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From Zero to AI: Exposing Legacy Progress OpenEdge Logic with the OpenEdge MCP Server

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The Reality Most Progress OpenEdge Customers Face

Decades of proven Advanced Business Language (ABL) business logic.

Growing demand for APIs, cloud integration and AI.

How do we modernize without rebuilding everything?

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What You Will Learn

- What Model Context Protocol (MCP) is
- What OpenEdge MCP Server does
- How to expose existing ABL logic
- AI-assisted development practices

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Agenda

- Modernization Problem
- Understanding MCP
- MCP Server
- Exposing Logic
- AI-Assisted Development
- Demo
- Best Practices
- Q&A



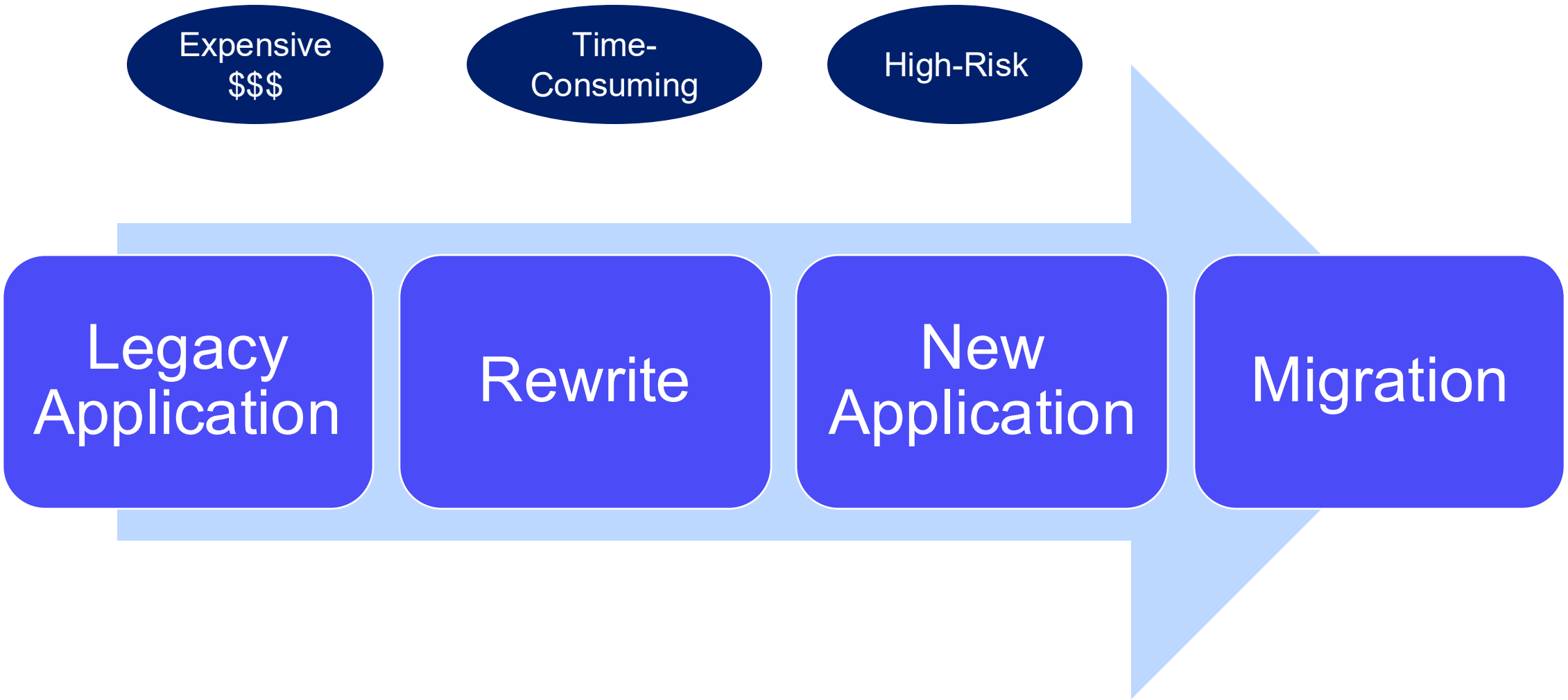
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Modernization Without Rewrite

