# Questions & Answers

## VisualAge for Smalltalk, Connection for Lotus Notes V3.0

### General Questions

**What is VisualAge for Smalltalk, Connection for Lotus Notes?**
A new add-on feature for the VisualAge for Smalltalk Version 3.0 product that enables you to create VisualAge applications that exploit the workgroup capabilities provided by Lotus Notes.

**What is the planned availability date for the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Connection for Lotus Notes feature?**
The planned availability date for the Connection for Lotus Notes feature is 7/25/96.

**What is the price of the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Connection for Lotus Notes feature?**
Connection for Lotus Notes will be priced at $1,499.

**Does the Connection for Lotus Notes feature have a runtime fee?**
No, the Connection for Lotus Notes feature has no runtime fees.

**Is VisualAge for Smalltalk, Connection for Lotus Notes a new product?**
No, Connection for Lotus Notes is a new add-on feature for the VisualAge for Smalltalk Version 3.0 product.

**What do you get when you purchase the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Connection for Lotus Notes feature?**
The Connection for Lotus Notes feature consists of a set of Smalltalk classes and non-visual parts designed to support the development of applications which can access and modify Lotus Notes databases.

**Which VisualAge for Smalltalk products does the Connection for Lotus Notes feature pre-req?**
The Connection for Lotus Notes feature pre-reqs the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Professional Version 3.0a product.

**What is *Version 3.0a*?**
The VisualAge for Smalltalk Version 3.0 product shipped on 11/30/95. On 4/12/96, IBM shipped a refresh of the Version 3.0 product which provided support for Windows 95 and NT. This refresh also provided bug fixes for all three platforms (OS/2, Windows, AIX). *Version 3.0a* is the VisualAge for Smalltalk refreshed product that became generally available on 4/12/96.

**Note:** In April 1996, a copy of the V3.0a product was automatically shipped to all registered VisualAge for Smalltalk V3.0 customers.

**How can I tell the difference between the original VisualAge for Smalltalk V3.0 product that shipped on 11/30/95 and the VisualAge for Smalltalk V3.0a product that shipped on 4/12/96?**
You can do one of two things:

1. Refer to the back of the VisualAge for Smalltalk V3.0 CD holder. Notice the copyright date as follows:

| | Original Product GA 11/30/96 | Refreshed Product GA 4/12/96 |
|---|---|---|
| COPYRIGHT DATE | 1995 | 1996 |

2. Refer to the product splash screen. Notice the version number and/or the copyright date as follows:

| | Original Product GA 11/30/96 | Refreshed Product GA 4/12/96 |
|---|---|---|
| VERSION | 3.0 | 3.0a |
| COPYRIGHT DATE | 1995 | 1996 |

   To recall the splash screen, select *Help* from the Organizer. Then select *Product Information*.

**Can I use the Connection for Lotus Notes feature with the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Professional V3.0 product that became generally available on November 30, 1995?**
No. The Connection for Lotus Notes feature requires the refresh level of VisualAge for Smalltalk, Professional V3.0 which was generally available on 4/12/96.

**Can I use the Connection for Lotus Notes feature with the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Standard V3.0 product?**
No. This new feature supports the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Professional Version 3.0a product only.

**Can I use the Connection for Lotus Notes feature with the VisualAge for Smalltalk Version 2.0 product set?**
No. This new feature supports the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Professional Version 3.0a product only.

**Does the Connection for Lotus Notes feature support the IBM Smalltalk product set?**
No. This new feature supports the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Professional Version 3.0a product only.

**Does the Connection for Lotus Notes feature support other VisualAge products besides Smalltalk (i.e. C++, COBOL, etc)?**
No, this new add-on feature supports the VisualAge for Smalltalk V3.0a product only. IBM intends to propagate this technology to other VisualAge products over time. No target dates have been set for the other products.

## Feature Prerequisite

**On what platforms will the Connection for Lotus Notes feature be offered?**
With the Connection for Lotus Notes feature, you can develop and run your application on OS/2 Warp, Windows 95, and Windows NT 3.51.

