Informix Internet Foundation.2000

The Application Development Platform for the i.Economy and the Internet

Product Announcement:
September, 1999

Informix® is pleased to announce the general availability of Informix Internet Foundation.2000™, which provides the tools and features to publish business-critical data to the Internet and enable sophisticated Internet applications and e-commerce. Informix Internet Foundation.2000 includes Informix Dynamic Server™.2000, Informix J/Foundation, the Informix Web DataBlade® module, the Excalibur Text DataBlade module, and Informix Office Connect™.

Overview

IT infrastructure is critical to the success of any organization. It becomes even more critical as the size of organizations increase to include customers, partners, suppliers, and employees. Similarly, a company's revenue is now proportional to the time their IT systems are up, thus requiring a stable and reliable data management system. Other database management solutions have added complexity to their database products by upgrading old offerings, but Informix Internet Foundation.2000 is designed for the Internet from the ground up. By merging the best of Informix OLTP products with object relational technology, Informix has created an Internet-optimized platform.

- **Get there first**
  While complexity increases other database management solutions' deployment time, Foundation.2000 is optimized for the Internet to allow you get to market in Internet time.
- **Get big fast**
  Your business can expand as fast as the Internet. Foundation.2000 provides broad support for Internet standards to enable virtually any data type to grow and adapt with your business and with the increasing demands of the Internet.
- **Always available**
  Internet infrastructure is critical. Informix technology has powered the most business-critical applications for years. Its reliability and stability ensures that applications are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Intended Customers

Informix Internet Foundation.2000 is targeted at new customers who are investing in business-critical Internet infrastructure. The ideal new customer is looking for scalable technology to minimize time to market on the Web without limiting future options or flexibility.

Informix Internet Foundation.2000 is also targeted at existing 7.x and 9.x customers who want to reap the benefits of Internet-based data management rapidly, as well as any customers who are looking at Java solutions.

Snapshot
Informix Internet Foundation.2000

Benefits:

- Minimize time to market for Web solutions utilizing Java®, HTML, XML
- Lower total cost of ownership by utilizing and enhancing existing data systems
- High performance and scalability
- Scale as your business grows through data type extensibility
- Available on Linux™ as well as Windows® NT and UNIX® platforms

Components:

- Informix Dynamic Server.2000
- Informix J/Foundation
- Informix Connect 2.30 run-time connectivity
- DataBlade Developer's Kit 4.0
- Informix Server Administrator™ 1.0
- Informix Web DataBlade module 4.0
- Excalibur Text DataBlade module 1.3
- Informix Office Connect 1.0

General Availability:

September 1999

Ordering Information:

To order product by phone, contact your local Informix sales office, or in the U.S., call 1-800-331-1763, or 1-650-926-6300.

New Product Features and Benefits

Informix Internet Foundation.2000 has the following major components:

- **Informix Dynamic Server.2000**
  Informix Dynamic Server.2000 is the database server for Informix Internet Foundation.2000 and is the next generation of Informix's flagship database server. Informix Dynamic Server.2000 delivers an industry-proven transaction engine for mission-critical applications while providing an upgrade path to the Internet. Capable of supporting thousands of concurrent users, Informix Dynamic Server.2000 delivers maximum reliability, availability, and scalability to power the largest transaction processing systems. See the Informix Dynamic Server.2000 Product Announcement for details.

- **Informix J/Foundation**
  Informix has integrated Java, the programming language of the Internet, into the most scalable, extensible database on the market. The result is J/Foundation—an open, flexible, embedded Java Virtual Machine (JVM) environment that delivers scalable and highly performant Java applications by executing them directly in the server. In addition to performance, the J/Foundation is designed for flexibility and compatibility. Rather than building a single, proprietary JVM, Informix J/Foundation uses standard Java Virtual Machines from our platform vendor partners. This standard environment ensures compatibility with third-party Java products and helps when migrating existing Java applications into the database server.

  By supporting Java in the database, Informix allows our customers to deploy Internet-based Java solutions across all tiers. When the business logic is data intensive, it makes sense to deploy that logic inside the database for better performance and manageability. And by using the server-side JDBC driver, the migration into the database is easy. J/Foundation supports UDRs in Java and now supports DataBlade modules developed in Java with the release of DataBlade Developer's Kit (DBDK) 4.0.

