

WebSphere software

Village at Tinker Creek offers traditional style with WebSphere connectivity



Overview

■ **The Challenge**

Commonwealth Builders wanted to design a residential community that was both traditional and high-tech, from the ground up

■ **The Solution**

Offer a connected community with connected homes utilizing IBM WebSphere® Everyplace™ Embedded Software, IBM Service Management Framework™ based on the OSGi Service Platform Specification industry standard and IBM WebSphere Portal Express Plus Server

■ **The Benefits**

Anticipated increase in home energy savings; anticipated decrease in insurance premiums; improved security; convenient Web access to appliances and thermostat; higher resale value

Something old, something new

Jerry Godsey, President of Commonwealth Builders in Roanoke, Virginia, likes old fashioned, traditional neighborhoods where homeowners feel a sense of community and security. He also believes communities and homes should take advantage of the latest in residential computing technology—from the ground up. So he is working with IBM Pervasive Computing to make the new Village at Tinker Creek the first all-connected community in the U.S.

The village will feature a community portal based on WebSphere Portal Express Plus, giving homeowners access to neighborhood information, local news and events, security and utility management, calendar sharing and instant messaging.

Godsey envisions an end-to-end solution for building a traditional neighborhood community using 'connected home' technology. He turned to IBM as the one company that could provide a complete solution, including residential infrastructure, services and applications—all bringing value added benefits to new homeowners.

Godsey's objective for Commonwealth Builders is to make it the first home-builder to offer 'connected community and connected home' technology for mid-market homebuyers.

“IBM worked with us to develop a concept that brings value for every dollar we spend.”

*Jerry Godsey
President
Commonwealth Builders*



The solution takes shape

The Village at Tinker Creek development is being built from the ground up with underground fiber optic cabling. A Residential Services Gateway in each home, running IBM WebSphere Everyplace Embedded Software, will manage an array of interconnected devices, including the thermostat, hazard and security sensors. The design is based on the industry standard OSGi Service Platform Specification by incorporating the IBM Service Management Framework.

A residential and community information portal (code-named 'My Home Sweet Home Page') is based on the IBM WebSphere Portal Express Plus Server.

Benefits to homeowners

Jerry Godsey is optimistic that his high-tech community will offer multiple benefits to homeowners including:

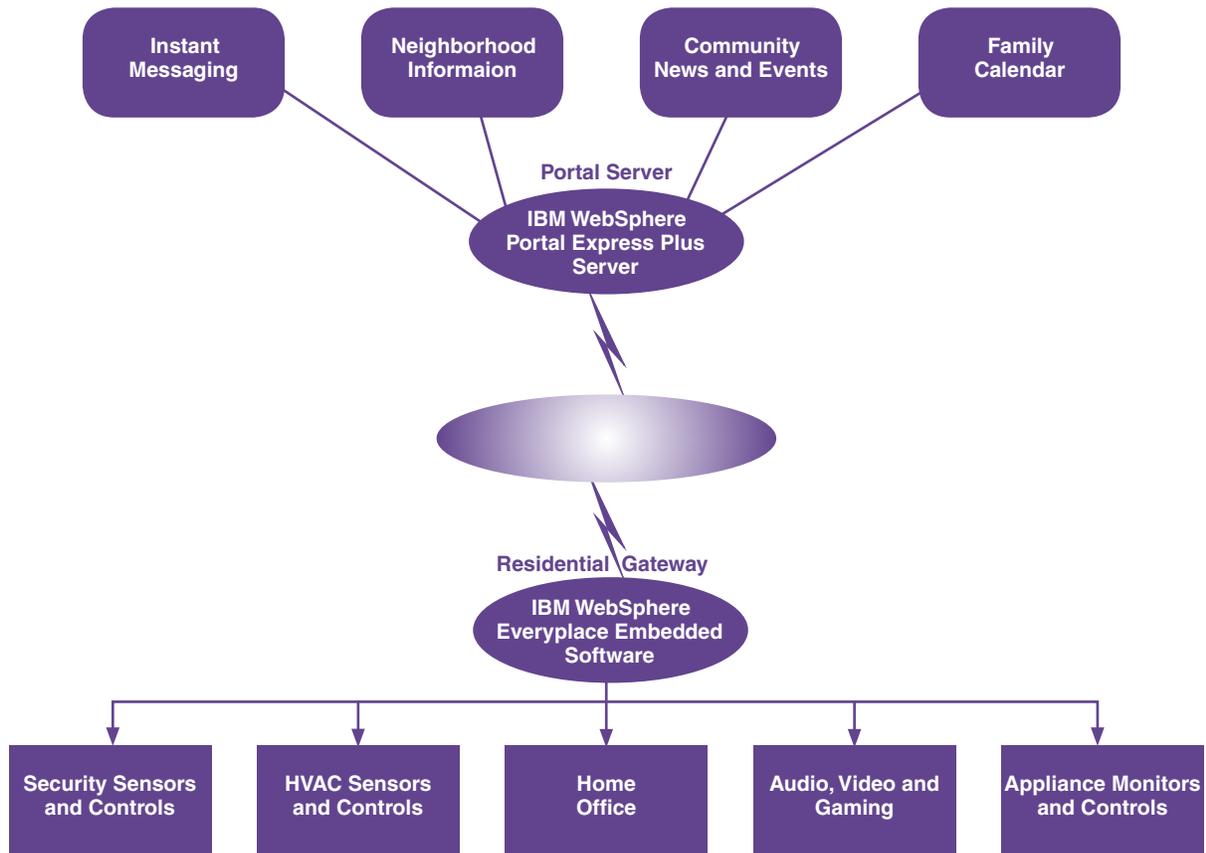
- *Annual homeowner energy cost savings*
- *Lower insurance premiums*
- *Increased peace-of-mind from an integrated security solution*
- *More homeowner convenience through Web and mobile access to in-home appliances and thermostat*
- *Higher resale value in the future*

"When we first started thinking about this community, we called IBM," says Godsey. "I described my vision, including universal, high-speed Internet access in all homes, with a shared Web site that is a community resource, featuring a variety of local information for homeowners and their families, such as school schedules, weather, movies, etc. IBM worked with us to develop a concept that brings value for every dollar we spend."

The cost of the connectivity will be offset in part by savings, says Godsey. "We will save heating and cooling costs by controlling thermostats with Internet access.

"The security system will be online. Cameras can be accessed and viewed from anywhere. Motion detectors and smoke detectors will alert the proper agencies if necessary. Utilities such as gas, power and telephone can be read online to observe trends. Lights can be turned on and off. Individual, family and community calendars will be linked to local events of interest. There will be links to local banks, governmental agencies and other sites."

Godsey also hopes to include home entertainment systems, so that music and TV can be controlled and selected online; as well as services such as e-mail at a lower price than homeowners can find elsewhere.



Heading toward wireless with IBM

Although Godsey is pre-wiring all of his homes for the IBM system, he anticipates using wireless connections in the future, wherever possible. "Some elements, such as in the security system, may remain wired for obvious reasons,"

he says, "although I feel we are headed toward becoming a wireless community. And I feel IBM is the provider that can take us there."

"I want to continue pushing the envelope. If there's something that can be done to set us apart and add value, we will consider it." And IBM WebSphere solutions will be at the core of the interconnected Village at Tinker Creek.

For more information

To learn how IBM Pervasive Computing solutions can help your business, visit ibm.com/pvc or call your local IBM Sales Representative.



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