The Internet Economy

Primavera Systems Inc. last week announced enhancements to the next generation of its flagship project management application and a new specialized offering for IT project management.

Project Planner for the Enterprise, unveiled at the PC Expo show in New York, is a 32-bit client/server version of Primavera's main offering, Project Planner, which until now was available only in a single-user desktop version. In addition, TeamPlay 1.0 is a 32-bit client/server project management application designed specifically for IS development.

Primavera Planner for the Enterprise will ship this week at $14 per user. Team-Play is available now; enterprise average pricing is $2,000 per user.

Primavera, in Bala Cynwyd, Pa., is at (610) 667-8600 or www.primavera.com.

Internet Security Systems Inc. is putting a centralized administrative console on top of its intrusion detection software.

The Atlanta company has unveiled the Total Surveillance Architecture, which combines network-based intrusion detection via its RealSecure Network Engine, host-based intrusion detection via its RealSecure System Agent, and new technology called RealSecure Micro Agent.

Micro Agent analyzes packets of data as they come off the stack of individual computers as a way to sidestep a vexing problem for intrusion detection applications—growing bandwidth.

ISS can be reached at (678) 443-6100 or www.iss.net. ◄

Lotus attacks several fronts

Inks deal with Lycos and rolls out Super.move, Domino Runtime Services

BY CHRISTA DEGNAN

LOTUS DEVELOPMENT CORP. MADE SEVERAL product and service announcements from both coasts last week, continuing its battle with Microsoft Corp. for the "digital desktop."

The Cambridge, Mass., IBM subsidiary announced that it has partnered with Web search site Lycos Inc., of Waltham, Mass., to add customized Web content to the Notes R5 client. Similar to an agreement Lotus has with America Online Inc., the My Lycos link will ship next month with Release 5.0.1 of Notes.

Lotus officials said the ability to customize Notes desktop frames has been a popular feature with users since R5 shipped in April, and the company is in discussions to add other content providers as well.

At PC Expo in New York last week, Lotus announced

The My Lycos link will give users custom Web content on their desktops.

the availability of a new version of its Smart-Suite Millennium Edition that includes the R5 client. SmartSuite Millennium 9.5 also includes Lotus Organizer 5.0 and Lotus FastSite Release 2 as well as Domino and Internet integration enhancements.

"From a deployment standpoint, the more we can get out of a software suite, the better we're going to be," said Steven Evans, IS director of PGA Tour Inc., in Ponte Vedra, Fla., which uses Notes and SmartSuite Millennium for 700 employees and 200 golfers. "Being able to get more out of an application, like integration with Notes ... or news from the Internet, without having to have separate training sessions [on how to use another application] adds a lot of value."

At PC Expo, Lotus also announced details of its Super.move messaging migration program. The offerings will come in three levels, Acceleration Pack I, II and III, and will be priced when they ship next month.

At DevCon99, a developers' conference in San Francisco, Lotus announced R5 collaboration platform extensions aimed at electronic commerce application developers. The news included new portable application capabilities, the availability of Domino Workflow 2.0, extended Domino support for HTML authoring tools and support for Microsoft's COM (Component Object Model).
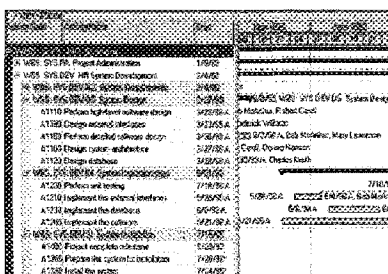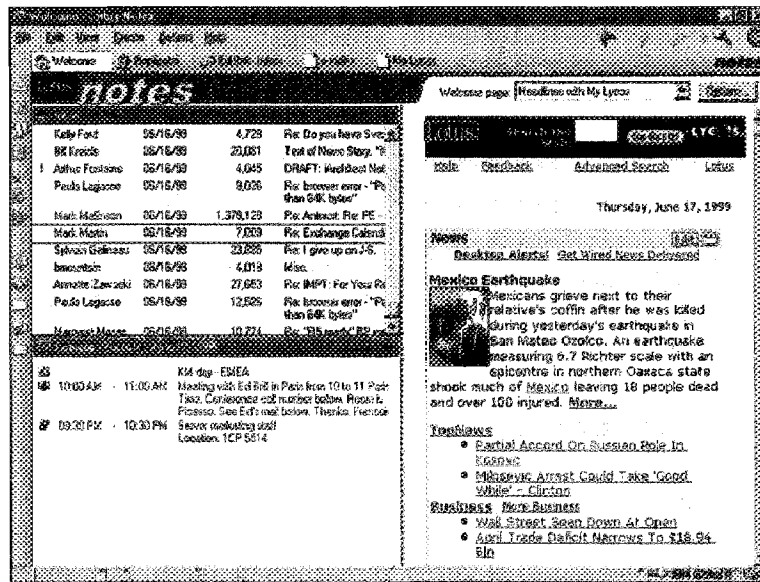
Report2Web portal browses corporate data

