Preface

This manual describes the ToolTalk® service and how you modify your application to send and receive ToolTalk messages. Topics in this manual include:

- General concepts of the ToolTalk service
- What the ToolTalk service is and how it works
- Requirements to set up and maintain the ToolTalk service
- What is required to integrate your application with the ToolTalk service
- How to modify your application to send messages addressed to processes or ToolTalk objects
- How to register message pattern information for the messages your application wants to receive
- How to receive and handle messages delivered to your application by the ToolTalk service
- How to create and manage ToolTalk objects in your application data
- How to maintain ToolTalk objects at the system administrator level and what users must do to maintain these objects and the files in which they are stored
- How the ToolTalk service enables an application to communicate with other applications

Who Should Use this Book

This guide is for developers who create or maintain applications that use the ToolTalk service to inter-operate with other applications; it is also useful for system administrators who set up workstations. This guide assumes familiarity with operating system commands, system administrator commands, and system terminology.

How This Manual Is Organized

This manual is organized as follows:

Chapter 1, "Introducing the ToolTalk Service," describes how the ToolTalk service works and how it uses information that your application supplies to deliver messages; and how applications use the ToolTalk service.

Chapter 2, "An Overview of the ToolTalk Service," describes new and changed features of this release; and application and ToolTalk components.

Chapter 3, "Message Patterns," describes message pattern attributes.

Chapter 4, "Setting Up and Maintaining the ToolTalk Processes," describes ToolTalk file locations, hardware and software requirements, how to find ToolTalk version information, and installation instructions for the ToolTalk database server.

Chapter 5, "Maintaining Application Information," describes how to maintain application information.

Chapter 6, "Maintaining Files and Objects Referenced in ToolTalk Messages," describes how to maintain files references in ToolTalk messages; how system administrators and users maintain ToolTalk objects; and how to perform maintenance on ToolTalk databases.

Chapter 7, "Participating in ToolTalk Sessions," describes the location of the ToolTalk API header file; how you initialize your application and start a session with the ToolTalk service; how you provide file and session information to the ToolTalk service; how to manage storage and handle errors; and how to unregister your message patterns and close your communication with the ToolTalk service when your process is ready to quit.

Chapter 9, "Dynamic Message Patterns," describes how to create a dynamic message pattern and register it with the ToolTalk service; and how to add callbacks to your dynamic message patterns.

Chapter 10, "Static Message Patterns," describes how to provide process and object type information at installation time; how to make a static message pattern available to the ToolTalk Service; how to declare a ptype; and register it with the SunSoft Vendor Type Registration program.

Chapter 8, "Sending Messages," describes the complete ToolTalk message structure; the ToolTalk message delivery algorithm; how to create, fill in, and send a ToolTalk message; and how to attach a callback to requests that will automatically call your callback routine when the reply to your request is delivered to your application.

Chapter 11, "Receiving Messages," describes how to retrieve messages delivered to your application; how to handle the message once you have examined it; how to send replies; and when to destroy messages.

Chapter 12, "Objects," describes how to create ToolTalk specification objects for the objects your process creates and manages.

Chapter 13, "Managing Information Storage," describes how to manage and remove objects.

Chapter 14, "Handling Errors," describes how to handle error conditions.

Appendix A, "Migrating from the Classing Engine Database to the ToolTalk Types Database," describes how to convert the Classing Engine databases to the ToolTalk Types database.

Appendix B, "A Simple Demonstration of How the ToolTalk Service Works," presents how the ToolTalk service can enable an application to communicate with other applications.

Appendix C, "The ToolTalk Standard Message Sets," describes the ToolTalk message sets that have been developed to help you develop applications that follow the same protocol as other applications with which your application wants to inter-operate.

Appendix D, "Frequently Asked Questions," provides the answers to some frequently asked questions about the ToolTalk service.

Related Documentation

The following is a list of related ToolTalk documentation:

- *ToolTalk Reference Manual*
- ToolTalk Message Sets
  - CASE Inter-Operability Message Sets
- ToolTalk and Open Protocols, ISBN 013-031055-7
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