**Does the Connection for Lotus Notes feature support Windows 3.1?**
No. The Connection for Lotus Notes feature supports Windows 95 and Windows NT.

**Why doesn't the Connection for Lotus Notes feature support Windows 3.1?**
Because the VisualAge for Smalltalk product requires Win32S, and the Lotus Notes C API is not supported in a Win32S environment.

**Why doesn't the Connection for Lotus Notes feature support AIX?**
Because a key dependency, the C Developers Toolkit, was not available on AIX early enough in our development cycle to support AIX in the July timeframe.

**When will the Connection for Lotus Notes feature be available on AIX?**
AIX support is in plan for a future release of the Connection for Lotus Notes feature.

**Why doesn't the Connection for Lotus Notes feature support HP and Sun platforms?**
Because the VisualAge for Smalltalk base product does not currently support HP and Sun.

**When will the Connection for Lotus Notes feature be available on HP and Sun platforms?**
HP and Sun support is in plan for a future release.

**What version of Lotus Notes does the Connection for Lotus Notes feature support?**
The feature supports certified Lotus Notes 4.x clients, specifically:

| | |
|---|---|
| OS/2 Warp | Lotus Notes 4.1 32-bit Client |
| Windows 95 | Lotus Notes 4.0 or 4.1 32-bit Client |
| Windows NT 3.51 | Lotus Notes 4.1 32-bit Client |

**Does the Connection for Lotus Notes feature support Merlin, the next release of OS/2?**
No. Merlin support is in plan for a future release of the VisualAge for Smalltalk product family.

**What are the machine requirements for the Connection for Lotus Notes feature?**
The Connection for Lotus Notes feature requires 10M on the client workstation and 5M on the server (if using VisualAge for Smalltalk, Professional Server). These requirements are in addition to those for VisualAge for Smalltalk, Professional Version 3.0.

**What are the software requirements for the Connection for Lotus Notes feature?**
The software requirements for Connection for Lotus Notes are:

- VisualAge for Smalltalk, Professional Version 3.0 (Refresh Level)

- A certified Lotus Notes Release 4.x 32-bit client or a certified Lotus Notes Desktop Release 4.x 32-bit client

## Feature Capability

**What are the capabilities provided by the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Connection for Lotus Notes feature?**
The feature provides several new non-visual parts that are added to the VisualAge for Smalltalk parts palette to allow access to Lotus Notes databases. These parts (and associated Smalltalk classes) will allow application developers to use VisualAge for Smalltalk to build applications that provide the following types of function for local and remote Lotus Notes databases

- Create new databases from templates
- Replicate databases
- Modify security rights in databases
- Open, modify, or delete existing databases
- Create new documents and delete existing documents
- Add, delete, and update fields in a document
- Full text search of databases
- Read, write, and send Notes mail

**Can I use the existing VisualAge visual and non-visual parts with the new parts provided in the Connection for Lotus Notes feature?**
The parts provided in the Connection for Lotus Notes feature are compatible with all existing visual and non-visual parts that are shipped as a part of the VisualAge for Smalltalk product. IBM has not tested the parts that are provided by other vendors (i.e. Object Connection members).

**Can I access my existing enterprise services and data through applications developed with Connection for Lotus Notes?**
Yes. The parts provided in the Connection for Lotus Notes feature are compatible with all the non-visual parts that are provided by the VisualAge for Smalltalk product today. That means that you can access the DB2 family of databases, Oracle, and any other ODBC-compliant database. You can access CICS and IMS transactions on MVS, AS/400 data and services, and can continue to utilize all the various parts provided in the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Communications/Transaction feature (e.g. TCP/IP, MQ, CICS, EHLLAPI, etc).

**Note:** IBM has not tested the parts that are provided by other vendors (i.e. Object Connection members).

**Can I access a Lotus Notes database and a relational database both from the same VisualAge for Smalltalk application?**
Yes. You can access a Lotus Notes database, the DB2 family of databases (i.e. DB2, DB2/2, DB2/6000, etc), Oracle, and any ODBC-compliant database (i.e. Sybase, SQL Server, etc).

