IBM WebSphere Business Connection

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Product Announcement & Availability

Questions & Answers

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1. **What is WebSphere Business Connection?**

WebSphere Business Connection (WBC) Offerings enable business-to-business process integration and data sharing among trading partners of all types and sizes. These offerings address the need to set up business processes that cross corporate firewalls and leverage multiple companies' systems. Recognizing the differing requirements, IBM developed the WBC Offerings to address the range of fairly simple environments with just a few users to extremely complex environments, as well as needs that fall somewhere in between. For instance, some companies need little more than a browser connection to a portal. The WBC Express Edition is for customers needing a simple standards-based gateway to one or more hub providers. The middle WBC offering provides the ability to do more sophisticated edge processing to supplement the services delivered by the hubs.   Finally, recognizing that EDI is still in use, and that many customers plan to move EDI to the Internet to avoid the costs of EDI over value-added-networks, IBM developed the WBC Enterprise Edition which includes Data Interchange.

2. **Who needs WebSphere Business Connection and why?**

WBC is for organizations which are integrating applications and processes across organizational and other boundaries. Integration is a multidimensional issue because of the vast range of different business objects involved, the variety of disparate applications, the different platforms across the network, and the different standards used to interchange data. These issues are compounded further when e-businesses link systems and integrate processes with external trading partners who have differing technical and business requirements for their integration efforts. In addition, maintaining system and asset security is critical to ensure the integrity of interactions.

3. **How do I know which edition to buy?**

There are three WBC versions that are designed to fit the specific process integration and connectivity needs of IBM's customers.

WebSphere Business Connection Express Edition: For the customer who needs a low-cost, entry-level solution that brings participant entities into trading and business-process networks. Express is priced to allow even small entities to participate in data interchange with trading partners. Express consists of two main elements:

- WebSphere Application Server, V4, licensed for use as a platform for running B2B connectivity

- Web Services Gateway, which provides the B2B connectivity

Other capabilities include:

✓ Automation of some business processes that would otherwise require manual processing

✓ Ability to write J2EE-based business processes that, in this case, can automate the submission of hundreds of purchase orders

✓ Support of functions such as applying simple rules to flag orders that require supervisory approval prior to transmission

Express does not support the higher-level IBM CrossWorlds Collaborations that some sites may want to execute.

WebSphere Business Connection: For the customer who wants to move beyond Web services and J2EE exchanges and to leverage some of the IBM CrossWorlds technology. This offering includes everything in the Express version, plus:

✓ The ability to run IBM CrossWorlds collaborations

✓ A version of the Trading Partner Interchange (TPI Solo) product, which supports a range of security standards and allows companies to exchange data using other popular protocols,

including ebXML, RosettaNet, S/MIME and the EDI protocols of AS1 (EDI over the Internet using SMTP) and AS2 (EDI over the Internet using HTTP).

✓ A newly developed technology called the "Federated Partner Profile" which consolidates information about the different protocols and gateways that each entity is using to exchange information with various partners and customers

WebSphere Business Connection Enterprise Edition: For the customer who needs EDI over the Internet. In addition to all the functions of WBC Express and WBC, WBC Enterprise includes IBM's WebSphere Data Interchange for Multiplatforms, providing an affordable EDI-over-the-Internet capability. Data Interchange converts data forms to or from EDI standards or other data formats, and also provides various transaction management capabilities.

4. What are the benefits associated with the WebSphere Business Connection ?

WBC allows businesses to focus on implementation of B2B projects whether they are simple or complex. Business partners can deploy software to solve today's integration needs and scale to add partners and implement more business processes as needed. WBC creates a collaborative business integration environment and provides new opportunities for competitive advantage, including integration with supply chain partners, procurement providers, business intelligence, outsourcing services, and CRM services. With these secure, scalable offerings, customers can have confidence in future value through long term availability, open standards, and IBM's unique ability to offer the full range of business integration needs.

WBC eases the complexity required to support interoperability among different environments. The WBC family promotes B2B communications based on open Web services interfaces, industry standards include RosettaNet and ebXML, as well as EDI including EDIINT and EDI-VAN. Pre-built connectors to many popular applications and templates for established business processes facilitate quick prototyping and rapid deployment. The WBC family includes remote management of spoke software for easy onboarding of smaller partners. The WBC family is architected using modular components and built on scalable, proven technology to provide a flexible and reliable offering, making it easier to start with a specific project and grow as needed.

5. What is the pricing structure for the product?

Each IBM WBC Offering requires licensing according to the runtime use of the Offering on a server machine. Each license is per processor and allows installation on multiple servers, as long as none of these servers has more than one (1) processor.

Installation of any portion of WBC on servers with multiple processors requires a license for each processor. Additionally, for each license, no single program or component included within any WBC Offering may be installed on more than one (1) server . This applies to the WBC Express Edition, WBC, and WBC Enterprise Edition offerings.

