Lotus® software

A preview of IBM Lotus Notes 8 software.

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Executive summary

The way information is exchanged is shifting, requiring companies to change how they manage their most important asset — knowledge. People are turning to online venues to communicate what they know and to create communities of collaboration. They are developing ad hoc methods to collaborate and get work done, relying on e-mail, instant messaging and online, team-based, electronic user environments. IBM Lotus® Notes® and Lotus Domino® software reflects these changes, not only to support the way people work today, but to establish a foundation for a future of increasing collaboration.

Lotus Notes software is the premier integrated messaging and collaboration client option for the Lotus Domino server. Lotus Notes software can help businesses enhance the productivity of their people, streamline business processes and improve overall business responsiveness. IBM Lotus Notes 8 software will support previous Lotus Notes applications, while offering improved capabilities and delivering innovations in collaboration. This white paper discusses the planned enhancements to the existing core functions of Lotus Notes software, including e-mail, calendaring and contact management. And this paper describes entirely new capabilities, including composite applications, office productivity tools — word processing, spreadsheet and presentation editors — and activity-centric computing, which can help improve the way people work. This white paper also discusses how Lotus Notes and Domino 8 software can play a key role as organizations adopt service-oriented architecture (SOA) strategies. Lotus Notes 8 software extends the unique qualities of the Lotus Notes collaboration platform to support a new class of composite applications. Finally, the paper illustrates how the Lotus Notes 8 release begins the software's transformation from a client/server product to a server-managed technology product.
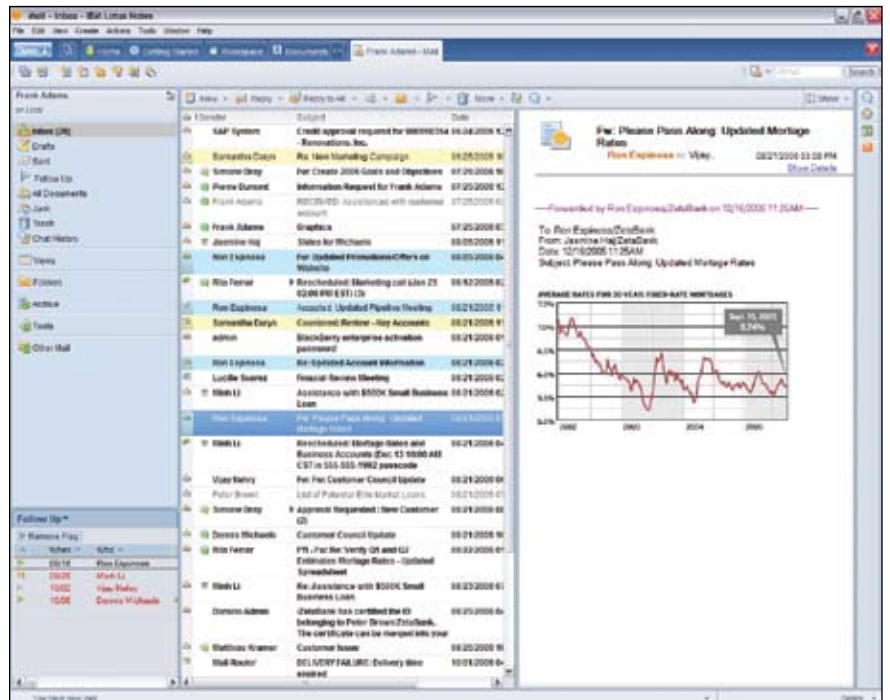
Lotus Notes 8 software will deliver a compelling new user experience.

A new and enhanced, yet familiar, user experience

IBM Lotus Notes 8 software will deliver a compelling new user experience that is a seamless step forward for existing Lotus Notes clients. Enhancements to existing core functions are complemented by new functionality to increase effectiveness, improve efficiency and speed decision making processes.

Enhancements to core Lotus Notes functionality

The improvements to Lotus Notes software that you'll see in the Lotus Notes 8 release are designed to help your organization collaborate better and enhance productivity and responsiveness.

