Questions and Answers

VisualAge for Smalltalk, Web Connection V3.0

General Questions

What is VisualAge for Smalltalk, Web Connection?
A new add-on feature for the VisualAge for Smalltalk Version 3.0 product that enables you to use VisualAge to build live, business-critical applications that are accessible through the World Wide Web.

What is the planned availability date for VisualAge for Smalltalk, Web Connection?
The planned availability date for Web Connection is 7/25/96.

What is the price of VisualAge for Smalltalk, Web Connection?
Web Connection will be priced at $1,499.

Does VisualAge for Smalltalk, Web Connection have a runtime fee?
No, Web Connection has no runtime fees.

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

What do you get when you purchase the Web Connection feature?
The Web Connection feature provides two main components that make it possible to build Web-based application with VisualAge for Smalltalk:

- A set of visual and non-visual parts designed specifically for building Web server applications
- A stand-alone CGI-compliant executable program that acts as a relay between your Web server and your VisualAge application.

Which VisualAge for Smalltalk products does Web Connection pre-req?
The Web Connection feature pre-reqs the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Professional for OS/2, for AIX and for Windows 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 Web Connection with the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Professional V3.0 product that became generally available on November 30, 1995?

No. Web Connection requires the refresh level of VisualAge for Smalltalk, Professional V3.0 which became generally available on 4/12/96.

Can I use Web Connection 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 Web Connection 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 Web Connection support the IBM Smalltalk product set?

No. With Web Connection you create your Web pages within the VisualAge Composition Editor. As a result, the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Professional V3.0a product is a requirement.

Does the Web Connection 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 Web Connection feature be offered?
With the Web Connection feature, you can develop and execute your Web applications on OS/2 Warp, Windows 95, Windows NT 3.51, and AIX 4.1.3.

Does Web Connection support Windows 3.1?
No. Web Connection supports Microsoft′s Windows 95 and Windows NT only. You may, however, use a browser in a Windows 3.1 environment that accesses a VisualAge image running on one of the supported platform.

Why doesn′t Web Connection support Windows 3.1?
IBM made the decision to exclude support for Windows 3.1 because there are few if any Web servers on Windows 3.1 that support the Common Gateway Interface (CGI).

Why doesn′t Web Connection support HP and Sun platforms?
Because the VisualAge for Smalltalk base product does not currently support HP and Sun.

When will Web Connection be available on HP and Sun platforms?
HP and Sun support is in plan for a future release of the VisualAge for Smalltalk product family.

Can I use the CGI program shipped with Web Connection on other operating systems?
Yes. The source for the CGI program is shipped with the Web Connection feature. The program can be recompiled to run on other operating systems. Executable versions of the CGI program for OS/2, Win32, and AIX 3.2+ are shipped with the feature.

Does Web Connection support Merlin, the next release of OS/2?
No. Merlin support is in plan for a future release of Web Connection.

What are the machine requirements for Web Connection?
The Web Connection feature requires 5M 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 3.0a.

What are the software requirements for Web Connection?
The software requirements for Web Connection are:

- VisualAge for Smalltalk, Professional Version 3.0a
- A Web browser supporting HTML 2.0
- A Web server supporting HTTP 1.0 and CGI 1.1
- TCP/IP must be installed on the operating system

  Note: Web Connection supports OS/2, Windows 95, NT and AIX

Is the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Communications/Transaction feature a prerequisite for Web Connection?
No. The Web Connection feature does not require the Communications/Transaction feature of VisualAge for Smalltalk.

Feature Capability

Which Web browsers are supported by Web Connection?
Web Connection supports the most popular browsers on the market. The feature has been tested with the following: IBM Web Explorer, IBM Internet Connection, Netscape, Microsoft Internet Explorer, Mosaic.

Which Web servers are supported by Web Connection?
Web Connection has been tested with the following Web servers: IBM Internet Connection, Netscape, NCSA, Apache, CERN, WebSite, Spry. Web Connection should work with any Web server that supports HTTP 1.0 and CGI 1.1.

What version of HTML does Web Connection support?
Web Connection generates HTML 2.0 compatible code. It also supports Netscape features such as PlugIns and Java applets. Web Connection also allows developers to include in their pages HTML elements that are not explicitly supported by the feature. For more information, refer to the product documentation.

Do I have to know HTML in order to use Web Connection?
No. Web Connection allows you to create Web pages using VisualAge′s visual programming and construction-from-components capabilities. VisualAge automatically generates the required HTML code.

What is CGI?
CGI stands for Common Gateway Interface. It is a standard interface that defines how HTTP severs can run programs in response to client requests, and how the results from those programs are returned to the clients.

What version of CGI does the Web Connection feature support?
CGI 1.1

Why does Web Connection use the CGI?
The Web Connection feature uses the CGI protocol to receive requests from and to return results to a Web browser.

What underlying communication protocol is used by Web Connection?
The Web Connection feature uses standard TCP/IP sockets to communicate between VisualAge and the Web server.

Will customers have to purchase a separate server product in order to deploy their Web application on the WWW.
No. Everything required for the development and deployment of a Web application is provided in the Web Connection feature combined with the VisualAge for Smalltalk, Professional V3.0a product. Customers will have to have a Web server available, for Web Connection does not provide a Web server.

Can I use the existing VisualAge visual and non-visual parts with the new parts provided in the Web Connection feature?
You can use the existing non-visual parts that are shipped as a part of the VisualAge for Smalltalk product family. All the functionality of VisualAge, such as database access and communications, are available for use in your Web applications. You cannot use the existing visual parts.