All of the IBM WBC Offerings are licensed on the basis that the sale includes maintenance (i.e., both subscription and support). Furthermore,
use of the components included in each WBC Offering is restricted solely to use in the WBC solution. Any use of any such component outside the WBC solution requires the prior purchase of a license for the component, under the standard license structure for the relevant product. This applies to the WBC Express Edition, WBC and WBC Enterprise Edition offerings.

The following licensing terms apply:

- WebSphere Business Connection Express Edition - this product may be used in support of up to ten (10) Web Services based business partner connections. Although provided within the Express Edition, the following functions are not licensed for use in this offering: Solution Management, Federated Partner Profile, Document Exchange.

- WebSphere Business Connection - this product may be used in support of up to fifty (50) Web Services based business partner connections, and in support of a single application or technology connection. While the IBM Crossworlds Full Toolset product is provided in this offering, <u>only</u> the IBM Crossworlds System Manager (CSM) and the IBM Crossworlds System Monitor Tools may be used.
- WebSphere Business Connection Enterprise Edition - this product may be used in support of up to one hundred (100) Web Services based business partner connections, and in support of a single application or technology connection. While the IBM Crossworlds Full Toolset product is provided in this offering, <u>only</u> the IBM Crossworlds System Manager (CSM) and the IBM Crossworlds System Monitor Tools may be used. This Edition of WBC includes function provided by the IBM WebSphere Data Interchange product (WDI). For each Proof of Entitlement, use of WDI is only authorized to support a single business partner connection established through the IBM Crossworlds Trading Partner Interchange Solo product.

6. What is the status of enabling WebSphere Business Connection for National Language Support and Double Byte Character Set support?

This is planned for a future release.

7. What is the status of database support for each platform?

Currently only IBM Universal Database (UDB) is supported. Support for other databases will be added in future releases.

8. What tools are available?

Tools are available at several levels. In the build and deployment space, we have tools for both the WebSphere Application Server environment and IBM Crossworlds. WSAD (Websphere Studio Application Developer) is the industry's most complete J2EE integrated development environment and can be used to create and deploy any J2EE-based service or process. The Crossworlds Toolset, including Process Designer, Object Designer, Map Designer, and Relationship Designer provide a GUI interface through which the most complex business process can be defined and deployed by programmers and business analysts alike. In the management space both the Crossworlds system Manager and WAS provide Monitor and Management controls over business processes that are executing on WBC. WBC provides a System Resource Administration Tool which acts as a single interface to both the WAS and Crossworlds environment for common administrative management tasks.

9. How does WBC relate to IBM CrossWorlds Interchange Server and WBI?

WebSphere Business Integration v4.1 includes the IBM CrossWorlds Interchange Server (ICS) for a sophisticated run-time environment that manages business objects and processes. ICS provides one centralized and common view of enterprise-wide data, and offers a comprehensive set of technical services including system management, event management, repository services, error handling, transaction management, and data transformation and messaging.

The WBC and WBC Enterprise Offerings include limited use licenses for ICS so that partners can execute collaborations (or business processes) provided by their partners. Customers that require tooling to customize processes or create new processes can upgrade their infrastructure to include the full ICS license and toolset by purchasing WBI.

10. Does WebSphere Business Connection include WebSphere Application Server?

All WBC offerings include WebSphere Application Server, version 4.0. Express includes WebSphere Application Server 4.0 AE, SS. The mid and Enterprise offerings include WebSphere Application Server 4.0 AE.

11. Can WebSphere Business Connection be sold without the WebSphere Application Server?

No, WebSphere Application Server is an integral part of WBC.

12. Where can I get more information about integration solutions?

Information about the WebSphere Business Integration solution can be found at
http://www-3.ibm.com/software/ts/wbi/index.html .

13. What platforms are currently supported?

Currently, WBC is supported only on Microsoft Windows 2000. Sun Solaris 8 is also supported on WBC Express.

14. When will you be supporting other platforms?

Other platform support is planned for future releases. IBM AIX 5.1 support on WBC Express is expected in 4Q.

15. Where can I get more information on WebSphere Business Connection and IBM CrossWorlds Interchange Server?

Information about WBC offerings can be found at **http://www.ibm.com/websphere/integration/busconn .**

Information about the CrossWorlds Interchange server can be found at
http://www-3.ibm.com/software/info1/websphere/indexcw.jsp?tab=interchangesvr&S_TACT=102BBW 01&S_CMP=campaign

16. What services are available for WebSphere Business Connection? Who provides them?

The list of selected Services available in your Region, either as standard or customized offerings for the efficient installation, implementation and/or integration of this product, can be obtained from your respective ITS Regional Offering Executive. Contact local Field Technical Support Specialists and Advanced Technical Support for installation and technical support.

For additional information, refer to the Consulting and Services section, e-mail IBM CrossWorlds Client Services at cwserv@us.ibm.com or refer to the Web site:
    http://www.ibm.com/websphere/crossworlds
 o Select IBM CrossWorlds
 o Then select Services

IBM Business Partners may obtain sales, installation, and technical support in presales situations by contacting Techline through Web site: **http://d03bpw18.partner.boulder.ibm.com/src/BPCwogl.nsf** Authorization is required.

