

Work Better With Marratech Manager API

The Marratech® Manager application programming interface (API) is software and documentation designed to provide business and institutional customers with remote, real-time, programmatic access to the administrative functions of the Marratech Manager, the same capabilities available to a system administrator working with the Manager's administrative web pages. This level of access opens a range of possibilities for integrating Marratech meetings into project platforms, learning management systems, and information portals.

The API uses the Java programming language and supports any operating system supported by the Marratech Manager software. Programmers can access the API through standalone programs or from J2EE compliant web services environments like the Jakarta project's Tomcat, IBM's Websphere, BEA's Weblogic, or JBOSS from JBOSS, Inc.

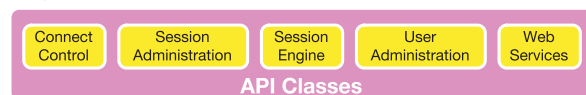
This product supports the Marratech Manager. It does not provide any access to Marratech client software.

You could not use it, for example, to write a plug-in that replaced the standard whiteboard.

Customers who purchase this feature must have software development resources with experience in the Java programming language, J2EE, Java Server Pages, and web services.

Services

The API exposes five service classes. These include connect control, session administration, the session engine, user administration, and web services.



Connect Control is the mechanism used for controlling and obtaining information about active participants and open rooms. This service provides usage information for participants, rooms, nodes, and other resources. It also allows you to add or remove participants from an active room, to enable or disable an active room, and to lock or unlock an active room.

Session Administration provides a means for administering a set of meeting templates and rooms. This service allows you to programmatically add, modify, and remove meeting rooms.

Session Engine provides all the vital information about an active room at a specific node.

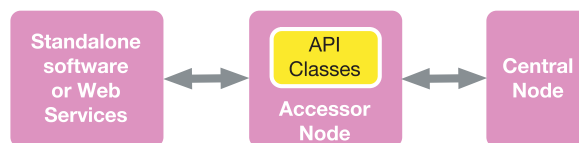
User Administration provides administrative tools for the Manager's user and group repository. This service provides for adding, modifying, and removing participants and groups.

Web Services provide methods for administering the web server access point in the Manager. It uses the Jetty Web Server software (jetty.mortbay.org) to serve HTML pages, Java server pages, and Java servlets.

Accessor Node

A special Accessor Node provides a secure communications channel between your external software or web services engine and the Marratech Manager's Central Node. Marratech uses TCP port 4160 for this purpose. The Accessor Node can be on any machine with access to port 4160 on the machine hosting the Central Node.

To the Marratech Manager, the Accessor Node looks like a Remote Node in a clustered deployment of the Manager software. To properly communicate with the Central Node, an Accessor Node requires a special accessor kit file that a system administrator can generate with the Central Node software.



Your software communicates with the Accessor Node through Marratech Manager API calls. This means that your software needs to run in the same Java Virtual Machine (JVM) as the Accessor Node. It also means that you need to specify the location of the Accessor Node software in the JVM's "classpath" variable.

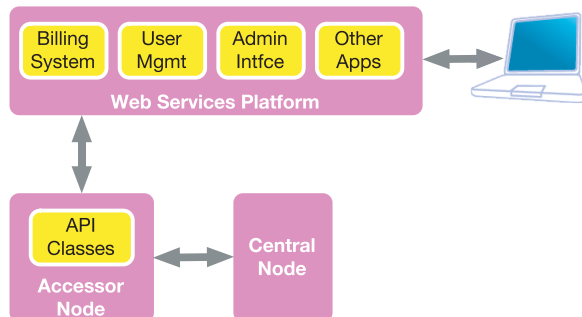


Examples

Let's look at a couple of examples. First, consider the situation where you need to extract usage information for a departmental charge-back system. The heart of your system would be a small Java program that communicates in real time with the Marratech Manager.

The first thing that your program would do is instantiate an accessor object. This object uses the accessor kit file to find and connect to the Central Node. Once connected, your program can receive selected events as the Marratech Manager generates them. Your program could then process each event and write the extracted information to a permanent data store such as a file or data base, or display the information onscreen in real time.

Now let's look at a more sophisticated example. You've installed one of the J2EE-compliant web services platforms mentioned earlier. You want to create a web page that allows a system administrator to create, edit, and remove users from the Central Node's user repository.



In this case, you instantiate the accessor object from within the web services platform where it creates a connection to the Central Node. The accessor object is now available to the Java Server Pages that provide the user interface for our administrator. In this example, the program logic resides in the JSP.

Using this same approach, you could create JSPs that provide a billing function. A page would poll the accessor object for usage statistics in order to bill end users automatically.

This strategy can be used to integrate Marratech into an existing administrative interface where Marratech Manager administration has the same look and feel, naming conventions, and functions as other services in the interface. This kind of customization offers reduced training costs and improved service levels.

Marratech has a Professional Services organization available to help you apply the API to more complex projects like single user sign-on.

Summary

The Marratech Manager API provides an ideal solution for business and institutional customers who need realtime, programmatic access to the Marratech Manager's administrative features. With this tool, information technology professionals can add value to their project platforms, learning management systems, and information portals by seamlessly integrating Marratech meetings into their existing services.

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