

Zild Application Server

The convergence between mobile phones, personal computers and Internet is becoming a reality and with the new third generation mobile networks, the increased bandwidth will allow you to do a lot more with your mobile phone.

Many new services will emerge, such as location services where you can view a map on your handheld device and for instance find the nearest Pharmacy from your current location, you will be able to order tickets to the Opera or a weekend trip to Venice. Within a few years the mobile device will replace your wallet and credit cards and you can use your handheld device to pay for articles and services.

What does this has to do with an Application Server you may ask? Very much is the answer.

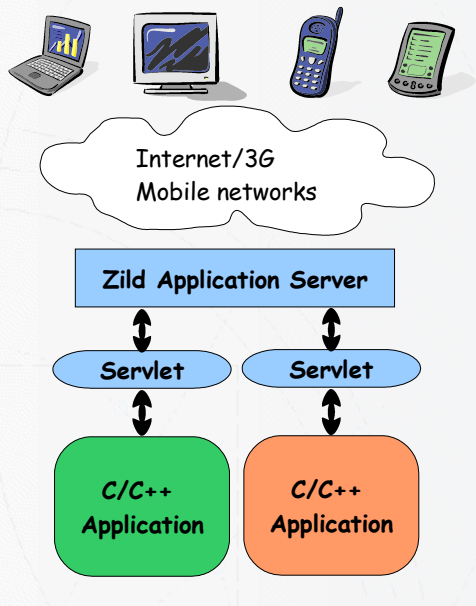
A handheld device *is* a thin client and can do very little by itself. To use any of the services mentioned above a device needs to speak over the network with an Application Server where the real functionality reside. In many ways a handheld device can be perceived as a *view* against the functionality available on an Application Server.

Today most Application Servers are based on the Java/J2EE platform and Microsoft .NET. This is a problem, because most mainstream business applications are based on C/C++. There are few options for moving a C/C++ application to an Application Server and make the application available to the Internet and to the various mobile devices.

Rewriting the application in Java or .NET is often the only choice, but this is risky, resource demanding and time consuming.

Now there is another choice, the **Zild Application Server**. Zild is written in C and moving a C/C++ application to Zild is as easy as writing a C servlet for the application. A Servlet is a C program that is loaded and executed by the Zild server. A C Servlet can link with a C/C++ application or you can simply compile the application together with a Servlet module.

When Zild receive a request from a client over the network it calls a Servlet and pass along a Request and a Response object wrapping the client request. The servlet use the Response object to send data back to the client.



Zild is easy to use and based on the same architecture and design used in a Java based Application Server.

The difference of course is that Zild is a C application and C Servlets are compiled to binary code. This makes C servlets very fast compared with Servlets running on enterprise frameworks such as Java J2EE.

Zild provides support functionality such as data driven template development, similar to XML/XSLT. A Servlet API available in C and many auxiliary classes, such as an XML parser and Secure Sockets. Zild has even a built-in small embedded SQL database which applications can utilize.

In addition Zild is also a full feature HTTP/1.1 web server, at least as fast as the well known Apache Httpd server. The web server also supports SSL/TLS for secure transfer of data between client and server.

The Zild Application Server has a small memory footprint and the server is only around 1Mb in size, including the SQL database and the SSL library.

Because of its functionality, speed, and ease of use, Zild *is* an interesting and competitive alternative to the much more complex and larger frameworks based on Java/J2EE and Microsoft .NET.

Because of its small and compact size, speed and functionality, Zild is especially suited for running on embedded systems and devices where a programable web server is needed. For instance, routers, switches set-top boxes and embedded firewall boxes where a web browser is used to configure and access the device.



Zild Application Server and Toolkit

Features:

High Performance HTTP Engine

- HTTP/1.1 Compliant
- Scalable multi-threaded and event driven i/o architecture
- Virtual Hosts; name based and address based
- Common log format and automatic log file rotation.
- Easy to use XML configuration file

Security

- Native 128 bit SSL/TLS support

Application Server

- Supports the Servlet API in C and writing C servlets
- Persistent and distributable HTTP sessions
- Built-in full feature SQL database
- HTML Form based and Basic Authentication access control
- Fast and powerful HTML template system for developing dynamic web pages
- Built-in ultra fast XML parser.

Small and fast

- The server executable is only 1Mb in size, included the embedded SQL database
- Servlets are compiled to binary code and are loaded on demand

C library

- The Zild Application Server is also shipped as a C library. Applications can link with this library to embed Zild into the application.

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