New IBM 4690 OS improves performance, maintains technology currency

On February 18, 2003, IBM Retail Store Solutions introduced a powerful new version of the IBM 4690 Operating System — the operating system that is specifically designed for retail.

The new IBM 4690 Operating System Version 3 Release 2 offers a long list of enhancements to help keep your retail customers' stores current with emerging retail technology standards. Of course, it also delivers the rugged reliability and solid investment protection retailers have come to expect from every new version of the IBM 4690 OS.

Specific enhancements in this release include:
Dual display support. Retailers can now combine an interactive, input/output operator display (configured for touchscreen or non-touch operation) with an output-only customer display that runs Java™ applications and keeps shoppers engaged at the point of sale.

14-digit item code support. This includes Reduced Space Symbology (RSS), in accordance with Uniform Code Council (UCC) guidelines, enabling retailers to implement new barcode standards.

Java 2 support. Support for the latest level of Java 2 includes the 1.4 Java Virtual Machine, the Java 2 Software Development Kit (SDK) and the JIT compiler, making it easier for you to develop new Java applications — and enabling your retail customers to take advantage of existing Java 2 offerings.

More RAM. With support for up to 1 GB of RAM in the controller, the IBM 4690 OS V3 R2 helps improve application performance and increases available memory for running multiple applications in tandem.

It also offers an enhanced PXE (pre-execution environment) bootstrap that improves the consistency of PXE functionality and supports larger OS images. These enhancements allow retailers to use the open PXE standard and achieve the same functionality as with RPL (remote program load).

In addition, the BIOS flash message provides feedback to the operator during the Initial Program Load, and the new release supports 1.3 GB optical drive media for more convenient controller backup.

Like its predecessors, the IBM 4690 Operating System Version 3 Release 2 is designed to be scalable to meet the needs of your store. It can run a pure Java Web browser at the POS, providing side-by-side access to traditional POS software and more advanced applications. Investment protection is exceptional, because it supports a wide range of hardware and software (including new models of the IBM SurePOS™ 4694 and IBM SurePOS 700 Series) as well as thin-client computing environments. Finally, this release delivers the same retail-hardened performance as earlier versions, which means POS applications can run in a reliable environment with high-level availability that helps keep shopper satisfaction high.

To learn more about the IBM 4690 OS Version 3 Release 2, please contact your IBM representative or visit **ibm.com**/industries/retail/store.

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