



Client Development Tools and APIs

IBM offers a suite of products to enable clients to connect to its Informix databases, access data spanning multiple data sources, and work with a variety of specialized data types. This section summarizes IBM's intentions for this suite of products.

IBM offers four products to support connectivity from client applications to its Informix servers:

- **IBM Informix Client SDK**, which packages several application programming interfaces (APIs) for servers into a single offering. Support is included for JDBC, C, C++, ESQL/C, Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) and OLE DB client side provider.
- **IBM Informix Connect**, the runtime libraries required by the non-Java components of IBM Informix Client SDK. This software is required for deploying client applications to access IBM Informix servers.
- **IBM Informix JDBC Driver**, a pure Java type 4 driver based on the latest 1.x and 2.x Java Database Connectivity (JDBC) specifications. Embedded SQL/J is part of the IBM Informix JDBC driver.
- **ESQL/COBOL**, for connectivity to COBOL language applications.

IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support these products and to fulfill Informix's plans to offer a new release of the IBM Informix Client SDK in Q1 2002, and JDBC products in the second half of 2001.

Future releases of the C-SDK are planned at approximately one year intervals.

System Administration Tools

ISA

The IBM Informix Server Administrator (ISA) - a collection of web-based administrative tools. These tools will continue to be sold and supported for use with IDS and XPS servers. Over time IBM plans to have ISA conform to IBM's CSA standard.

I-DBA

I-DBA - a collection of four MS Windows-based administrative tools is being replaced with the third-party developed Server Studio JE in the second half of 2001. (The details on this product are described in the IDS 9.3 section of the paper above.) I-DBA will continue to be supported for existing customers.

Performance Tools

I-Spy

I-Spy helps IDS and XPS data warehouse architects monitor client usage patterns and adjust resources accordingly. By using I-Spy, DBAs have much greater knowledge with which to tune systems for optimum performance. IBM intends to continue to sell and support this product.

MaxConnect

MaxConnect helps improve the scalability and performance of IDS 7, IDS 9, and XPS servers by separating server connection management tasks from SQL (user) session management tasks, and off-loading certain work to a middle tier. In real world benchmarks MaxConnect has significantly improved performance of IDS systems without the need for costly hardware upgrades. Customers with more than 200 simultaneous user connections may benefit from MaxConnect. IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support this product.

Classic Development Tools

4GL

The IBM Informix 4GL family provides a character based, fourth-generation application development environment that includes the Rapid Development System, Interactive Debugger, and 4GL Compiler. IBM intends to continue to sell and support this product. Investigation is currently underway to support DB2 as a database for 4GL applications - it is anticipated that this will be available in 2002.

Dynamic 4GL

Informix Dynamic 4GL is a productivity tool that Informix Corporation licensed from a third party. Dynamic 4GL provides a means to migrate 4GL applications to a variety of graphical application development environments, including those that are Windows or web based. IBM is currently resolving its strategy in this area and will announce its intentions at the IBM Informix Conference in October.

Informix-SQL

Informix-SQL consists of five application development tools: a schema editor, menu builder, SQL editor, forms builder, and report writer. IBM intends to continue to sell and support this product. IBM is investigating providing web based alternatives to these tools based on technology currently used with DB2.

Gateways

To enable IBM customers and business partners to access data spanning multiple data sources, IBM offers the **Informix-Enterprise Gateway Manager** and the **Informix-Gateway with DRDA**. The Enterprise Gateway Manager provides programmers with transparent access to a number of non-Informix DBMS, including those offered by IBM, Sybase and Oracle. The Gateway with DRDA (Distributed Relational Database Architecture) provides programmers with access to IBM's DB2 family, using connectivity protocols defined by IBM. IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support both of these products. Future releases will include bi-directional support for DB2 initiated transactions, via Gateway with DRDA.

Specialized Tools

Object Translator

Object Translator is designed to simplify development of multi-tier applications that use both Java and a relational database system. Such applications are frequently found in web and intranet environments. Object translator allows for the mapping of relational data structures (tables, etc.) into the object-oriented structures of Java and vice versa. It supports applications that publish or exchange XML data. It also supports all JDBC, ODBC, and OLE DB compliant database.

IBM intends to continue to sell and support this product. Key features of Object Translator will be included in a future version of the IBM WebSphere suite of products.

Office Connect

Office Connect helps users develop and deploy applications for Microsoft Excel that require DBMS connectivity. Office Connect will have a major release, Version 3.0, in the third quarter of 2001. This release will enhance the current product with strong support for web deployment, as well as an updated basic version. Office connect is currently being certified to work against DB2, and this will be included in the 3.0 release. IBM intends to continue to enhance, sell and support this product.

MetaCube

MetaCube provides online analytical processing (OLAP) support for IBM Informix customers and business partners. MetaCube is positioned as an entry-level product that is capable of providing quick deployment for multi-dimensional OLAP applications. IBM intends to continue to sell and support this product. No major enhancements in the future are planned.

Visionary

Visionary is a business analysis and development tool for the rapid creation of database centric solutions, such as executive dashboards, portals and kiosks. Visionary supports data stored in IDS, XPS, Red Brick, DB2, Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server, and Microsoft Access databases. IBM intends to sell and support Visionary for existing customers and business partners.

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