

IBM Enhances eNetwork Communications Server Family

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C., September 9, 1997 . . . IBM today announced enhancements to its family of eNetwork Communications Servers. IBM's eNetwork Communications Servers extend a customer's reach to intranets and the Internet, network integration and end-to-end connectivity solutions to provide the foundation for network computing, supporting IBM's e-business strategy.

"Today's announcement advances IBM's goal of providing customers with enterprise-class solutions to access critical applications regardless of where they reside and what platform they may be on," said James Neiser, vice president of marketing, IBM Networking Software.

Enhancements are being announced for Communications Server for Windows NT**, Communications Server for OS/390 and Communications Server for OS/2*.

Communications Server for Windows NT , Version 5.01

Enhancements to Communications Server for Windows NT, which recently was designated "Designed for Microsoft** BackOffice**," include:

- Optimized network utilization and reduced network costs can be achieved through SNA data compression. Unlike competitive products on the Windows NT platform, Communications Server for Windows NT offers session level data compression to increase throughput of data across communication links.
- Broadened network integration capabilities are provided by allowing LAN-attached IPX/SPX clients to access host SNA data. IPX/SPX clients can access SNA APIs without requiring SNA protocols to flow between the clients and server. This remote API allows a system administrator to make most SNA configurations at the central server, and may reduce time and money involved in multiple configurations at individual workstations. This capability helps customers support multiple protocols, and serves as a migration tool for customers moving to Communications Server for Windows NT.
- Customers can now designate which users have access to certain host applications by using TN3270E IP address filtering, resulting in centralized administration of resources. This access is based on IP addresses, and removes the burden of having to request a specific LU name for each connection.
- Investments in current S/390 Information Management Systems (IMS) application are leveraged through Session Level Interface (SLI) API support on the server, resulting in improved access to industry applications, including those used primarily in the banking industries.

Argo Data Resources Corp. is a software development firm specializing in applications for the banking industry. They installed IBM Communications Server/Windows NT for a client that had recently converted their OS/2 application to NT, running on Microsoft's SNA Server**.

"When we got the beta for Communications Server for Windows NT we expected to have to go through another conversion. But to our surprise, none was needed. In fact, we didn't even have to recompile," said Bala Shagrithaya, vice president of systems at Argo Data. "BankPro, the application we built with Microsoft SNA Server toolkit, runs 'as is' with Communications Server. We've been very pleased with it, and have notified some of our clients to go forward with their own evaluation."

Communications Server for OS/390 Version 2 Release 4

Coincident with the IBM's S/390* Parallel Sysplex Server* and OS/390 announcement also being made today, enhancements are being added to Communications Server for OS/390 to support three key S/390 customer focuses:

Network Computing Support

- Easy access to host applications from a Java-enabled Web browser is made available by packaging IBM's eNetwork Host On-Demand 1.0 with Communications Server for OS/390. This version of Host On-Demand is a 100% Pure Java solution that incorporates industry-standard Telnet 3270 protocols and requires no customer programming or additional hardware. Users can initiate Host On-Demand 1.0 by simply clicking on an SNA application hot link within their Java-enabled Web browser.
- Support for IBM's network computer, IBM Network Station, is now provided by Communications Server for OS/390. This software, which includes Network Station Client and Network Station Manager for OS/390, is stored on the server and downloaded when the IBM Network Station is powered on or when the user activates new functions. This makes the software easy to manage from a central site and can reduce support costs associated with individual workstations.
- Customers can experience significantly improved performance for S/390 applications, such as Web serving, and the ability to fully utilize the IBM Parallel Enterprise Server* when "scaling up" to handle increasing numbers of users. These enhancements are provided by a new high performance TCP/IP stack for OS/390 UNIX System Services (formerly Open Edition) that has been added to Communications Server for OS/390. This new stack exploits native OS/390 functions and multiprocessing capability, making the S/390 an even more cost-effective Web server.