Users will have the option to view messages vertically or horizontally.*

Highlights

Enhancements to Lotus Notes 8 software include in-line spell checking, mail recall, intelligent e-mail addressing and improved threaded e-mail capabilities.

Enhancements to e-mail

Lotus Notes 8 software will continue IBM's commitment to helping users better manage the information they receive via e-mail, while also allowing them to work from within their e-mail boxes.

- *Threaded e-mails are gathered together and presented at the view level. Users can easily expand a thread and see all messages related to specific topics grouped together. In preview mode, users can quickly find the information they are seeking, which is often hidden in long conversation threads.*
- *Users will have the option to preview messages vertically or horizontally through a right-side or bottom preview pane.*
- *Lotus Notes 8 software includes a Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feed reader plug-in that is accessible from the sidebar. Users can scan information from their favorite news feeds and use it to answer questions and complete tasks. As with all the sidebar plug-ins, the RSS feed reader can be detached from the sidebar with the "float plug-in" option, allowing users to work in the way that they are most comfortable.*
- *An enhanced right-click menu accentuates activity-centric collaboration with items such as "Chat," "View Recent Collaborations" and "View Activities" based on the sender's name.*
- *Users have the option to open items—such as e-mail messages—in separate windows or in grouped tabs, enabling users to interact with open messages and other Lotus Notes elements much more easily.*
- *Lotus Notes 8 software will support common keyboard and mouse-click shortcuts and commands. For example, users can use the Control key to select multiple, noncontiguous items in the Lotus Notes database view, which allows users to interact with multiple pieces of information simultaneously.*
- *Users will have more options to toggle Lotus Notes mail fields on or off. Users can customize the content displayed in mail messages on the fly to view the information they find most relevant. For example, users can select or deselect the "bcc:" field in the Lotus Notes memo form.*

While engaged in other tasks, users can manage their time and meeting invitations by viewing their calendar in a sidebar to make scheduling decisions.

Contact enhancements include business-card-like views with photographs and the ability to initiate a variety of collaboration activities—such as instant messaging and e-mail—from the Contact view.

- *The new message recall capability allows end users to retrieve e-mail messages that have already been sent.*
- *Improved out-of-office functionality can help reduce the delay in delivering out-of-office notifications.*

Calendar enhancements

New feature improvements will enable users to manage their time and meeting invitations and make decisions from their calendars, while reserving their in-boxes exclusively for e-mail message management.

- *Dates of important meetings or appointments will be highlighted in the monthly calendar view.*
- *Highlighted dates on the monthly calendar give users a visual cue about days with scheduled meetings and unprocessed invitations. Users can respond to unprocessed invitations by simply double-clicking on highlighted entries to accept, decline or counterpropose an invitation.*
- *When scheduling conflicts arise, Lotus Notes 8 software allows the meeting chairperson to simply select or deselect attendees to find times that best meet the needs for that meeting.*
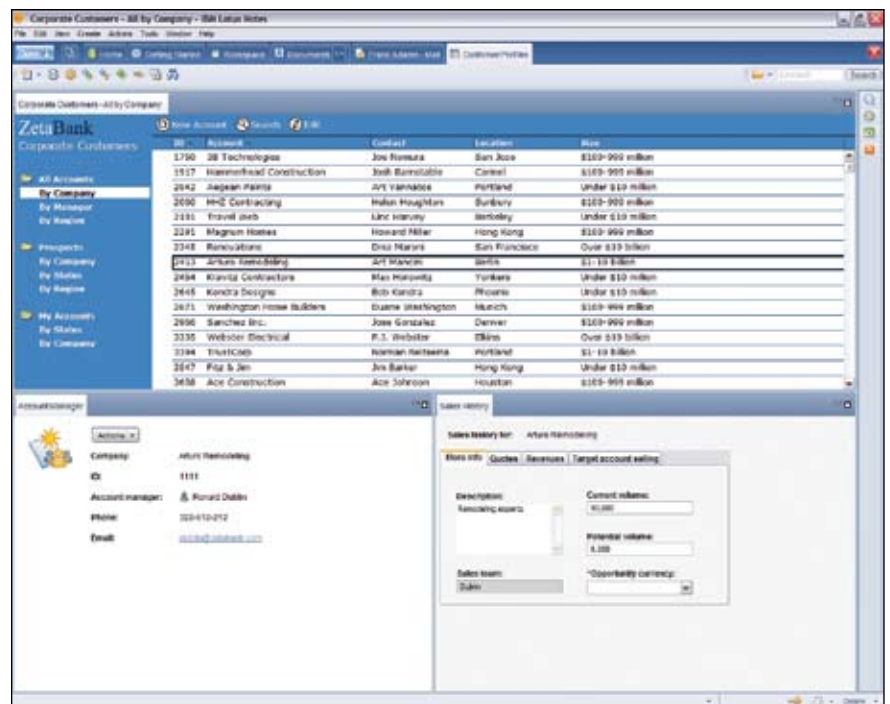
Contact enhancements

