

Gentle(wo)men, start your servers!

COMMENTARY



If you've been skeptical about network computing as the next productivity leap in computing power and functionality, you can remain ambivalent no longer. Almost daily, new products enter the market that explore the power of this new computing paradigm—Web-based applications written in Java, new networking hardware to make access quicker and easier, rock-solid (yes!) security packages that protect the integrity of transactions across the Internet and even onto the user's desktop—the onrush of new ideas is endless! If you were at the recent IBM Technical Interchange in St. Louis (and if not, why not?), you had the opportunity to see and hear first hand every aspect of the network computing wave—classes to teach fundamentals and nuances, vendors demonstrating their latest products. You could even get connected yourself at the many Domino-powered network stations at the conference.

Within that framework, we've put together an issue packed with networking technology for you to sample. It's technology you can put to work for your customers' and your own productivity. AIX Connections, a feature of AIX that allows seamless interconnection of disparate computing platforms, is one such technology. First covered by *AIXpert* in our November 1995 issue, AIX Connections has some new capabilities of which you will want to take immediate advantage. Two articles in this issue highlight PC security and the new features in release 2. Another networking-based article describes the new IBM Network Station and how it fits easily into an AIX environment.

Interested in setting up a networking environment? Learn from the insights contained in the "Testing Cluster Solutions" article that puts many networking applications through their paces in a clustered-server

environment. A server is worth little if it is not secure, so you'll be happy (though not surprised) to learn that AIX has earned a new European security certificate. Read all about it in "AIX Security Certification."

Our networking issue would not be complete without a Java article, and with "A Cup of Java Code" our cup overflows. Our new CD-ROM format allows us to include this Java tutorial article complete with the entire Java sample code that supports the article. Cut, paste, and work right along with the author to learn the ins and outs of Java.

Other interesting articles round out this issue, plus the popular "AIX Questions" feature. Be sure to check out all of the articles for information that you can apply to your situation.

While we're talking about networking, come visit us in our other incarnation. We've just revamped the Web site with a new high-tech look and more efficient navigational paths—the IBM Solution Developer Program Web site at <http://www.developer.ibm.com/>. See you there!

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