

Our aim is to enable our repository offerings to provide the most comprehensive meta-data discovery and management solutions available in the marketplace.

If you would like further information on how ASG's repository products can help your organization or if you would like further insight into strategic product direction, please contact your local support office who will be able to direct your query to the appropriate department.

#### About ASG

ASG is a privately held global enterprise software and professional services firm with a full range of information management, operations management, and applications management services. As a leader in software solutions, ASG is the premier source for understanding, managing, and extending existing mainframe-based systems. ASG partners with clients to improve productivity and significantly enhance performance through the intelligent use of technology.

Founded in 1986, ASG has more than 4,500 clients, and 8,000 software licenses worldwide. ASG's client base covers the majority of Global 5000 firms including industry leaders such as ABN AMRO, Air France, American Express, Coca Cola, Daimler Chrysler, General Electric, IBM, Merrill Lynch, Procter & Gamble, Telecom Italia, Toyota, and Wells Fargo.

ASG is headquartered in Naples, Florida, USA, with offices throughout North America, Europe, Middle East, Africa, and Asia. ASG revenues for 2000 exceeded \$100 million. For more information, please visit ASG at [asg.com](http://asg.com).



## ASG Repository Products

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# Statement of Direction

# ASG Repository Products

## Introduction

This paper defines a statement of direction for ASG's repository products, namely the ASG-Rochade™ and ASG-Manager Products™ family of applications. It describes both the short-term and long-term, strategic objectives of the company with respect to the future of both product lines, both from a marketing and a technical viewpoint.

## Management Overview

It is ASG's stated intention to continue to actively develop and support both of its existing repository product lines. This initiative is supported by the fact that we are now witnessing an increasingly active market for enterprise repository technology and both products have specific roles to play in this market. Furthermore, there is an existing and substantial installed user base for both products and ASG fully recognize and intend to protect their customers' investments in these products.

Both ASG-Rochade™ and ASG-Manager Products™ were subject to technology improvement projects at the time of the ASG acquisition of Viasoft. Thanks to a set of common requirements and the broad understanding of emerging technologies from both development teams, a great deal of synergy between the two projects has been uncovered. ASG is confident that the two product sets can continue to be enhanced in such a way as to make user-access interoperable across both technologies. Using commercially available and widely used standardized technology for both products, repository-based applications and end-user facilities will become "plug compatible" for both products. The use of open, standard APIs and programming languages such as XML and Java will ensure that both repository technologies continue to become even more open and flexible.

Both product sets were moving toward a three-tier client/server architecture using thin clients with application servers in the middle tier and datastore servers at the "back end." Similar architectural models had already been defined for both products, both predicated on the use of Java and XML. ASG believes that a common repository access layer can be developed using these standardized technologies, namely Java and the SAX and DOM APIs for XML. This will allow customers to use one common user-access for both repositories providing commonality between existing users of both technologies and extending the choices available to potential new customers. The possibility of developing such a common user gateway into both products is being actively researched and prototypes are already in the design phase. The first half of 2001 should see significant advances made in these areas.

This integration initiative will be extended over time to incorporate a wide range of ASG product offerings, integrating the repository products with other ASG products to provide best-of-breed solutions for meta data discovery and management.

## Technology Plan

### ASG-Rochade™

ASG-Rochade™ has reached an exciting time in its evolution. The widespread recognition of the need to effectively manage meta data and the emergence of standards for handling it, such as XML, have focused the attention of marketers and developers on the need to develop increasingly sophisticated, open and flexible solutions to business oriented problems. This requirement has not gone unnoticed at ASG and an ambitious, but achievable, development plan for ASG-Rochade™ has been devised.

### ASG-Rochade 5.4

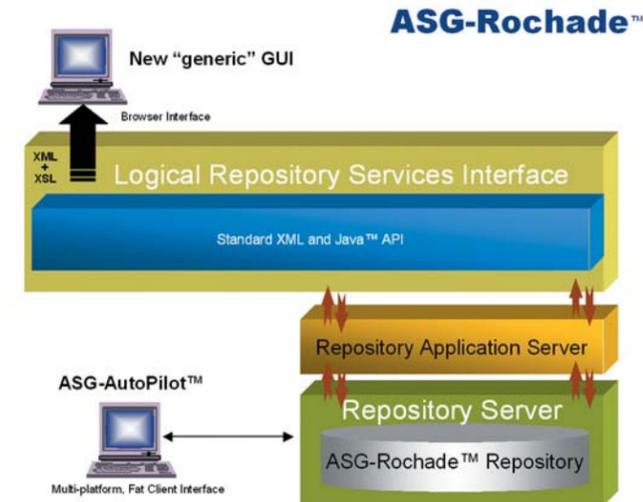
ASG-Rochade 5.4 and its associated user-interface ASG-AutoPilot 3.5, are generally available as of 30 June 2000. At the same time, a new product, ASG-Rochade:WebAccess™ will become available. The release of these combined products is important in that together, they form the foundation for a new generation of ASG-Rochade™ products.

ASG-Rochade:WebAccess™ is an out-of-the-box repository end-user application allowing full read/write access to the repository for browser-based users. Included with this product are Java™ for Java Server Pages™ classes and a repository-based application development environment which provides users with the ability to tailor the supplied application or develop their own web-based repository solutions.

