myEvolution

Introduction

The rapid expansion of web applications built on the Java 2 Enterprise Edition™ (J2EE) platform has given rise to a significant need for technologies that assist in the setup, configuration, and management of Java environments.

Environment setup and application management in data centers has traditionally been accomplished manually with specialized administration teams. Access to systems has been restricted to a few individuals, hindering the deployment process. Moreover, management's visibility into deployed applications has been limited, which has prevented accurate cost tracking.

A new solution that hinges on automation is necessary to reliably manage a large J2EE data center and provide proper accessibility, visibility, and cost tracking. Evolution Hosting's myEvolution™ is a solution that utilizes automation at its core to solve these problems in an elegant fashion.

The myEvolution hosting platform includes a configuration engine, an administration site, and the myEvolution Hosting Control Center. The automated configuration engine ensures environments are identical, easing the movement of applications from test through production deployment. The administration site provides management with a view into the types of applications deployed and their status, as well as the ability to invoice cost-centers. The myEvolution Hosting Control Center empowers account-holders to manage their own application and profile information from a web-based user interface. Together, the platform allows system administrators, developers, and managers to collaborate in the application life cycle. As a result, account environment's can be configured reliably and quickly, applications can be deployed rapidly, and reports can be viewed in real time.

This document serves as an introduction to myEvolution and outlines a partial feature set of its technology. For an evaluation account, online demonstration, or to discuss any topics in greater detail, please contact Evolution Hosting.

1. Java and J2EE are trademarks of Sun Microsystems, Inc.
2. myEvolution is a trademark of Evolution Hosting

Feature List

myEvolution is a hosting platform that equips organizations to effectively control the life cycle of complex Java applications. It alleviates common production issues that plague enterprise Java environments such as error-prone, manual account setup and configuration, security, naming issues, Java-classpath settings, and the management of Java 2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE) servers and their properties.

The hosting engine automatically handles configuration of application servers, database and web servers, and operating systems. Basic services such as user security, FTP, and DNS are maintained for each account. Both an account view and administrator view are available.

Feature	Description	Benefits
J2EE Application Hosting	Complex Java applications can be deployed and managed on either shared or dedicated platforms. All accounts have private application server and JVM (Java Virtual Machine) instances. Accounts are virtualized around the application.	Account holders can host complex applications with components including JSP's, Servlets, and Enterprise JavaBeans. Administrators can monitor and manage account holder activity, applying individual services as needed.
Automated J2EE Environment Setup	Automatically creates and configures J2EE application server environments. Configures resources and applies default values to properties.	Administrator needs only limited knowledge in Java and proprietary vendor platforms. Setup information is encapsulated in data-driven templates and resources.
Automated System Setup	Automatically sets up system level services such as users, groups, FTP accounts, and DNS settings.	Allows administration team to scale services and account base without scaling support staff.
Administration Site	Allows administrators to manage application servers, database servers, billing processes, and outstanding orders.	New service offerings can be added, host properties can be updated, and order status information can be verified via web browser.
New Account Signup	Users or administrators can execute a new account signup with an easy step-by-step process. The entire signup sequence, including pricing and service offerings, can be customized.	Automated signup empowers development teams to quickly create new environments as need arises. Developer teams no longer depend on system administrators to perform even the simplest of changes.
Billing	Create, change, and delete orders. Orders and billing events can be viewed along with subordinate account detail items.	Allows tracking of costs to appropriate parties. Component-based, with capability to integrate with external systems.
Integrated Management Interface	myEvolution has a browser-based user interface for management of a virtual hosting account. Server properties and application settings can be locked down, hidden, or opened on a per-account basis.	Empowers account holders to manage applications rather than requesting assistance from system administrators. System administrators can control exactly what capabilities certain users have over the environment.
Virtual Application	myEvolution provides account holders with a unified view of their application	Administrator can choose not to reveal sensitive environment information such

Server	independent of where its components are deployed or what application servers they are deployed on.	as host machine address, port numbers, or file system characteristics. Eases deployment since account holders are not required to know these specifics.
Database Management Support	myEvolution enables account holders to perform database updates including creating and dropping tables, importing and exporting data, and executing queries. Regular data exports can be scheduled by development teams.	Signup automatically creates database instances, eliminating the need for manual setup. Empowers account holder to manage and query data remotely. Allows administrator to offer numerous databases without steep learning curves for new platforms.
Multi-Vendor Support	Evolution offers templates for numerous vendor platforms supporting web servers, JSP/Servlet engines, J2EE servers, and databases. Required setup knowledge exists in the templates.	Allows administrator to offer new software releases quickly and without expert knowledge in each vendor platform. Reduces staff requirements when scaling new rollouts.
Application Health Monitoring	System monitoring components check applications and related systems and can take corrective action. System sends wireless alerts to administrators and account holders for troubleshooting purposes.	Auto-restart capabilities limit administrator staff requirements while ensuring high-levels of uptime for account holder applications. Wireless pages alert staff immediately of problems.
Security	myEvolution security covers operating system settings, J2EE component deployment, property updates, and database interaction. Browser-based SSL encryption ensures that all account interaction is private.	Administration teams can now lock-down traditional management methods such as SSH, which allow only limited tracking and granularity of control.
Reporting	Managers now have a window into the enterprise applications running on servers.	Administration site shows each account, its current status, and exactly which software versions it is using.
"One-Click Scalability"	Ability to upgrade or downgrade application resources such as memory, disk space, and database space based on current need.	Evolution's automated configuration eliminates the need for administration staff to respond to these requests. Billing systems automatically charge accounts on a prorated basis for resource changes.
System Documentation	Easy to use manual for developers, FAQ pages, and context sensitive help screens walk users through steps to configure and deploy applications.	Reduced administrator staff dependencies.

Summary

myEvolution™ is a powerful enabler for organizations managing data centers with numerous J2EE applications. It provides the ability to add secure and robust J2EE hosting services quickly, empowers each technology group in an organization, and adds visibility into the data center from management's perspective.