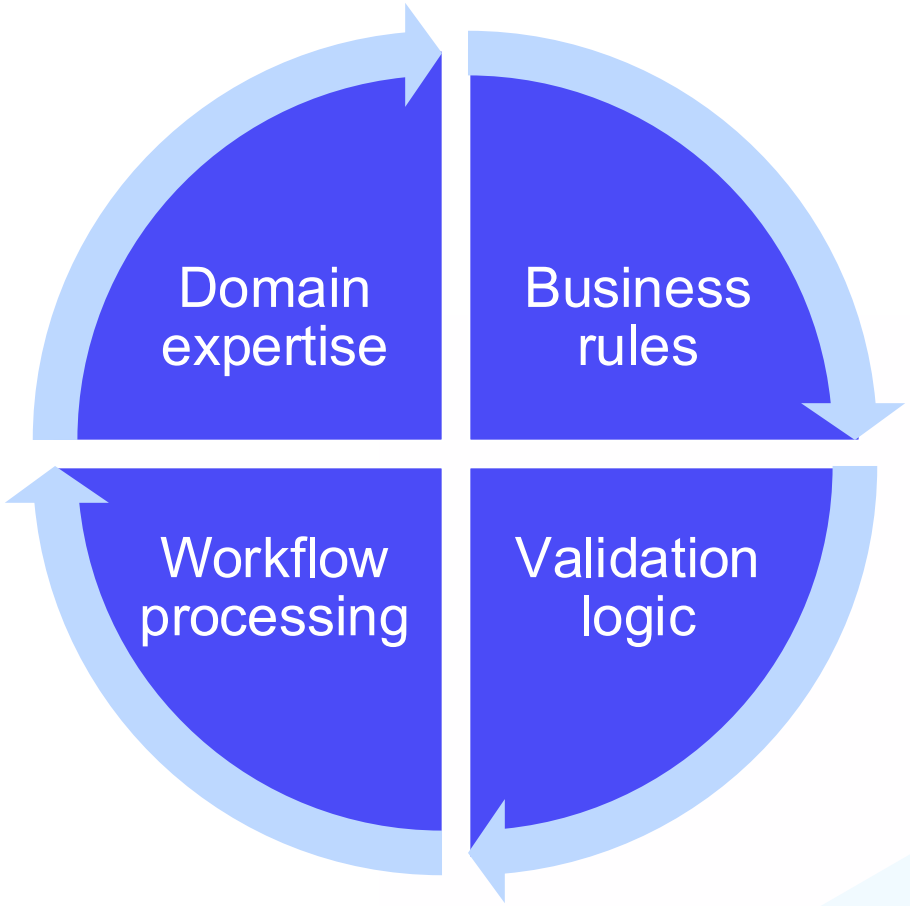
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The Traditional Modernization Journey



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The Real Asset Is Not the UI



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A Better Question

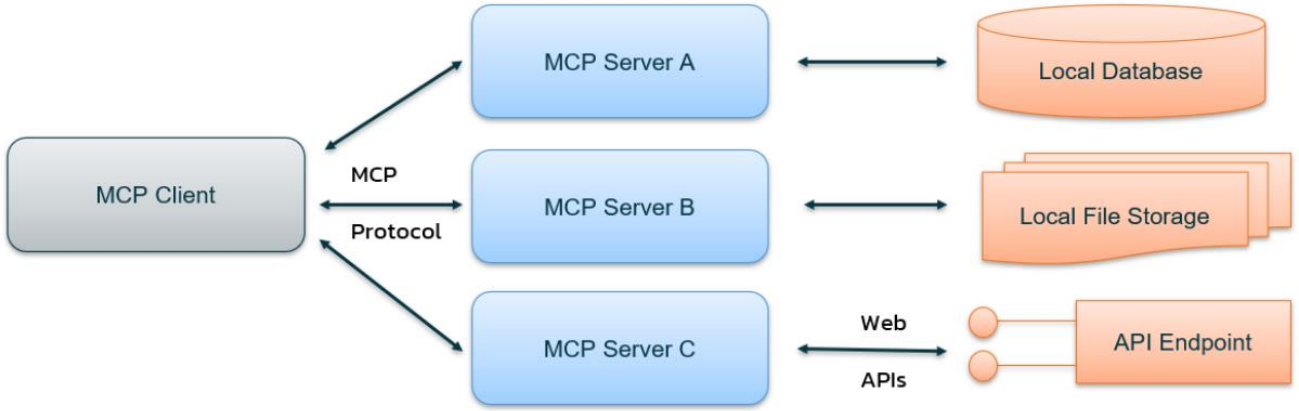
- How do we make the OpenEdge platform accessible to modern systems?



