



Trns•port Platform Support and Strategies

Presented to the
Trns•port Users Group

November 7, 2002



Overview

- What's a platform?
- Why do platforms need to be managed?
- How does the Trns•port Task Force manage platforms?
 - Upcoming platform changes
- How can the Trns•port Users Group help?

What's a Platform?

- Platform: A well-defined combination of software and hardware used in a specific role (a computing environment)
 - Deployment platforms
 - Development platforms

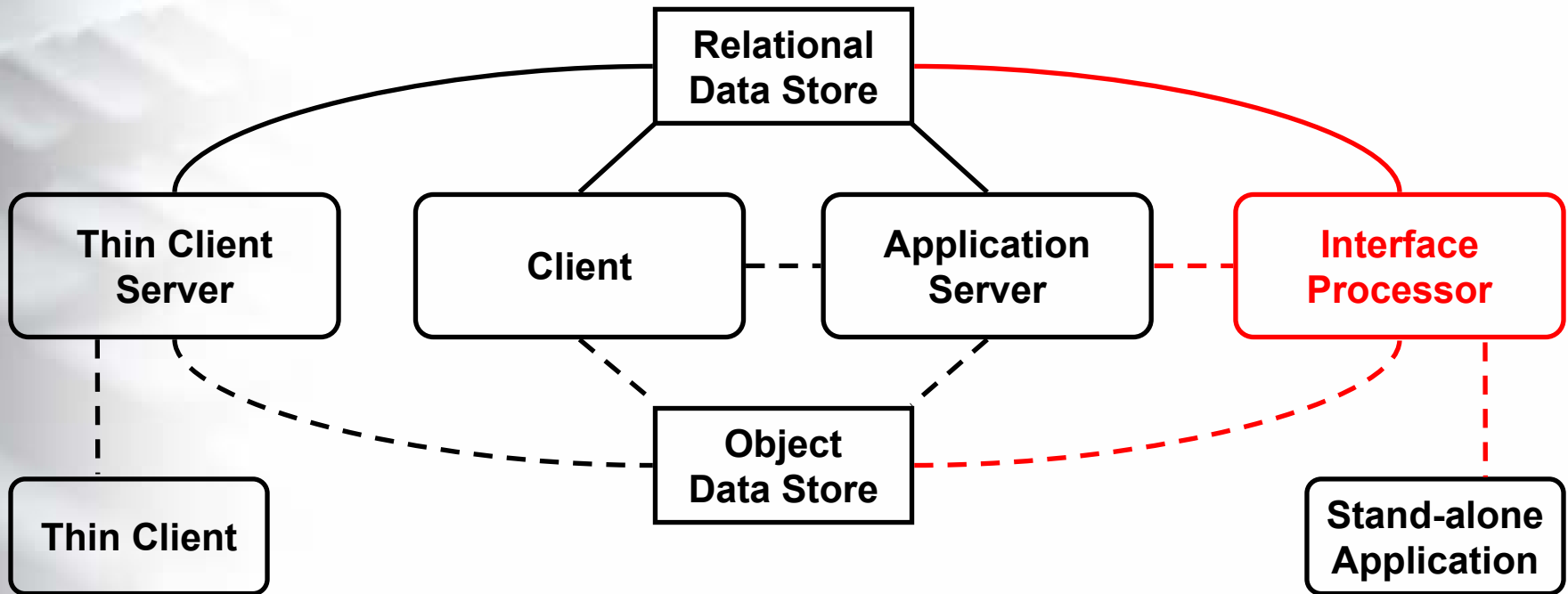
Platforms Are Very Specific

- **Deployment platforms, e.g.,**
 - Oracle 8i on Compaq OpenVMS Alpha 7.x as a database server
 - Apache 1.3.22 on Windows 2000 Server as a Web server
- **Development platforms, e.g.,**
 - Microsoft Visual Studio 6.0 (SP 5) on Windows 2000 Professional
 - PowerBuilder 8.0.1 (Build 8004) on Windows 2000 Professional

Why Manage Platforms?

