


Riposte®

Rock Solid Messaging



Organizations are under pressure to reinvent their service offerings to remain competitive. Riposte[®] is here to help.

Managers need software that makes it easy to develop secure, **high-performance applications** and distribute them across complex networks. At the same time, IT assets need to be leveraged, efficiency increased and costs cut.

Increasingly, service-oriented architecture is the solution of choice. And that means specifications for languages and protocols must be compatible to allow **interoperability** between enterprise systems. Design principles such as **simplicity, modularity, and extensibility** need to be adhered to. And **the ability to reuse code** and provide simple XML (eXtensible Markup Language) interfaces is necessary for organizations to easily embrace new and cost effective business opportunities.

Riposte[®] is here to help. Riposte is Escher Group's **standards-based** distributed messaging platform. With a full suite of interfaces and built-in support for secure, **highly scalable transaction processing**, Riposte supports mission-critical applications both within the enterprise and between organizations.

Riposte[®]
processes
over 28 million
transactions
per day
worldwide,
amounting
to a value of
\$280 billion
annually.

Riposte® hasn't lost a single transaction in over 15 years of operation.

Benefit from the experience of 30 customers over more than 15 years:

Proven

Riposte® is proven throughout the world to meet postal needs with speed, efficiency, security, and reliability.

Reliable

Riposte has never lost a transaction in 15 years of operation. The network has never been compromised. And, implementations have passed the stringent audit requirements of governments throughout the world.

Flexible

Since going live in 1993 at An Post, the Irish Post Office, Riposte has successfully supported the unique and often harsh conditions of a postal retail network – including high volume offices like the General Post Office in Dublin and single position, remote locations in rural Ireland.

At the heart of Riposte® is the Message Server. This core messaging infrastructure has made Riposte successful in some of the most demanding transaction-based environments in the world.

Seamless Integration

The Message Server effectively hides the network-specific “plumbing” from the application developer. As a result, applications are quickly developed and integrated into diverse systems without knowledge of the underlying technology or network.

The Message Server is designed to support today's industry standards

such as XML, HTML (HyperText Markup Language), HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol), FTP (File Transfer Protocol), and ODBC (Open DataBase Connectivity).

Streamlined Operations

The Message Server provides a platform for XML-messaging – complete with message distribution and storage capabilities. By

combining messaging and data management into a single package, application development and the ongoing operation of a distributed transaction-processing network are greatly simplified.

Reduced Costs

Riposte® can be installed and operated in a large number of heterogeneous locations – with little or no local IT support.

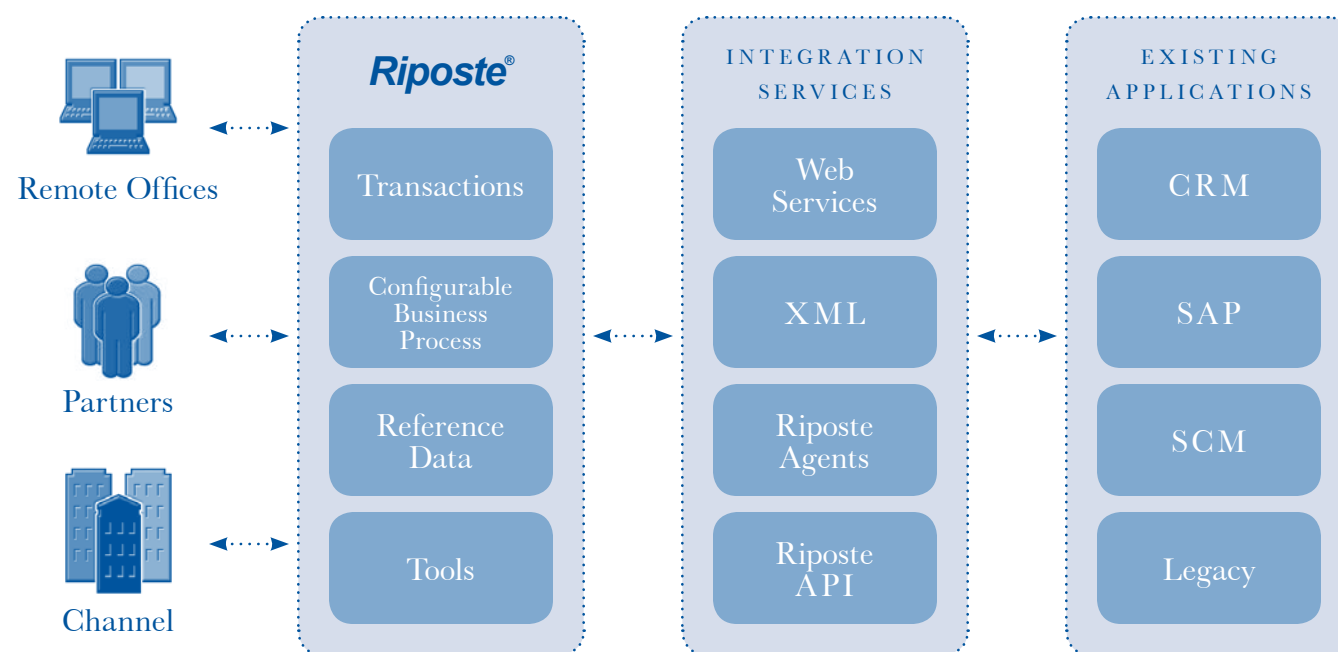
Because Riposte uses a peer-to-peer messaging model, there is no conventional database required. This eliminates the need to purchase additional licenses and hardware, and reduces ongoing maintenance costs. There is no requirement to synchronize, roll back or correct transactional data following a hardware or communications failure.

