

“Beyond SMS” Instant Messaging on Mobile Devices

Java technology is starting to play a pivotal role in the ongoing wireless revolution. Mobile handsets and PDA's pose a number of new challenges that the code portability and the secure execution environment offered by Java technology can help to tackle. With the Java 2 Micro Edition (J2ME), SUN Microsystems has created a powerful development and deployment platform for mobile devices.

The Mobile Instant Messenger is a fully-functional Java technology application developed by Ergon Informatik AG. Its contact-list- and group-based communication are a natural extension of the well-known SMS service. Additionally, it provides location-based user lists and personal profiles that allow users to find new friends wherever they go.

The built-in 'over-the-air' multiparty games share the same JMS-based instant messaging technology used for message exchange. New games can share the same infrastructure and can be added with minimal effort. Games have been a huge success for NTT Docomo's i-appli service, and downloadable games in Europe exhibit the same success.

The underlying push technology leads to significantly faster response times than current WAP based solutions. User-satisfaction tests have shown that, through Ergon's push technology, today's GSM networks provide ample responsiveness. In most situations the propagation delay for a game 'move' or message from one user to another will be under 1 second.

Connectivity: The application connects to the back-end messaging servers with standard TCP/IP. Special care has been taken to minimize the required communication bandwidth and memory usage on the mobile device. In areas where 2.5G packet-oriented networks such as GPRS are available, the messenger can remain 'always on' at minimal cost.

MIDP: The application conforms to J2ME and MIDP standards. This guarantees portability between all Java-enabled handsets supporting the MIDP standard. MIDP-compliant handsets are available today from Motorola, Siemens and Nokia.

Company Information: Ergon Informatik AG (<http://www.ergon.ch>), is a leading software development company with headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland, and a subsidiary in Sausalito, California. Its staff of 70 professional software engineers is dedicated to the development of mission-critical solutions for the financial and telecommunication markets. With its focus on business solutions for heterogeneous computing environments, Ergon is leading the development of several large-scale applications using advanced Java technology. Credit Suisse and UBS, two of Ergon's key customers, are amongst the world's top ten financial institutions. Ergon has developed a range of Internet projects for Credit Suisse, including the Internet-banking solution DIRECT NET, and the discount broker Youtrade. With Youtrade's J2ME based mobile trading client for the Palm Organizer, Ergon extended its Java technology leadership into the mobile industry.

Further Information:

Sales:	Alois Sauter	VP Sales & Marketing	sauter@ergon.ch	+41 1 268 89 54
Technical:	Jakob Magun	Senior Software Engineer	magun@ergon.ch	+41 1 268 89 36

