

CSK launches Slingshot version 2 to stream prices over the Web

CSK redevelops Slingshot to give banks, retail brokerages and the financial media the latest technology for intelligent streaming of financial data to the desktop

London, 22 March 2001. CSK Software, the leading international provider of software solutions for the financial markets, has announced the launch of Slingshot version 2, its new product for streaming real time data over the internet. Slingshot gives banks, brokers and the media the power to deliver financial facts and figures, quotes, prices, and news over the internet to employees and customers.

Building on the success of the original Slingshot solution for streaming data over the internet, Slingshot version 2 incorporates the latest web technology and uses only industry-standard protocols. Slingshot intelligently streams data without the need for intervention or any of the configuration exercises so often required to deliver timely data to its net destination. Completely redesigned to work seamlessly with today's increasingly sophisticated internet security policies, Slingshot ensures that the integrity of price information on the desktop is unaffected by corporate firewalls, virus scanners and proxy servers etc.

With Slingshot, financial institutions will be able to deliver market-sourced and in-house streamed data to customers and to every outpost of their organisations. Slingshot allows retail brokers to incorporate streaming prices easily into their websites, stimulating trading and encouraging clients to spend more time at their websites. Growth in demand for Slingshot's straight-through streaming capability is also expected from the rapidly changing back-office, where intra-day deadlines mean that continuously updated figures are required instead of static information from the previous day's trading.

Slingshot's architecture is designed to serve users with maximum speed, using minimum bandwidth. When Slingshot is accessed, a tiny Java applet is downloaded to maintain a continuous connection to the server and provide the display format. The data Slingshot then publishes occupies very little bandwidth, and can therefore be continuously streamed at high speeds. The design of Slingshot ensures that users can have the most efficient access to data, irrespective of the local bandwidth

provision. The user receives a visual indication if network connectivity becomes unreliable, and is reconnected to the data stream when recovery is achieved.

The up-to-the-second prices available using Slingshot contrast with the more commonplace meta-refresh facilities currently on offer, where price updates are batched. As a result, employees and customers of organisations using Slingshot will be one step ahead of users lacking access to intelligently streamed prices.

“Slingshot has already proved highly attractive to banks, brokerages and the financial media, who have found it to be essential in keeping employees and customers informed of the latest market developments,” commented Barry Ratsma, managing director of CSK Software UK. “This has created tremendous business efficiencies, and greatly raised levels of customer service. Through its ease of deployment, Slingshot’s low-cost, go-anywhere technology, has the power to drive tomorrow’s e-services, giving financial institutions the means to enhance their own services, develop new markets, retain and grow existing customers and invent new ways of doing business.”

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For more information, visit the following websites:
CSK Software at
<http://www.csksoftware.com/>
<http://www.csk.co.jp/>

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About CSK

CSK Group & CSK Corporation

The companies of the **CSK Group** form one of the world's major enterprises in the field of information technology. With sales of more than \$4.5 billion and 16,000 employees, their operations span business and entertainment, from high-end research and network systems to games software and computer chain-stores. There are more than twenty companies within the group including SEGA Enterprises and SEGA Software, Bellsystem24, a marketing agency and call-centre specialist, CSK Electronic Industrial Co., a major Japanese retail computer chain, ASCII Corporation a multimedia publishing company and CSK Corporation.

CSK Corporation, of which CSK Software is a subsidiary, is a public company listed on both Tokyo and NASDAQ Exchanges. It is a total systems provider that has supplied advanced information systems and services to more than 3000 clients. Employing its expertise in systems integration, outsourcing and networking to promote "real-time business", CSK is constantly proving its motto: Your Best Business Partner.

CSK Software

CSK Software, the financial markets solutions company, helps the world's leading financial institutions to deliver and employ mission-critical applications – reliably, rapidly and securely. With a heritage that reaches back to the pioneering era when real-time financial data first made its appearance in the modern trading room, CSK Software is now building on its success by focusing on two business segments: ETS (Electronic Trading Systems) and EAI (Enterprise Application Integration) – using CSK Software's X-Gen product range. Above all, CSK Software prides itself on its record for true reliability, providing tailor-made solutions from a well-proven product base.