



# The NetView Association Invites Vendors to Participate

By Larry Kuntz and Donna Bowie-Conway

In September 1994, IBM announced a major leap forward in network management framework technology with new versions of NetView for AIX and NetView for OS/2. (A new version of NetView for OSF/1<sup>®</sup> was also announced for Digital Equipment Corporation's POLYCENTER<sup>®</sup> Manager.)

## Multiple Database Support

One key strength of NetView for AIX is its support for multiple relational databases, including DB2, INFORMIX, Ingres<sup>®</sup>, Oracle, SYBASE, and Rdb. The new NetView for AIX also includes other enhancements:

- ◆ Continuous operator access—one NetView console can take over for another during outages
- ◆ A rich set of Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)
- ◆ An improved end-user interface
- ◆ New trap delivery facilities

For vendors that provide network management products and services, these new functions represent exciting opportunities. For example, network management applications can now write to, and read from, the most popular databases in the industry. Continuous operator access offers an opportunity for applications to perform automated operations and around-the-clock network monitoring.

Your network and systems management applications can exploit the richest set of APIs in the industry, including General Topology Manager (GTM), end-user interface, Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP), event filtering, and the

industry-standard X/Open<sup>™</sup> Management Protocol (XMP) API.

## Serving Third-Party Vendors

The NetView Association has experienced nearly a three-fold increase in the number of third-party applications made available by association members since October 1994. As the number continued to grow, *Network World* magazine noted that NetView now ranks first in the total number of applications—moving ahead of its two main competitors, Hewlett-Packard's<sup>®</sup> OpenView<sup>™</sup> and Sun's SunNet Manager.

Continuing its steady growth, the NetView Association enrolled its 200th member in November 1994. Jointly sponsored by IBM and Digital Equipment Corporation as part of their unique development and marketing partnership, the association was established to enrich the management capabilities of the NetView product line. Its members provide the additional management functions that customers need to ensure their communications and telecommunications equipment and systems are effectively managed.

NetView Association members are third-party vendors who develop applications, vendors who develop SNMP-based communications products, and service providers such as consultants and systems integrators. Member services include the following:

- ◆ Technical support via telephone and E-mail
- ◆ Technical updates about IBM management products
- ◆ Not-for-sale software loans

- ◆ Referrals to classes about NetView programming
- ◆ Listing your product or service in the NetView Association Catalog, which is distributed to the IBM and Digital sales teams
- ◆ A subscription to *ViewPoints* magazine, which contains news about the NetView products, the association, and its members
- ◆ Invitations to the NetView Association Annual Meeting
- ◆ Loans of RISC System/6000 and Alpha/AXF hardware
- ◆ Testing and distribution for Management Information Bases (MIBs)
- ◆ A certification program to verify that applications are integrated with NetView
- ◆ The opportunity for vendors to demonstrate their certified applications at trade shows

Membership is free of charge, and most of the services listed are provided at no cost.

The NetView Association Annual Meeting, held in the Spring in North Carolina, brings together association members from all over the world to air concerns, make suggestions, learn about IBM's and Digital's plans for NetView, and do business with each other.

Membership in NetView Association is open to all third-party vendors who develop management applications software or tools, or provide services related to network or systems management. IBM and Digital see your membership as a "win-win" proposition: you receive assistance in developing and marketing your product, and IBM and Digital benefit from having the number-one network management platform as measured by the breadth and quality of vendor applications.

To join the NetView Association or for more information, send a note to Larry Kunz at [ldkunz@vnet.ibm.com](mailto:ldkunz@vnet.ibm.com) or call the association's hotline at 919-543-2939.



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## POWER NOTES

### AIX 4.1 Packaging

#### Filesets

AIX 4.1 has approximately 2,200 packages called filesets that can be separately installed. For example, the `bos.rte.up` fileset contains the uniprocessor kernel and the `bos.rte.archive` fileset contains archive commands such as `tar`, `cpio`, and `backup`. This new packaging allows installation of only what is necessary, generally requiring less disk space than AIX Version 3. Since each fileset can be serviced separately, fixes for AIX 4.1 are smaller and more localized. Fixes are delivered in fileset packages and are cumulative; that is, each new level of a fileset contains all previous changes.

#### VRMF

In AIX 3.2, Program Temporary Fix (PTF) numbers were used for revision control, making it difficult to determine the level of a system component. In AIX 4.1, Version Release Modification Fix (VRMF) levels are used for revision control. For example, the AIX 4.1.1 `bos.rte.up` fileset had a VRMF of 4.1.1.0, indicating Version 4, Release 1, Modification Level 1, Fix Level 0.

**Version number:** Incremented to indicate a new product. For example, AIX Version 4 is a different product from AIX Version 3. New versions contain major functional enhancements and typically come two or more years apart.

**Release number:** Incremented to show a product enhancement; we expect new releases of AIX Version 4 will come approximately one year apart.

**Modification level:** Incremented for two reasons: accumulation of maintenance and support of new processors or devices. Neither the maintenance nor the new support enhances the behavior of the product on existing systems. When the modification level is adjusted, the fix level is reset to zero. We expect modification levels of AIX Version 4 three to six months apart.

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**Fix level:** Incremented when a fix is added to a fileset. When the modification level is adjusted, the fix level is reset to zero. Fixes for AIX Version 4 are produced on customer demand.

Maintenance and fix levels for AIX Version 4 do not change application interfaces; applications that are written to documented interfaces should function identically on different maintenance and fix levels.

### Costs

Customers are charged when upgrading to a new version or release. There is no charge for maintenance or fixes, although there may be a media charge unless the fix is obtained electronically through FixDist.

### When to Update to the Next Level

Here are guidelines for updating to the next level:

- ◆ Update to the next fix level only when requiring a fix for a particular problem.
- ◆ Update to the next maintenance level when you need support for new hardware or want to apply preventive maintenance
- ◆ Update to the next version or release to take advantage of new or enhanced function

## Overview of AIX 3.2.5

### Common Mode

When an application is compiled on AIX, libraries are bound statically within the application. In AIX 3.2.5 and prior releases, these static libraries were compiled in Power Mode.

When the application is run on a PowerPC, the Power instructions in those static libraries will be emulated in software. The application will run successfully, but the emulation may decrease performance slightly.

Compiling in *Common Mode* generates common binaries between the POWER, POWER2, and PowerPC processors. By building an application using this feature, the static libraries that are bound in the application will be compiled in full Common Mode. Since the application will have been built on AIX 3.2.5, it will be fully compatible with AIX 3.2.5. Also, since future releases of AIX will preserve the upward binary compatibility of executables wherever possible, the applications built using this feature will run well on future releases of AIX, including AIX 4.1.1.

We recommend that AIX Version 3.2.5 plus the above feature be the development platform for applications intended to run on AIX Version 3.2.x and AIX Version 4.1.1. In AIX Version 3.2.5, the IBM XL C Version 1.3, C Set ++ Version 2.1, XL Fortran Version 3.1, and XL Pascal Version 1.1.3 compilers support the common mode of compilation.

**Important Note:** This toolkit of libraries will provide full common mode if your application is compiled in common mode or if you do not bind shared libraries statically (override the shared attribute).

For more information, refer to the document *All About AIX 4.1*. Information is also available through IBM's World Wide Web server on the Internet. To access, open the following URL:

<http://www.austin.ibm.com/services/vendors/aix41/aix41.html>.

To receive the AIX 3.2.5 Common Mode Static Libraries, send a note to [ibmspcc@austin.ibm.com](mailto:ibmspcc@austin.ibm.com) or call the SPSC Support Line at 1-800-445-3440.