



For Immediate Release

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News Release

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VIASERV SHIPPING NEW VSE LEGACY DATA ACCESS SYSTEM

ViaSQL for VSE-VSAM Provides Direct SQL Access to VSAM, SQL/DS, and Sequential Host Data Sources

Boulder, Colorado -- June 24, 1997 -- Viaserv, Inc. today announced general availability of its new flagship family of products, ViaSQL™ for VSE. These middleware offerings provide data access, delivery, and integration solutions for IBM mainframe accounts using the VSE operating system. ViaSQL for VSE-VSAM allows direct SQL access to VSAM, SQL/DS, and sequential files, and programmatic access to other host data sources from most of the industry's popular PC front-end query, development, and application tools. Legacy Data Server and Legacy Data Manager components enable mapping of VSAM and sequential files into relational formats, allowing direct SQL access and cross-file joins. Data can be transferred from the host system to a LAN database, where it can be locally accessed and manipulated by PC users in decision support, data warehouse, or data mart systems. Data can be bi-directionally moved in bulk between host and LAN databases for integration into operational OLTP-type applications involving multiple clients, servers, and data sources. Internet and Intranet application integration and Year 2000 features are also provided. ViaSQL enables VSE users to revitalize and further leverage investments in existing systems, melding the benefits of new distributed-systems technologies with traditional VSE legacy data.

ViaSQL for VSE-VSAM solves the thorny problem faced by many organizations --- providing easy, timely, ad hoc access to VSAM, SQL/DS, and sequential disk and tape records, and integrating years of non-relational legacy data into client/server and web-based applications. With ViaSQL for VSAM, organizations can effectively respond to decision support requirements, implementing direct access, data staging or migration, or data warehousing solutions. Since ViaSQL supports the popular ODBC, DB-Library, and CT-Library APIs, users and application programmers can choose from a broad array of tools --- from point-and-click EIS systems to report writers to power-user development tools.

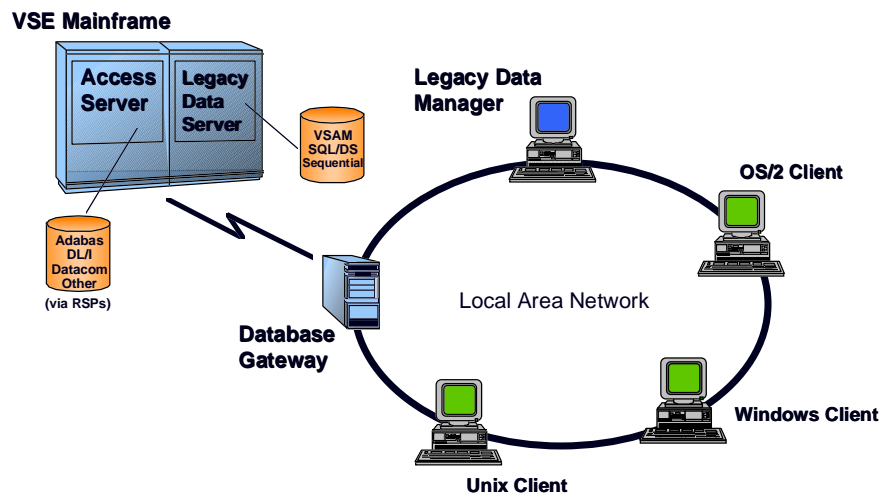
"We've been in the SQL-based middleware and data access business for years, and one thing our customers and prospects have always asked for is direct client access to legacy data without any mainframe programming. So that's what we've done," said Bill Coleman, Viaserv's President and co-founder. "We allow a customer to use virtually any PC tool, from Excel to Visual Basic to a web browser, to easily access mainframe data. Beyond that, we enable full integration of existing VSE resources into almost any distributed computing environment. We re-empower VSE systems."

The Components

ViaSQL builds on the most successful middleware solution of the 90s: the Database Gateway and Access Server. These proven base components are teamed with totally new modules to enable the access of non-relational data sources. ViaSQL for VSE-VSAM is composed of:

- **Database Gateway for VSE** provides the connectivity from front-end tools and client applications to the VSE mainframe.
- **Access Server for VSE-CICS** communicates with the Database Gateway to provide access to the Legacy Data Server and to SQL/DS (DB2/VSE).
- **Legacy Data Server for VSE** appears as a relational DBMS to the Access Server and provides the SQL access to legacy data sources.
- **Legacy Data Manager** is a Windows-based tool used to map VSAM data into relational formats and to configure and administer the Legacy Data Server.

