

Advantage Database Server[®] Web Platform



PRODUCT DATASHEET

KEY BENEFITS

- Client-less access to Advantage data from any device, platform, or development environment.
- Easy application distribution. It is possible to write a web application (e.g., using JavaScript) that requires no distribution to your users.
- Turnkey access to Advantage data whether using a mobile device, smart phone, tablet, desktop, or laptop essentially opening up endless possibilities to access data to suit any situation.

The Advantage Web Platform is a web service that allows “client-less” access to Advantage data from any device, platform, or development environment that can make internet (HTTP) calls. This includes but is not limited to devices such as desktop/laptops, mobile phones, PDAs, and tablets. It allows access from any current operating system including previously unsupported systems such as Mac OS and Android because no Advantage client is required. The Advantage Web Platform extends your application development opportunities and opens up endless possibilities to access Advantage from many different types of architectures, hardware, and business scenarios.

Prior to Advantage version 11, data stored in the Advantage Database Server could only be accessed via an Advantage client interface (Delphi components, .NET Data Provider, PHP driver, ODBC, etc.). All of these interfaces are built on top of the Advantage Client Engine (ACE) which supports two platforms; Windows and Linux. The Advantage Web Platform is designed to help provide easy access to your data in any situation.

TECHNOLOGY

The Advantage Web Platform is a web service packaged and built as a lightweight Apache Web Server module. It is written with industry standard technology to make development and integration easy.

The web service is a RESTful API that returns data using the OData specification. It can return XML (default) or JSON data. Every modern development environment provides the ability to make an HTTP call and consume a web service. This means access to Advantage data is possible from literally any programming language and on any device platform.

KEY FEATURES

- OData protocol support
- OData client support including .NET, Objective-C (iOS), Android, Silverlight, PHP, Java, and more
- XML (AtomPub), JSON, and JSONP support
- CRUD operations
- Connection and statement caching
- Batch support
- Filter support
- Orderby query support
- Metadata support
- Unicode support
- Referential Integrity support
- Off-line data storage synchronization through OData reference caching (Delta support)
- Stored Procedure support via service operations
- Chunked HTTP requests
- Tunneled HTTP requests
- MIME encoding of binary updates
- Full SQL query support (optional)
- Pass-through query support

SPECIFICATIONS

The Advantage Web Platform is built as an Apache module on Apache HTTP Server version 2.x. The Apache server is included with the Web Platform install.

Database server supported:

- Advantage Database Server 11.0 or greater

Server operating systems:

- Microsoft Windows x86 (IP)
- Microsoft Windows x86_64 (IP)

Security:

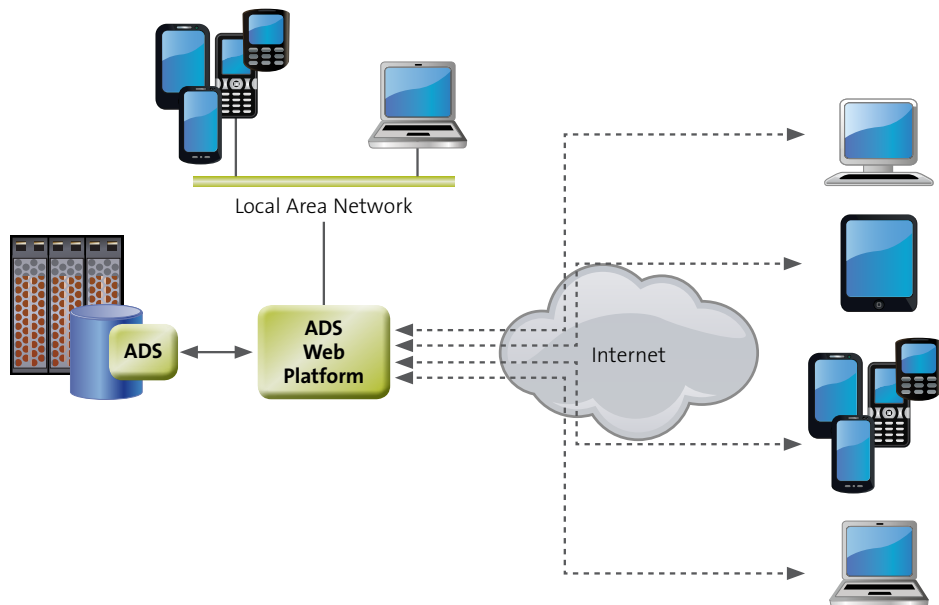
- Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS)

ODATA (OPEN DATA) PROTOCOL

The Advantage Web Platform is built on the OData protocol. OData is an open web protocol industry standard for querying and updating data. It is built upon common web technologies such as HTTP, Atom Publishing Protocol (AtomPub), and JSON and is designed to help provide easy access to data from a variety of applications, services, and stores.

The free OData SDK provides many client libraries that allow developers to more easily write applications that work with data exposed via the Advantage Web Platform OData service.

More information about OData can be found at www.odata.org



WEB PLATFORM USES

The implementation options for the Web Platform are endless. Example uses include:

- Creating mobile web applications
- Creating native mobile apps (iOS, Android, Objective-C, Windows 7 Mobile, etc)
- Creating HTML5 applications
- Creating desktop applications
- Use in SaaS architectures
- Use in Cloud architectures
- Access Advantage data from a Macintosh application

ADVANTAGE WEB ADMINISTRATOR

The Advantage Web Administrator demonstrates some of the power and potential the Web Platform offers. It is a utility with the ability to manage one or more Advantage databases from anywhere with internet connectivity, including from mobile devices and tablets. It is built with and connects to Advantage through the Advantage Web Platform. The Web Administrator is free and packaged with the Web Platform.

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