



Lotus software

**A preview of the next release of
IBM Lotus Notes software—
code name: “Hannover.”**

Contents

- 2 *Executive summary***
- 3 *A new user experience and a seamless step forward***
- 7 *Providing investment protection***
- 7 *Offering more choices with extended multiplatform support***
- 8 *Benefits of a server-managed client architecture***
- 9 *“Hannover” and Lotus Domino server***
- 11 *Moving your business forward with “Hannover”***

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 are storing data in e-mails and in their heads, rather than in centralized databases. 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. Available in 2007, the next major version of IBM Lotus Notes software is code named “Hannover.” Building on Lotus Notes 7 software, “Hannover” 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 describes entirely new capabilities, including office productivity tools—word processing, spreadsheet and presentation editors—along with activity-centric computing, which can help improve the way people work. This white paper also shows how “Hannover” will extend the unique qualities of the Lotus Notes collaboration platform to support a new class of composite applications based on open standards. Finally, the paper illustrates how the “Hannover” release begins Lotus Notes software’s transformation from a client/server product to a server-managed technology product.

Highlights

“Hannover” will deliver a compelling new user experience.

Mail enhancements to “Hannover” include threaded e-mail capabilities, vertical and horizontal viewing options, and support for keyboard and mouse-click commands.

A new user experience and a seamless step forward

“Hannover” 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 further extend the software’s capabilities. The result is a fundamentally improved user experience.

Enhancements to core Lotus Notes functionality

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

Mail enhancements

“Hannover” 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 can be gathered together and presented at the view level. Users can easily expand a thread and see all messages related to specific topics grouped together. To see information quickly, users can also display brief preview messages.*
- *Users will have the option to preview messages vertically or horizontally through a right-side or bottom preview pane.*
- *Users have the option of double-clicking to open items into separate windows, which allows users to interact with open messages and other Lotus Notes elements much more easily.*
- *“Hannover” will support keyboard and mouse-click shortcuts and commands. For example, users can use the Control key to select multiple 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. For example, users can select or deselect the “bcc:” field in the Lotus Notes memo form.*

Highlights

Calendar enhancements will enable users to better manage their time and meeting invitations directly in the calendar view.

Contact enhancements include business-card-like views with photographs and the ability to initiate business instant messaging sessions from the Contact view.

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 the invitation.*
- *When scheduling conflicts arise, “Hannover” 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 faster.

- *Business-card-like views with embedded photographs help users organize contacts better.*
- *Users will be able to use the instant messaging component of “Hannover” to initiate a business instant messaging session from the Contact view.*
- *As with mail and other Lotus Notes elements, individual contact information can be optionally opened in a new window. If users prefer, they can easily change the view to traditional Lotus Notes tabbed views.*

Highlights

An included suite of open-standards-based productivity tools provides businesses with a choice of file formats.

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

New functions

“Hannover” also will offer several new functions to help you exchange information more effectively and to improve worker productivity.

Productivity tools

“Hannover” 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), an international standard for saving and sharing editable documents, such as word-processing documents, spreadsheets and presentations. The IBM productivity tools are also compatible with certain file formats in Microsoft® Office. These open-standards-based productivity tools broaden your choice of file formats and free you from proprietary vendor formats.

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.

Highlights

“Hannover” will enable businesses to create composite applications, which aggregate components on the screen to deliver a role-based experience.

Composite applications allow non-developers to create a wide variety of applications without writing code.

Composite applications

“Hannover” will add capabilities to Lotus Notes software to make it easier to integrate line-of-business solutions and data into new types of applications, called *composite applications*. Composite applications aggregate components on the screen to deliver a role-based user experience. People gain access to the tools they need in the context of a business process. Composite applications can also provide access to data from multiple sources such as one or more business applications, for example a Lotus Notes database, a Java™ application or a customer relationship management application. These component parts can be mixed, matched and reused, allowing nondevelopers 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 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:

- *Enabling you to leverage and extend your existing assets with increasing degrees of flexibility.*
- *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.*
- *Enabling you to potentially reduce costs of IT services and improve time to deployment for new IT initiatives.*

Highlights

“Hannover” will be compatible with both previous and future releases, helping to protect IT investments.