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What Is MCP?

- MCP is an open-source standard introduced by Anthropic in November 2024 to connect AI applications to external data sources, tools and workflows. Often described as a "USB-C port for AI," it replaces fragmented, custom integrations with a single, universal protocol.



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MCP Benefits

- ## Core Technical Benefits
  - **Universal Standard:** Acts like a USB port for AI, allowing any client to plug into any server without custom connectors.
  - **Live Data Retrieval:** Pulls real-time files and database records directly rather than relying on stale preloaded data or heavy RAG re-indexing.
  - **Dynamic Tool Discovery:** Allows AI models to scan and understand available actions at runtime instead of hardcoding functions.
  - **Cleaner Context Windows:** Encapsulates complex API documentation into simple, AI-ready action menus, saving token space and improving accuracy.
- ## Development and Business Advantages
  - **Faster Setup:** Cuts down development time by letting developers reuse a single service's MCP server across multiple AI applications.
  - **Centralized Maintenance:** Requires fixing only the MCP server when updating an underlying API, leaving the AI agent workflows untouched.
  - **Better Security:** Keeps credentials and sensitive logic safely inside the execution layer rather than exposing keys directly to the model.

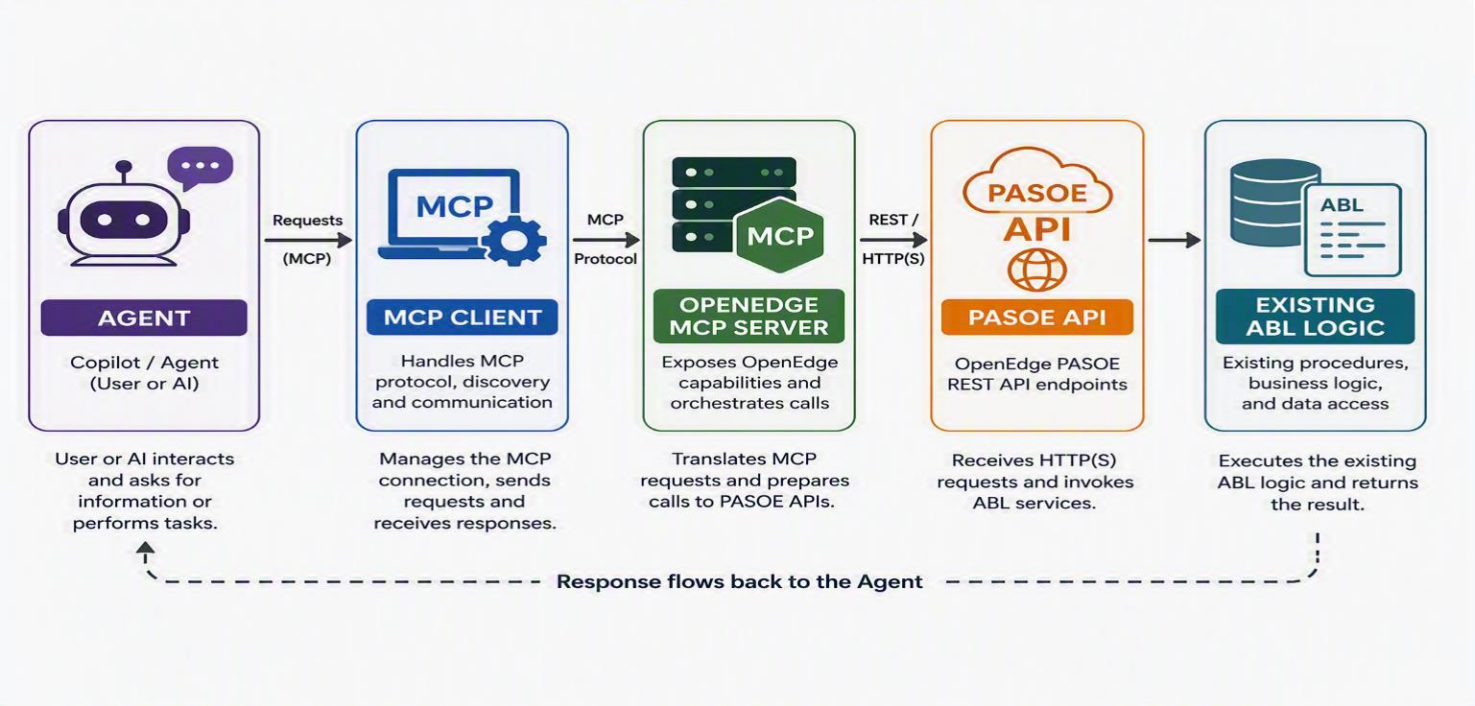
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OpenEdge MCP Server

