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IBM Says Commitment to i Clients 'Solid and Unchanged'



http://blogs.systeminetwork.com/isnblogs/maxedout/2009/10/ibm_says_commitment_to_i_client.html

In an [open letter](#) to IBM i customers, Ross Mauri, general manager of IBM Power Systems, highlights IBM's next major release of IBM i, plus notes that 100 percent of today's IBM i sales are on the new POWER6 platform. "Our IBM i clients not only run on the industry's fastest processors, but can also look forward with confidence as we prepare to deliver POWER7 processor-based systems in 2010," Mauri says.

I covered some of the new highlights in last week's [announcement post](#), but Mauri's team does a good job of nailing down the core elements IBM is sharing now. We can look forward to:

- Enhanced DB2 with native support for XML, enabling clients to store and search XML documents, and encryption of a column in a database table to further protect sensitive information
- PowerHA support for asynchronous replication, providing a disk clustering-based disaster recovery solution
- Further exploitation of solid state disk (SSD) technology to automatically move the most frequently accessed data to SSDs for higher application performance
- IBM Rational product enhancements to RPG-enable programs simply to work with a broad range of client applications, including web services, mobile devices and XML.
- Additional IBM Systems Director Navigator web-based management tasks, such as performance and system monitors
- Integration of IBM i with IBM BladeCenter® and IBM System x® via iSCSI technology to support faster, software-based connections between IBM i and x86-based systems at lower cost
- Support for transformation of saved spool files to PDF files

"With our clearly defined roadmaps for POWER processors and the IBM i operating environment, IBM's commitment to our i clients is solid and unchanged. We are making substantial investments in the future of i as an important, strategic element in the IBM product portfolio. Thank you for your business and your confidence in the future of one of the world's most durable and productive platforms for business," Mauri writes.

COMMON Chimes In

Mauri also noted that the new features reflect the customer requirements expressed by COMMON, COMMON Europe, ISVs, and the Large User Group.

"The continued investment in IBM i reflects IBM's commitment to the technology as well as their willingness to collaborate with advisory councils to meet users' requirements," notes Wayne Madden, COMMON president.

Gotta wonder . . . will the fledgling [iManifest](#) efforts pan out -- or are they already?