

eComStation

ROADMAP

April 5, 2004

eComStation Roadmap

eComStation users have been requesting information regarding eComStation direction. This Roadmap describes what users can expect in the immediate future and what the plans are a bit further down the road. There is a great deal going on which eComStation users should find very exciting.

Where we came from:

The first release of eComStation, version 1.0, was eagerly awaited by the IBM OS/2 user base. The product included the base IBM OS/2 product platform with updates to the User Interface and a new installation program, intended to simplify the process for new users. It also included basic applications and updated utilities desired by many users, including a superior "dialer" providing connection to the Internet, and two complete office suites, including IBM Lotus Smart Suite.

The overall objective was to create an attractive, updated and current desktop client providing the great benefits of OS/2; superior multitasking, DOS and Windows 3.1 application support, a powerful operating system which had a small, responsive, hardware footprint, and so on.

eComStation 1.0 was an excellent start and allowed Serenity Systems to better understand the issues facing users. In response to user feedback, the 1.1 release saw the splitting of applications and the base OS platform into two different products; eComStation Application Pack 1.1 and eComStation Entry 1.1.

Work continued with significant updates to the installation program, a joint project between IBM and Serenity Systems International which provided the ability to boot from CD, create response files to manage the installation process using IBM CID technology, tweaking the boot process to permit installation on many systems with diverse requirements.

The product enhancements included significant updates to the functionality of the desktop User Interface, as well as updated utilities, browsers, and drivers. The result was a better looking eComStation which was easier to install on today's hardware, and updated features suitable to the computing needs of Internet oriented users.

This year Serenity Systems International, through eComStation, will continue the trend begun in 2000. Delivering an updated, current, OS/2 based client, with superior value and at a low cost to the user. In addition to these eComStation product updates, there are other significant product announcements which will effect the usability of eComStation and be of interest to OS/2, Windows, Linux, and FreeBSD users. And there will be additional National Language Support including French, Spanish, and Italian.

Here are some of the planned enhancements for eComStation 1.2, planned to GA in 2Q04:

- **Updated Web Browser:** providing the current version of proven Mozilla technology, including the IBM Web Browser, provides the users with a pleasing Internet experience. This support includes an e-mail and news reader with spam filter.
- **InnoTek Web Pack for OS/2:** the best support available for users of the IBM Web Browser and Mozilla/Firefox
 - The InnoTek OS/2 Kit for Java** provides OS/2 support for the most recent Java technologies from Sun Microsystems.
 - The InnoTek Font Engine**, enabling state-of-the-art technologies like anti-aliasing, sub pixel rendering and hinting within the browser environment.
 - The InnoTek Macromedia Flash Player for OS/2**
 - The InnoTek OS/2 Kit for Adobe Acrobat reader 5.1**, enables the widely spread cross-platform PDF document format on OS/2. A browser plugin is included.
- **Updates to the eWorkPlace User Interface:** This feature, derived from the award winning XWorkPlace, was first introduced in eComStation 1.1 and has been refined and updated in 1.2.
- **New AE Editor:** Users will appreciate the look and feel of this modern system editor which includes improved functionality over the prior editor, such as the ability to directly print from the editor, new in 1.2.
- **NTFS.IFS Support:** The ability to read the Windows 2000 and XP drives using NTFS, updated in 1.2.
- **Updated MiniLVM:** Improves the usability of the IBM Logical Volume Manager (LVM) by providing an easier user interface to the integrated volume management function, updated in 1.2.
- **Improved support for laptops:** The system kernel has been updated to the latest release, supporting Speedstep (r) and Enhanced Speedstep (r) power saving options (Intel Centrino (r) technology) for improved battery life. New in 1.2
- **Improved device support:** A host of new drivers is included, offering out-of-the box support for wireless network cards, gigabit network cards and SATA IDE-harddisk drives. New in 1.2
- **Escape GL screen saver:** State of the art OpenGL screen savers which improve the attractiveness of the system use, overall. New in 1.2.
- **Updated MultiMedia Installer:** One of the big changes in 1.2, better multimedia support and improved installation. Now install directly at the moment you install your other hardware. Updated in 1.2
- **Updated Zampa firewall configuration utility:** In recognition of today's hazardous network environment, a world of viruses, worms, and denial of service attacks, eComStation provided a firewall feature in all its releases. The Zampa utility makes properly configuring the firewall a simple matter for all users. Now, every eComStation user who requires a firewall function can implement this feature. Updated in 1.2
- **New TCPIP.CFG tuning features:** In addition to the Zampa firewall configuration utility, there are some new defaults enabled for the TCP/IP stack of eComStation. These preconfigured defaults provide eComStation 1.2 users with out of the box protection for abuses of the Internet protocol. Updated in 1.2.
- **Enhanced maintenance console:** This allows users to perform routine system maintenance by booting from the installation CD. Features include full system access including NTFS and FAT32 volumes, network access and the ability to perform

backups. New in 1.2.