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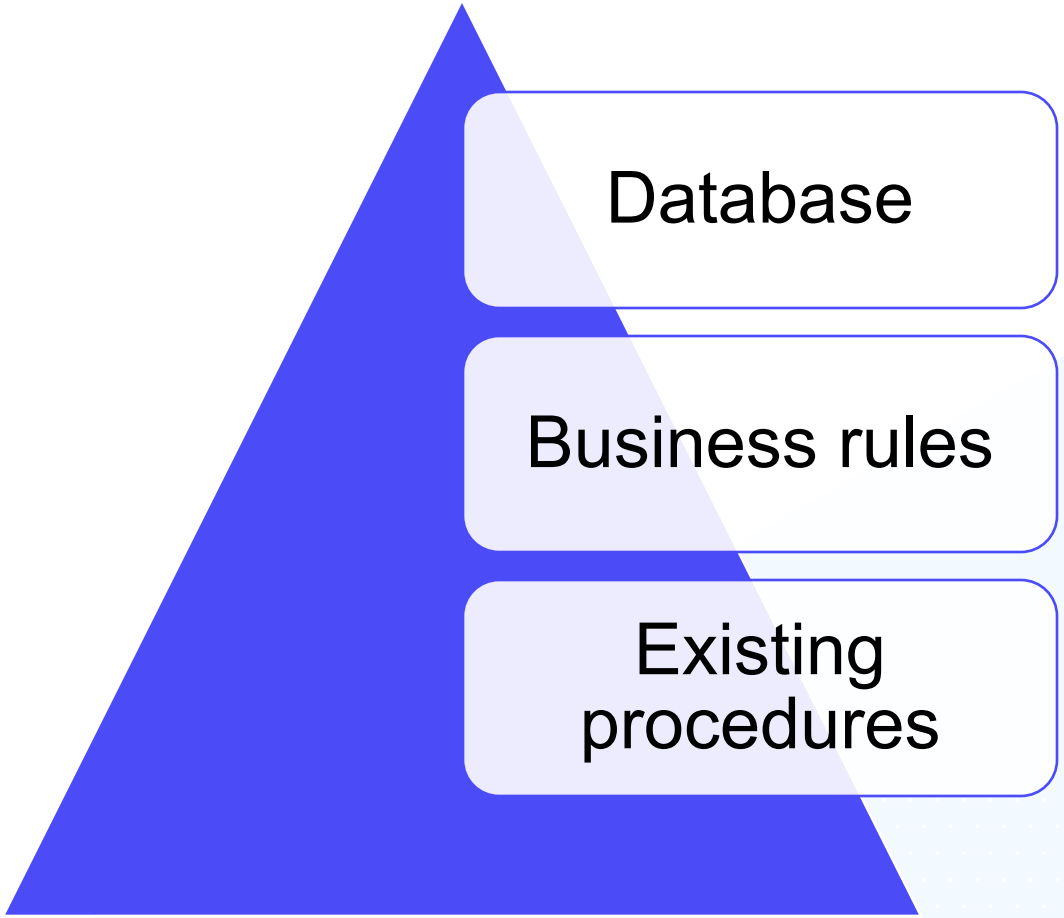
What Is OpenEdge MCP Server?

