IBM Provides New Network Software for Electronic Business

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C., September 9, 1997 . . . IBM today announced software that makes computer networks perform faster and lets customers extend the reach of enterprise information to the Internet and for electronic business

The new offerings are the latest version of IBM eNetwork Software, which provides users with access to enterprise and Internet information. The software permits faster, less expensive transmission of information around computer networks, improves network reliability and provides better integration of different network types, as well as wireless access to networks.

The highlights of today's announcements follow.

- The eNetwork Communications Server software, with new, high-performance TCP/IP software, can improve S/390* Web server performance to support four times as many connections per second (user requests) as compared with its previous capacity. The S/390 Parallel Enterprise Servers are IBM's largest computer systems that can handle high volume workloads and thousands of users.
- Functions have been added for the S/390 servers to support the IBM Network Station family, an affordable range of network computer devices, which allow software to be stored on the server and delivered to IBM's network computer when requested. The devices and software can be easily managed from a central site and can reduce support costs associated with individual workstations.
- Easy access to enterprise information from a Web browser is provided by Host On-Demand, a Java-based application, that leverages existing investments in applications. Host On-Demand requires no re-programming and represents another in a series of steps IBM has taken to link the best of existing customer investments in information technology to Internet technologies.
- IBM announced updates to Communications Server software for S/390, Windows NT**, and OS/2* that use data compression and other technologies to deliver faster transmission speeds and help to reduce overall network costs.
- New function in the IBM eNetwork Personal Communications software allows access to enterprise information for integration at the user's desktop computer. For example, a word processor or spreadsheet application could be used in combination with Personal Communications to access and view personnel records stored on a S/390 server.
- To deliver network access to mobile users, IBM offers enhanced eNetwork Wireless software products (previously called ARTour software) that let customers extend existing applications to wireless or dial-up networks. The mobile user gets access to the same familiar screens and commands used by office workers that are directly connected to the computer network.
- A variety of techniques are used to reduce the amount of data transferred over the network -- critical for mobile users who have access to low bandwidth wireless or dial-up networks. Access to the Internet or intranets with eNetwork Wireless software can reduce data traffic by as much as 90 percent. Another feature for mobile users allows them to queue up multiple browser requests while disconnected, since they do not always have network access. Performance improvements delivered by eNetwork Wireless software result in faster response times, plus reduced line connection times and cost.
- Support has been added for the wireless devices widely used by police and the public safety industry, along with ISDN 30 lines in Europe which offer 15 times improvement over Basic Rate ISDN networks.

"We continue to make strides in improving networking technologies that are essential for our customers moving towards e-business," said Al Zollar, general manager of IBM Networking Software. "They require strong capabilities in networking technologies that can grow rapidly while maintaining uptime, reliability and security. We're delivering all of this, as well as bringing forward new technologies that include Java and wireless communications."

Most of the products announced by IBM today will be available worldwide by the end of September. For more information, users can access http://www.networking.ibm.com on the WorldWide Web. Software developers may obtain specific information at http://www.developer.ibm.com.

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IBM's eNetwork Software addresses the major challenges businesses face as they develop networked solutions that leverage current investments and integrate new high-growth Internet and e-business applications:

- Enterprise-Class* dependability for business requiring reliability, availability, scalability and security.
- End-to-end universal access across multiple network types and platforms from the office, at home or on the road (mobile);
- Easy implementation, installation, configuration and administration of networks;
- Effective utilization of network assets for performance, bandwidth and interoperability.

For more information about IBM, its products, services and technology, users can access the IBM home page at http://www.ibm.com. The fastest, easiest way to get information about IBM software is to go to the IBM Software home page at http://www.software.ibm.com.

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