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

Why can't I use the existing VisualAge visual part with Web Connection?
The visual parts provided in Web Connection are replacements for the standard VisualAge visual parts. These new visual parts represent the various entities and controls that can be displayed by a Web browser. HTML has a relatively small set of user interface parts which Web Connection takes full advantage of. The visual parts provided by Web Connection are fine tuned to reflect true native HTML capabilities.

Why did IBM chose to create a new set of visual parts for Web Connection instead of allowing the use of the existing VisualAge visual parts.
The Web Connection feature uses a different set of visual parts because the semantics are different between what is possible in a workstation applications and what is possible on the Web. This difference is driven by HTML capabilities and limitations. HTML has a relatively small set of user interface parts. The Web Connection feature was designed to take full advantage of this limited set of controls. It supports only what HTML supports. As a result, it will not let you build an application that won't work on the Web.

Can Web Connection automatically generate a Web application from an existing VisualAge application?
No. You must redesign the user interface of your existing VisualAge application. Compare this to other tools which may attempt to convert a GUI into HTML format. The end result is that you must redo your user interface because of the limited HTML user interface capabilities. Based on customer feedback, we see that it is far easier to design your user interface up front knowing that it will reflect nicely on the Web rather than fine tuning and debugging it step by step. Your workstation application can continue to take full advantage of all the powerful GUI capabilities that are not available via HTML.

What changes do I have to make to my existing VisualAge Version 3.0 application to make it accessible via the World Wide Web?
You will have to redesign the user interface of your application so that it will run on the Web. You do not need to redesign any of the program logic, for the non-visual parts work exactly the same.

Can I access my existing enterprise services and data through Web applications developed with Web Connection?
Yes, the parts provided in the Web Connection feature are compatible with all the nonvisual parts that are provided by the VisualAge for Smalltalk product today. That means that you can access the DB2 family of databases, Lotus Notes, Oracle, and any other ODBC-compliant database. You can access CICS and IMS trans-

actions 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, EHLL).

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

Does Web Connection support Frames?
Yes, with Web Connection you can create Web pages that contain frames. The 'Text' part provided with Web Connection has a Boolean attribute called *literal* which causes the text associated with the part to be included unchanged in the HTML code generated by VisualAge. Use of this attribute allows developers to include in their pages HTML elements (i.e. Frames) that are not explicitly supported by Web Connection. In addition, targets are supported where needed to allow links and form submissions to update other frames within the browser window.

Does Web Connection support the Netscape API (NSAPI)?
No. Support for the NSAPI is in plan for a future release of Web Connection.

Does Web Connection include an integrated Web server?
No. Because Web Connection does not require you to purchase a separate server product in order to deploy your application, you can begin testing your application in its real target environment, the WWW. Numerous Web servers are available free of charge from various companies for all of the platforms supported by Web Connection.

Does Web Connection provide any security capabilities beyond that which is available on the WWW today?
No; however, with Web Connection, you can create Web applications that utilize the security features provided by Web servers.

What kind of performance can I expect (i.e. will a Web application created with Web Connection be extremely slow)?
Performance is dependant on many factors including, the number of concurrent requests, network load, amount of processing needed to build the page, speed of the machine, etc. On a typical development machine in a large networked environment, with relatively static pages, you can expect to have 5 requests processed per second.

What kind of stability can I expect with large numbers of requests?
Web Connection servers have been tested under continual high-stress environments for extended periods of time without noticeable performance impacts on the machines.

JAVA

Does Web Connection support Java?
Web Connection provides the capability to create Web pages that display/contain existing Java applets.

What version of Java is supported by Web Connection?
Java 1.0

Does Web Connection support JavaScript?
Yes, with Web Connection you can include JavaScript in your Web pages. The 'Text' part provided with Web Connection has a Boolean attribute called *literal* which causes the text associated with the part to be included unchanged in the HTML code generated by VisualAge. Use of this attribute allows developers to include in their pages HTML elements that are not explicitly supported by Web Connection. JavaScript code can be entered as literal text. In addition, some parts include an attribute called *extraAttributes* which can be used to add JavaScript-specific attributes such as *onChange=* to the generated HTML.

What is the difference between VisualAge for Smalltalk, Web Connection and the VisualAge Technology for Java recently announced by IBM?
Web Connection is a new feature of the VisualAge for Smalltalk V3.0 product. With this feature, you can create Web applications that include Java applets. On May 7, 1996, IBM announced plans to provide VisualAge Technology for Java. The press release highlighted IBM's plans to offer a complete development environment including an editor, debugger and browser, along with a Java class library and a VisualAge Data Access builder for visually constructing data access through the use of Java Database Connection (JDBC). For more information, refer to the IBM Home page (http://software.ibm.com).

DBCS and National Language Support (NLS)

Is the Web Connection feature DBCS enabled?
Yes, the Web Connection feature is fully DBCS enabled. However at runtime perspective, you may experience a number of limitations because the Web itself is not fully DBCS enabled.

Which national languages will Web Connection support?
Web Connection will be translated into Japanese.

When will the national language version of Web Connection be generally available?
IBM intends to make the national language version of Web Connection available before year end 1996.

Fulfillment

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

Is Web Connection 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 Web Connection 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 Web Connection feature?
Request a 'Try & Buy' CD via the VisualAge for Smalltalk home page (http://www.software.ibm.com/software/ad/vastub.html).