A new user interface helps boost productivity by enabling users to navigate contacts more quickly.

- *Business-card-like views with embedded photographs help users find contact information more quickly.*
- *Users will be able to leverage the extensibility of Lotus Notes 8 software to initiate contextual collaboration from the Contact view.*
- *As with mail and other Lotus Notes elements, users have the option to open individual contact information in a new window. If users prefer, they can easily change the view to traditional Lotus Notes tabbed views.*

New functions

Lotus Notes 8 software also will offer several major new functions to help you exchange information more effectively and improve worker productivity.

Composite applications aggregate components on the screen to present content from multiple systems in a single context for the end user.*

Lotus Notes 8 software will enable businesses to create composite applications, which connect disparate information repositories and aggregate components on the screen.

Composite applications

Lotus Notes 8 software supports nearly all custom Lotus Notes applications built for prior versions and incorporates the open standards of the Eclipse application development framework, allowing you to make use of a componentized SOA. This provides a foundation to help make it easy to aggregate, access and deploy functionality from a mix of software programs and systems. It enables developers to build applications more quickly and to reuse existing assets as business needs evolve. For end users, composite applications help eliminate the silos of information that often exist between functional parts of organizations.

Highlights

An SOA makes a set of functions available as services that can be built, deployed and integrated, independent of the application and computing platforms on which they are accessed. These services are loosely coupled and independent— not hardwired into the infrastructure—so they can be easily reused or extended as business needs change. This is an important element in enabling a business to flexibly respond to business changes and to alter application interactions as needs dictate. Lotus Notes 8 software is the next step in IBM's ongoing strategy to find new ways to exploit SOA and other open-standards technology in evolving the Lotus Notes and Lotus Domino platforms.

Composite applications allow developers and line-of-business managers to create a wide variety of applications from previously built components, without writing code.

IBM Lotus Notes and Domino 8 software makes it easier to integrate line-of-business (LOB) solutions and data into new types of applications, called *composite applications*. Composite applications, which are experienced at the front end of an SOA, aggregate components on the screen to present content from multiple systems in single context for the end user. Composite applications are an assembly of components. These components are end-user-facing programs that provide specific functions and access to information from multiple sources, for example, a Lotus Notes database, a Java™ application, the Web or a customer relationship management application. These reusable components can be mixed and matched in multiple composite applications, allowing developers to create a wide variety of applications with a small set of services—and without writing code. The various components can also send information to one another, so that when views are changed or data is entered or edited in one application, the corresponding views
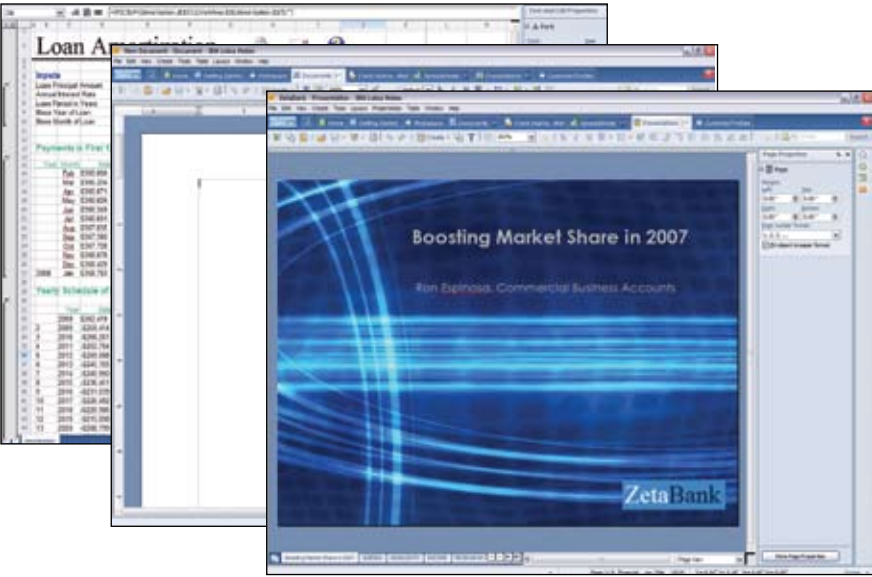
*Composite applications can help
organizations reduce IT and
development costs, and help boost
return on investment by leveraging
existing technology.*