- Lightweight service layer connecting AI tools to the OpenEdge platform



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What Does Not Change?



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What Does Change?

- Modern interfaces
- AI integration
- Service consumption

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From Procedure/Object to Service

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Starting Point

Sample Source Code

```
def fetch_user_data(user_id):
    """Retrieve user profile information from the database."""

    if not user_id:
        raise ValueError("User ID is required")

    connection = Database.connect()

    try:
        record = connection.query(
            "SELECT id, name, email, created_at FROM users WHERE id = %s",
            (user_id,)
        )

        if record is None:
            return {"error": "User not found"}

        return {
            "id": record.id,
            "name": record.name,
            "email": record.email,
            "created_at": record.created_at
        }
    finally:
        connection.close()
```


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Analyze Inputs and Outputs

Sample Source Code

- Inputs
- Outputs
- Error conditions

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Create Service Contract

Sample Source Code

AI Intuitive Request and Response Schemas

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Build Handler Logic

Sample Source Code

- Validate inputs
- User access control
- Call procedure
- Return response

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Register Service

Sample Source Code

Add to map file

- Include:
  - Purpose
  - Description
  - Schema description

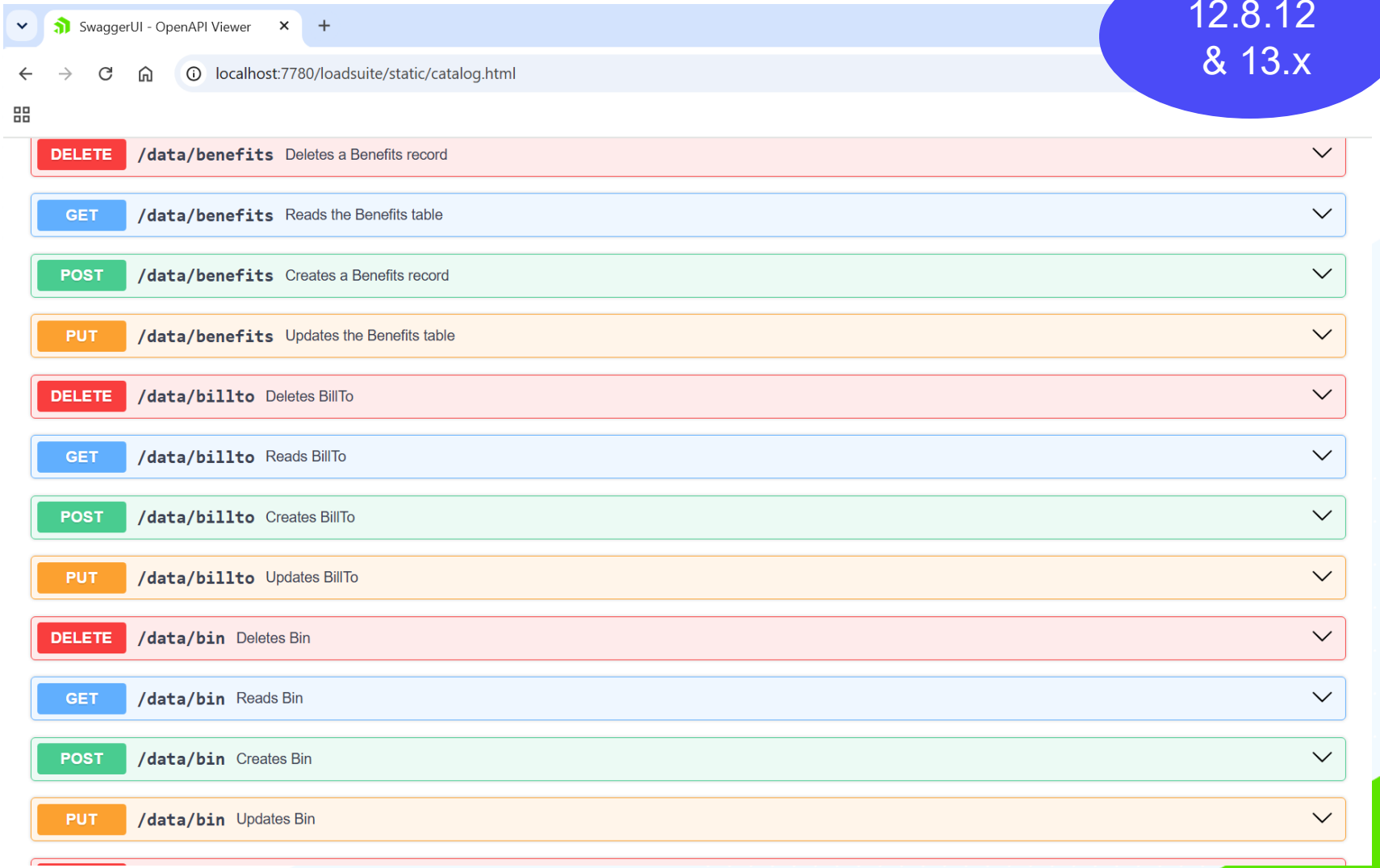
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OpenEdge MCP Server cont.

