

Synergy/DE *xfSeries*™
xfServerPlus™ and *xfServer*™

Distributed Computing Products for Open, Scalable Business Applications

Interface with new technologies and improve the performance of your applications

The world of software computing has increasingly come to embrace the concept of a distributed environment. This powerful computing model enables you to open your logic and data to powerful technologies, including the Internet. It also enables you to strategically distribute your application across your computing resources to ensure maximum performance and stability.

xfSeries products enable Synergy applications to take advantage of a distributed architecture by providing remote, high-performance access to Synergy logic and data from a variety of clients, including Synergy/DE, Microsoft .NET, Java, and COM-compliant interfaces such as Visual Basic and Active Server Pages. And with Synergy/DE *xfSeries*, developing distributed applications is easy. *xfSeries* development tools enable you to quickly define your remote Synergy routines and create new interfaces to access them.

▶ CHALLENGE

You want to access your Synergy applications from other technologies and reap other benefits of a distributed environment.

▶ SOLUTION

Use Synergy/DE *xfSeries* to improve the performance of your applications and to interface with Microsoft® .NET, Java™, or COM-compliant languages such as Visual Basic® and Active Server Pages.

▶ BENEFIT

Extend the possibilities for your proven Synergy® applications.

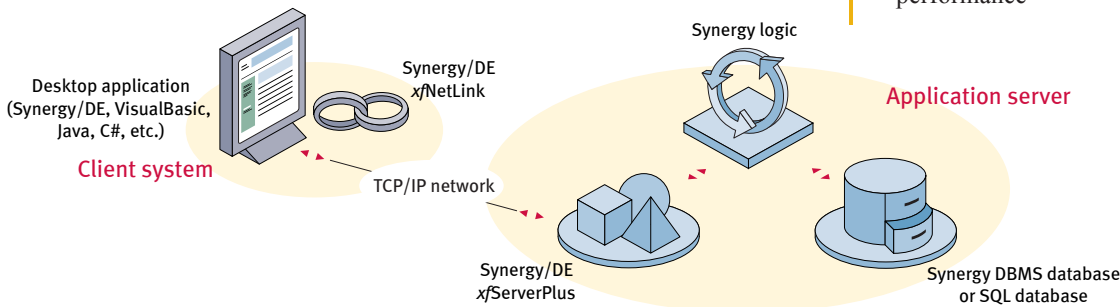
PRODUCT HIGHLIGHTS

xfSeries includes

- *xfServerPlus* application server, which enables remote access to Synergy business logic and data
- *xfServer* data server, which provides Synergy applications with access to remote Synergy data
- Development tools, which enable you to easily create new interfaces to your Synergy business logic and data

xfSeries enables you to

- Access your Synergy business logic and data remotely from a variety of technologies and languages:
 - Microsoft .NET
 - Java
 - COM (Visual Basic, Active Server Pages)
 - Synergy/DE
- Scale your application to thousands of users
- Ensure a stable, reliable system
- Optimize network resources and increase system performance



ADD WEB ACCESS TO YOUR EXISTING SYNERGY BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

Make your Synergy business logic and data available anytime, anywhere, utilizing an existing infrastructure—the Internet. Use *xfServerPlus* to build distributed solutions that access your existing Synergy routines and database files from Microsoft .NET, Java, or COM clients. This means you can leverage your existing Synergy/DE investment to get to the Web. And you can provide your customers, partners, and employees with around-the-clock access to your application’s logic and data.

OPEN YOUR SYNERGY BUSINESS LOGIC AND DATA TO OTHER TECHNOLOGIES

Do you have a Synergy application that you want your Visual Basic application to interface with, or does one of your suppliers need to access your Synergy logic from C# or Microsoft Excel? In addition to the Web, you can open your Synergy applications to many other technologies, including applications written in a .NET language or Java, offering you and your customers increased flexibility and new opportunities.

SCALE TO THOUSANDS OF USERS

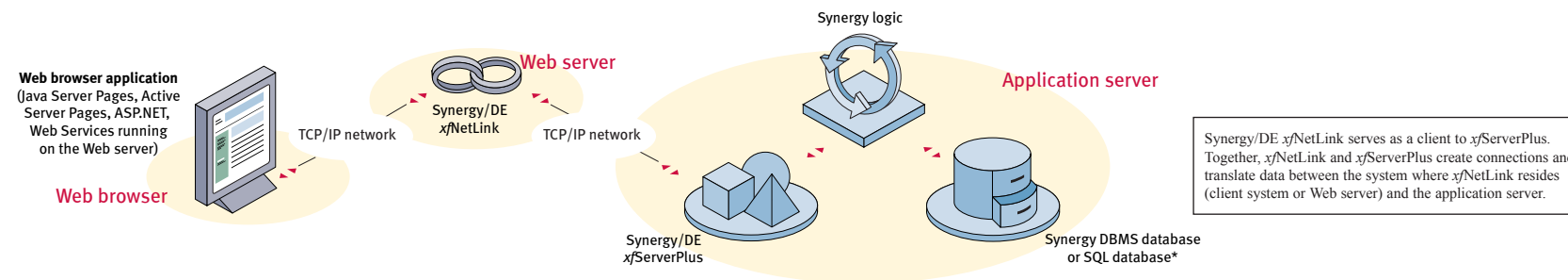
Built on the inherent scalability of Synergy/DE, *xfSeries* enables you to expand your system as needed, while maintaining the performance your users demand. Data compression and *xfServerPlus*’ proprietary data transfer protocol help to reduce your network load. Connection and object pooling can greatly reduce the time required to connect to and execute remote Synergy logic. These and other performance features allow you to scale your application from one standalone machine to an enterprise-wide system hosting thousands of users.