and information in the other applications also change. This ability to combine multiple components from one or more sources into a single application provides significant business value by:

- *Improving individual and organizational effectiveness by bringing the tools that enable interaction and collaboration into the context of the business processes and LOB applications your employees use every day.*
- *Enabling you to leverage and extend your existing assets with increasing degrees of flexibility and agility.*
- *Encouraging the creation of reusable assets, helping you to respond quickly and cost effectively to your emerging business requirements with applications that are easier to create.*
- *Helping you reduce costs of IT services and improve time to deployment for new IT initiatives.*

Available online or offline, composite applications can facilitate self-service activities. Using the composite application editor within Lotus Notes 8 software, end users and LOB managers can create composite applications. What's more, your IT staff members can use their current development skills to build and modify reusable components—helping to reduce IT and development costs. And composite applications can help boost return on investment by leveraging your existing technology, such as IBM WebSphere® Portal and Lotus Domino infrastructures. Organizations can reuse previously developed Eclipse technology-based components within the composite applications experienced by Lotus Notes and Domino 8 software, helping to increase return on investment in application development tools and skills. For example, using their favorite tools, developers can create customized Lotus Notes plug-ins that leverage existing investments in back-end systems.
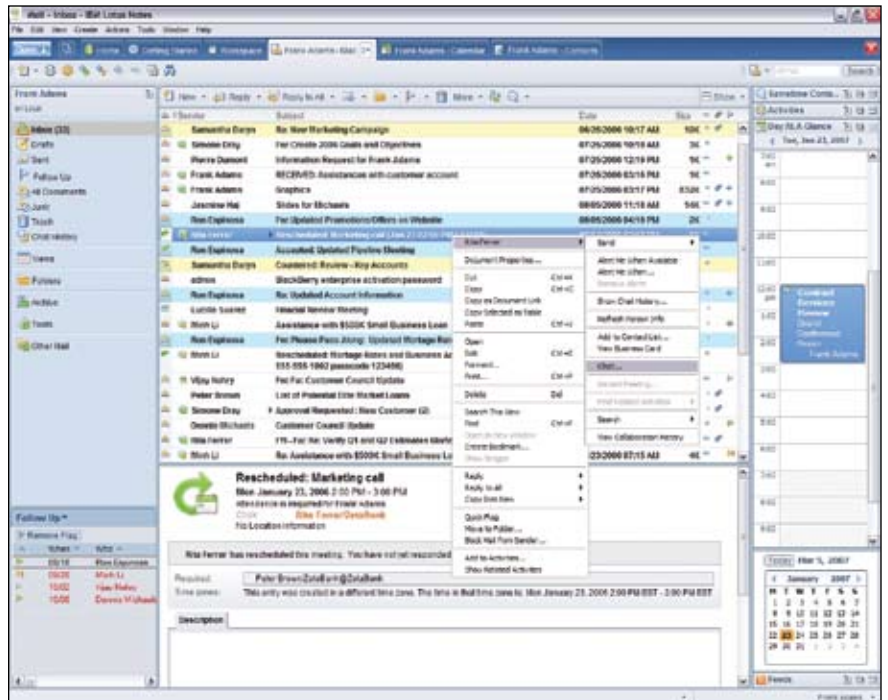
A suite of productivity tools included with Lotus Notes 8 software provides users with valuable word-processing, spreadsheet and presentation applications.*

An included suite of open-standards-based productivity tools provides organizations with an alternative to proprietary and expensive office productivity tools.