ViaSQL for VSE-VSAM Basic Architecture



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Key Features

The ViaSQL for VSE-VSAM development team has converted the legacy data access customer requirements into a broad set of easy-to-implement and easy-to-use features:

- **Client Access to Non-Relational Data** --- provides SQL SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE, and DELETE access to VSAM and SELECT-only access to sequential data.
- **Client Access to Relational Data** --- standard SQL access to SQL/DS (DB2/VSE).
- **Transfer Statement** --- provides an extension to SQL which allows users to define and initiate bi-directional data movement between VSE and LAN data sources.
- **Remote Stored Procedures** --- provides programmatic access to all VSE-CICS data sources, including VSAM, DL/I, ADABAS, CA-IDMS, CA-Datcom, and SQL/DS.
- **Catalog Stored Procedures** --- provide the needed transparency between database catalog requests and the actual database catalog structures.
- **Client Services Applications** --- allows the mainframe to act as a client, accessing and retrieving data stored in a LAN database such as SQL Server, Oracle and others.
- **Web Server Connectivity** --- integration of VSE data and applications into Intranet and Internet enables Web-based applications.
- **Year 2000 Support** --- configurable Sliding Century Year and date template features help manage year 2000 transitions.

Ellett Brothers Inc. is a wholesale sporting goods distributor based in Chapin, South Carolina. Their MIS team installed ViaSQL for VSE-VSAM earlier this year and are now moving into a production mode. "Our PC users are beginning to access VSAM data directly, using the Cognos Impromptu query tool," says Mike Eargle, Programming Supervisor. "We are also using the transfer function to move VSAM data down to a Sybase SQL Server database on a LAN, for local access." Jim Hesson, Director of MIS, adds that "this decision support system takes advantage of new technologies while helping us in our migration to client/server. This is key to our business management and growth strategies."

ViaSQL for VSE-SQL/DS

ViaSQL for VSE-SQL/DS, also in general availability, is an entry-level version of ViaSQL for organizations who use SQL/DS (DB2/VSE) and need to transfer data to and from LAN data sources. It uses the Database Gateway and Access Server components of ViaSQL and provides ad hoc or prewritten SQL access to data in SQL/DS and programmatic access to all VSE-CICS data stores using Remote Stored Procedures. It also contains the catalog stored procedures, Client Services Application, and transfer features. Bi-directional transfer between host and LAN databases is supported.

Copper and Brass Sales, Inc., a metals distributor based in Eastpointe, Michigan has been using this version of the system for several years. Their mission-critical quote and order processing application, which they proudly refer to as "The Ultimate System", utilizes the Database Gateway and Access Server for VSE to provide interoperability and bi-directional transfer of data between the central mainframe and remote servers and workstations. "This is a very strategic application for our business," says Doug Timco, Director of Information Systems. "The connectivity between our Windows-based workstations and our mainframe really represents the best of both worlds -- the ease of use and productivity benefits you get from PCs and the ability to breathe new life into our existing mainframe system without having to upgrade. The Gateway's bi-directional data movement capability, as well as the ability for multiple simultaneous downloads each night, save us a great deal of time. This has enabled us to maintain an efficient operation of our quote processing system for customer orders."

Availability, Platforms, and Pricing

ViaSQL for VSE-VSAM and VSE-SQL/DS are available now, for Windows NT, OS/2, and AIX LAN environments. These products are sold by Viaserv and its partners. U.S. list pricing starts at \$19,000 for an eight concurrent user version of ViaSQL for VSE-SQL/DS and at \$27,000 for an eight concurrent user version of ViaSQL for VSE-VSAM. Viaserv's broad range of customer services includes: maintenance, telephone support, on-site services, and training. Viaserv also offers its new customers an Introductory Support Plan or Educational Support Plan which bundles products, documentation, on-site installation and implementation services, and a year of maintenance and telephone support. "We know these products install easily and work well," says Bill Coleman. "That's why we're unique in the industry in that we also back these offerings up with an unconditional 90-day money-back guarantee."

Viaserv, Inc.

Viaserv is a Boulder, Colorado-based software company specializing in data access, delivery, and integration products for the VSE environment. Viaserv is committed to the VSE marketplace and to enhancing interoperability between IBM's VSE mainframe operating system and other computing environments. The company is currently recruiting a network of resellers in the US and internationally. Viaserv can be reached at **1-800-348-3964** or at **info@viaserv.com**.