



Executive Brief: The Sharp OSA™ Platform

The Sharp OSA Platform has quickly become the industry's benchmark for MFP personalization and business application integration.

Customers are embracing the Sharp OSA Platform as a truly open development environment supported by a comprehensive developer program. A myriad of notable developers are already participating as Program Members and making their offerings available.

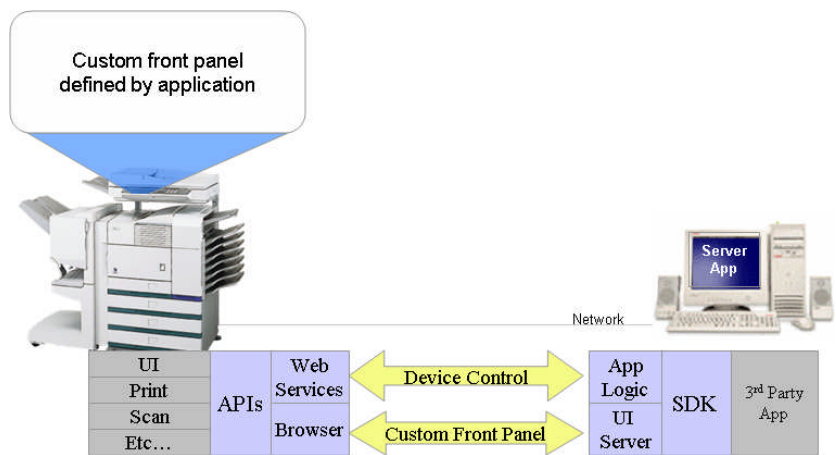
Sharp's approach provides an easy-to-implement command and communication protocol between the OSA-enabled Sharp MFPs and external server-based business applications. The server applications remotely control the display functions on the Sharp MFP in real time allowing a user to initiate a multi-step or sequenced workflow operation directly from the MFP. Effectively the user operates an interactive session with the server application and the Sharp MFP functions as a data input and/or output terminal for the application through the LCD control panel. It is important to note that the application does not run on the Sharp MFP and, instead, runs on an external server. This approach optimizes MFP performance while allowing the organization's IT department to operate the target application on an appropriately-equipped server for optimum performance and reliability. Enablement is easy since the application path is merely entered into the MFP web administration page, and the business application automatically "broadcasts" their UI controls/buttons to the MFP.

Sample Sharp MFP Display Screens:



The Sharp OSA Platform uses industry-standard HTTP and HTTPS web commands and XML (eXtensible Markup Language) as the communication protocol with the business application. Today most application software supports, XML, the most widely accepted data interchange protocol employed for business applications. Developers may use the XML data to establish a communication session with the Sharp MFP in order to pass scan data (eg. TIFF or PDF files) along with user authentication credentials, application commands and/or instructions to the network application. For example, information entered on the MFP's LCD display panel can be used as an index for a document management database program, routing instructions for a scanned document for a workflow application, security permissions for an electronic file, user login information to any application requiring authentication, and to provide accounting information in an audit trail. All communication between the server application and the Sharp MFP is XML-based. Control of device features are provided through a Web Service interface (XML content in a SOAP wrapper) and control of the user interface is provided through XHTML-based web pages (XML content in an HTML wrapper).

Sharp OSA Architecture:



At present, up to eight (8) applications are supported on a single Sharp MFP.

Examples of the Sharp OSA application integration include:

1. Fax servers
2. E-Mail systems
3. Document management systems
4. Cost tracking and accounting systems
5. Document workflow systems
6. Service management and asset management systems
7. Litigation and case management systems

The Bottom line....The Sharp OSA Platform provides the most flexible and extensible approach to integrate into existing business software environments.