Productivity tools

Word-processing, spreadsheet and presentation applications are basic, standard tools that many business users need and use on a daily basis. Lotus Notes 8 software will include a suite of office productivity tools that allow end users to create, edit and collaborate on a wide variety of file types. IBM productivity tools support the OASIS OpenDocument Format (ODF), which is being embraced across businesses, organizations and governments around the world. ODF is an international standard for saving and sharing editable documents, such as word-processing documents, spreadsheets and presentations. IBM productivity tools are also compatible with certain file formats in Microsoft® Office software. By including its productivity tools with Lotus Notes 8 software, IBM is providing users with a collaboration environment that includes valuable applications — at no additional cost.

Activity-centric computing lets users share and update information in a single, simplified view.*

Activity-centric computing helps users stay focused on projects and keeps team members in sync, helping to make people more efficient and productive.

Activity-centric computing

A new way to think about collaboration, activity-centric computing is modeled around the way people actually work. Activity-centric computing brings together all related components of work into a common location. It helps users sharpen their focus on projects and statuses and, by keeping all participants in sync, helps make people more efficient and productive. Lotus Notes software users rely on e-mail, instant messaging, file and screen sharing, and other communication tools to get their work done. Activity-centric computing lets users share and update the various types of information required for complex projects in a single, simplified view.

Lotus Notes 8 software will be compatible with both previous and future releases, helping to protect IT investments.

Lotus Notes 8 software will run on Microsoft Windows and Linux operating systems, and Macintosh machines.

Lotus Notes 8 software can help businesses save time and money by potentially reducing the rollout expense and maintenance of traditional client/server applications.

Providing investment protection

Lotus Notes 8 software will help protect investments in IT development by continuing IBM's strategy of forward and backward compatibility for applications. Instead of a "rip-and-replace" architectural migration path, Lotus Notes 8 software will let you gradually take advantage of new features within the new release, lessening the potential impact on your infrastructure. In addition, Lotus Notes 8 software will be compatible with previous releases, so you can feel confident that any changes you make will not force you to lose your investment in applications developed based on the platform.

Offering more choices with extended multiplatform support

Lotus Notes 8 software will run on Microsoft Windows® and Linux® operating systems, and Macintosh machines—further substantiating IBM's commitment to providing organizations a choice across a variety of platforms. With the Lotus Notes 8 release, IBM is opening the software to the world of Eclipse, Java and Web 2.0 capabilities, as well as creating a larger ecosystem with more functionality for developers and more opportunity for innovation.

Benefits of a server-managed client architecture

Lotus Notes 8 software will help you save time and money by potentially reducing the rollout expense and maintenance of traditional client/server applications. At the core of Lotus Notes 8 software is IBM's version of Eclipse Rich Client Platform (RCP) technology, which introduces a new open-standards-based SOA that makes Lotus Notes 8 software more extensible. With this approach, you can:

- *Manage desktops more easily, helping to reduce the time costs associated with administration.*
- *Take advantage of a fully integrated collaborative environment and built-in productivity tools to help keep employees productive and in touch with one another.*
- *Leverage support for open standards, like those behind Linux software and like ODF, that provide you with more flexibility to choose the solution that best meets your business requirements.*

Built on a componentized SOA, Lotus Notes 8 software will enable developers to build applications more quickly and to reuse existing assets.

IBM is extending Lotus Domino 8 server's leadership in messaging and collaboration by adding user-requested features and by facilitating continued innovation to improve user effectiveness.

