

# New IBM Client Software Helps Customers Access Enterprise and Intranet Information -- From the Office, Home or on the Road

## IBM eNetwork Personal Communications 4.2 unlocks the value of the network by integrating applications on the desktop

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C., September 9, 1997 . . . IBM today announced the next version of its market-leading client communications software, IBM eNetwork\* Personal Communications\* version 4.2 for Windows\*\* 95 and Windows NT\*\*.

This new version extends the reach to more enterprise data and applications as well as the Internet. This is accomplished through the implementation of industry standards such as VT 52/100/220 and the exploitation of Microsoft\*\* technologies such as ActiveX, OLE and ODBC. As a result, the value of corporate information is maximized by putting it within reach of all users.

"At J.B. Hunt Transport, we chose IBM's PCOMM for NT because we needed a full-featured emulator which works with all of our legacy systems and which is supported on multiple operating systems (NT, OS/2, Windows 3.11)," said Brent Combs, manager of client engineering for J.B. Hunt Transport, Inc. "PCOMM does not require a host gateway, and it performs well in the NT environment. Additionally, PCOMM simplifies set up for TCP/IP and SNA, and it reduces our support costs because of the consistency across NT and OS/2."

IBM also announced that Personal Communications 4.2 has been "Designed for Microsoft BackOffice\*\*\*", demonstrating IBM's commitment to provide software that integrates smoothly in a Windows NT environment.

Personal Communications is the industry's premier solution for multiprotocol connectivity, complete host access APIs and emulation support. It provides client connectivity to S/390,\* AS/400,\* System/36\* systems and UNIX hosts via 3270, 5250 and VT terminal emulation and host data access for desktop applications. It exploits existing SNA-based applications while bridging to future technologies requiring multi-protocol support, including TCP/IP. A wide range of connectivity options lets users connect from anywhere through LAN, WAN and even wireless network capabilities.

According to International Data Corporation in its May 1997 report *Worldwide SNA Client Review and Forecast*, "IBM continues to dominate the SNA client market, leading with breadth of operating system coverage and range of pricing options, accounting for 44.4% of the market."

"Fortune 1000 companies are betting their businesses on the 24x7 reliability that Personal Communications assures in accessing their critical information and applications whenever they need them," said James Neiser, vice president of marketing, IBM Networking Software division. "This reliability is especially critical as companies deploy new technologies across their networks to make e-business a reality."

## New Features in IBM eNetwork Personal Communications 4.2

Personal Communications sports new features in desktop integration, intelligent network access, performance and adapter support to further exploit application integration on the desktop from hosts, and large scale servers. Highlights include:

- **IBM eNetwork Personal Communications Host Access Class Library** – simplifies access to host application data with a set of powerful programming objects. These host access classes are accessible through ActiveX automation interfaces, Lotus script extensions, and native C++ objects. Personal Communications Host Access classes are functionally compatible with the newly announced IBM Host on-Demand Version 2.
- **OLE Support** - improves productivity by allowing users to imbed and automate a Personal Communications session in documents such as Lotus 1-2-3, Lotus NOTES and Microsoft Word.

- **VT52, VT100, VT220 emulation and ASCII-host file transfer** – adds access to UNIX hosts with the same consistent look and feel of Personal Communications' 3270 and 5250 emulation capabilities through both asynchronous (communications port) and TCP/IP connections.
- **Database access for AS/400 and S/390 (through ODBC)** – improves user productivity and network integration by enabling customers to access existing databases on AS/400s and S/390 hosts from PC relational database applications such as Microsoft Excel\*\*, Lotus 1-2-3\*\*\*, dBase\*\*\*, Oracle and Sybase\*\*.
- **AS/400 Network Drives (previously called Shared Folders)** – enables users to access AS/400 files from Windows 95 and Windows NT so that files appear as if they were on a PC drive.

## Pricing and Availability

Personal Communications 4.2 for Windows 95 and Windows NT will be available worldwide on September 26, 1997 directly from IBM and through authorized business partners. Suggested retail pricing is \$329 (US) for the base product and \$279 (US) per additional license. Upgrade pricing from any IBM or non-IBM equivalent communications client software package is \$139 (US) for the base product and \$109 (US) for each additional license.

Personal Communications is also available on OS/2, DOS and Windows 3.1 platforms. All the software and support customers need is provided on a single CD-ROM, enabling customers to change, move, or mix and match clients on their users' desktops.

IBM offers broad national language support for Personal Communications making it easy for users in different countries to access corporate data in their native language. Personal Communications 4.2 ships in 16 national language versions: Brazilian Portuguese, Chinese (Traditional and Simplified), Danish, English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean (Hangul), Norwegian, Russian, Spanish, Swedish and Turkish.

## About IBM eNetwork Software

Personal Communications is part of IBM's eNetwork Software family of networking communications products that provide enterprise-class universal connectivity and information access for cost-effective network computing. More information on IBM eNetwork Personal Communications is available at <http://www.networking.ibm.com/eNetwork>.

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