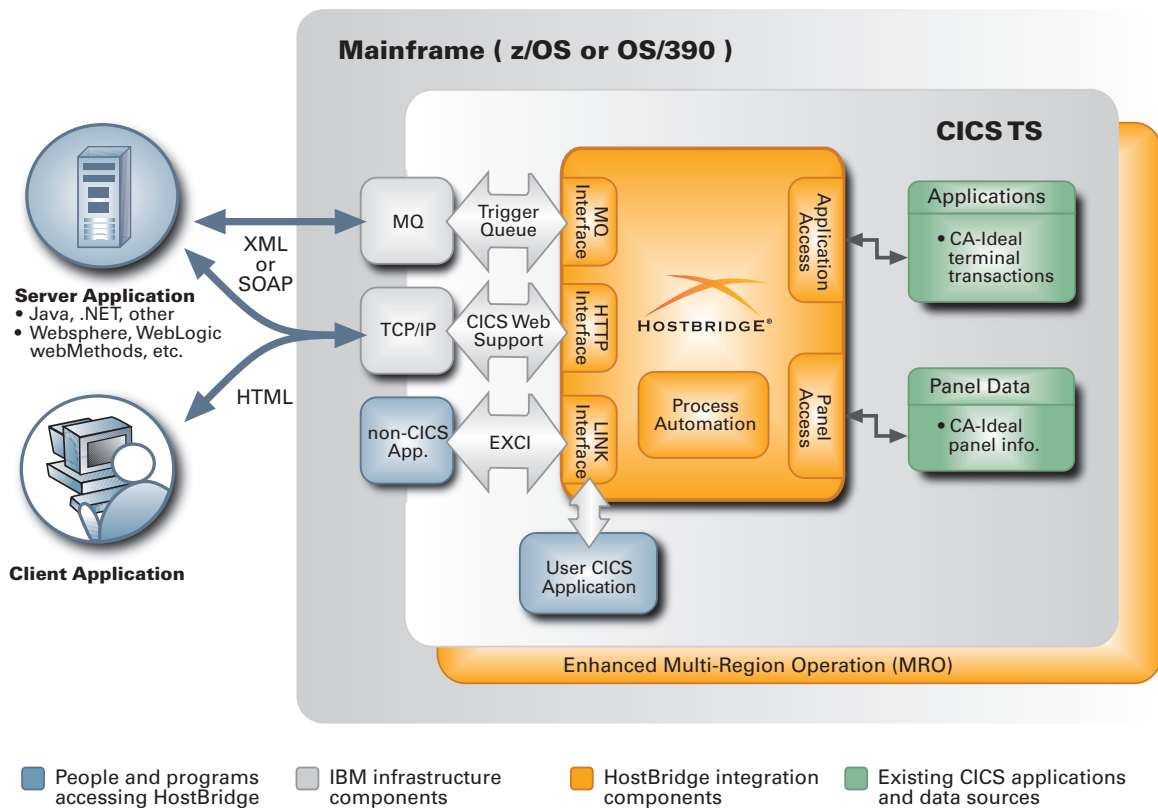


# CA-Ideal® Application Access

HostBridge® is software that runs under CICS on the mainframe and allows web server applications to invoke Advantage™ CA-Ideal® transactions using standard interfaces and returns data as XML documents or web services in a service-oriented architecture (SOA). *HostBridge has the unique ability to allow developers to integrate legacy CA-Ideal applications using field names from panel definitions rather than row/column coordinates from screen scraping.* With HostBridge, web-based applications call CA-Ideal transactions without any changes to the existing programs.

## Connecting to CA-Ideal



Most physical middle-tier connections to CA-Ideal will take place using TCP/IP and CICS Web Support (CWS); although any middle-tier application can invoke HostBridge using simple HTTP requests or SOAP messages.

HostBridge also supports WebSphere MQ and LINK interfaces. Customers who need to access CA-Ideal through MQ or from CICS COBOL programs can LINK to HostBridge.

# Using CA-Ideal Panel Definitions and Field Names

HostBridge uses CA-Ideal panel definitions to exchange data between the web server application and CA-Ideal programs in XML, SOAP, or HTML formats.

The HostBridge panel mapping facility automatically creates the required definitions from the source of existing CA-Ideal panels and incorporates them into program compilation and promotion processes. The panel mapping facility stores the field names from CA-Ideal panel definitions in a VSAM repository, making them available to integration developers.

Benefit	Description
Eliminates screen scraping	<b>Integration based on field names rather than screen geometry.</b> Screen-scraping solutions require integration developers to identify fields based on their location in a screen. Changes to the host application can break the integration if they change the screen geometry. HostBridge insulates developers from changes in geometry by recognizing changes in the screen layout and allowing developers to reference only the field names.
Faster integration; lower risk	<b>No changes to existing CA-Ideal applications.</b> Competing solutions that require changes to your existing CA-Ideal applications extend development time and introduce risk into your integration projects due to the changes in source code. HostBridge for CA-Ideal works without any changes to trusted applications and preserves existing business logic without affecting users of the existing applications.
HTML, XML, and SOAP support	<b>HostBridge returns CA-Ideal data as HTML pages or XML documents and makes applications available via SOAP.</b> HostBridge automatically converts CA-Ideal transaction data to HTML or XML and allows external applications to invoke transactions as web services. A CICS-based JavaScript engine allows a single request to drive multiple CA-Ideal transactions and return the resulting data in a single response.

## Conclusion

HostBridge complements application servers by providing a simple, scalable, secure CICS integration solution. HostBridge provides:

- Rapid integration as it is installed in just a few hours
- Flexible integration by using CA-Ideal panel data
- LINKing to CA-Ideal from CICS COBOL programs
- CICS-based process automation using JavaScript
- HTTP, SOAP, LINK (ECI/EXCI), and WebSphere MQ interfaces
- Support for outbound SOAP/web services requests
- **No** changes to existing CA-Ideal programs or panels!
- **No** screen scraping!

Besides working with CA-Ideal programs, HostBridge also integrates other BMS, 3270 and COMMAREA applications in CICS, and CA-Datacom®, DB2 and VSAM data sources. So with HostBridge the mainframe participates fully in service oriented architectures (SOA) and web services, and the life of previous investments in CA-Ideal, CA-Datacom and other mainframe applications is significantly extended.

### Contact Information

For more information on HostBridge or to inquire about our free 30-day trial, please contact us using the information below.

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