

Cordys' Application Platform Suite Makes Intriguing Entrance

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Cordys has launched a new application platform suite (APS). This Web services platform should appeal to firms seeking unified deployment of event-driven and service-oriented business architectures.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Event

On 15 September 2004, Cordys announced global availability of Business Collaboration Platform, a new Web services APS to facilitate "business collaboration among people, systems and organizations." The core architecture uses Extensible Markup Language (XML). Jan Baan, founder of Baan, is CEO of Cordys and the principal investor in the company.

Analysis

Cordys enters the APS market with unique advantages for a start-up. Baan, an industry visionary, brings to the company substantial financial resources and a large group of talented, experienced and loyal software engineers and marketers. Given Baan's prominence, Cordys will immediately gain the attention of the software industry, as well as firms that are considering Web services application platforms.

Cordys' Business Collaboration Platform enables composite and other interactive applications. Unlike most other APS vendors, Cordys' platform is not an assembly of previous technologies. Instead, Cordys designed it from the ground up as an integrated, event-driven and service-oriented platform. It uses the XML schema definition (XSD) tool to define event descriptors and Web Service Definition Language (WSDL) to define service interfaces. By equally supporting event-driven and service-oriented design, Cordys attains a visionary position with the two business component architectures, Gartner believes.

Despite the strength in vision and design of this product, and Baan's involvement, Cordys faces challenges:

- Headquartered in the Netherlands, Cordys must penetrate the rich North American market — often a difficult achievement for a European company.
- It faces strong competition from such software giants as BEA Systems, IBM, Microsoft, Oracle and SAP, which all offer established APS products.
- Although the technology has had two years of research and development and one year of field operation, it must still be adopted by mainstream businesses and proven to be stable, scalable and extensible.

Recommendations:

- Businesses seeking unified deployment of event-driven and service-oriented business component architectures should consider Cordys' Business Collaboration Platform.
- Mainstream businesses should consider this technology unproven and judge Cordys' progress by its ability to attract partners, help define and advance new industry standards, win notable accounts and extend its geographic presence.

Analytical Sources: Yefim Natis and Massimo Pezzini, Gartner Research

Recommended Reading and Related Research

- "Application Platform Suites: Vendors in the Magic Quadrant" — Since impact, specialization, scope and competence differ among vendors, ascertain their objectives before choosing an APS. **By Yefim Natis and others**

- "Magic Quadrant for Application Platform Suites, 2Q04" — APSs appeal to firms seeking a consistent reusable platform for multiple application projects or needing a focused platform for a composite application project. **By Yefim Natis and others**

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