

Get on the Mark with AIX READY



By Barbara Formichelli

AIX READY™ is a new feature available to RS/6000™ Partners in Development that provides an AIX READY compatibility mark to qualifying software developers for use in marketing their products. Displaying this mark will help them signify to customers that their products comply with the criteria required to be compatible with AIX, IBM's premier UNIX® operating system.

Binary compatibility has become an increasingly important issue for software developers, especially when considering the variety of hardware platforms, associated operating systems, and multiple releases requiring support. IBM is demonstrating its commitment to binary compatibility, and is providing support to help you meet the challenges of today's diverse and competitive business environment.

For this reason, we are pleased to introduce the AIX READY package, which is an advanced entitlement for IBM Solution Develop Program RS/6000 Partners in Development. This offering, which includes a compatibility mark, enables you to identify your products as being binary compatible with AIX. This mark will be available to you upon completion of a fast and simple certification process.

How can AIX READY make your software more valuable? By helping to broaden the appeal of products developed for AIX. It can also help reduce your time and effort by allowing you to use any AIX system as a

reference platform for building and maintaining applications.

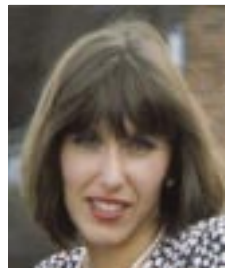
Program Benefits

Once you complete the certification process, you will be able to take advantage of a wide range of attractive benefits. It all begins with access to the AIX compatibility mark, which you may use on product packaging, in printed and electronic marketing materials, and in advertisements. An online design guide accompanies the mark and provides examples illustrating its use.

AIX READY also offers other benefits to its members:

- ◆ Technical support: Available through the IBM Solution Developer Technical Support Center if you experience any incompatibilities in an AIX environment
- ◆ "Test-drive" facilities: Allow you to test your products on, or port them to, a variety of hardware platforms at the IBM Solution Partnership Center in San Mateo, California
- ◆ Access to developer programs: Includes AIX-related marketing and/or technical assistance offered by original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) participating in the AIX Multiple Vendor Program

Further additions to this offering are planned for the coming year.



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AIX READY and AIX MVP: A Winning Combination

The ease of self-certification for the AIX READY compatibility mark is made possible due to the stringent requirements of the AIX Multiple Vendor Program (MVP). The goal of MVP is to ensure conformance to a common Application Binary Interface (ABI) and Appli-

cation Programming Interface (API) across a range of systems that use the AIX operating system. Under this program, all systems that run AIX and use the AIX trademark must pass a set of certification tests that demonstrate this compliance. AIX MVP is currently sponsored by IBM, Bull®, Hitachi/Hitachi Data Systems®, Motorola™ and Thomson/CETIA™

What's Being Said About AIX READY

"Since the release of AIX Version 4, IBM has consistently demonstrated its commitment to binary compatibility. The success of the AIX Multiple Vendor Program has driven this message even further by helping to provide AIX binary compatibility not only across releases, but across a range of platforms from participating system vendors.

"The AIX READY mark is intended to signify to the marketplace that products labeled AIX READY will run wherever AIX runs. The ability to deliver one AIX across a variety of hardware platforms is the key to the AIX READY mark."

—Mike Borman, general manager, RS/6000 Division, IBM Corporation

"We look forward to the opportunities and benefits that the AIX READY compatibility mark will offer to the industry. In an effort to encourage widespread AIX product usage and the resulting benefits, we feel that this mark will definitely represent the value of binary compatibility which truly benefits all participants and should be universally recognized."

—Toshiakira Ikeda, general manager, Strategic Business Development Division, Information Systems Group, Hitachi Ltd.

"Bull today offers a complete line of AIX servers from small departmental to large enterprise clusters and is a charter participant in the AIX Multiple Vendor Program. AIX READY now enables ISVs, with no additional development effort, to offer their applications on all AIX platforms including Bull's Escala and Estrella products."

