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IBM Breaks Barriers Between Linux and UNIX With AIX 5L

AIX 5L Operating System Delivers Premier UNIX Environment for Building and Managing Linux Applications

ARMONK, N.Y. - April 23, 2001 - IBM today announced AIX 5L (tm), the next generation in UNIX (R) operating systems. Specifically tuned for Linux (tm) applications, AIX 5L provides the industry's premier environment for building and managing both UNIX and Linux applications, providing a substantial advantage over fully-closed, proprietary systems.

AIX 5L boasts powerful new features, designed to enable customers to safely and rapidly grow their infrastructure with enhanced automated management tools and concurrent operation of 32- and 64-bit applications.

"AIX 5L builds on the solid foundation set by AIX to address customers' demands for more open computing solutions including multi-platform support and the ability to run Linux applications in a safe, high performance environment," said Tony Iams, vice president, Systems Software, DH Brown. "With AIX 5L, IBM has the opportunity to establish AIX as the first choice for companies evaluating Linux applications for use in enterprise environments."

With this release, AIX gains APIs (application programming interface) and header files that allow popular Linux applications to run on AIX with a simple recompilation. Because the applications are running on AIX, customers are able to combine the flexibility of Linux with the advanced scalability, security, and systems management inherent in AIX. Also available with AIX 5L is the AIX Toolbox for Linux Applications. The toolbox is a collection of over 200 open source tools and applications, which together provide the development environment of choice for many Linux developers.

"AIX 5L allows customers to run the software they want on the server they want without sacrificing an ounce of scalability, manageability or performance," said Rod Adkins, general manager, pSeries, IBM eServer. "Our competitors have been doing a lot of talking about future Linux compatibility and support for the latest platform solutions, but AIX is actually delivering."

Also with this release, AIX strengthens its leadership position in systems management with new tools to automate and simplify monitoring and control of complex systems. New tools built into AIX's sophisticated Workload Manager (WLM) include the addition of an API allowing external applications to modify system behavior. This important feature provides greater flexibility to customers in choosing their management environment. New accounting tools in WLM allow administrators to cost-effectively grow their infrastructure by tracking resource usage. Workload Manager is easily accessible via AIX's web-based system manager, which sports an intuitive, easy-to-use interface.

Great strides have been made in the area of automated systems management with the addition of Reliable Scalable Cluster Technology (RSCT). Harnessing the robust self-management capabilities available in IBM's powerful SP supercomputer systems, RSCT allows monitoring and control of system resources and events either automatically by the system or by an administrator.

AIX 5L operates on all IBM POWER-based UNIX systems including IBM eServer pSeries systems, such as the eServer p620 and eServer p660 announced today.

"As the manager of the master database for all .com, .net, and .org Web addresses and its supporting infrastructure on the Internet, VeriSign counts on IBM technology to assure its registry services growth keeps pace with constantly increasing demand." said Bruce Chovnick, general manager of VeriSign's Global Registry Services division. "Our systems respond to billions of Internet address lookups every day and our registration database systems have scaled 50 fold over the past year. IBM's AIX operating system and pSeries servers provide the massive scalability, manageability, and availability we require."

AIX 5L Feature Summary

- **Linux affinity** - Allows customers to realize a smooth technology transition between two of the industry's most open, standards-based operating environments, AIX and Linux.
- **Increased scalability** - JFS2 File system enables storage of large files of up to four Petabytes. Java (tm) 2 Technology edition provides a cooperative interface between AIX and Java for increased application scalability. AIX 5L offers support for systems with up to 32 processors and 256 GB memory.
- **e-business performance** - Virtual IP Addressing helps applications remain available if network connections are lost. IP multipath routing improves network reliability by providing multiple paths to a destination.
- **System management** - Automated system monitoring and new accounting tools allow customers to collect resource usage statistics to manage costs and control resources.
- **Security** - MIT's Kerberos V5 Authentication helps administrators simplify password authentication.
- **Multi-platform support** - In addition to providing superior application performance for POWER-based systems, AIX's potent 64-bit kernel is designed to fully exploit the speed and processing power of Intel's Itanium architecture. [1]

Planned general availability for AIX 5L Version 5.1 is May 4, 2001. The AIX Toolbox for Linux Applications is available at no cost with AIX on a separate CD or via download over the Web at <http://www.ibm.com/servers/aix/products/aixos/linux>.

About IBM

IBM is the world's number one server company and information technology provider, with 80 years of leadership in helping businesses innovate. IBM helps customers, business partners and developers in a wide range of industries that leverage the power of the Internet for e-business. For more information, visit <http://www.ibm.com>.

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[1] IBM plans to make AIX 5L for Itanium-based Systems generally available as an Early Adopters Release.