IBM LAN Software Buyer's Guide

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IBM* offers a comprehensive set of LAN Software products and support for building and managing large to small networks. This guide provides you with information about these products and support. It is a guide that helps you understand why and how IBM LAN Software solutions can help you in your business, no matter what your industry might be.

People who will find this guide helpful are LAN Software support personnel, including network administrators and information systems managers, as well as LAN marketing and technical advisors, including resellers, consultants, distributors, systems and network integrators, and developers.

You can use this guide as a reference to help you plan and maintain your networks. This guide can also answer questions about network and desktop operating systems, as well as provide information on implementing networks using systems management, distributed computing environment (DCE), host communications, and workgroup applications.

This guide is available in the following formats:

- Hardcopy, IBM publication number G326-0393
- Diskette, IBM publication number GV21-7151
- Softcopy on various computer services, such as CompuServe**, PRODIGY**, OS2BBS, and Internet; also, IBM MKTTOOLS database as G3260393.

How to Use This Book

For a description of the IBM Operating System/2* (OS/2*) Workplace Strategy and Customer Closeups, refer to Chapter 1, “IBM LAN Software Overview” first.

If you need a quick reference to the products described in this guide, refer to Chapter 2, “Product Quick Reference.”

For a comprehensive description of product characteristics and requirements, refer to Chapter 3, “Product Specifics.”

Refer to Chapter 4, “Workgroup and End-User Applications” for highlights of selected IBM and Vendor workstation and end-user applications that exploit the connectivity associated with LAN-based computing environments.

For samples of specific product usage in a variety of LAN-based implementations, see Chapter 5, “IBM LAN Product Sample Environments.” These examples are not meant to be all-inclusive. In some cases, the product mentioned is not the only implementation approach available, or a product might have a number of different characteristics that allow it to be used in situations other than those mentioned here.

For descriptions of ongoing IBM support offerings for both technical and non-technical needs, refer to Chapter 6, “IBM Education and Support Programs.” This chapter also provides contact points for additional information for selected offerings.

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