Chapter V

# Enabling Technologies for Enterprise Globalizations

In this chapter we discuss:

- Role of enabling technologies in Global Enterprise Transitions
- Internet technologies, their accessibility and relevance in Global Business
- Web services: XML, SOAP, WSDL, UDDI in the context of Global Business
- Middleware (CORBA, DCOM), Groupware and IT Architecture

Introduction

We have discussed, thus far, the vision of a global enterprise and the process of achieving that vision. However, it is the technologies available today that have made such globalization possible. In this chapter, we deepen our understanding of globalization by delving into the technologies that facilitate this globalization. In addition to the technically minded reader, this understanding will be helpful to the business reader in correlating the technologies that bring about these transitions. At the outset, it is crucial to understand that the fundamental basis of these technologies is their ability to facilitate communication electronically. Figure 5.1 shows these *enabling technologies*: Internet

Figure 5.1. The enabling technologies of Global Enterprise Transitions (GET)
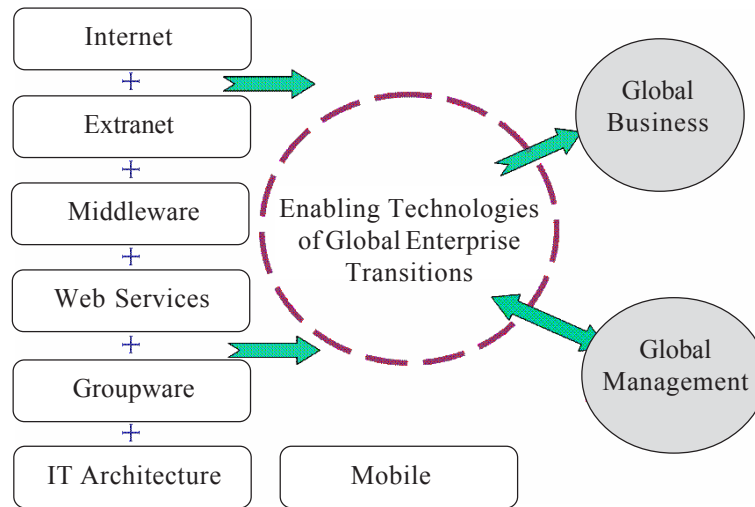
technologies, Extranets and Intranets, Middleware, Web Services, Groupware and an overall framework of IT Architecture that encompasses functional, network, software and security architecture. These technologies, forming the backbone of IT communication, influence and are influenced by mobile technologies which, together with Web Services, are categorized under Emerging Technologies. These technologies are enablers and drivers of the process of transitioning to global enterprises, as shown in Figure 5.1. Furthermore, they also impact Global IT Management. It is essential that we discuss these enabling technologies within the context of Global Enterprise Transitions (GET), as is done in this chapter.

Enabling Technologies: Synopsis

This discussion of enabling technologies for GET starts with a synopsis of these technologies. These technologies extend the definition of an information system as given by Laudon and Laudon (1993): "a set of interrelated components working together to collect, retrieve, process, store, and disseminate information for the purpose of facilitating planning, control, coordination, and decision

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