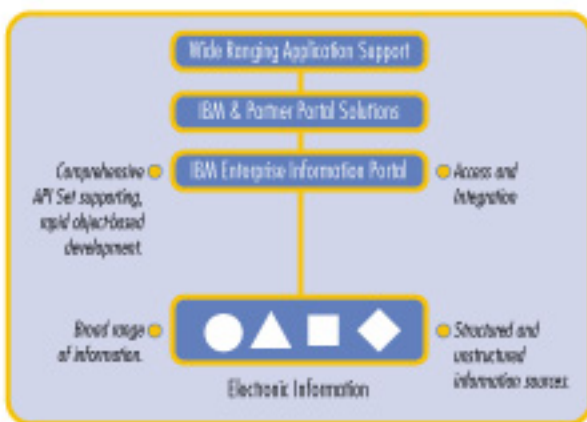# Knowledge is Power

The power and pull of the Internet for businesses continues to build. In a short amount of time IBM has helped more than 20,000 businesses become e-businesses, from insurance companies and investment firms to mail order houses, banks and a wide variety of small businesses. These companies must manage a large and rapidly growing amount of structured and unstructured information. Structured data is typically found in relational databases and is made of rows and columns of alphanumeric information. Unstructured data includes e-mail, word processing documents, images from an image library, collections of multimedia information such as video archives, and computer-generated outputs such as reports, online bills and statements.

With this in mind, IBM recently launched its Enterprise Information Portal (EIP), designed to help business partners and customers work more effectively. The first version, which shipped at the end of November 1999, focuses on unstructured data. Through EIP's APIs and data source connectors, e-businesses can quickly and easily build portal applications to manage information and conduct searches across a number of tightly woven data sources, including Lotus Domino, EDMSuite OnDemand, EDMSuite VisualInfo, and DB2 Digital Library.

IBM EIP partners include analytic application vendor like Hyperion, portal application suppliers such as Brio Technology, Plumtree, Viador and Epicentric, and portal infrastructure experts like DataChannel. DataChannel President and CEO Lucie Fjeldstad praises IBM for being "one of the only companies in the world that can put the "E" in Enterprise Information Portal."

Announced

For more information on IBM data management software announcements go to ibm.com/software/data/news.html

High-Performance ERP, CRM

IBM continues to work with SAP, PeopleSoft, Baan, Siebel, and other leading ERP and CRM vendors on high-performance solutions. In July 1999, Baan certified industry-leading Baan ERP 5.0b two-tier hostmode and three-tier client/server benchmarks using DB2 Universal Database on IBM AS/400, RS/6000, and Netfinity servers. In September, PeopleSoft certified industry-leading Activity Based Management (ABM) 7.5 benchmark results using DB2 Universal Database Enterprise-Extended Edition on an IBM RS/6000 S7A. And in November, SAP certified industry-leading R/3 4.0B two-tier Centralized Sales and Distribution (SD) results. For the latest on DB2 benchmarks see http://www.ibm.com/software/data/db2/benchmarks

IBM Strengthens Partnerships with SAP, Siebel

On December 7, IBM and SAP announced an expanded global sales, marketing and development relationship. Customers now have more hardware platform choices when using DB2 with SAP solutions including OS/390, AS/400, AIX, Solaris, Linux, and Windows NT. Windows 2000 support is on the way. SAP also announced that DB2 Universal Database will replace Oracle as the primary database on IBM, Sun and Linux platforms for SAP internal development and production. SAP integrates other IBM Data Management products with their applications including DB2 Intelligent Miner, Visual Warehouse, EDMSuite CommonStore and DB2 Digital Library. On October 28, IBM and Siebel Systems announced a global strategic alliance to integrate Siebel Systems' multi-channel CRM software applications with IBM's e-business capabilities. For more information, go to www.sap.com/press/12_99/12_99_02.htm and www.siebel.com/news-events/releases/ibm102899.html.

DB2 XML Extender Generally Available

The DB2 XML Extender, generally available for free on the Web, enables DB2 Universal Database to directly manage XML data and integrate it with traditional alphanumeric data. Tasks that used to require multiple searches – an SQL query of alphanumeric DB2 data and a text search of an XML document library, for example – can now be handled with a single SQL query. The extender will enable DB2 Universal Database to leverage XML's intelligent interchange capabilities, simplifying applications such as business-to-business e-commerce. The XML Extender is currently available for DB2 Universal Database on AIX, Sun Solaris, and Windows NT. Availability on additional platforms, including Linux, AS/400, and OS/390, is planned. For more information or a free download, go to ibm.com/software/data/db2/extenders/xmlext.

September Business Intelligence Launch

In September 1999, IBM launched a corporate-wide initiative to broaden customer options for business intelligence solutions. New versions of software powered by DB2 Universal Database make it easier to analyze and manage information from numerous sources. The software includes DB2 Intelligent Miner for Data V6.1, DB2 Intelligent Miner for Relationship Marketing V6.1, DB2 OLAP Server V1.1, and an enhanced version of DB2 DataJoiner V2.1.1, which now supports NCR Teradata data sources. The Fast Start initiative helps business partners cost-effectively deliver CRM solutions. DB2 OLAP Server V1.1 is now in beta testing on OS/390.