More News From Nashville

The annual conference is a favourite time for Borland to issue a flurry of press releases. Here's a selection of news items...

A New Era Of Corporate Infonets

Chairman and CEO Del Yocam outlined a new strategy to establish Borland as the leading provider of tools and technologies to help customers build "corporate InfoNets" for accessing and analysing information and applications across the enterprise and beyond.

As a critical part of its new focus, Yocam said, Borland plans to combine its object-oriented development tools, middleware technologies and open architecture to allow users to create powerful applications that provide cross-platform access and analysis of corporate data over Intranets, Extranets and the Internet. For example, Borland plans to bring to market new technologies and products that support connectivity to enterprise applications, distributed applications management and decision support capabilities.

Construction of corporate Information Networks, or InfoNets, offering cross-platform access to valuable information and enterprise-wide applications, represent one the most potent opportunities facing IT organizations in the late 1990s, according to Yocam. The new InfoNet strategy is a major extension of the Golden Gate strategy announced in 1996, which focused on bridging client/server systems and emerging Multi-tier and Internet/Intranet architectures.

"We predict that the InfoNet will become an essential, cost-effective computing platform for corporate customers during the next three years," said Yocam. "Corporate IT will experience an increasing convergence of client/server with Internet and Intranet application development technologies and technologies for decision support and on-line processing."

Yocam claims the InfoNet concept addresses several key problems facing enterprises, including:

- Turning raw data into useful business information and knowledge.
- Deploying modularized configurable information applications across the enterprise, thereby allowing end user customization without having to rewrite custom applications.
- Shifting more business logic and analysis to middle-tier servers, allowing access from both fat and thin clients, increased reliability and security, and reduced cost of deployment and maintenance.

Entera Updated

An update was announced to Borland's Entera intelligent middleware product which enhances the product's support for Delphi, ODBC data connectivity and Gradient/DCE on Windows NT. Borland will also be extending Entera 3.2's platform support with a new port to IBM MVS/Open Edition. There will be a major new version of Entera later this year.

The new update to Entera 3.2 is available to all registered Borland Entera support subscribers. To register for the beta program for the new Entera 3.2 version for IBM MVS/Open Edition, contact your local sales rep or the Borland Direct Sales team at +1 408 431 1064.

AS/400 Client/Server Developer Program

There will be a new developer relations and marketing program in conjunction with IBM's AS/400 Division, designed to encourage more client/server applications to be built with Borland's tools that support the AS/400 series of business computers: the AS/400 Application Development Initiative (ADI).

This quarter, Borland and IBM's AS/400 Division will be introducing a three-part partnership program called AS/400 ADI, designed to assist Borland and IBM AS/400 developers to support, register, and market their client/server applications on the IBM AS/400 platform. The main elements of the ADI program are:

- AS/400 ADI Website with technical information. In addition, ADI developers will be able to register and list their applications on the site: creating an electronic, client/server buyer's guide for AS/400 customers. Developers interested in registering their applications on the ADI Website may send e-mail to ADI@corp.borland.com or visit www.borland.com/borland400/ to receive more information.
- Access to IBM AS/400 World-Wide Porting Labs. IBM's AS/400 Division plans to open their worldwide porting centers and selected other sites to ADI developers wishing to port their existing client/server applications.
- World-Wide ADI Seminar Series in more than 15 cities on client/server development for the AS/400. A listing of these seminars will be made available on the ADI Website.

Delphi/400 Client/Server Suite is available now and C++Builder/400 Client/Server Suite is scheduled to be available this quarter from Borland and authorized Borland/400 Business Partners.

Jbuilder Java Development Tools

The JBuilder family of visual development tools for Java are finally scheduled to begin shipping this quarter. JBuilder Standard, JBuilder Professional and JBuilder Client/Server Suite feature what Borland claim is the industry's fastest and easiest JavaBean component creation, a scalable database architecture, robust visual development tools and the ability to produce "100% Pure Java" platform-independent applications, applets and JavaBeans. A demonstration version of JBuilder is publicly available on Borland's website.

As part of Borland's Golden Gate strategy to support major industry standards in all of its tools, JBuilder's open environment will support 100% Pure Java, JavaBeans™, JDK™1.1, JFC, AFC, RMI, CORBA, JDBC, ODBC, and all major corporate database servers. It will also provide developers with a flexible open architecture to incorporate third-party tools, add-ins and JavaBean components.

To increase developer productivity by encouraging component reuse, JBuilder will feature BeansExpress, claimed to be the fastest and easiest way to build JDK 1.1-compliant JavaBean components. With BeansExpress, developers can visually create components from scratch, or combine a number of existing components into a new JavaBean. BeansExpress will also allow developers to easily deploy their JavaBeans and add them to JBuilder's easy-to-navigate component palette. Each version of JBuilder will include a set of award-winning JavaBeans from KL Group and JavaSoft's standard AWT components. JBuilder Professional and Client/Server Suite will also ship with over 100 reusable JavaBeans for GUI design, Internet development and database access, including Grid, Tree, Navigator, Image, Checkbox, Choice, Picklist, Field, List, Locator, ButtonBar, StatusBar and many more. Source code for these components will be included.

JBuilder will include a new, scalable database architecture called DataExpress. With DataExpress, developers will be able to use drag-and-drop data-aware components and visual design tools to build database applications and applets using industry-standard JDBC database connectivity.

Productivity features in JBuilder include:

- The Borland RAD WorkBench: an IDE similar to that in other Borland visual development tools, with a tightly-integrated application browser, project manager, code editor, HTML viewer, graphical debugger and compiler.
- Pure Java Two-Way-Tools: the Pure Java source code editor and visual designers are always synchronized, with no hidden macros or tags.
- Productivity Wizards: to simplify development and deployment of projects, applications, applets and JavaBeans.
- New Application Browser: combines the features of a project manager, class browser, file browser, and source code editor to make managing, navigating, and editing source code easy and dynamic.
- Powerful graphical debugger and SmartChecker Compiler: to makes it easier to find and fix bugs in an application's code, then rebuild/recompile.
- Local InterBase server and Borland SQL Tools for building, managing and deploying scalable database server applications.

JBuilder Standard has an estimated street price of $99.95; owners of other Borland tools can purchase JBuilder Professional for $249.95 and owners of competitive tools can purchase JBuilder Professional for $299.95 (all prices are valid for USA only).

Visual dBASE 7 Preview

This major upgrade was demonstrated at the BDC and is scheduled to ship this autumn. The new 32-bit version will feature support for ActiveX components, a new Two-Way object-oriented report designer, enhanced visual productivity tools and native high-speed connectivity to dBASE, Paradox, MS Access, MS FoxPro and corporate SQL database servers.

For More Information...

Check out Borland's website at www.borland.com for updates on these news items, or contact your local Borland office or dealer.