
The Object Management Group's Distributed Object Model

The Object Management Group (OMG) creates standards for the interoperability and portability of distributed object-oriented applications. The OMG only produces specifications, not software. Each participating vendor provides an implementation to meet the specification. The Common Object Request Broker Architecture (CORBA) specification defines a flexible framework upon which distributed object-oriented applications can be built. This architecture represents the Object Request Broker (ORB) technology that was adopted by the OMG. An ORB provides the mechanisms by which distributed objects transparently make requests and receive responses. The ORB enables object-oriented applications on different machines to communicate and interoperate.

The OMG has defined an Object Management Architecture object model. In this model, objects provide services, and clients issue requests for those services. The ORB facilitates this model by delivering requests to objects and returning any output values to the client. The services that the ORB provides are transparent to the client.

To request a service, a client needs the object reference for the object that is to provide the service. The ORB uses this object reference to identify and locate the object. The ORB activates the object if it is not already executing and directs the request to the object.