- **Informix Web DataBlade Module Version 4.0**
  This new release of the Web DataBlade module extends the functionality of both Informix Dynamic Server.2000 and Informix Internet Foundation.2000 with features that ease the development, management, and deployment of database applications for the Web. The Web DataBlade module version 4.0 also offers considerable performance improvements over previous versions. Optimized for both publishing and transaction-based environments, the Web DataBlade module enables organizations to create intelligent Web applications that incorporate all types of data—including HTML files and multimedia content such as text, images, maps, and photos—all dynamically retrieved from the Informix database.

  Support for the Apache Webserver has been added in this release. Other new features include session management capabilities, enabling the Web DataBlade module to track visitor usage; new browser-based installation and administrative tools; enhanced performance features, and application development functionality including deferred caching, embeddable MISQL tags, and conditional looping and constraints. Finally, the Web DataBlade module enables users to generate XML data and documents over the Internet. XML can be delivered to either an XML Web browser or an XML enabled-application that utilizes the HTTP protocol.

- **Informix Excalibur Text DataBlade Module Version 1.30**
  The Excalibur Text DataBlade module provides full text searching of documents and text fields directly inside the database engine in virtually any format that contains ASCII and ISO characters. Fuzzy search capabilities allow users to find results regardless of errors in data entry that would otherwise cause them to be overlooked in standard text searches. Boolean, phrase, and synonym searching allow users a wide range of capabilities in customizing their queries. This DataBlade module supports any language, word, or phrase that can be expressed in an 8-bit, single-byte character set. Formatted documents such as PDF, Microsoft Word, and HTML can be filtered prior to indexing.

  The 1.30 release also includes new wildcard searching capabilities. When a user specifies WILDCARD_CLUE as a search parameter, they can optionally add a * character at the beginning and/or end of any words in their clue, and the * will expand to match with any string.

- **Informix Office Connect Version 1.0**

Informix Office Connect is a new product that simplifies the task of retrieving data (time series, opaque, or SQL2) and visualizing it in Microsoft Excel worksheets—regardless of the data types behind the data. Informix Office Connect's sophisticated connection and model-view controller architecture provides power and ease of use.

This design utilizes database schema images (model views of the database structure) to generate optimized SQL commands that populate Excel worksheets and manage all interactions between the client and the database server. This "connection to model-view" approach dramatically reduces client/server data access coding and improves a company's time to market with highly tailored solutions.

The "connection to model-view" approach within Informix Office Connect enables any Excel-based developer to visually create high-performance data retrieval solutions in Excel worksheets without having to be an SQL expert or understanding the intricacies of the database schema. Refer to the Office Connect Product Announcement for more information.

- **Informix DataBlade Developers Kit Version 4.0**
  If a DataBlade module to fit the customer's particular need does not exist, the customer can create DataBlade modules using the DataBlade Developers Kit. This level of flexibility allows the database server accommodate new business requirements as they evolve, allowing customers to leverage their existing investments in database technology and still preserve the flexibility required to react competitively in any situation.

  The DBDK allows Informix development partners to develop user-defined objects and routines to extend the IDS.2000 or Foundation.2000 environment. DBDK supports C and C++ development environments and automatic generation of ActiveX components. The DBDK provides a complete graphical development environment that allows developers to design and implement the extensions used by Informix Internet Foundation.2000. With support for the automatic generation of C and C++ code, DBDK substantially decreases the complexity associated with DataBlade module development.

  New enhancements to the DBDK 4.0 include greater integration with the BladeSmith and the Visual C++ environment, a new edit/compile debug feature and Java support for UDRs.

- **Informix Connect 2.30**
  Informix Connect (I-Connect) is a runtime connectivity product that includes the runtime libraries of the Informix APIs that comprise Informix Client SDK™. These libraries are required by applications running on client machines to access Informix servers. I-Connect is needed when finished applications are ready to be deployed.

- **Informix Server Administrator 1.0**
  Informix Server Administrator™ 1.0 is the first in a new generation of Web browser-based and cross-platform administrative tools, providing Informix DBAs with a tool that is rich in functionality and easy to use. Informix Server Administrator provides access to every Informix Dynamic Server command line function and presents the output in an easy-to-read format. This eliminates the need to memorize the many commands and options available to the DBA. Informix Server Administrator 1.0 is currently available.

Product Compatibility

Informix Internet Foundation.2000 is compatible with all 9.x releases and all 7.X releases through 7.30.