**What changes do I have to make to my existing VisualAge Version 3.0 application to incorporate the Connection for Lotus Notes feature.**
You will have to expand your existing application to access the new parts provided by the Connection for Lotus Notes feature. The appearance and behavior of these new parts are consistent with the existing VisualAge for Smalltalk non-visual parts.

**Should I do all of my application development within the VisualAge for Smalltalk development environment?**
No. Lotus Notes must be used to initially set up the Notes workgroup environment (i.e. views, forms). Once that environment is established, you use the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Connection for Lotus Notes feature to develop applications that access and modify that established workgroup environment.

**Will my VisualAge for Smalltalk application override/ignore the security features of Lotus Notes?**
No. Applications developed with the Connection for Lotus Notes feature will adhere to the existing Lotus Notes security mechanisms, requiring program login following the existing Lotus Notes model. The application will only have the rights that are assigned to its login ID. These rights are established using existing Lotus Notes security administration procedures.

**What are the advantages of using VisualAge for Smalltalk to access Lotus Notes databases and services? Why not simply use the Lotus Notes development environment to create applications?**
VisualAge for Smalltalk is a product set of object-oriented, application-development power tools for dealing with today's complex, mission-critical, client/server applications. The product family offers an enormously rich set of function for building industrial-strength applications. Some of the key advantages are:

- Productivity enhancing features such as visual programming, construction-from-components techniques, object-oriented programming, integrated development environment, etc.
- Ability to develop live Web applications with dynamic access to Lotus Notes databases, DB2 databases, Oracle, and any other ODBC-compliant database
- Ability to use numerous communications protocols (i.e. TCP/IP, EHLLAPI, APPC, CICS, RPC)
- Ability to access AS/400 data and services
- Ability to access legacy COBOL and C applications
- Distributed capabilities
- Reporting capabilities
- Access existing IMS and CICS transactions

The Connection for Lotus Notes feature gives you the ability to exploit these advantages and functionality while exploiting Lotus Notes databases and mail in the same application.

**Can I use the Lotus Notes internet capabilities in my VisualAge application?**
No. You can use the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Web Connection feature to create applications that are accessible through the World Wide Web. The parts provided in the Connection for Lotus Notes feature are compatible with Web Connection meaning that you can develop Web applications that can access Lotus Notes databases.

**What kind of performance can I expect?**
On average, a VisualAge for Smalltalk application accessing a Lotus Notes database will be approximately 15-20% slower than a Notes Client accessing that same database directly.

## DBCS and National Language Support (NLS)

**Is the Connection for Lotus Notes feature DBCS enabled?**
Yes, the feature is fully DBCS enabled.

**Which national languages will Connection for Lotus Notes support?**
The Connection for Lotus Notes feature will be translated into Japanese.

**When will the national language version of the Connection for Lotus Notes feature be generally available?**
IBM intends to make the national language version of the Connection for Lotus Notes feature available by year end 1996.

## Fulfillment

**How do I order the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Connection for Lotus Notes feature?**
To place an order, see your local reseller or call 1-800-IBM-3333.

**Is the Connection for Lotus Notes feature available through 3rd party resellers?**
Yes. Customers will find the VisualAge for Smalltalk product family available through IBM and non-IBM resellers, such as VARs, System Integrators, catalogs, and corporate resellers such as Indelible Blue (1-800-776-8284) and Programmers Paradise (1-800-445-7899).

**When can I place an order for the Connection for Lotus Notes feature?**
Starting June 18, 1996, you can place an order for the feature through your local reseller or call 1-800-IBM-3333.

**How can I obtain an evaluation copy of the Connection for Lotus Notes feature?**
Request a 'Try & Buy' CD via the VisualAge for Smalltalk home page (http://www.software.ibm.com/software/ad/vastub.html).