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## Advanced user interface development hailed

By Mark Jones

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZ. -- Attempting to push a new paradigm in user interface development, Droplets this week announced the availability of its User Interface Server 2.2 and SDK (software development kit).

The release of the company's flagship application platform and development kit on Monday at Forrester's Web services conference here reflects an emerging trend to bring greater usability and development features to Web-based UIs.

The New York-based company reports new features of the platform include a partnership with Chelmsford, Mass.-based SavaJe Technologies to provide support for wireless devices, the ability to Internet-enable legacy systems, and to have alerting capabilities, Unix support, and new APIs.

In essence, Droplets enables enterprises to deploy applications to any device on the network and improve the functionality offered by traditional Web-based interfaces.

"We've made a remarkable multidimensional improvement to the UI," said Droplets president and CEO Philip Brittan.

Brittan said the company is in the midst of forming partnerships with several application server vendors, including Sun Microsystems, to tightly integrate its technology with the application server on which the platform resides.

As a result, Brittan said Droplets "makes a heterogenous work more homogenous for the developer."

Somnath Banerjee, CEO of Droplets solution partner MEC Technology, said his company is looking to deploy the platform in environments such as call centers to provide real-time monitoring of agent resources and call wait times.

"Droplets gives you a framework with Java capability server-side to press a button and deploy [an application] to the client using its UI," he said.

Banerjee said user interface technology like Droplets "goes the last mile" to providing a way of separating business logic from application logic, and improving the ease of deploying light applications to the client.

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