

What people are talking about

This Bloggers corner provides an overview of some of topics that are written about in the wider LANSAs and IT community, including Blogs, Twitter and LinkedIn discussions.

Maxed Out

By Chris Maxcer from System iNetwork
IBM i First: Japan's IBM BPs and Vendors Rise Up

There's been some interesting action brewing over in Japan – a group of 71 IBM Business Partners and ISVs have joined forces to promote and actively provide valuable solutions for IBM i, which the group says is "the miracle in computer history". The darker backstory, though, is that because IBM is now focusing on marketing software and services, the promotion of IBM's hardware-based solutions gets mostly ignored. And what gets ignored all too often?... IBM i.

To combat the problem, the partner community in Japan banded together to launch the IBM i Manifest initiative for the Japanese market. In an email note, Gordon Davies, vice president of Asia-Pacific for LANSAs, alerted me to the effort. The initiative has three basic goals:

- to revitalize the IBM i market in Japan and increase the customer installed base
- to assure IBM i customer organizations, resellers and ISVs selling IBM i solutions that IBM i will not only survive, but more importantly, continue to prosper
- to inform the wider IT community of the unique value proposition of IBM i

The group has created a joint declaration, the "IBM i Manifest", and to put their money where their mouth is, so to speak, they reportedly published a full page ad in the Nikkei newspaper, which would have cost somewhere around \$100,000 in U.S. dollars.

Continued at: http://blogs.systeminetwork.com/isnblogs/maxedout/2009/06/ibm_i_first_japans_ibm_bps_and.html

For more information on the IBM i Manifest initiative visit: www.iforum.ne.jp and click on IBM i Manifest – Joint Declaration by 71 IBM i Partners in Japan (English translation of the iManifest Declaration), to see the passion and the determination behind this initiative.

Also view the list of 71 members (including LANSAs Japan) by clicking on IBM i Manifest – List of Members.

LANSATalk

by Thom Davidson from Rippe & Kingston
LANSAs & Cloud Computing

There is no doubt that LANSAs plays in the clouds and not the types with ice particles suspended in the atmosphere. It is my opinion that LANSAs could dramatically expand their offering via the Cloud.

I define Cloud Computing as follows: Cloud computing is a general concept that incorporates software as a service (SaaS), Web 2.0 and other recent, well-known technology trends, in which the common theme is reliance on the Internet for satisfying the computing needs of the users.

The general structure of Cloud Computing can be broken up into four quadrants:

Software as a Service (SaaS) – Special-purpose software made available by a third party over the Internet, with a usage-based pricing model. Some call it "application as a service." A couple of examples are Salesforce.com and Zoho.

LANSAs Role: A number of LANSAs partners as well as LANSAs themselves offer solutions using SaaS, including:

- ISYNC for synchronizing product information across trading partners
- Contract Guardian for managing contracts (www.contractguardian.com)
- Preceda People an HR/payroll system (www.neller.com.au)
- P5 Health Plan Solutions (www.p5ehs.com)
- Any IBM Power i (AS/400, iSeries & System i) solution can be delivered it in a SaaS paradigm using RAMP

Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) – A service that provides the core computing resources and network fabric for cloud deployment. Rather than purchasing servers, software, data center space or network equipment, clients instead buy those resources as a fully outsourced service. Examples include Amazon's Elastic Compute Cloud, Rackspace Ghosting's Mosso service.

LANSAs Role: I do not anticipate LANSAs driving in this direction. However, don't be surprised if they will extend or add new partnerships to deliver this service.

Platform as a Service (PaaS) – An integrated software environment for which systems administrators and developers can build, test and deploy custom applications. The Google Apps Engine is a perfect illustration.

LANSAs Role: When the true Web 2.0 is available to the masses... I believe we will see the complete development and system administration of LANSAs applications delivered as a PaaS.

In fact, I would submit that LANSAs is already doing it! In LANSAs's eLearning (<https://elearning.lansa.com>) they are delivering a personal Virtual PC Environment with LANSAs Product Suite already pre-configured and setup. It is like working on an independent workstation where you can maintain your own programs. Imagine: no more bothersome installations and upgrades.

Core Cloud Services – Stand-alone components built on cloud platforms that can be woven into cloud applications, such as billing, systems management and storage. Amazon's S3 and Microsoft BizTalk Services are cases in point.

LANSAs Role: LANSAs Composer delivers code-free Business Process Integration. Today it satisfies four key requirements of a business process integration solution:

- **Transport** – moving data between source and target
- **Transformation** – mapping data between many different formats
- **Process Orchestration** – sequential and conditional execution of process flows
- **Administration** – auditing, error-handling, logging, security and system operations

Now imagine this being offered as a Core Cloud Service. On the enterprise side it opens up some possibilities for easily connecting users across organizations taking advantage of the Internet, without having to invest in complex network infrastructure to securely connect the networks.

In Conclusion: What will LANSAs in the Clouds mean to me? The primary benefits are easy/fast to deploy, pay for only what you use and reduced in-house infrastructure costs. Most customers will require competitive pricing, service level agreements, as well as the ability to move the cloud offering back on-premise. All of us in the LANSAs community would benefit from a quick and dramatic growth in the adoption of the technology we know and love. LANSAs and Cloud Computing is a marriage Made in Heaven!

Full article available at: http://www.rippes.com/Resource_Library_Documents/LANSAs_Cloud_Computing.pdf ■