ENSURE A STABLE, RELIABLE SYSTEM

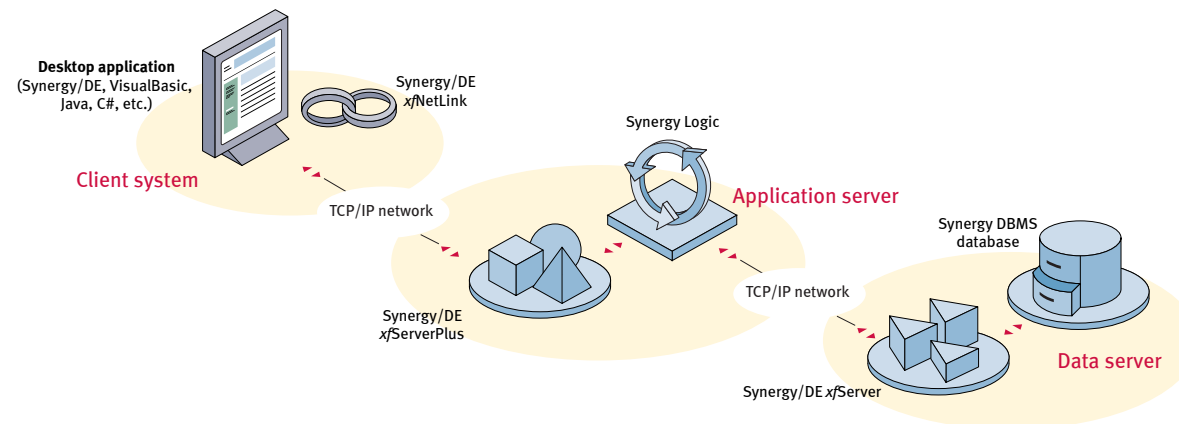
xfSeries products provide the kind of access to data and logic that customers want—balanced by the stability they demand. *xfSeries* also provides remote debugging tools and system management utilities to help you monitor your system and diagnose and troubleshoot issues.

TO ACCESS REMOTE SYNERGY LOGIC AND DATA, YOU CAN USE A VARIETY OF CONFIGURATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE:

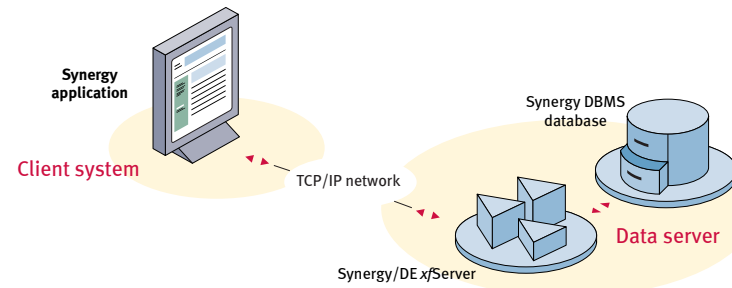
- A TWO-TIER CONFIGURATION WITH AN APPLICATION SERVER CONFIGURATION (SEE PAGE 1.)
- A THREE-TIER CONFIGURATION WITH A WEB SERVER AND AN APPLICATION SERVER:



- A THREE-TIER CONFIGURATION WITH AN APPLICATION SERVER AND A DATA SERVER (WHERE YOUR DATA IS ON A SYSTEM SEPARATE FROM YOUR LOGIC):



- A TWO-TIER DATA SERVER CONFIGURATION TO ACCESS REMOTE SYNERGY DBMS DATA ONLY:



xfSERVERPLUS APPLICATION SERVER

- Enables remote access to Synergy business logic and data (in Synergy DBMS and SQL databases*)
- Supports a variety of industry-standard technologies and languages, including Microsoft .NET, Java, Visual Basic, Active Server Pages and other COM-compliant languages, and Synergy/DE
- Includes a proprietary data transfer protocol, similar to RPC (Remote Procedure Call), which speeds network communication
- Enables compression of the data transmitted between *xfServerPlus* and *xfNetLink*
- Facilitates troubleshooting with remote debugging tools
- Includes server and client logging of remote access requests, data passed and returned, and error information
- Enables you to easily configure your distributed system via the Synergy Configuration Program (Define environment variables, modify settings, start/stop *xfServerPlus*, etc.) (Windows)