—Armand Malka, UNIX servers vice president, Bull Worldwide Information Systems

"Moving applications between platforms and into different environments can be very challenging. As a leading OEM supplier of open architecture PowerPC-based single-board computers and systems products, CETIA (a subsidiary of Thomson-CSF) relies on the AIX Multiple Vendor Program and the AIX READY mark to ensure that our customers' applications will run reliably in high-performance, complex embedded systems.

"These VME (Versa Module Europe)-based systems are being deployed in laboratory and harsh field environments such as airborne and shipboard defense applications where dependable software is very critical. AIX is a proven operating system that enjoys popularity worldwide.

Coupled with the outstanding performance of the PowerPC microprocessor, AIX is unbeatable and that is why Thomson-CSF has selected this IBM offering as its standard UNIX solution."

—Bob Huettner, general manager, CETIA, Inc.

"Motorola Computer Group (MCG) provides AIX to technical OEM customers. With AIX, MCG provides unparalleled scalability from single-board computers to servers to complete fault-tolerant systems. Only AIX scales across this broad spectrum of hardware offerings. MCG's customers can run one operating system on our broad spectrum of hardware without changing versions of AIX or third-party software, which provides uncompromising scalability.

"AIX READY means that software running on IBM RS/6000 systems will run on MCG's single-board computers, servers, and fault-tolerant systems without any changes. The market for software companies grows to include other AIX systems without any additional effort."

—William Donlan, vice president and director, Technical Systems and Telecommunications Marketing, Motorola Computer Group



How to Enroll

If you are not yet a member of the RS/6000 Partners in Development, begin by accessing our Web site at www.developer.ibm.com and

follow the instructions for registering online. Check the RS/6000 specialty option on the registration form and complete the non-confidential Business Development Plan. As soon as your application is approved, you'll have access to the many RS/6000 Partners in Development benefits available and can apply for advanced entitlements like AIX READY.

Once you are an RS/6000 member, you can access your RS/6000 Partners in Development Notebook at www.developer.ibm.com/pid_rs6000, select Marketing, then select AIX READY: How to get access. Here you will find the AIX READY Compatibility Checklist and License Agreement to have your product approved for AIX READY. The checklist certifies your compliance with compatibility guidelines for specific versions/releases of your software. The license agreement states that in addition to meeting this criteria, your software performs all functions specified in your product documentation and is running successfully in a customer environment on AIX or has been fully tested in an AIX environment to ensure its compatibility with AIX.

You must certify that your software meets the following requirements:

- ◆ It must only use interfaces (APIs, commands, and data structures) that are published in IBM documentation on AIX.
- ◆ It does not use any AIX features that are defined by IBM documentation on AIX as non-portable.
- ◆ It does not require any specific devices, device drivers, or other specific hardware.
- ◆ It uses shared libraries; therefore, it does not bind static.

- ◆ It is compiled in common mode; therefore, it is not for one specific processor mode.

If the software does not meet the designated criteria, you will be required to perform testing on representative platforms and submit a statement indicating the steps that have been taken to ensure compatibility. Assistance is available to guide you through this process.

Once your application has been approved, you will be able to use the AIX READY compatibility mark. The mark is available for downloading in a variety of formats—PDF, EPS, TIF, GIF, and others. Design guidelines and examples showing how to use the mark are also available.

For More Information

We encourage you to register now! Here's how you can learn more about these offerings:

- ◆ For information on AIX READY, visit the RS/6000 Partners in Development Notebook at www.developer.ibm.com/pid_rs6000 and look under "Marketing."
- ◆ For information on the AIX Multiple Vendor Program, visit the AIX MVP home page at www.developer.ibm.com/mvp.
- ◆ Send E-mail to ibmsdp@us.ibm.com.
- ◆ Call 770-835-9902 worldwide or 800-627-8363 in the U.S. or Canada and ask for the RS/6000 Partners in Development Representative.



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