IBM Lotus Notes 8 software and Lotus Domino 8 server

Lotus Notes 8 software is currently scheduled to deliver its new functionality and unique collaborative features in tandem with the Lotus Domino 8 server. IBM is extending Lotus Domino server's leadership in messaging and collaboration by adding numerous user-requested features—and by facilitating continued innovation with a focus on low total cost of ownership. The next major release of Lotus Domino server will extend existing policy management capabilities and enable Lotus Domino server with new Lotus Notes 8 software features like activity-centric computing. Plus, the Smart Upgrade capability—which helps simplify and automate the process of upgrading Lotus Notes software— will fully support your organization's move to Lotus Notes 8 software. To help reduce costs, planned improvements to Lotus Domino server can potentially help administrators perform user renames and deletes more efficiently.

In the next major release, Lotus Domino server will continue to provide cross-platform support for a variety of operating systems including IBM i5/OS®, IBM z/OS®, IBM AIX®, Sun Solaris, Linux and Windows software. Lotus Domino server will also offer full support and general availability for IBM DB2® software, enabling you to capitalize on a flexible and cost-effective database platform on which to build robust business applications. Lotus Domino servers often coexist with other directories, which can pose challenges. To help you address those issues, the next major release of Lotus Domino server will offer improved multi-directory capabilities, including enhanced Lightweight Directory Access Protocol lookup, caching and wizards for setting up and verifying directory configurations.

Lotus Domino server will also feature important enhancements to its core messaging and collaboration capabilities, including:

- *Mail recall. For those times you wish you hadn't hit "send," IBM introduces the mail recall capability to Lotus Domino server. Users can recall sent mail by simply finding a message in their "sent" view mail and clicking the "Mail Recall" button.*
- *Support for composite applications. Lotus Domino 8 server will include the ability to provision composite applications.*
- *Web services consumer support. Lotus Domino applications will be able to call other Web services.*
- *Streaming Cluster Replication (SCR). By pushing transactions to servers with replicas of data, SCR technology reduces overhead associated with per-database operations and negotiation, and can help greatly reduce latency for cluster replication. SCR technology is self-tuning and can coordinate with scheduled replication, which reduces input/output (I/O) requirements and latency, and can further reduce overhead.*

The Lotus Notes 8 release will give you more productive ways to view and work with information.

- *IBM DB2 software functionality available as an alternative Lotus Domino data store. This will allow direct relational database support and Microsoft SQL software-based Query View integration.*
- *Improved manageability and security features. Lotus Domino 8 software builds on its position as a flexible, security-rich and integrated messaging and collaboration server. A few highlights here include:*
  - *Numerous improvements in Lotus Domino Domain Monitoring, including additional event probes and corrective actions.*
  - *Integration with IBM Tivoli® Enterprise Console® software.*
  - *Improved Administration Process (AdminP) performance and management to increase rename speed.*
  - *Policy management of in-box cleanup to help manage in-box sizes.*
  - *The ability to prevent access to Internet password fields in the Lotus Domino directory.*
  - *Internet account lockout due to password entry failure.*
  - *Support for the Red Hat Linux 5 operating system.*

Moving your business forward with Lotus Notes 8 software

Building on previous versions of Lotus Notes and Lotus Domino software, the Lotus Notes 8 release will give you more productive ways to view and work with information by extending new innovations such as activity-centric collaboration capabilities to the Lotus Notes client. This can empower your workers to better organize, navigate, manage and share information associated with a particular project, task or activity. Lotus Notes 8 software's support for composite applications enables organizational effectiveness and business agility by surfacing content from multiple systems and programs in the Lotus Notes application framework. The software will also enable developers to easily create composite applications that integrate and reuse components from other applications into the traditional Lotus Notes and Lotus Domino application framework.

With Lotus Notes 8 software, IBM will continue to focus on enhancing the core capabilities of the Lotus Notes and Lotus Domino platform, and on extending it to support a variety of open standards. Just by staying current with Lotus Notes and Lotus Domino software, you can take advantage of these enhancements and be able to enrich and extend your existing Lotus Notes and Lotus Domino infrastructure investments.

For more information

To learn more about Lotus Notes 8 software and Lotus Domino 8 server, contact your IBM representative or visit:

ibm.com/lotus/nd8

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