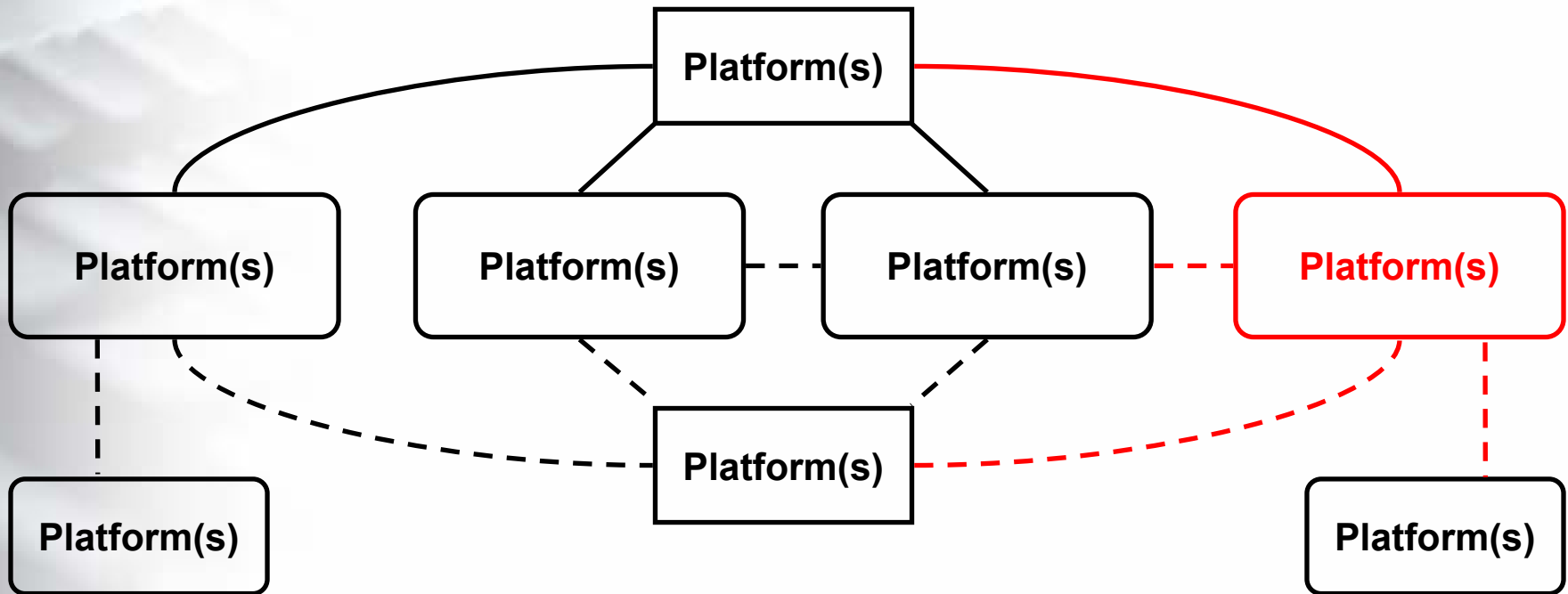
- Technology is constantly changing
- Quality
- Cost
 - Technology upgrades are expensive
\$399,000 for 2002-2003 fiscal year
- Marketing
- Complexity

Trns•port Logical Architecture



Solid lines show ODBC connections
Dashed lines show HTTP connections
Black – Current **Red – Future**

Another Perspective



Seven different tiers today; eight soon



Lots of Platform Combinations

- Today, just two platform options for each tier means 128 combinations
- Some tiers have more than two options
- Multiple supported versions of each Trns•port module compound the complexity



But That's Not All...

- Multiple versions of service packs, hotfixes, patches, browsers, ODBC drivers, etc.
- Third-party vendor schedules
- Agencies upgrade at different rates
- Must project at least 2-3 years out

Ongoing Platform Management

- Goals
- Trns•port Task Force process
 - Platform categories
 - Sources of information
 - Decision-making
- Trns•port Test Suite

Platform Management Goals

- Focus on quality
- Support licensees
- Stay current with technology
- Enhance marketability
- Minimize costs where possible
- Try to give 2 years advance notice of platform downgrades



Platform Categories

- Certified
- Supported
- Validated
- Unsupported





Certified Platform

- A computing environment essentially identical to one used by the Trns•port contractor for release testing
 - The current release of Trns•port has been thoroughly tested against the platform
 - The Trns•port contractor has the platform on site



Certified Platform (continued)

- Licensees using the platform will be fully supported
- Goal is to have one certified version of the platform unless the platform as a whole is being downgraded in classification



Certified Platform (continued)

- SiteManager does not have certified platforms, but SiteManager is supported on the same platforms that are certified for the other Trns•port client/server modules





Supported Platform

- A computing environment that does not meet the rigorous specifications of a certified platform, but which is quite close to such a platform
 - “Quite close” is determined by the Trns•port Task Force



Supported Platform (continued)