Parallel Sysplex Support

- Customers can exploit the Sysplex Workload Manager (WLM) to provide intelligent sysplex distribution of Web requests using the new Domain Name Server (DNS) that is now available. For customers electing to place a DNS in an OS/390 sysplex, WLM sysplex routing services will be invoked to determine the optimum system to service a given client request. User or vendor applications can also register with WLM to take advantage of Parallel Sysplex load balancing.

Application Support

- Improved performance and communications over TCP/IP connections between DB2 on the S/390 and SAP R/3 application servers on AIX or NT is provided by the employment of High Performance Data Transfer (MPC+) User Data Protocol (UDP).

Other enhancements for Communications Server for OS/390 include usability enhancements for Open Transaction Manager Access and CICS Sockets.

BMC Software, Inc., a worldwide developer and vendor of Cooperative Enterprise Management Solutions, participated in field tests for IBM eNetwork Communications Server for OS/390. "IBM's newest version of Communications Server for OS/390 represents a major advancement in technology for S/390 users," said Leland Putterman, vice president of marketing for BMC Software.

Communications Server for OS/2, Version 5

Enhancements to Communications Server for OS/2 include:

- The first software product to utilize IBM's new Branch Extender technology, which optimizes network traffic. Branch Extender also expands the potential size of an APPN network by allowing more network nodes in a branch office network. Branch Extender accomplishes this by limiting APPN/HPR topology information traffic and reducing overhead.
- Additional data transmission capacity during peak periods is provided by HPR multilink transmission group (MLTG) support, reducing the need for costly high-speed and infrequently used links. MLTG is a group of links that can act as multiple links or together as one higher-speed link. MLTG improves the network reliability and effective network utilization through the enablement of load balancing across multiple links.
- High network availability and protection from a single point of failure is provided by High Performance Routing (HPR) over Wide Area Networks, resulting in fewer network outages. Dynamic rerouting keeps the connection up and running even when parts of the network are down. Reduced downtime for the network can result in more productivity and lower network costs.
- Customers can now access Communications Server for OS/2 from any standard web browser using the new Remote Web-based administration, enabling them to perform dynamic administration and configurations via the Web.
- Windows 95 and Windows NT access feature provides SNA connectivity from Windows 95 and Windows NT client workstations. Customers can now use this access feature that ships with Communications Server for OS/2 to write their own SNA applications on OS/2, Windows 3.1, Windows 95 and Windows NT platforms.

Other enhancements to Communications Server for OS/2 include:

- Packaging of Host On-Demand with the server to simplify Web-to-host connectivity.
- CPI-C for Java allows customers to create platform independent Java applications that exploit this API.
- TCP62 support simplifies end-user configurations, making it easier for LU6.2 applications to run in a TCP/IP environment.

Texas Commerce Bank is part of Chase Manhattan Corporation, the largest banking company in the United States. "IBM Communications Server for OS/2 makes it easier and more efficient for us to do business on a daily basis, especially with its simplified Web-based administration and the introduction of Host On-Demand" said Toby Pennycuff, vice president technology services, Texas Commerce Bank. "As part of Chase, it is important for us to keep pace with the organization's aggressive global expansion. IBM Communications Server for OS/2 helps us cut extra steps and costs in keeping up that pace."

Pricing and Availability

Communications Server for NT is available worldwide September 26. Base pricing is \$995 (US) and upgrade pricing is \$419 (US). Communications Server for OS/390 is available worldwide September 27, and is priced as an embedded component of OS/390. Communications Server for OS/2 is available in the US September 30 and worldwide October 22. Base pricing is \$995 (US) and upgrade pricing is \$595 (US).

For more information on today's announcement, users can access <http://www.networking.ibm.com>. Software development companies can register for the eNetwork Software Partnership in Development program and receive free information, evaluation code, and electronic support for IBM eNetwork Communications Servers at www.developer.ibm.com.

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