Future releases of the ASG-Rochade™ product will build on an extended Java application programming interface and complement it with APIs for SAX (Simple API for XML) and Document Object Model (DOM). The next step in the product's evolution is to develop a completely new, three-tier thin client/server architecture utilizing browser-based clients. This new architecture will be extremely flexible, allowing applications to treat the repository contents as a large XML document, which can be viewed in various ways using XML stylesheets.

### ASG-Manager Products™

As with ASG-Rochade™, and for the same reasons, the intention is to continue to modernize ASG-Manager Products™ to make the product even more versatile. This will be achieved by adopting a leading-edge architecture built using modern, open and widely accepted industry standard facilities. Independently, the development team responsible for ASG-Manager Products™ designed an architecture that was very similar to that proposed for ASG-Rochade™ — demonstrating both team's understanding of modern technology architectures. A Logical Repository Services Interface, based on Enterprise Java Beans™ and COM objects, will be implemented in the next release of the products together with an

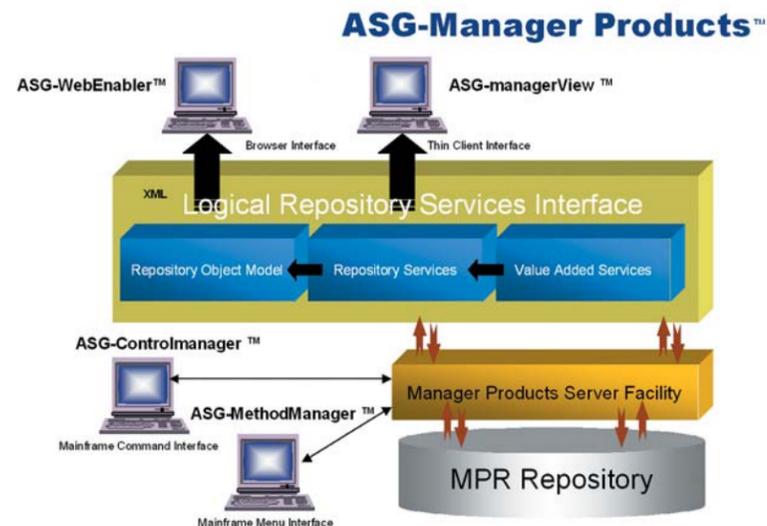


XML-based data interchange mechanism. This demonstrates further commonality of understanding and approach to technology issues.

ASG will further align both development strategies to build on and enhance the current capabilities to develop a new framework for both products based on Java™ and XML (SAX and DOM) APIs.

### ASG-Manager Products Version 2, Release 5.0.0

New versions of ASG-MethodManager, ASG-managerVIEW, ASG-ControlManager™, ASG-DictionaryManager™ and ASG-DataManager™ are all scheduled for general availability in Quarter Four (Q4) of 2000. This release of the products will include the first delivery of many of the features supporting the proposed new architecture described below.



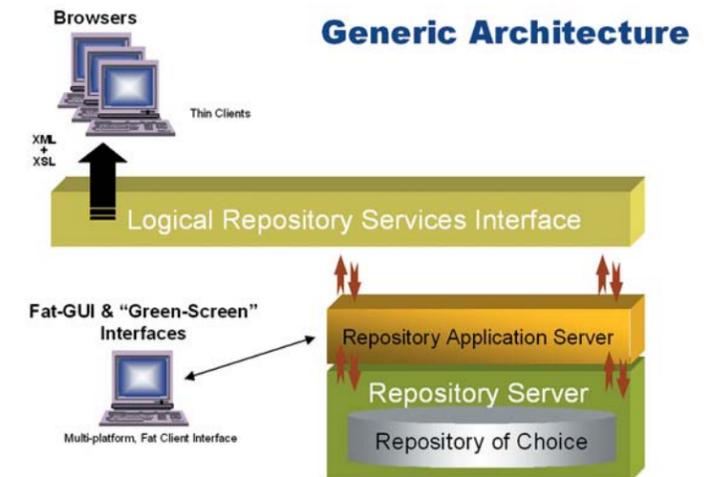
## Architecture Schematics

The following schematics depict the proposed architectures for forthcoming releases of both product sets, plus a depiction of the target, common architecture.

## Summary

Openness, flexibility, standardization, modernization and integration are the key goals for repository development at ASG. A set of common, "plug-compatible" end-user tools for meta-data discovery and modeling is a primary objective. The development of new architectural frameworks to support these initiatives is the main focus of our repository development today.

ASG intends to use these new frameworks not just to integrate existing repository tools but also to enable the development of a new range of repository-powered applications



targeted at specific areas such as Portfolio Management, Enterprise Application Integration and other strategic initiatives. The frameworks will also enable the users of our repository technology to leverage maximum benefit from the products in the speediest and most cost-effective way by providing open and standard mechanisms for their own development and integration projects.

Future developments will see even tighter integration of repository services with other ASG applications that either have a key role to play in the repository arena or would benefit from the use of a standardized repository for their own meta data management needs. This will be achieved through the use of the new, open, services-oriented architecture previously described.