The State of IMS

By Robert Gilliam, IMS Product Manager, IBM Silicon Valley Laboratory, San Jose, California
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I am pleased to report that the overall health of IMS has never been better, as measured by a number of different metrics. The impact on license inventory and revenue growth with Y2K has now been reversed. The overriding IMS commitment to quality continues with fewer APARS, faster turnaround, reduced critical situations and higher overall customer satisfaction indices. Faster delivery of new function has been achieved with a stream of new state-of-art, industry-standard capabilities, shipped via a) the IMS Version 7 service stream, b) a rapidly increasing, number of new/enhanced IMS Tools, and c) a two-year, rapid time-to-market, delivery cycle plan for IMS Version 8. Our customers have responded, providing IMS with the largest revenue growth in years and record version-to-version migration rates. IBM has thus used this revenue growth to continue building up the IMS organization to provide continuing enhancements.

The general availability of IMS Version 7 in October 2000 signaled the beginning of a new growth era of e-business for IMS customers and for IMS. IMS Version 7 has shown customers that state-of-the-art application development tools do exist now to quickly make their long-standing investment in IMS a significant part of today's e-business solution. Customers can readily web-enable their existing inventory of IMS programs. They can also create new JAVA and programs using XML and integrate them with existing programs, for mission-critical, next generation e-business deployment, utilizing their vast storehouse of IMS applications, data and in-house skills.

IMS Connect, the IMS connectivity tool, provides easy-to-install, easy-to-use, high-performance transparent access to IMS applications and data from any internet or other environment application, including LINUX applications. With one IMS Connect and one IMS and using transactions that access IMS databases, IMS reached nearly 6000 transactions per second. The IMS Connector for Java function provides easy development of new solutions that can readily access existing IMS transactions through IMS Connect, from any Java application. Java programs may be deployed in IBM's award- winning WebSphere Application Server as servlets, Java server pages (JSP) and with XML to quickly create an exciting, dynamic source of web content.

New Java applications, written and tested on workstations, can be executed under the new IMS Version 7 Transaction Manager on the host system and access IMS DB and DB2 data. New IMS Java applications can exchange XML-formatted messages through the use of the OS/390 XML Parser, Java Edition. The IMS Open Database Access (ODBA) facility allows you to readily access IMS data directly from any OS/390 or z/OS application, written in any language. DB2 Stored Procedures can access both IMS and DB2 data, with full transactional integrity. The IMS Java Database Connectivity (JDBC) application programming interface combined with ODBA facilitates ready access to IMS data from any OS/390 or z/OS Java program, including Websphere Java Servlets, CICS Transaction Server Java applications, and DB2 Java stored procedures. Web and/or other client applications can send in a database call through these facilities to be processed against IMS DB databases.

IMS V7 High Availability Large Data Base (HALDB) support allows a customer's e-business database to grow to over 40 TERABYTES, more than 4 times the printed material in the Library of Congress. The data can be divided into over 1000 independent partitions, thereby providing essentially unlimited growth and near-continuous availability.

A large number of new tools for IMS V7 have been rolling out as well. IMS availability is enhanced with the new IMS Online Recovery Service, which provides more parallelism in recovery and reduced I/O overhead. Migration to IMS V7 is also aided with the new IMS HALDB conversion aid. And the new IMS DataPropagator provides enhanced coexistence between IMS DB and DB2 databases by simplifying and improving the performance of near real-time updates of data passed between them.

Customers are showing their confidence in the future of IMS by investing more of their I/T dollars in IMS, when the rest of the I/T industry is showing downturn and retrenchment. In 2001 IMS, lead by a resurgent interest in IMS Tools, as well as the rich function of IMS Version 7, enjoyed double-digit revenue growth year-over-year, the highest single revenue year in the history of the product.

IMS continued to deliver rich new function to the marketplace throughout 2001 and into 2002 in the service stream. This mechanism along with aggressive in-house testing and review allows us to

introduce high quality new function to waiting customers more rapidly. The new capabilities added to Version 7 since its general availability included 64-bit real support for enhanced capacity, additional sense code/message information for enhanced communications management support, wider access to available DB2 for Sysplex restart, better access to log data after restart completes, Fiber Channel support for improved system communications and data access, Sysplex Coupling Facility duplexing support, batch remote recovery service support for expanded use of coordinated commit, and enhanced Java/XML support .

Customers again demonstrated their confidence in IMS by upgrading to new versions at a rate greater than any year in recent IMS history. A large number of IMS customers worldwide upgraded to a new version in 2001. IMS customers were also seeing growth. IMS systems worldwide grew and the computing capacity of all IMS systems, measured in MIPs, increased about 10%.

IMS understands the continually evolving demands the dynamic e-business marketplace places on its largest customers. In response to this need, IBM is growing the IMS development organization, which is committed to a plan for a two-year delivery cycle for new versions and more frequent delivery of new/enhanced tools and function. Consistent with this commitment, IMS is projecting general availability of IMS Version 8 in the fourth quarter of 2002. This will follow anticipated satisfactory performance during the IMS Quality Partnership Program, which is beginning with participating customers, on March 1. IMS Version 8 is providing integrated e-business solutions with self-managing technology enhancements to expand performance, improve security and availability. IMS Version 8 is providing e-business Server management enhancements with Sysplex-wide Resource Management, Sysplex-wide Single Image Operations, Simplified System Definition and Improved Diagnostics. IMS V8 is also providing continued enhancements to eliminate bottlenecks and impediments to growth. IMS Version 8 is also providing enhanced performance and security for this environment. And IMS Version 8 provides more transparent Sysplex Terminal Management to enhance e-business availability. Additional systems management, data management, business intelligence, and application development tools are also being provided to better integrate and ease use of IMS as an e-business server .

IMS continues with IMS V8 to meet extreme IT needs for e-transaction processing with the ultimate in performance/capacity, availability and systems management and technological leadership in connectivity and new application development. IMS together with the S/390 and zSeries are delivering more comprehensive solutions for Integration, Manageability, and Scalability, with a strong suite of end-to-end products. We continue to provide connectivity and integration for leading edge end-to-end transaction integrity and real-time data currency. We are providing enhanced manageability for the sharing of data, networks, and messages, utilizing the sysplex and its coupling facility. We are also providing enhanced scalability across the product for better performance, capacity, availability, and recovery. In addition, we continue to help improve upon the manageability of IMS through more frequent, staged deliverables, and enhanced installability/usability/serviceability of IMS.

A number of new IMS versions are currently underway, at various stages of development, which take us out through the next decade of technological evolution, with much more expected to be provided after that. Work is progressing on this and the IMS organization continues to grow in response to customer demands.

The IMS Strategy is providing continuous improvements. IMS Goals are to provide our customers with 100% accessability, ensured security, unlimited growth, 100% availability, dynamic installability, and the latest in technology.

The IMS Silicon Valley Laboratory team has been delivering on its promise of value to IMS customers. IMS customers have responded most positively by rewarding the IMS team with renewed revenue growth and rapid acceptance of new IMS offerings. The IMS team remains committed to producing the fastest , most reliable database and transaction management computing system in the world. IMS truly affects almost every facet of daily life, serving more than 95% of the world's largest corporations, who trust and depend upon it for their business critical applications and data.

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