

Technical note: WebEntree: A Web service aggregator

Author: Y. Zhao Adobe Systems, Inc., 345 Park Avenue, San Jose, California



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Abstract Authors References Cited By Index Terms Publication Reviews Comments Table of Contents

This technical note introduces IBM's WebEntree, a single-log-in Web service aggregator. WebEntree provides an aggregated Web service on top of distributed Web service systems (as components) with a centralized access control and content customization facility. Each service system can have its own access control facility and provide its own independent service. WebEntree implements a flexible and dynamic component-bundling mechanism, and can provide personalized service with user-selected component sets. WebEntree offers a convenient way for new components to be "plugged in" and "played." The owner of the aggregated Web service can keep each component's original branding, add more information, filter out certain content, or customize the presentations. WebEntree also provides a single user registration and authentication interface for all of its user-selectable service components. WebEntree currently accommodates Web service components invoked via HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP, i.e., under a Web server) and service components invoked directly from local or remote application programming interfaces. Other component interfaces are planned.

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