

ACTIV SDKs Version 1.8.3.0

We at ACTIV are very pleased to announce the 9th public release of our SDK sets. As usual our server applications still maintain support for all 8 previous API releases. Please read the enclosed DownloadInstructions.pdf for the updated download instructions, and the docs/ActivContentPlatform/ActivFeedSdk/ActivContentGatewayApiChanges.txt and docs/ActivMiddleware/ActivMiddlewareChanges.txt (for C++ users) files for programming changes. If you have forgotten your FTP account details or your account has expired, please get in touch and we'll be happy to send you your account details or reopen your account.

Some of the enhancements and changes with this release include:

New C++ ActivContentServer API

This new C++ API can subscribe to the UDP multicast update streams generated by the Downstream Content Server / Contribution Server. It is the preferred API for applications that need every update from a DCS / CS as no load is put on the Content Gateway. Also provided are 3 sample applications (ActivContentServerApiSample, UpdateViewerCS and MarketTickerCS) to help get you started developing. Note that we don't offer an Internet test access for this API, so testing is best done by downloading the ACP Server Developer Package and publishing content into the ACP using the ActivContribution SDK.

Renamed APIs and SDKs

Having added the new ActivContentServer API, we've renamed our other APIs as follows:

1. ActivFeed API -> ActivContentGateway API
2. ActivClientContribution API -> ActivContributionGateway API
3. ActivServerContribution API -> ActivContributionServer API

These APIs are packaged in the following SDKs:

The ActivFeed SDK (for subscribing to data) contains:

1. ActivContentGateway API (and uses a TCP transport)
2. ActivContentServer API (and uses a multicast UDP transport)

The ActivContribution SDK (for publishing data) contains:

1. ActivContributionGateway API (and uses a TCP transport)
2. ActivContributionServer API (and uses a multicast UDP transport)

The APIs are depicted in this diagram:

<http://www.activfinancial.com/downloads/HybridArchitectureWithContribution.gif>

Enhanced C++ ActivContentGateway API (formally ActivFeed API)

The new C++ ActivContentGateway API contains the following enhancements:

1. We've added 5 new metadata methods:
 - a) GetTableInfoList returns the list of all tables known by the Content Gateway.
 - b) GetTableSpecification returns the specification of a table including the list of fields in the table.
 - c) GetRelationshipInfoList returns the list of available relationship ids for a given context.

- d) GetUniversalFieldHelperMap returns the list of all fields known by the Content Gateway.
 - e) GetUniversalFieldHelper returns a field helper given a field id or code identifier.
- 2. We've added 4 new sample applications:
 - a) DocumentationSample.
 - b) FutureNavigationSample.
 - c) MetaDataSample.
 - d) UpdateViewer.
- 3. As usual we provide full source code for all samples and make available pre-compiled versions on our FTP site for multiple different CPU / operating system / compiler combinations, enabling you to start evaluating our feed products as quickly as possible.
- 4. Millisecond support – see “Enhanced C++ ActivMiddleware” below for details.
- 5. Enhanced platform support – see “New and Enhanced Operating System and Compiler Support” below for details.
- 6. Enhanced server performance. Should you upgrade your application to use the new 1.8 ActivContentGateway API (using any language) your Content Gateway servers will be able to deliver data to your application at lower latency and lower CPU usage.

New and Enhanced C++ ActivContribution SDK Samples

This SDK now contains:

1. A new sample showing how to publish an RSS news feed into the platform. The sample compiles for both the ActivContributionServer API and ActivContributionGateway API.
2. An enhanced IndexCalculator sample that now demonstrates how to publish navigation records (index constituent records in this sample) into the Contribution Server. This sample also compiles for both the ActivContributionServer API and ActivContributionGateway API.

New 100% Pure Java and C# SDKs

These new SDKs contain:

1. Full implementations of the ActivContentGateway API and the ActivContributionGateway API.
2. Complete documentation set.
3. Ports of all the C++ sample applications.

This implementation is more complete, compact, higher-performing and easier to use / deploy than the previous Java and C# wrappers that we supported. As such, the existing wrappers are now deprecated.

New Content and Data Centers

As usual, we've been busy adding new content to our feed products. In addition, we've just opened our first data centers in Tokyo, Hong Kong and Singapore with London opening in January. Up-to-date information about feeds either live or in development can be found here:

<http://www.activfinancial.com/exchangelist.htm> .

New and Enhanced Operating System and Compiler Support for C++

We've now begun supporting:

1. GCC 3.4 on FreeBSD 6 for x86 and x64.
2. GCC 3.4 and SunPro 5.8 (SunStudio 11) on Solaris for x86 and x64.
3. GCC 4.0 on OS X for x86.

Up-to-date platform support can be found here: <http://activfinancial.com/platforms.htm> . If you don't find a library matching your combination of CPU / operating system / compiler / STL, please ask us about availability - we release these library files as requested.

Additionally, we now ship STLport builds of our Linux packages. STLport has performance benefits over the standard G++ STL, particularly with STL string objects.

To avoid occasional issues with incompatibilities between Linux distributions, we now provide builds targeted at a particular distribution. Hence packages are named along the lines of "x86_redhat_gcc41" rather than the generic "linux" used previously. Again, if you don't see a package for your distribution, please get in touch.

Enhanced C++ ActivMiddleware SDK

Again, the ActivMiddleware SDK that underpins all our other C++ SDKs has been enhanced with over 100 new features or improvements, most notably:

1. Millisecond support in the Time and DateTime objects.
2. Memory-management optimizations that will give you significant performance gains after you rebuild your applications against the new SDKs.

New and Enhanced Documentation

Doxygen documentation for the entire C++ SDK set is now provided with the SDKs and is available online here: http://support.activfinancial.com/modules/sdk_doxygen.

In other news, we're pleased to announce:

Upcoming ActivFeed MPU Release

Please read here for the announcement about our new hardware-based market data feed processing strategy:

http://www.activfinancial.com/downloads/ACTIV%20_%20AMD%20Co-Processor%20Launch.pdf

Our Phase 1 beta program has now just started. Please ask your ACTIV account manager for further details.

New ISVs and ActivFeed Users

We now have over 35 Independent Software Vendors building applications with our technology and data, allowing you to run the applications you want at the lowest latency possible, supported by our world-class content. A partial list of our ISVs currently shipping applications can be found here: <http://activfinancial.com/partners.htm>. In addition, we now have over 200 clients.

As usual, we welcome your feedback. Keep your feature requests, content requests, new CPU / operating system / compiler requests etc coming in and we'll do our best to satisfy them. If you want to learn more about ACTIV's global market-data and middleware plans, have any questions about ACTIV's products, need help to get started developing or have any other enquiries, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The ACTIV Team
December 20th 2007