

Expand Your Mail Server to Suit Your Needs: AXIGEN and Third Party Software Integration

Lately, more and more companies that rely on IT services have begun to understand the true benefits of network subsystem interaction. Some of the well established examples are already accepted as being the de facto way of doing things. To a lot of people, the Apache integration with MySQL or PHP is no longer considered to be a bunch of independent software packages that cooperate. This cooperation is so productive that everything got merged into a single concept: the AMP (i.e. LAMP, WAMP etc.).

Along the same lines, the [AXIGEN](#) electronic messaging system can be expanded to provide external applications with the information required to perform advanced tasks in a very productive and cost effective way. You should bear in mind that some of the expansion methods described in this article are generic and can be applied to various situations while others are very specific.

- **Filter Integration**

This is one of the most sought expansion methods when it comes to email services. Filters include the regular spam and virus checks but are not limited to it. Just to help you picture the possibilities offered by a well designed filtering system, encryption, archiving, billing and notifications tasks can all be performed based on the information available during message delivery.

The AXIGEN messaging solution features a highly advanced filtering engine that allows anyone to interact with it through an adapter file (called a connector) that is used to translate plain text protocol communications between the server and any third party application. Based on the communication process result, a series of actions can be taken regarding message delivery. In addition, the message can be altered during the filtering process, thus allowing endless usage scenarios to be generated. Because the connector is used to interpret plain text communication, network sockets can be used to allow the two applications to communicate over TCP/IP, even in different parts of the world, if required.

- **Provisioning Interfaces**

Automatic and bulk operation execution is a mandatory requirement to any company that provides any type of internet-related service to a large customer base. Subscription policies management, server configuration provisioning and account settings provisioning tasks can all be performed through AXIGEN's command line interface (CLI). The CLI is a plain text protocol based service similar to a regular telnet service that allows administrative accounts to manage server settings.

Although the CLI allows for any administrative action to be performed unattended, the decision to execute the task needs input from other information sources. Such sources include third party applications, log files, event data records and SNMP OID counters. Accessing this information and its interpretation is the responsibility of the application that needs to perform configuration tasks. However, the execution part of the whole process is easy to manage and integrate with the AXIGEN product, either by creating a custom application for this purpose or by using the publicly available API designed to facilitate this interaction.

- **Webmail Integration and Expansion**

The AXIGEN messaging solution also features a built-in, in-house developed web server. This enables both the Webmail and the Webadmin interfaces to transfer internal server calls to the core services, such as the storage manager.

The web based services (most commonly the Webmail interface) can be aesthetically changed to incorporate your own logos, graphics and style sheets. However, this is only a fraction of what can be achieved through the web pages served. Any application that requires client-side scripting can be inserted into the already existing Webmail pages. Thus, flash-based applications, JavaScript code and Java Applets are all compatible.

Server-side scripting is not supported at the time this article has been written, but a brand new implementation of the Webmail interface is being developed. The future AXIGEN Webmail will support server-side scripting through a SOAP interface that will also be used for server specific data extraction. The data includes details such as the number of messages in one folder, the account name for the user that logged in, the quota values, the Webmail language and much more.

- **Conclusion**

Whether you require input for data mining or service usage statistics purposes, are trying to filter emails in a "never heard of before" method, want to provision service configuration tasks, expand the web services functionalities of your server or all of the above, give AXIGEN a try. You'll be amazed by the adaptability and ease of use it provides.

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