Informix Internet Foundation.2000 supports the following Informix DataBlade modules:

- Excalibur Text DataBlade Module: 1.20 UC2, 1.30 and above
- Informix Geodetic DataBlade Module: 3.0 and above
- Informix TimeSeries DataBlade Module: 3.30 and above
- Excalibur Image DataBlade Module: 1.11, 1.2 and above
- Informix Web DataBlade Module: 3.32, 4.0, and above

Informix Internet Foundation.2000 has also been certified with the following Informix products:

- Informix 4GL 6.05, and 7.20, 7.30
- Informix SQL 6.05, and 7.20, 7.30
- Informix Metacube® 4.x
- Informix Data Director™ for Visual Basic 3.5 and above
- Informix Enterprise Gateway Manager 7.2x
- Informix Enterprise Gateway with DRDA® 7.2x and above
- Informix Visionary 1.x
- Informix Dynamic 4GL 2.1x and above

Product Requirements:

Hardware Requirements:

UNIX SERVER

- 64-MB RAM (minimum)
- 200-MB disk space
- CD-ROM drive (may be remote mount) OR tape drive: 4mm-DAT or 8mm-QIC

NT SERVER

- 32-MB RAM
- 64-MB Swap Space
- 40-MB Disk Space
- CD-ROM Drive

PC CLIENT (development system)

- 100-percent IBM compatible PC
- 486/66 or greater
- 32-MB RAM
- 50-MB disk space
- CD-ROM drive
- VGA monitor

Software Requirements

UNIX SERVER
See the Platform Availability section for certified operating systems.

NT SERVER

- Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 (Service Pack 3 or above)
- TCP/IP
- WinNT File System (NTFS)

PC CLIENT

- Microsoft Windows NT 4.0, Windows 95, or Windows 98
- Microsoft C/C++ compiler version 4.1
- TCP/IP Protocol

Documentation:

The hard copy manuals shipped with Informix Dynamic Server.2000 will always be distributed when the Informix Internet Foundation.2000 software bundle is ordered, along with the following additional manuals:

- Web DataBlade Read Me First
- Informix Office Connect Read Me First DataBlade Install & Registration Guide 4.0

Each customer will automatically receive one free Documentation CD (Answers OnLine™) containing each of the components in the documentation set.

Hard copy Documentation Sets can be purchased separately upon request for $900. They include all of the manuals associated with Informix Dynamic Servers.2000 as well as the following additional manuals:

- Creating UDRs in Java, v.9.2
- Excalibur Text DataBlade Module User Guide
- Web DataBlade Module Application Developer's Guide v.4.0
- Web DataBlade Module Admin. Guide v.4.0
- Informix Office Connect User Guide v.1.0

Platform Availability:

Informix Internet Foundation.2000 is now or will soon be available on the following platforms:

Maker/OS Versions	Availablity
Solaris 2.5, 2.5.1, 2.6, 7 (32-bit)	Now
HP-UX 11.0 (32-bit)	Mid-Nov. 1999
Windows NT 4.0	Late Nov. 1999
Linux* Kernel 2.2.x, glibc 2.1.x	Early Nov. 1999

* The Linux port of Foundation.2000 does not support SNMP, dbcockpit, or OnArchive.

Additional platforms will be announced in the upcoming months.

Language Support:

Informix Internet Foundation.2000 is fully GLS Level 4 compatible. It will be localized for the following languages:

- European: German, French, Spanish, Russian, Polish, Czech, and Slovak
- Asian: Japanese, Korean, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese

Ordering and Pricing:

Informix Dynamic Server 7.x customers who have a current maintenance contract are eligible for a discounted trade-up to Informix Internet Foundation.2000 until August 30, 2000. Informix Dynamic Server with Universal Data Option™ 9.1x customers who have purchased maintenance are entitled to a free trade-up to Informix Internet Foundation.2000 until August 30, 2000.

Contact your local sales office for details on ordering and pricing.

About Informix

Informix Corporation, based in Menlo Park, California, provides innovative database solutions that assist the world's major corporations attain competitive advantage. Informix is widely recognized as the technology leader for corporate computing environments ranging from small workgroups to very large parallel processing applications. Informix's database server, application development tools, superior customer service, and strong partnerships enable the company to be at the forefront of major information technology solution areas including data warehousing, high-performance OLTP, and Web/e-commerce. For more information, contact the sales office nearest you or visit our Web site at www.informix.com.

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