Using Port 80 with APLNext Application Server

The programmer selection of the http port number associated with a web server is part of the configuration of APLNext Application Server. The APLNext Application Server can be used with any port number; however knowledge of the server-side environment is necessary to successfully use a specific port number. TCP port numbers have been traditionally assigned to specific tasks and software.

The port which is selected for use with APLNext Application Server must be a port which is not being exclusively used by another other web service. The most common port number in use is 80 and it is generally an open port on the server- and client-side. Other port numbers are used and similar considerations as those described below apply to those port numbers.

For example if Microsoft Internet Information Server (IIS) is installed on the server-side, it normally uses port 80. This creates a potential port conflict if APLNext Application Server is also configured to use port 80. Resolving this potential conflict is accomplished by selecting, installing and using the appropriate version of APLNext Application Server. There are two scenarios to consider if port 80 will be used by the APLNext Application Server:

- Microsoft IIS is not installed on the server-side. In this scenario port 80 is available for use by the traditional version of APLNext Application Server. Using the traditional version of APLNext Application Server the 'virtual paths' corresponding to APL+Win functions exposed as web services are defined in the xml-format APLNext Application Server configuration file.

- Microsoft IIS is installed and using port 80 on the server-side. The Integrated with IIS version of APLNext Application Server can be used with port 80 in this scenario. Using the Integrated with IIS version of APLNext Application Server, an APLNext-provided 'module' is installed in IIS which associates the .APL document extension in IIS with client requests submitted to port 80 which should be directed by IIS to the APLNext Application Server. Using the Integrated with IIS version of APLNext Application Server the 'virtual paths' corresponding to APL+Win functions exposed as web services are defined in IIS as well as in the xml-format APLNext Application Server configuration file. Thus with the Integrated with IIS version of APLNext Application Server port 80 is effectively ‘shared’ so that client-side requests which are submitted via port 80 to the server-side can be appropriately directed to APL+Win-based web services or IIS-based web services.

The traditional version of APLNext Application Server is a combination of a web server component (similar to IIS) and a scheduler component which receives client requests and assigns them for processing to instances of APL+Win ActiveX engine.

The Integrated with IIS version of APLNext Application server provides the scheduler component like that of the traditional version of APLNext Application Server. The Integrated with IIS version of APLNext Application Server uses IIS as the web server component. The Integrated with IIS version of APLNext Application server requires that the application programmer have the knowledge to administer Microsoft IIS.

When licensing the APLNext Application Server, the licensee has the option of selecting either the traditional or the integrated with IIS version of the product.

Generally APLNext-provided examples illustrating the use of the APLNext Application Server use the traditional version of the product with a port number greater than 8999 so that when installing and running the example there is a minimal likelihood of a port conflict in most server-side environments.

APL2000 Consulting Services staff members are available to design and implement APL+Win-based application systems with the appropriate version of APLNext Application Server.