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Expose Web Endpoint

12.8.12
& 13.x



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Exposed Tools

```
• Running smoke test
[smoke] Tools discovered (95):
  1. select_prompts
  2. list_all_tags
  3. get_tool_schema
  4. get_filter_fields
  5. anomaly_OE_LS_I_AS_lookBusy
  6. anomaly_OE_LS_I_AS_quitCode
  7. anomaly_OE_LS_I_AS_stopCode
  8. anomaly_OE_LS_I_AS_dbDisconnect
  9. anomaly_OE_LS_I_AS_badBuffer
  10. anomaly_OE_LS_I_AS_badHandle
  11. anomaly_OE_LS_I_AS_badMemptr
  12. anomaly_OE_LS_I_AS_badObject
  13. catalog_OE_LS_I_CS_GetOpenApiCatalog
  14. catalog_OE_LS_I_CS_GetPingResponse
  15. context_OE_LS_I_CS_CheckValidUserContext
  16. context_OE_LS_I_CS_InvalidateUserContext
  17. data_OE_LS_I_LSDS_readAuditDetail
  18. data_OE_LS_I_LSDS_readAuditHeader
  19. data_OE_LS_I_LSDS_readBenefits
  20. data_OE_LS_I_LSDS_readBillTo
  21. data_OE_LS_I_LSDS_readBin
  22. data_OE_LS_I_LSDS_readContextDetail
  23. data_OE_LS_I_LSDS_readContextHeader
  24. data_OE_LS_I_LSDS_readCustomer
  25. data_OE_LS_I_LSDS_readCustOrder
```

execute the ping tool on the mcp server named highload-mcp-server

I'll locate the registered `highload-mcp-server` ping operation and invoke it, then report the response.

Searched for tool usage in the project

The registered catalog ping operation is available; I'm invoking it now.

Ran `catalog_OE_LS_I_CS_GetPingResponse` – highload-mcp-server (MCP Server)

Ping succeeded on `highload-mcp-server`.

Response: `{"_retVal": true, "_hostname": "WINDOWS11BASE", "version": "1.0.0"}`

Curl

```
curl -X 'GET' \
  'http://192.168.4.66:7780/loadsuite/web/api/catalog/ping' \
  -H 'accept: application/json'
```

Request URL

```
http://192.168.4.66:7780/loadsuite/web/api/catalog/ping
```

Server response

Code	Details
200	**Response body**

```
{
  "response": {
    "_retVal": true,
    "_hostname": "WINDOWS11BASE",
    "version": "1.0.0"
  }
}
```

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Who Wants a Demo?

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Questions?
Comments?
Concerns?
Can You Do This?

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