IBM Sales Specialists and Systems Engineers may obtain sales, installation, and technical support by contacting Techline through the following Web site: http://w3.ibm.com/support/emea/techline/index.shtml .

Additional technical support is available through worldwide Question and Answer (WWQA), QASearch function on Viewblue or EHONE.   (For some brands/products, authoring of questions is only available via Techline).

17. Does WebSphere Business Connection impact PAM? Will these offerings be integrated?

IBM B2B offerings including CrossWorlds TPI, PAM, Web Services, and EDI will converge over time into enhanced IBM solutions such as WBC and follow-on future B2B gateway upgrades. Peregrine has divested its B2B offerings and has discontinued development efforts related to the Alliance / PAM offerings. Although PAM will continue to be fully supported by IBM, PAM does not represent a strategic component in the IBM integration offering going forward. For example, PAM may be recommended for unique RosettaNet requirements while current customers and prospects should also consider the WBC offerings as an upgrade for PAM functionality. IBM has established support resources and processes to work jointly with current PAM customers to assist these customers as they upgrade to the WBC solution.

18. Are there additional process templates and adapters already available and where can I find more information?

Yes. Any IBM Crossworlds collaboration can be run on WBC, and through the WBC B2B integration technology can be used to share these business process with your partners.

The list of collaborations currently available can be found at
http://www-3.ibm.com/software/info1/websphere/indexcw.jsp?tab=collaborations .

(Internal IBMers can go to the "exchange" Crossworlds Web site, **http://exchange.crossworlds.com**, which requires userid and password registration.)

19. As an ISV, I'd like to know how extra functionality can be integrated into the WebSphere Business Connection?

ISV's can take advantage of the tools provided with Crossworlds ICS to create additional collaborations.

20. How many partners have you on WebSphere Business Connection?

A Partner Program Business Plan is still being put in place with PartnerWorld and other internal organizations, as our extended team, to include Global and Regional SIs, ASVs, and ISVs. Our initial intensive training session to be held in July includes invitations to IGS, KPMG, Netcom, DCS, YPoint, United Messaging, Candle, Nastel, Small Planet Group, Flamenco Networks, Avaki, e2Open, and WWRE. Other potential partners are also being approached.

21. Do you intend to continue to encourage service providers?

Yes. They will be part of our plan.

22. How are you supporting partners?

In the initial stages, partner support is provided by Developer Relations-PartnerWorld for Software for SIs and Consultants, and by PartnerWorld for Developers for ASVs and ISVs. In addition, the Advanced Projects Team provides support and relationship management with potential partners.

23. How does the Partner Program benefit partners ?

Partners benefit in multiple ways, including:
- WBC Training
- Facilitation into the PartnerWorld program with its associated benefits:
  - Partner WIC facilitation where applicable
  - Leads tied to engagements/ potential engagments
  - Co-marketing at Advanced and Premier levels
- Flexible, expanded delivery channel tied to BI and Web services delivery
- Reference architectures and IBM technical support staff available for consultation on B2Bi
- Possible participation in "Proof Of Concept" engagements

24. How does it link with Partner World and other IBM Programs?

The linkage with PartnerWorld for Software and Partnerworld for Developers is still being developed as described above. Other possible IBM programs include WebServices on WebSphere, Start Now and SN Solutions Proven for SME/ Mid Market.

25. Can Business Partners re sell WebSphere Business Connection?

Yes, our intention is for IBM Business Partners to be able to resell WBC offerings. One of our models is to train partners, have them develop offerings around our offering, and enable them to sell their offering with ours. Of course, the potential for sell-with also exists.

26. How does an IBM business partner get WebSphere Business Connection Not for Resale (NFR) software?

Once the General Manufacturing release occurs, the Solution Partner Program team will ensure readiness of a document/ contractural process to provide NFR code to Business Partners. NFR Code will be provided through standard IBM market management channels with appropriate tracking mechanisms.

27. Where can I find information on WebSphere Business Connection Certification?

Because WBC is a newly released offering, there is no certification available at present for the entire offering. There are certifications for some of the components.   For information on the WebSphere 4.0 certification go to **http://www-1.ibm.com/certify/certs/adcsserv40.shtml** . For IBM DB2, Exam 512 - DB2 Family Fundamentals is recommended to ensure proper understanding of the DB2 part of WBC. This exam covers the basics of DB2 including SQL, security, concurrency, and database objects. It results in an entry level certification: IBM Certified Specialist - DB2 User. You can find it at **http://www-1.ibm.com/certify/certs/dbseudu7.shtml** and for CrossWorlds**,** go to **http://www-1.ibm.com/certify/certs/cwcsews4.shtml** .

28. Where can I find information on WebSphere Business Connection Education?

For full information about education for all WBC Offerings, please visit:
http://www.ibm.com/websphere/integration/busconn