

Moving retail operations into open systems

IBM Distributed Data Services and Controller Services Feature for Windows NT

Highlights

- *IBM Distributed Data Services (DDS for Windows NT) provides a set of services on top of Microsoft's Windows NT operating system . This set includes key system services required by the retail industry. The combination of Windows NT and DDS helps you exploit the power and capabilities of a general-use operating system, while retaining the availability and reliability functions that are required in a retail environment.*
- *DDS for Windows NT comes with a separate feature, Data Distribution Feature (DDF), that provides the management, distribution and reconciliation of distributed data. DDS for Windows NT can also be used with the IBM 4690 Controller Services Feature for Windows NT (CSF for Windows NT), which is a separately orderable product. CSF for Windows NT provides support to run 4690 controller applications on Windows NT without changing code or recompiling. CSF for Windows NT provides single controller support but also comes with its own feature, Multiple Controller Feature (MCF), which provides support for multiple controllers.*

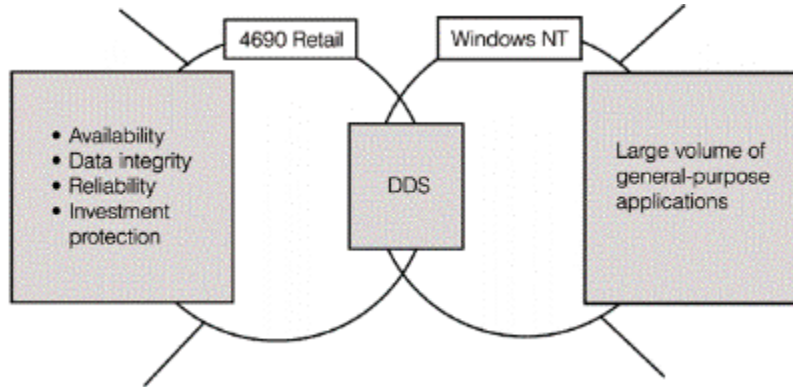
Maximum flexibility with the high availability required for retail operations

IBM DDS for Windows NT gives you the best of both worlds: all the essential characteristics you must have and count on in retail environments--reliability, rapid data access needed in POS price lookup and sustained availability--in combination with all the power and versatility of the Windows NT operating system. Windows NT's multitasking capabilities enable the features of IBM DDS for Windows NT to manage concurrent applications, multiple-file access methods, data distribution and interprocess communications over various LAN topologies and transport technologies.

Client/Server flexibility with retail reliability

The IBM DDS for Windows NT base component provides local and remote interprocess

communication and the ability to receive and apply distributed data. This allows you to create a client/server environment using communications and LAN technologies that range from Ethernet to Token Ring to Store Loop and distribute files, singly or in groups, to some or all clients on a LAN.



Retail Hardening with Windows NT

Easy management of file storage and retail functions

In addition, the base component provides file access, through both a keyed file-access method that allows the rapid data access needed in price lookups, and a sequential file-access method that supports transaction logs. To simplify program management, the file requester-server enables transparent access to local and remote data so you can move data and applications to different locations with no need to update or modify application code. The file system interface allows you to prioritize I/O access to the disk to ensure that concurrent applications using data at the Windows NT server cannot slow down or disrupt POS operations.

IBM Distributed Data Services for Windows NT at a glance

Hardware supported	Any Uni-processor Intel-based terminal or server capable of running Windows NT
Operating systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MS Windows NT 4.0 (or higher) workstation or server, CSD level three or greater • IBM 4690 Operating System (terminal licenses required for CSF)
Networks supported	IBM Store Loop Ethernet LAN Token-Ring LAN
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IBM Distributed Data Services for Windows NT (product #5639-C71) • IBM Distributed Data Services for Windows NT Data Distribution Feature • IBM 4690 Controller Services Feature for

Windows NT (separately orderable, product #5697-C59)

- IBM 4690 Controller Services Feature for Windows NT - Multiple Controller Feature (MCF)

The DDF feature of IBM DDS for Windows NT manages and distributes data, allowing automatic backup of any applications-critical data, and the distribution of files, for example to any terminal for off-line use or to back up the server. It also manages automatic reconciliation of distributed data. Files can be distributed singly or in groups, to some or all clients on the LAN.

Migrate from 4690 OS to Windows NT

The 4690 CSF preserves your investment in 4690 applications, terminal hardware and terminal wiring while moving to an open platform for the back room. This strategy provides you with flexibility in choosing your back-room functions. You own the timing for the development and deployment of your open front-end solution.

The 4690 CSF of DDS is not a full-function replacement for the 4690 OS, but provides many 4680/90 functions such as:

- Controller application execution.
- Servicing terminal attached via Store Loop, Token Ring or Ethernet. Terminals can be loaded or dumped, and terminal-to-controller communications are supported.
- Host communications via LUO and asynchronous communications including ADCS communications.

The Multiple Controller Feature of 4690 CSF for Windows NT provides support for 4690 CSF nodes to interact with other 4690 CSF nodes from an application and 4690 services standpoint. These services include spooling of Sales Transaction log data during periods in which the primary server is down.

Introduce Windows NT at your own pace

You might choose Windows for only the back-room servers for now and continue to use the 4690 data reliability you have come to rely on while you begin to see what Windows NT can do for you.

If you decide to go all the way to a Windows NT POS application, DDS can replicate your data for you--be it simply between two controllers for backup or to every node for local price lookup.

It's your decision--but whatever you decide, IBM will help you implement what's best for your business.

For more information

To find out more about DDS, contact your IBM representative or call IBM Direct at 1 800 IBM-CALL (1 800 426-2255). You can also access the IBM Distribution Industries Home Page at: <http://www.disu.ibm.com/>.

Copies of this and other related product specification sheets can be obtained from the IBM FAX Information Service by dialing 1 800 IBM-4-FAX (1 800 426-4329) in the U.S. or Canada or by dialing 415 855-4329 outside the U.S. and Canada.



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