IBM eNetwork Software Delivers Secure Java Access to Enterprise Data and Applications

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C., September 9, 1997 . . . IBM today announced version 2.0 of its eNetwork* Host On-Demand* software that will ship at the end of this month, extending the reach of enterprise data to customers whenever they need it, wherever they need it.

IBM eNetwork Host On-Demand is a fast and easy-to-use Java**-based solution that gives users secure browser-based access to a broad range of enterprise information on multiple hosts through several servers at one time. With Host On-Demand, customers can use their web browsers to take better advantage of corporate information and unlock the value of the Internet. This is another in a series of steps IBM has taken to link the best of traditional IT with the best of the Internet to realize the benefits of e-business.

Since Host On-Demand is a Java applet, each user automatically downloads the same, latest version of software each time they use it, reducing service and system administration costs. Plus, users are assured a consistent look and feel which reduces training costs when they change operating systems. Host On-Demand is ideal for customers who use a web browser and perfect for use with network computers.

A powerful feature in version 2.0, the IBM eNetwork Host On-Demand Host Access Class Library is an API that allows customizable user interfaces for more sophisticated access to applications and data tailored to the user's business needs.

"The new Host Access API in Host On-Demand is amazingly simple to use for customized access to host data," said James Shapiro, executive director for Advanced Transition Technologies, Inc., makers of a Java applet that provides a graphical user interface for host applications and an eNetwork Partner in Development for Host On-Demand. "Within a week of receiving the beta copy of Host On-Demand version 2.0, we had our ResQ!Net**** product working with this interface."

"We are excited about IBM's eNetwork Host On-Demand version 2.0 because it promises our customers integrated Web-based access to our software tools on 3270, 5250 and VT accessible platforms," said Brian Roberts, manager of product planning, file and data management, at Compuware Corporation. "Product integration is one of our strategies here at Compuware and Host On-Demand will further simplify our customer's environment and provide a cohesive method of accessing Compuware products."

Unlike competitive offerings for web-enabled access to host data, Host On-Demand Version 2.0 can communicate with any standard Telnet server over an IP connection. Additionally, the applet launches its own window, leaving the browser free to access other web-based data and tasks.

Customers will appreciate the common look and feel between Host On-Demand and IBM Personal Communications, the market leading host access software solution which provides the industry's richest set of emulation and communications functions for clients on the enterprise network.

Pricing and Availability

The Host On-Demand Version 2.0 software product will ship on September 26, 1997 directly from IBM and through authorized business partners. The suggested retail price for Host On-Demand version 2.0 is $199 (US) per concurrent user. It can be loaded on any of IBM's eNetwork Communications Servers*, or on NetWare for SAA*** software from IBM and Novell***, or other web server platforms.

Host On-Demand 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 Host On-Demand is available at http://www.networking.ibm.com/eNetwork/OnDemand/hod.html.

Advanced Transition Technologies, Inc., based in New York City, develops and markets ResQ!Net, a truly thin Java applet that provides an out of the box graphical user interface for host applications. More information and a demo of ResQ!Net is available at http://www.att-inc.com.

Compuware Corporation is a leading worldwide provider of software products and professional services that help Information Technology professionals efficiently develop, implement and support the applications that run their businesses. More information about Compuware and its products is available at http://www.compuware.com.

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New Features in IBM eNetwork Host On-Demand Version 2.0

- Security of enterprise data is provided across the Internet by using server authentication with industry-standard SSL Version 3.0 servers. Mobile users can have access to key intranet data and applications from anywhere they have Internet access. A redirector function ensures that once the secure SSL connection is established with the server, users can establish multiple sessions with any of the hosts in the intranet.

- Expansive range of TelNet server support that now includes TN5250 emulation to reach AS/400 hosts and VT100 and VT220 to reach many ASCII hosts, in addition to existing TN3270 support. Support for the CICS Internet Gateway* for Java is also included. This wide range of support ensures a consistent user interface to key intranet data and applications.

- Web-based server configuration and administration allows for easier system administration.

- File transfer support enables transfer of files between the host session and the user's system with a simple Java-based GUI.

- Print support lets customers print host screens to a local printer of their choice.

- Copy and paste features provide a simple method of transferring data to and from desktop applications or the Web.

- Support for a new Java-based programming API. The IBM eNetwork Host On-Demand Host Access Class Library API enables the development of customized applications that combine Host On-Demand's communications capabilities with customized user or desktop application interfaces. This enables tailoring access to applications and data that is suited to users' business needs.