiva's integration of e-content and e-process features makes it a powerful tool for any e-business that wishes to construct document-centric workflows or to develop e-processes that are supported with relevant content. Its intuitive graphical development environment and one-click Web deployment feature make Flotiva a good choice for any organization that

wants to empower its non-technical personnel to create and deploy e-business applications.

One Click to the Web

Worktivity has continuously emphasized the importance of tools for cross platform deployment of applications. In the Flotiva WebPlus product option, this has taken the form of an incredibly easy to use Web conversion facility. Flotiva screens that have been developed in a client/server environment are automatically converted to HTML and JavaScript, along with their embedded procedural logic. Flotiva converts any combination of forms, images, and code without any need for the developer to get involved in HTML, Java scripting, or layout. For quick Web deployment, this is a powerful tool.



WebPlus is compatible with both Microsoft and Netscape browsers and with Microsoft Internet Information Server and Netscape Enterprise Server. In addition, Flotiva WebPlus takes advantage of the Secure Socket Layer (SSL) and supports Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), which are extensions to HTML allowing greater control over layout and placement of objects on a web page. The CSS capability allows relatively sophisticated screens to be converted intact for use in the browser environment.

Highly Integrated/Exceptionally Flexible

Another impressive feature of Flotiva is its ability to work with a virtually unlimited variety of DBMS products through ODBC. Native access is available to Oracle and SQL Server databases and to Lotus Notes.

This ability to integrate legacy repositories with client/server and Web-based applications is fundamental to the enablement of e-business.

The Exchange, Notes and GroupWise implementations allow relatively seamless initiation of Flotiva through these environments. For example, a user can launch an e-process from within Lotus Notes or launch Notes from within Flotiva. An elegant implementation of the Exchange/Notes/GroupWise integration is the ability to launch Flotiva tasks as e-mail enclosures. These enclosures can also be forwarded directly from one e-mail user to other e-mail users, creating a truly collaborative workflow. This not only provides the ability to include e-mail notification, but also to tightly integrate workflow within the users native desktop environment.

Flotiva now also supports inter/intranet applications by providing the ability to deploy browser-enabled desktops.

Product Description and Profile

Market Focus

Flotiva is marketed through Value-Added Resellers, Systems Integrators, and Original Equipment Manufacturers, across all industries, to organizations seeking integrated e-process and e-content functionality within a heterogeneous database environment. Flotiva's ease of use means that end-customers, with minimal training, can modify an application developed by one of these third parties without their assistance.

Primary Application

Flotiva provides e-process and e-content functionality to a variety of e-business applications. It is ideally suited for applications requiring fast ramp-up, integration with multiple DBMS, enterprise deployment, and Web access.

Architecture

Flotiva is a Windows workstation-resident application that uses third-party relational database servers. A variety of RDBMS are supported through the ODBC standard, and Flotiva provides native access to Oracle, SQL Server, and Lotus Notes repositories.

Flotiva is comprised of four key functional modules:

1. The *Application Workflow Integrated Development Environment (IDE)* provides a tool for rapid development of e-process and e-content management applications.
2. The *Application Execution Engine* provides a client-based runtime engine for executing applications developed with the *IDE*.
3. The *Workflow Job Server* provides a Windows-based server component for workflow progression, over-due job determination, execution of automated workflow tasks, and scheduling and control of time-based e-processes and non-workflow tasks.
4. *WebPlus* is available optionally for rapid conversion and deployment of Flotiva applications over the Web.

Flotiva allows serial, concurrent (parallel), conditional and ad-hoc routing of documents. Flotiva also allows the nesting of subprocesses within workflows.

Functionality

Flotiva provides content management and document handling functionality via third-party applications such as word processors, spreadsheets, and CAD. Any Windows application can be accessed and integrated within the Flotiva environment, because the product passes files through its database interface as encapsulated objects. When files are received, they can be launched automatically in their native applications or read in a third-party viewer. This allows for management of documents independent of their file types.

Third-party applications can be linked via the Flotiva API, as well as Microsoft COM, Lotus Notes, and native stored procedures (via pass-through SQL). An audit trail is kept of all content transactions, including when, how, and by whom it was accessed.

Future Product Initiatives

Worktiviti is working on the next generation of the

About This Document:

The information contained in this opinion is intended to provide an overview of a specific product and vendor at the date of publishing. Facts presented have been verified to the best of our ability with the vendor and actual users of the product where indicated, however, Delphi cannot insure the accuracy of this information since products, vendors, and market conditions change rapidly. The Delphi Group makes no implied or explicit warranties, endorsements, or recommendations in this report nor should such warranties be inferred from its contents. A complete assessment of your specific application, the method of implementation for a given product or technology, and the current state of that product must be considered in order for a recommendation to be made on any product's suitability for your purpose, needs and requirements.

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Flotiva product. The company expects to release Version 7.0 in the year 2000 and plans to include the following new features, among others:

- A three-tier database architecture
- A standards-based interface to the e-process and e-content management engine
- A number of enhancements to the GUI development tools
- A user profile interface option for interfacing with LDAP servers
- An extension to its scripting engine to import and export XML data

Summary

Flotiva's strongest feature is the ability to deploy e-business applications with one click using the WebPlus option. Cross DBMS capability and the integration of content management and workflow are still strengths of the product, and Flotiva's rapid development and deployment features demonstrate a clear commitment to enabling Worktivity's customers to become e-businesses. The product is ideally suited for the types of integrated application requirements prevalent in today's market and for the speed at which the market is moving. With increased vertical competency and strong OEM relationships, we expect that Worktivity will become a notable enabler of e-business.



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