FIGURE 6-6. Facebook Platform services

With developers' social applications becoming more of an integrated service consumed by Facebook rather than an external site consumed by a browser, we've had to recreate or reengineer some of the functionality of that browser (through Platform Cookies, FBJS, etc.). These are two examples of the significant modifications required when trying to change or reinvent the idea of an "application." The Facebook Platform includes additional architectural tweaks along this line that are not detailed here, including the Data Store API and the browser-side web service client.

Summation

Facebook's user-contributed social information effectively motivates the utility of most any page on *http://facebook.com*. However, this data is so universal that some of its best uses appear when it is integrated with the stacks of outside developers' applications, made possible through data technologies such as Facebook Platform's web services, data query services, and FBML.