“Hannover” will run on Microsoft Windows and Linux operating systems, and Macintosh machines.

Providing investment protection

“Hannover” 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, “Hannover” will let you gradually take advantage of new features within the new release, lessening the potential impact on your infrastructure. In addition, “Hannover” 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

“Hannover” 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 “Hannover,” IBM is opening Lotus Notes 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.

Highlights

“Hannover” can help businesses save time and money by potentially reducing the rollout expense and maintenance of traditional client/server applications.

Built on a componentized SOA, “Hannover” will enable developers to build applications faster and reuse existing assets, while providing end users with the tools necessary to perform their jobs.

Benefits of a server-managed client architecture

“Hannover” will help you save time and money by potentially reducing the rollout expense and maintenance of traditional client/server applications. At the core of “Hannover” is IBM’s version of the Eclipse Rich Client Platform (RCP) technology, which introduces a new, open-standards-based architecture that makes “Hannover” 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 Linux software and ODF that provide you with more flexibility to choose the solution that best meets your business requirements.*

“Hannover” is being built on the open standards of the Eclipse application development framework and a componentized service-oriented architecture (SOA). This provides a foundation to help make it easy to aggregate, access and deploy functionality from a mix of applications. It enables developers to build applications faster and reuse existing assets as business needs evolve, while providing end users with the tools they need for their specific job roles. SOA is a standards-based, modular, technical architecture that takes everyday business applications and breaks them down into individual business functions and processes, called *services*. An SOA lets companies build, deploy and integrate these services independent of applications and the computing

Highlights

IBM is extending Lotus Domino server’s leadership in messaging and collaboration by adding user-requested features and by facilitating continued innovation with a focus on low total cost of ownership.

platforms on which they run. Because these services are loosely coupled—not hardwired into the infrastructure—they can be easily changed, moved, consolidated or eliminated as business needs change. This is an important element in enabling a business to become an On Demand Business and to flexibly respond to business changes and to alter applications as needs dictate. “Hannover” is just one element of IBM’s ongoing strategy to explore new ways to exploit SOA and other open-standards technology in evolving the Lotus Notes and Lotus Domino platforms.

“Hannover” and Lotus Domino server

“Hannover” will deliver its new functionality and unique collaborative features in tandem with the next major release of the IBM Lotus Domino 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. 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 “Hannover.” To help reduce costs, planned improvements to Lotus Domino server can potentially help administrators perform user renames and deletes more efficiently.

Highlights

The next major release of Lotus Domino server will continue to provide cross-platform support for a variety of operating systems.

Lotus Domino server will offer important enhancements to its core messaging and collaboration capabilities, including mail recall and spam filtering.

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. Lotus Domino server will also offer full support and general availability for IBM DB2® Universal Database™ software, enabling you to capitalize on a flexible and cost-effective database platform on which to build robust On Demand 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 multidirectory 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.
- ***Spam filtering***—Users will be able to categorize e-mail messages as spam, enabling the Lotus Domino spam filtering server to refine its detection capabilities. Messages with high spam ratings will be placed in the junk mail folder and users can move suspected spam messages to their junk mail folder to help the system learn to differentiate between spam and non-spam messages.
- ***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 to further reduce overhead.

Highlights

“Hannover” will provide more productive ways to view and work with information.

Moving your business forward with “Hannover”

Building on previous versions of Lotus Notes and Lotus Domino software, the “Hannover” 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. “Hannover” will also enable developers to easily create composite applications that integrate components from other applications into the traditional Lotus Notes and Lotus Domino application framework.

The “Hannover” release will provide you with more and better choices. With “Hannover,” 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 “Hannover,” contact your IBM representative or visit:

ibm.com/lotus/hannover



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