# What's New in VisualAge for Smalltalk Version 3.0

VisualAge for Smalltalk V3.0 is IBM's new release of the award-winning, object-oriented, client/server development environment. From enhanced performance to distributed capabilities and UNIX* support, you now have the power programmer's productivity tool you asked for.

## Faster, Faster, Faster

Significant improvements have been made to the underlying Smalltalk technology to increase the performance of the VisualAge development environment and end-user applications. Machine code executables can now be created on Windows* and OS/2® that result in faster-executing end-user applications. Based on industry benchmarks, VisualAge 3.0 has increased its performance up to 5 times over the previous version.

## Easier to Use, Easier to Learn

Based on your feedback and our usability testing, VisualAge for Smalltalk 3.0 contains extensive new usability features. These include a new ″How To″ help system, a ″quick start″ window, a high-level Organizer Browser, hover help, drag and drop tab ordering, and an improved system of menu construction.

## Faster and Easier Database RAD

New and improved database access parts have enhanced the capability to quickly develop database applications. New multi-row query and single row query parts improve the data access performance of your application. Also, developers can now build applications that have multiple concurrent database connections.

In addition, support for ODBC is now part of the base product and a separately available option, Database for ORACLE*, provides access to ORACLE data through native APIs. And, support for DB2® has been extended to include binary large objects (BLOBs), user-defined types, and user-defined functions.

## Native UNIX Cross-Platform Support

Now, you can build truly portable applications that run on Windows, OS/2, and AIX®, and utilize the native resources of the platform; no emulation! Applications built using VisualAge make use of the native X/Motif* widgets, and can run on Windows or OS/2 with no code changes.

## Second Generation Client/Server Applications with VisualAge Distributed!

Enterprises can optimize their application execution environment with IBM's new VisualAge Distributed. Applications can now be partitioned across a distributed environment to create true second-generation client/server applications. VisualAge Distributed includes features such as remote debugging, distributed garbage collection, and program visualization, and is tightly integrated with the VisualAge team programming environment.

## VisualAge Reports: A New Construction-from-Parts Report Writing Feature

VisualAge Reports is IBM's new option for creating reports. The new report parts are integrated with the VisualAge construction-from-parts paradigm and are available from the VisualAge palette. The new report parts can be combined for a wide variety of report formats, including end-user reports and system documentation.

## New Construction-from-Parts Multimedia Kiosk Development

Kiosks are rapidly becoming an important way of presenting information to customers quickly and easily. The new VisualAge multimedia parts allow for the development of robust, large-scale kiosk applications. Integrated with the VisualAge construction-from-parts paradigm, the new multimedia parts include support for touch screens, story directors, and hot spots.

## Connecting to VBXs

Support for Visual Basic* Custom Controls (VBX) has been added to the Windows version of VisualAge. Developers can now access the large base of VBX functionality from their VisualAge applications.

## Other Neat Stuff...

- The VisualAge COBOL wrapper is now available in the VisualAge for Smalltalk Professional version
- Much of the previously ″hidden″ source code is now available in the base product
- Portable drag and drop has been added across Windows, OS/2, and AIX
- New support for MQSeries™ and Remote Procedure Call (RPC) (Available in the separate Communications/Transactions option)
- The ability to wrapper IMS transactions (Available in the separate VisualAge for Smalltalk, IMS Connection)
- Enhanced support for connection to AS/400 systems (Available in the separate VisualAge for Smalltalk, AS/400 Connection)

For more information or to order, call 1 800 IBM-CALL in the U.S. or Canada. (After January 1, 1996, call 1 800 IBM-3333 ext. GS059.) Outside North America contact your local IBM office.

**Summary of Major New VisualAge for Smalltalk 3.0 Features**

| Major New 3.0 Features in Base Product | VisualAge Standard | VisualAge Professional | IBM Smalltalk Standard | IBM Smalltalk Professional |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Performance Improvements** | | | | |
| Machine code executables | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 |
| CLDT classes optimized | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 | All |
| New LookUp Table class | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 | All |
| **Usability Improvements** | | | | |
| Quick Start & Organizer Window | Win, OS/2 | All | N/A | N/A |
| Preferences Window | Win, OS/2 | All | N/A | N/A |
| Hover Help | Win, OS/2 | All | N/A | N/A |
| Automatic tab ordering | Win, OS/2 | All | N/A | N/A |
| Menu Construction | Win, OS/2 | All | N/A | N/A |
| **Database Improvements** | | | | |
| ODBC Support in base | Win, OS/2 | All | Win, OS/2 | All |
| BLOB and New SQL (DB2) | Win, OS/2 | All | Win, OS/2 | All |
| User-defined types & functions (DB2) | Win, OS/2 | All | Win, OS/2 | All |
| Multiple concurrent connections | Win, OS/2 | All | Win, OS/2 | All |
| Multi-row and single-row query part | Win, OS/2 | All | Win, OS/2 | All |
| **Multimedia Improvements (Now available in the base)** | | | | |
| Touch screen | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 | N/A | N/A |
| Story Director | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 | N/A | N/A |
| Hot Spot | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 | N/A | N/A |
| AVA Player | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 | N/A | N/A |
| Media Control Interface (MCI) | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 | N/A | N/A |
| **Additional Features** | | | | |
| VBX Support | Win | Win | N/A | N/A |
| COBOL Wrapper in base | N/A | All | N/A | All |
| Portable Drag and Drop | Win, OS/2 | All | Win, OS/2 | All |
| Portable Notebook and Container | Win, OS/2 | All | Win, OS/2 | All |
| Improved SOM/DSOM Support | OS/2 | OS/2, AIX | OS/2 | OS/2, AIX |
| Portable Print Support | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 |
| **ADD-ON FEATURES (Available outside of the base)** | | | | |
| Distributed | N/A | All | N/A | All |
| Reports | Win, OS/2 | Win, OS/2 | N/A | N/A |
| IMS Connection | N/A | All | N/A | N/A |
| Database for ORACLE | Win, OS/2 | All | Win, OS/2 | All |
| Communications/Transactions | Win, OS/2 | All | Win, OS/2 | All |
| AS/400 Connection | N/A | Win, OS/2 | N/A | N/A |



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