AN IDEAL MATCH FOR my**SAP.com**
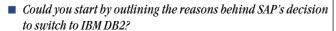
IBM DB2 becomes SAP's database of choice

At the end of 1999, SAP and IBM agreed to expand their joint sales, marketing and development activities worldwide. SAP also revealed that the IBM DB2 database would replace Oracle as SAP's solution of choice for IBM, Sun and Linux platforms used with the company's internal development and live systems. Karl-Heinz Hess, a member of SAP AG's extended management board, spoke with sapinfo.net about the reasons for this move.

■ *Could you start by outlining the reasons behind SAP's decision to switch to IBM DB2?*

Hess: There are many reasons – technical and non-technical. Firstly, we believe that building on our long and fruitful partnership with IBM will enable us to meet many of the new challenges we face. IBM's technological leadership in the database field, both today and in the future, is a vital factor in SAP's ability to keep on delivering solutions with the functionality and quality that customers have come to expect. Along with its impressive scalability in the SAP R/3 environment, DB2 is an ideal match for mySAP.com. With the option of distributing a logical database over several physical computers, IBM DB2 Extended Enterprise Edition is armed to handle the large data volumes and complex queries that are typical features of today's business warehouses, and to do so with outstanding performance and scalability. Recent benchmarking tests (January 2000) for the SAP Business Information Warehouse on IBM DB2 Extended Enterprise Edition provide overwhelming proof of that.[1]

■ *How will this reorientation impact SAP's customers and partners?*

Hess: All the platforms currently supported by SAP will still be available for existing and new SAP customers. However, IBM DB2 Universal Database will replace Oracle as the primary development environment on IBM, Sun and Linux platforms within SAP, which means

[1]*Details of these benchmarking tests are available on the IBM partner site in SAPNet.*

that the SAP development and support departments will broaden their existing database knowledge with DB2 specifics. The extended cooperation between SAP and IBM gives mutual customers increased flexibility and a greater choice of hardware platforms on which to run the combination of SAP solutions and the IBM DB2 Universal Database. Furthermore, when customers use DB2 for SAP solutions, they do not have to spend valuable time and money on replacing their existing hardware platform. IBM DB2 is a powerful, good-value alternative for all SAP architecture platforms. Numerous SAP partners who sell their Ready-to-Work solutions on DB2 have already recognized this fact. Incidentally, partners can profit from a range of special programs that IBM is offering.

■ *Will the new SAP/IBM cooperation agreement affect the hardware platforms that were not previously available under IBM DB2?*

Hess: The new agreement aims to widen the choice of hardware platforms available to customers implementing the mySAP.com Internet solutions in connection with the IBM DB2 Universal Database. Once DB2 was available on all the strategic IBM platforms, namely RS/6000, AS/400, OS/390 and Netfinity, work quickly began on porting DB2 to other platforms. Sun and Linux soon opened the list of non-IBM platforms that are compatible with DB2. More, including Windows 2000, are set to follow.

■ *As head of SAP development, you shoulder responsibility for the mySAP.com Internet products. Within a mere six months, you have brought a vision to the market. What role will IBM DB2 play in connection with mySAP.com?*

Hess: DB2's compatibility with a broad range of platforms makes mySAP.com easier to use. That's because, with IBM DB2, mySAP.com solutions benefit from all the advantages of a database that not only runs on different platforms, but that also lends itself to deployment in heterogeneous hardware environments. Alongside rich functionality in the SAP Business Information Warehouse area, IBM DB2 offers impressive scalability when used as a parallel database. mySAP.com products including the Workplace Server, Business-to-Business Procurement, Customer Relationship Management, Strategic Enterprise Management, and Knowledge Management were released for First Customer Shipment on December 15, 1999. ■

MYSAP.COM SOLUTIONS WITH IBM'S DB2 UNIVERSAL DATABASE

SAP AND IBM EXPAND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP

SAP and IBM, the worldwide leader in data management solutions, have agreed to expand their global sales, marketing and development relationship. As part of this agreement, the two companies will work together to provide expanded choices for customers wishing to implement mySAP.com Internet business solutions and IBM's DB2 Universal Database on a variety of hardware platforms. These platforms include Hewlett-Packard and Windows 2000, in addition to the solutions already available for Sun Microsystems, Linux, Windows NT, and IBM's RS/6000, AS/400, and S/390 platforms. Thanks to this expanded partnership, customers can take advantage of more flexibility and a wider choice of hardware platforms when they opt to use IBM DB2 with SAP solutions. What's more, they can avoid the time and expense of changing their existing hardware platforms when they port to DB2 databases for SAP solutions. Broader platform support will also facilitate the use of mySAP.com by offering all the benefits of heterogeneous and multi-platform support with one database product. ■