

## Announcing: LANSA Open for .NET Version 3 brings LANSA's Repository into Visual Studio

LANSA Open for .NET gives Microsoft .NET Framework developers easy, secure access to data and information on IBM i servers via the LANSAs Repository. With the announcement of LANSAs Open for .NET Version 3, LANSAs brings even more of the power, security and performance of its Repository into Microsoft Visual Studio.

Now .NET developers have access to DB2 databases and business rules from their Visual Studio development environment, as well as being able to access other IBM i server objects. This allows them to write code to inspect spooled files, issue operating system commands and start programs.

LANSA Open for .NET ships with an industry standard class library and includes ready-to-run samples in C#.NET and VB.NET. The product does not require additional LANSAs software to be installed on the .NET client system. It is easy to use and implement, and, for .NET developers, no knowledge of the IBM i, DB2 or LANSAs is required.

### What Does it Include?

The new release includes a Repository Explorer and a Data Model Editor so .NET developers can connect to a LANSAs Repository on an IBM i server and inspect the objects defined in the LANSAs Repository. For

example, they can view and edit the content of tables in a DB2 database.

From the Visual Studio IDE, .NET developers construct a data model for their application from DB2 tables defined in the LANSAs Repository. They construct the model by dragging objects from the Repository Explorer to the Data Model Editor. Saving the data model generates the .NET classes and methods that will access the table on the IBM i server from the .NET application

The C# code to access an employee table would be as simple as creating a LANSAs data context and retrieving the employee details:

```
// Create a LANSAs data context
DataContext context = new
DataContext(true);
// Retrieve all fields of an
employee with key field EmpNo =
"A0070"
var employee = context.Employees.
RetrieveItem("A0070");
```

An IBM i or LANSAs administrator can also create data models for use by the .NET developers. There is a standalone version of the Repository Explorer and Data Model Editor (not integrated into Visual Studio) for use by IBM i developers or administrators who do not use Visual Studio.

### Is it for LANSAs Shops Only?

Any DB2 file on the IBM i can be made known to the LANSAs Repository. The process does not involve data duplication. Once files are made known to the LANSAs Repository, business rules, validations, error messages and other attributes can be defined. These additional rules can then be enforced across all applications that access the DB2 files through the repository, including C#.NET programs that use LANSAs Open for NET.

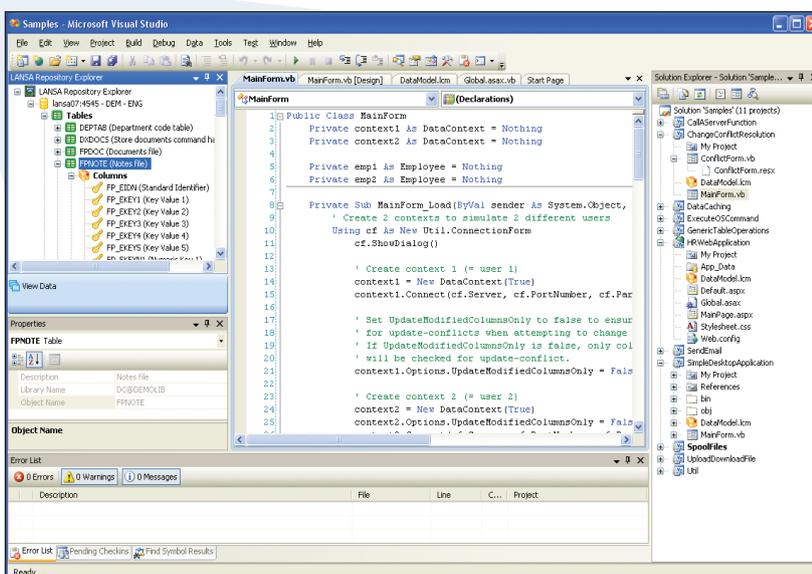
Of course, LANSAs shops would have the benefit of already having defined their business rules in the repository, while most RPG and COBOL shops will have the rules embedded in their program code. (By the way, LANSAs also has a facility to make the repository rules available to RPG and COBOL developers, so they can start to centralize the business rules, rather than duplicating them in numerous programs.)

### What are the Benefits?

The .NET applications (written with C# or Visual Basic) can use the validations, calculations and other business rules defined in the LANSAs Repository. No extra effort is required from the .NET developers. They do not need to duplicate any of the business rules in their .NET applications and the rules will still be applied. Multilingual text (such as field labels, headings and help text) defined in the LANSAs Repository are also available for reuse by .NET applications.

Not having to duplicate the business rules in the .NET applications will increase development productivity, and drastically reduce coding errors and maintenance effort.

The .NET developers also have access to IBM i server objects. They can write code to inspect spooled files, issue operating system commands and start programs. Data queues on the IBM i provide a messaging service for program-to-program communication. With LANSAs Open for .NET Version 3, .NET developers can write programs to use the same messaging services. A program running on the IBM i server and a .NET program can work collaboratively to meet a business requirement by sending messages to each other via data queues. ■



From the Visual Studio IDE, .NET developers can drag objects from the LANSAs Repository Explorer to the Data Model Editor.