BY JIM RAPOZA, PC WEEK LABS

REVIEW REPORT2WEB 2.0, REPORT2-Web Corp.'s new corporate portal application, gives businesses a simple but effective way to provide a centralized browser-based interface to company information, but it lacks key Web site scanning features found in competing products.

Still, in PC Week Labs' tests, we were impressed at how simple it was to set up a browser front end to company documents and reports, even those generated by mainframe systems. In addition, the product provides an excellent, customizable browser interface that lets employees easily manage and search the portal and add new information.

Report2Web 2.0, which shipped in May, is priced at $19,950. Report2Web's price is about midrange in the emerging corporate portal market, where prices range from $1,500 to $100,000. The Report2Web server engine runs on Windows NT 4.0 and requires Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Information Server 4.0.

Most corporate portal products, such as Information Advantage Inc.'s MyEureka, require managers to use complicated API calls and data wrappers to build live links to company applications and data sources. Report2Web 2.0 takes a much simpler approach: It indexes, manages and views corporate reports as they are output by their native systems. We simply had to configure databases, applications and analysis packages to output reports to specific directories, which were then cataloged by Report2Web.

Although this is an effective and straightforward approach to building a portal to company information, we were troubled by Report2Web's inability to index or incorporate data directly from a Web site. This capability is available across the range of corporate portal products. This shortcoming makes it difficult to use Report2Web to build a portal that incorporates both internal and external data. It is possible to link to external sites using HTML or Active Server Pages, but this is a tedious task.

Report2Web's GUI administration interface made setting up a portal a breeze. To add data to the portal, we could add individual files or define upload directories from which data would automatically be added to the portal. Although we generally prefer browser-based management interfaces, the Report2Web administration interface was very good and could be installed on another system for remote management. From a browser, we could do some administrative tasks, such as user management, log viewing and catalog refreshes.

Using the Catalog Builder feature, we

Callidus hopes TrueComp system pays off

BY LEE PENDER

CALLIDUS SOFTWARE INC. HAS AN APPLICATION brewing for companies looking to streamline the complicated process of paying sales representatives accurately and on time.

Callidus, which is shipping its TrueComp system, is entering a burgeoning market already occupied by vendors such as Incentive Systems Inc. But unlike so many companies offering browser-based access to enterprise applications, Callidus gives users a Java-based front end for viewing and managing its application with an embedded business rules engine driving the action behind the scenes.

The product consists of TrueComp Manager, an application that gives administrators the ability to manage compensation day to day and generate reports, and TrueComp viewer, a Java interface that gives salespeople access to compensation information in a format similar to that of a desktop application.

The application also tackles the problem of managing sales teams by allowing administrators to track sales activity by individual, thereby providing accurate information on what each salesperson was responsible for selling.

"Everything that touches every transaction can be traced," said Steve Katayama, co-founder of Callidus, of San Jose, Calif.

TrueComp, which shipped this month, is priced based on customization.

Callidus can be reached at (408) 271-2667 or www.callidussoftware.com. ◄

Report2Web 2.0

◄ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

were able to index directories of report files to add to a portal site. It was possible to set up the Catalog Builder to run at scheduled times using a command-line routine, but it would be better if scheduling capabilities were built directly into the GUI. Report2Web can display very large files in segments in order to make viewing easier.

We found the browser-based client interface of Report2Web very handy. It provided all the features that one expects from the best portal applications, such as customized interfaces, favorites lists and detailed search capabilities. We could use the client to upload files from the browser to add to the data monitored by the portal. ◄

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