- The platform is similar enough to one of the certified platforms to be reasonably confident that Trns•port will operate on it
- The current release of Trns•port was not tested against the platform
- The Trns•port contractor may not have the platform on site

Supported Platform (continued)

- Licensees using the platform will be fully supported, **but that support may require that Info Tech be allowed access to the licensee's systems**

Validated Platform

- A computing environment on which a licensee pays to have standardized tests performed on a one-time basis
 - Testing is less rigorous than the test performed during the certification process and does not change the support status of the platform

Validated Platform (continued)

- Licensees electing to use validated platforms assume the responsibility for providing support for those platforms



Unsupported Platform

- Any computing environment a licensee believes should be able to run the Trns•port client/server application
 - Licensees electing to use unsupported platforms assume the responsibility for providing support for those platforms



Sources of Platform Information

- AASHTOWare Strategic Plan
- Trns•port Long Range Work Plan
- Industry publications and trends
- Third-party vendors
- Info Tech recommendations
- Surveys (AASHTO, TUG)
- Agency status reports

Sources We DON'T Use

- The Trns•port Task Force does NOT use any of the following in making platform decisions:
 - Magic 8 ball
 - Tea leaves
 - Psychedelic substances
 - “Pull it out of ...”

Decisions, Decisions...

- Task Force platform subgroup
 - Todd Bergland, Minnesota
 - Paul Neumann, Colorado
- Evaluate information
- Make recommendation to full TTF
- Full Task Force votes

Platform Component Status

Trns•port Platform Component Status by Year

Platform Component	2002–2003 Fiscal Year		2003–2004 Fiscal Year		2004–2005 Fiscal Year	
	Q1/Q2	Q3/Q4	Q1/Q2	Q3/Q4	Q1/Q2	Q3/Q4
Mainframe Modules						
P/L/C/D on IBM	Supported				Unsupported (06/30/04)	
P/L/C/D on OpenVMS Alpha	Supported				Unsupported (06/30/04)	
Clients						
Windows 95	Supported	Unsupported (12/31/02)				
Windows 98	Supported	Unsupported (12/31/02)				
Windows NT	Certified		Supported		Unsupported (06/30/04)	
Windows 2000	Certified		To be determined			
Windows XP			Supported			
Middle-Tier Servers						
Windows NT	Supported	Unsupported (12/31/02)				
32-bit Windows 2000	Certified				To be determined	
32-bit Windows .NET					To be determined	
64-bit Windows .NET					To be determined	
Oracle Database Servers						
8.0 on Alpha NT	Certified		Supported		Unsupported (06/30/04)	
8.0 on Intel NT	Supported	Unsupported (12/31/02)				
8.0 on Alpha OpenVMS 7	Supported		Unsupported (06/30/03)			

Upcoming Platform Changes

- Certified July 1, 2003
 - DB2 7 on Windows 2000
- Supported July 1, 2003
 - Windows XP clients and standalone modules
 - SQL Anywhere 8.1 (BAMS/DSS simulated import, SAPW, SiteManager)
 - Oracle 9i database servers

Upcoming Changes (continued)

- **Unsupported January 1, 2003**
 - Windows 95 clients/standalone modules
 - Windows 98 clients/standalone modules
 - Intel Windows NT 4.0 Middle-Tier and Database Servers
- **Unsupported July 1, 2003**
 - Oracle 8.0x on all operating systems EXCEPT Alpha Windows NT

Upcoming Changes (continued)

- **Unsupported July 1, 2004**
 - All mainframe modules
 - Windows NT 4.0 clients/standalone modules
 - Oracle 8.0x on Alpha Windows NT
 - DB2 on IBM MVS
 - Sybase SQL Anywhere 5
 - SiteManager Inspector Version



Trns•port Test Suite

- Multi-year project
- Phase I development in progress
- Will enable automated platform testing (during development and at agency sites)
 - Platform certification will be much easier and less expensive
 - Trns•port Task Force will be able to consider certifying additional platforms (and modules)





How the TUG Can Help

- Stay informed
 - Cloverleaf System Architecture pages
http://www.cloverleaf.net/sys_arch
 - Trns•port Task Force meeting minutes
- Keep up with current Trns•port releases
 - The Trns•port Test Suite will make this much easier to do





How the TUG Can Help

- Keep your agency informed
- Keep the Task Force informed
 - Good decisions require good information
 - Update agency status reports
 - Complete platform surveys
 - Cloverleaf
 - Contact any Task Force member if you have platform questions or concerns





Trns•port Platform Support and Strategies

Paul Neumann
paul.neumann@dot.state.co.us