The system manages and administers itself. It does not require local administration to perform

backup, recovery, audit, security, data organization, configuration management, or performance tuning. Riposte includes a tool for enterprise level administration. It has self-optimization, automated backup/recovery, and built in audit and security features – all in a small footprint.

The Message Server uses a message-based approach to managing data, system status, and other communications across the network. Each message is self-describing, uniquely identifiable, and immutable. These features ensure a complete and accurate audit trail for all transactions and events – further increasing the reliability and security of the system. Messages can be stored indefinitely and are automatically archived, thereby reducing system administration costs.

SEAMLESS INTEGRATION



Support for Web services allows for greater interoperability between software and hardware platforms and provides ease of integration with existing enterprise and/or third-party systems.

Workstations recover automatically from each other. And in the event of complete local failure, they recover from central locations.

Reliability

Riposte expects and tolerates communication failures and allows organizations to continue to offer electronic services even in the event of total communication loss. The Message Server acts as a data transport system for distributed networks. Information is replicated to every computer in its defined group rather than to a high-powered server. Relying on this technology means no machine ever acts as a single point of failure. Riposte's unique, active replication model supports both online and asynchronous transactions allowing for high-volume,

fault-tolerant, distributed transaction processing. This level of resilience is imperative – particularly in low-bandwidth networks. Riposte also provides failover and load balancing support to allow agents to share the processing workload in a clustered Message Server environment, simultaneously providing redundancy standby protection.

Security

Riposte's security is based on a defense-in-depth architecture and is implemented on every level: user authorization, message authentication, and digital signatures that are checked by the Message Server to verify system components.

Network Optimization

Riposte has been designed to provide a number of tools to evaluate the network quality of service, optimize performance for different types of network connections, and quickly configure installations that consist of different types of networks, such as dial-up, ISDN, DSL, and satellite.

Flexibility

Riposte simplifies application development and provides a more productive environment for the creation of new functionality. One of the key strengths of the Riposte architecture is that it supports, in parallel, a number of deployment options including thin client and smart client modes of operation, as well as push and pull modes of access to content.

Interoperability

Riposte provides an open environment for application

development using SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol) and Web services as the mechanism for information exchange. Web services and XML provide the flexibility to change existing systems and implement new applications "on demand." Riposte includes robust support for SOAP with features such as a Near Real-Time Agent which provides a mechanism for passing asynchronous SOAP calls to back-end and third-party Web services, a Riposte .NET SOAP Client for enhanced interoperability, and an EGASOAP Agent which allows workstations to make SOAP calls to local and external Web services using Riposte messaging.

Riposte knows no boundaries across platforms, transaction types, users, or locations. Its unique messaging system supports Web client applications, mobile devices, and PCs – enabling a true multi-channel enterprise system.

One Product. Many Benefits.

Riposte was designed to operate with worldwide communications infrastructures – from the most rudimentary to the most robust. It takes advantage of existing hardware and software – reducing initial costs, simplifying system maintenance, and accelerating deployment. Riposte also comes with an upgrade path and stands as a hedge against obsolescence.

Riposte is an ideal platform for developing and deploying business solutions within any organization.