- **HOBLink X/11 Server for OS/2 will be reintroduced into the Entry product**, enabling remote access to X/11 applications on any xServer accessible on the network. The Applications appear as normal desktop applications. New in 1.2 Entry.
- **Included CD writing application:** A (speed) limited version of the award winning CD recording application RSJ is included, enabling the user to create CD's without any extra software requirements. Supports any current CD-recorder device. New in 1.2

IMPORTANT NEWS!

In addition to the updates to eComStation itself, this spring (2Q04) eComStation users will benefit from the addition of two significant applications and a software subscription option:

OpenOffice.org for eComStation and OS/2: In a joint program with InnoTek, a well known Independent Software Vendor, Serenity Systems International has packaged **OpenOffice.org 1.1.1** with software which allows this application to run on eComStation and OS/2.

This will allow eComStation and OS/2 users to participate in a world class office suite which supports Windows and Linux platforms, providing access to functionality, data, and document interchange which was not previously available to OS/2 and eComStation users.

This product will be made available as part of the eComStation Application Pack 1.2 bundle and is available separately. When Application Pack 1.2 becomes available for sale, OpenOffice.org/2 users will have a window of sixty days when special pricing will be available as an upgrade path from OpenOffice.org/2 to eComStation Application Pack 1.2.

And Application Pack 1.2 may be available to both OS/2 and eComStation users!

Serenity Virtual Station (SVISTA): SVISTA is a new virtual machine application which will support OS/2, Linux, FreeBSD, and Windows as host platforms, with support for OS/2, Windows, and Linux to run in guest containers. So, eComStation users with requirements which can only be supported with another operating system will be able to host that operating system on their eComStation desktop. The OS/2 host version of SVISTA will be added to eComStation Application Pack 1.2, as well as being available separately.

Software Subscription Services : Many users have been requesting a return to the highly successful software subscription model which was available with eComStation 1.0, allowing users early access to new features. Users of Entry 1.2 and Application Pack 1.2 will have the options of purchasing a software subscription for their products. The subscription would cover a period of 12 months. During that period, they will be provided with access to any feature updates made available for these products.

Additional National Language Version (NLV) Support: With the release of eComStation 1.2, plans call for expanding the national languages supported, extending the usefulness of eComStation. eComStation 1.2 is expected to provide the following NLV support:

Group One: International English, German, and Russian

Group Two: Dutch, French
Group Three: Spanish, Italian

Groups One and Two are expected to be released in 2Q04 and Group 3 is scheduled for 3Q04.

Farther down the road:

By the end of 2004, plans call for a significant new release of eComStation. These new features will include:

Further improved installation and migration options: installation will be based on a more modular setup, enabling easier update of certain system parts, via CD, Intra- or Internet. The migration of previous installations will be further improved to ease the burden of upgrading an existing installed system.

Improved harddisk management: this release will incorporate features to resize existing harddisk volumes to create room for the installation of eComStation alongside existing operating systems. This will be available during the installation process, as well as afterwards.

Support for Bootable JFS: JFS offers clear advantages in system- performance as well as recovery times and stability. The new eComStation will offer the option to boot from such volumes, thus enabling the whole setup to profit from this modern file system.

Support for multi-user desktops: this feature will enable one computer- system to be used by more than one individual (non-concurrently) providing each with his or her own desktop, files and settings. Obviously enabling this will be optional.

Support for Samba: built-in for accessing Samba network resources on either Windows or Linux file servers further improves the integration of eComStation in existing networks, including NAS devices.

Samba Server support: enables the utilization of your eComStation machine as a (cost-efficient) file-server for your SOHO network.

Obviously more features and enhancements will be included, updated or integrated. The above list is not conclusive and subject to change, it is meant as an indication of the direction we are taking eComStation.

We are confident that we are taking eComStation to a level where the platform will offer a viable business desktop in many cases, as proven by the recent release of the 'de facto' OpenOffice.org office suite, bringing compatibility with Microsoft Office products to the eComStation desktop. By means of the latest Mozilla and Java releases, eComStation stays current with modern web browser technologies and applications.

With its unique WorkPlaceShell features, eComStation is still unsurpassed in ease of use, performance and productivity and new developments will continue to leverage these capabilities. Strong file sharing, peer services, TCP/IP connection support and other network support make eComStation a great value for connected users. And today, that's everyone!

eComStation is an Internet enabled platform for business desktop computing