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Travail de diplôme 2005

Département Electricité et Informatique

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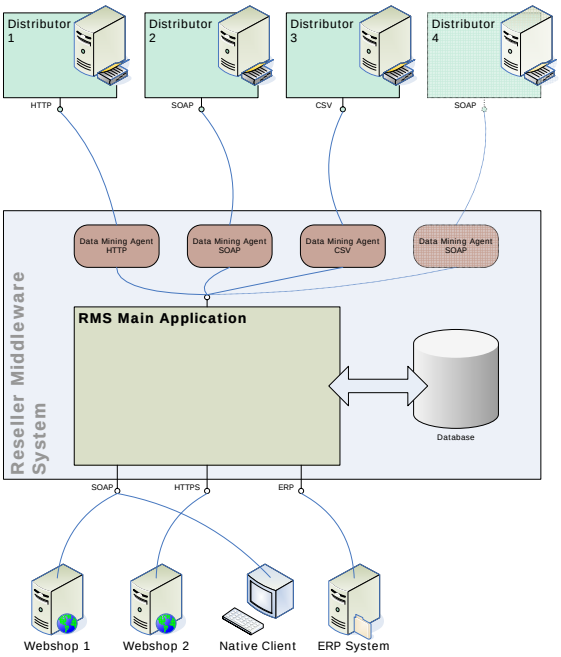
Reseller Middleware System

Introduction

On the Swiss retailer market, there are several distributors, selling their articles on different conditions to the dealers, which provide the end-users with PC hardware of all kind. Usually, those dealers choose to subscribe at several distributors in order to obtain a large choice of products. It also offers the flexibility to order at the distributor which provides the best price of a certain article.

The goal of the diploma project was to provide a centralized tool that manages all communication between the dealer and a variable amount of distributors. The tool is accessible by a web browser, as well as by a web service, allowing third party applications to make use of it.



Difficulties

- Find some common ground on which to base when it comes to the definition of a generic API for interacting with the distributors
- Performance and stability even with very large sets of data
- Accurate user authentication
- Global category handling
- Purchase Order Processing
- Real time queries of actual stock and price
- Flexible search engine

Technologies

The project makes use of cutting-edge technologies such as PostgreSQL, SOAP or XML/XSL. It is implemented in PHP 5, which offers native XML and SOAP support and a reflection API for WSDL generation.

Conclusion

The final result of this diploma project is a software tool which is currently used by a IT reseller. It plays a central role when it comes to product search and purchase ordering.

Scenarios where an end-user Web shop makes use of the core database are very well imaginable and probably being developed in near future.

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