



Why the iSeries – AS/400?

What resources are necessary to administer an iSeries – AS/400?

Once the iSeries is set up, it almost runs itself. If you use PC's to access the iSeries, you'll spend more time maintaining them than you will the iSeries.

Solution: Wintouch eCRM is installed on the iSeries server so initial installation and future upgrades are quick and easy. Access to the iSeries data is client platform-independent using any web browser.

Can we connect a web server to the database on the iSeries for e-commerce?

There are many ways to utilize the iSeries database. The iSeries itself can be a web server – one that is almost impossible to hack. However it is recommended that your web server be a separate box than your production machine, no matter what system you are using, so that heavy traffic or DOS attacks won't affect your production system.

Solution: Not only does Wintouch access the DB2/400 data using a web browser, but the included "click of an icon" 5250 terminal emulation module allows access to all legacy green screen applications. With a wireless modem, PDA or Smart Phone, Wintouch users can have secure access to the iSeries from the field.

Is an iSeries really a more reliable solution than Microsoft as the software vendors claim or are they just trying to sell legacy software?

The iSeries is historically stable and secure. Assuming you need relational database software, DB2/400 (now known as UDB/400) is an integral part of OS/400 and is completely 64-bit. Also, when the AS/400 hardware went from CISC based to RISC based a while ago, most applications required no recompilation on the RISC system to take advantage of the new 64-bit environment. The OS took care of the changes needed to the application the first time the app was run on the RISC box.

Solution: Originally developed in SmallTalk, Wintouch was reengineered for the RISC based 400 awhile back. Touchtone prides itself on updating and improving Wintouch regularly based on customer feedback.

In Addition:

Keep in mind that an application is not necessarily a legacy application simply because it has been running on the iSeries for 10+ years. Most vendors regularly update applications as new functionalities and capabilities are added to the iSeries. However, it is easy for a vendor not to do the rewrites if the application still works but it could cause you problems. For example, is the application written in ILE RPG IV, ILE C, ILE COBOL, and JAVA or is it in non-ILE RPG III, C, or COBOL? Note: the main language of the AS/400 is RPG with COBOL close behind.

Also, originally when dumb terminals were the main way to access the AS/400, what we call 'Menu Security' was the primary way of keeping users out of where they don't belong. Today, the only way to implement security on the iSeries is using its integral object level security. You may want to get some feedback from other users of any software.

Solution: Wintouch allows levels of access by individual, department or even outside channel partners. Its database information resides on the enterprise server, with ID and password transmission encrypted and required for access. No database records reside on the client. This protects against unauthorized access or copying of valuable records while reducing system administrative costs.

Check out the iSeries web site <http://www-03.ibm.com/servers/eserver/iseries/about/why.html>