*To access SQL databases, Synergy/DE Connectivity Series is also required.

xfSERVER DATA SERVER

- Provides remote access to Synergy DBMS databases from Synergy applications
- Includes a proprietary data transfer protocol, which speeds network communication
- Contains system management utilities to monitor system activity and troubleshoot issues
- Includes server logging of remote access requests, data passed and returned, and error information
- Enables you to easily configure your distributed system via the Synergy Configuration Program (Define environment variables, modify settings, start/stop *xfServer*, etc.) (Windows)

ENSURE SYSTEM INTEGRITY

xfSeries’ robust I/O error handling enables you to expediently address any errors that occur during network failures. Data integrity is increased on Windows systems, where *xfServer* provides an alternative to mapped drives. With mapped drives, all file processing is done on the client, so that the client must exchange multiple messages with the server for each transaction. With *xfServer*, file processing can be moved to the remote server, significantly reducing the number of messages that must be exchanged between client and server.

OPTIMIZE NETWORK RESOURCES AND INCREASE SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

Lower system management costs. By distributing your processing load, you can extend the life of your equipment and lower system management costs. Instead of replacing older hardware, you can optimize your existing system by offloading some of your application processing to one or more server machines. And, if the servers are handling your computation-intensive activities, you will not need to replace your existing PCs as often, and will no longer need to purchase expensive new equipment when you add users to your system.

Improve response time with superior network performance. *xfSeries* tools let you distribute pieces of your application to the most appropriate system or systems in your network. Faster, newer machines can be used for time-consuming activities, such as report generation, leaving the client system free for user interface processes. As a result, network traffic is significantly reduced and user response time lowered.

Store logic and data where it is most accessible and easily maintained. Every user does not need to access every component of your application. With *xfSeries* tools, you can distribute your logic and data where it makes the most sense, on the server(s) residing closest to the users of that logic and data. By distributing the business logic and data, these components are more easily updated or replaced, reducing the deployment and maintenance time required by the IT staff. And since these updates are transparent to the end user, network service is not disrupted.

"Sales for our WebTrack product have increased. Now our customers are starting to understand the power and the possibilities of a product integrated with the Internet using xfServerPlus technology."

- Ken Stewart, Forward Computers

"By introducing Synergy/DE xfServerPlus into the equation, we can now provide a GUI front-end to legacy systems, which can retain the integrity and investment of many years of development. This also enables us to 'partner' in-house IT resources, where the programmers can use their input and design skills along with our xfServerPlus routines to handle file updates. In addition, we can also introduce browser-based front-ends in the same manner, making use of true 'thin-client' technology over both the Internet and intranet. This approach will enable us to capture both cell- and GUI-based customers."

- Brian Gray, Gould Hall Computer Services

"For large mission-critical applications, it is mandatory to use the client/server model and not the traditional mapped drive arrangement for your data files. For my money, using xfServer for your file system is the only way to go. This advance will keep us on the leading edge of mission critical systems development into the foreseeable future."

- Frank Cottrell, BusinessCraft

xfSERIES DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

xfSeries includes development tools that enable you to easily create new interfaces to your Synergy business logic and data. You can

- Define your remote routines (methods) in the Synergy Method Catalog (SMC) with the Method Definition Utility (MDU)
- Create test code with the test skeleton generator
- Create Java jar files that reference your Synergy methods and can be used in Java applications, JSP applications, or any other Java environment
- Create COM type libraries that reference your Synergy methods and can be used with Visual Basic, Active Server Pages, and other COM-compliant client applications
- Create Synergy .NET assemblies that reference your Synergy methods and can be used in any .NET environment, including Windows applications written in .NET-capable languages such as C# or Visual Basic .NET, or Web applications that use ASP.NET, or Web services
- Diagnose and troubleshoot issues during development with remote debugging tools and extensive logging capabilities

Most xfSeries development tools can be accessed from within Professional Series Workbench, providing you with a comprehensive environment for your distributed application development.

ABOUT SYNERGEX AND SYNERGY/DE

Synergex, with more than 28 years of experience in cross-platform application delivery, specializes in providing integrated enterprise solutions for the small- to mid-sized business market. Our Synergy/DE development tools enable developers to productively build business suites that can seamlessly integrate with third-party applications and data and efficiently deploy into distributed environments, including the Internet. With a substantial presence in a multitude of vertical industries, Synergy/DE has a long track record backed by millions of end users worldwide.

Supported Platforms

The information in this datasheet is current as of Synergy/DE 8.1.7. xfNetLink .NET and xfNetLink COM are supported on Microsoft® Windows®. Other xfSeries products are supported on Microsoft Windows, HP OpenVMS™, and a number of Unix® platforms.