Intrinsic Data Protection

Riposte® is designed from the ground up to protect the post office's critical transaction data.

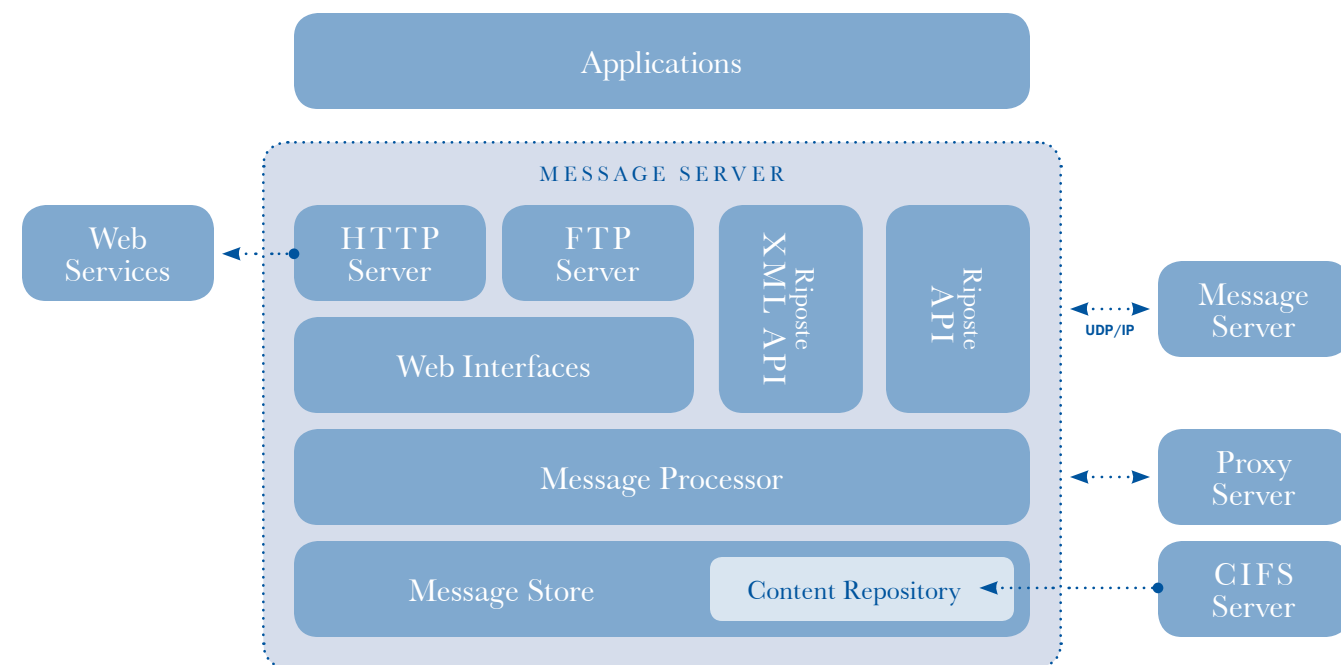
- Backup is automatically managed by Riposte and is transparent to postal clerks and postmasters. No separate backup procedures, additional software or added support costs are required.
- Workstations recover from each other automatically. And, in the event of a complete local failure, they automatically recover from central locations.
- Common system administration operations are performed automatically by Riposte, making the system almost "Admin-less."

Comprehensive Security Features

Riposte is designed to support transactions that require a high level of security such as money transmission and banking.

- Uses defense-in-depth security to assume a worst-case security scenario in a distributed computing environment.
- Protects all messages with one or more security methods.
- Supports Enterprise Authentication infrastructures.

SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE



With support for secure transaction processing and a full suite of Web-based interfaces, Riposte® makes it easy to deploy applications both within the enterprise and between organizations.

Escher Group Limited

101 Main Street
Cambridge, MA 02142 USA
Phone: +1 617 234 8900
Fax: +1 617 234 8922

Escher Europe Limited

DMG Business Centre, 12 Camden Row
Dublin 8, Ireland
Phone: +353 1 479 0555
Fax: +353 1 479 0556

Escher UK Limited

Chancery Court Business Centre
Lincolns Inn, Lincoln Road
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP12 3RE
United Kingdom
Phone: +44 20 8744 0977

Escher Asia Pacific Private Limited

#13-03, Singapore Post Centre
10 Eunos Road 8
Singapore 408600
Phone: +65 6745 7745
Fax: +65 6745 7702

www.eschergroup.com

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