eComStation

ROADMAP

March, 2005

This document is intended for informational and planning purposes. It should not be considered a final statement regarding features and technologies to be included in eComStation. It is likely that additional features, updates, and utilities will be added to eComStation over the course of 2005, and beyond.

eComStation Roadmap

In August of 2004, Serenity Systems International released eComStation 1.2, a significant product update with many new and expanded features. This Roadmap reviews the current status of eComStation and outlines the plan for delivery of new features. These new features represent significant activity, improving the usability of the product and extending the support for eComStation on current PC hardware. We believe users will find this information nothing short of exciting news. Users should consider this information for planning purposes, only.

Planned enhancements:

- Support of installation on systems running on 64 bit AMD processors.
- Possibility to shrink already installed operating systems on the harddrive to make room for a 'dual boot' installation of eComStation.
- Optionally install the system on a drive using the high-performance journalling filesystem.
- Optionally install support for multi-user environments. This enables one workstation to be (non-concurrently) shared between several users, each with their own desktop settings and files.
- Improved cooperation with Linux and Windows networks.
- Includes the very popular Firefox webbrowser, Thunderbird emailclient and NVU html editor. Firefox is gaining popularity quickly and is a very fast and capable webbrowser based on Mozilla.

> *"Beware of spyware. If you can, use the Firefox browser." - USA Today*
> *"Better than Internet Explorer by leaps and bounds." - FORBES*

eComStation is virtually insensitive to Viri, Spyware and Adware. Also, the built-in fireall will provide security for unautharized systemaccess over the Internet.

These features will be described in more detail in the sections below.

In 2000, Serenity Systems International concluded an agreement which resulted in the development and publication of eComStation, a complete desktop client system, including the IBM OS/2 as operating system. A new installation program and an updated user interface were included, simplifying the process for new users and giving the product an updated, current, look and feel. User's purchasing eComStation received basic applications which addressed the needs of the desktop user. These included a superior "dialer" providing connection to the Internet, two complete office suites, including IBM Lotus Smart Suite, HOBLink X-11 Server, and many utilities to enhance the usability of the product.

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 also allowed Serenity Systems International to better understand the issues and requirements facing users. Some users indicated they already had the applications they required, but wanted to update the base operating system. Therefore, eComStation 1.1 split the product into two components; eComStation Entry, or simply eComStation, the base OS component with many updates and utilities, and the Application Pack, which featured the major applications. These provided users with flexibility in making their software purchase.

Release 1.1 also saw a significant redesign of the installation program through a joint project between IBM and Serenity Systems International. The new design provided the ability to boot from CD, create response files to manage the installation process using IBM CID (Configuration, Installation, Distribution) technology. This resulted in a boot process which supported 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.

Enhancements part of eComStation 1.2

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 Windows 2000 and XP formatted drives using NTFS, updated in 1.2.

Updated Installation Volume Manager: 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: better multimedia support and improved installation. Now install directly at the moment you install your other hardware. Updated in 1.2

New TCPIP.CFG tuning features: 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: Now part of the base eComStation product, enables remote access to X/11 applications on any xServer accessible on the network. The Applications appear as normal desktop applications. New in 1.2.

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

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. Currently version 1.1.4 is available.

This allows 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 is part of the eComStation Application Pack 1.2 bundle and is also available separately).

Serenity Virtual Station (**SVISTA**): SVISTA is a virtual machine application which supports 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 are able to host that operating system on their eComStation desktop. (The OS/2 host version of SVISTA is part of eComStation Application Pack 1.2, and is available separately).

Application Pack 1.2: Contains SVISTA for eComStation and OS/2, OpenOffice.org 1.1.1 for eComStation and OS/2 as well as Lotus SmartSuite 1.7.3 for OS/2.
        Application Pack 1.2 is available to both OS/2 and eComStation users!

Software Subscription Services : Users of Entry 1.2 and Application Pack 1.2 have the options of purchasing a software subscription for their products. The subscription covers a period of 12 months. During that period, they will be provided with access to any feature updates made available for these products. This early access is being provided through a new download area of the eComStation web site, the BetaZone.

MuliProcessor Pack: For people who desire to use the power of multi-processor workstations, the eComStation 1.2 Multi Processor Pack is made available. This is the only economical way customers can purchase an IBM developed and supported symmetrical multiprocessor feature for Intel and Intel compatible hardware.

While generally used on machines with two to four processors, this feature has been tested on machines with 16 (sixteen) processors and was designed, but not tested, to support up to 64.

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 right now available in:
- International English, German, Russian and Dutch.
- Italian, French, Spanish and Portugese are planned for release Q2 2005.

Media refresh: a media refresh will be released containing the latest drivers, updates to applications and support for installation on AMD Athlon 64 based systems.

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.

An exciting new release of eComStation planned by the end of 2005. It will feature (subject to change):

Support for ACPI: the ability to support ACPI is becoming more and more important in order to take advantage of new power management capabilities, or even to support the operating system on newer hardware. Therefore, support for this technology will be an important feature in the new version of eComStation will be important to many users.

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. This is especially interesting for users that want to keep using their preloaded operating system, but like to have the ability to run eComStation alongside.

Support for Bootable JFS: JFS offers advantages in system performance as well as recovery times and stability. The new eComStation will offer the option to boot from such volumes, enabling all data and programs to benefit 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. Enabling this feature 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.

LDAP support: enables you to authenticate your eComStation workstation against a Windows 2003 Active Directory server, as well as Novell or Linux networks.

Firewall configuration: a new configuration utility for the eComStation firewall will be provided. The built-in firewall is very efficient and its power will be unleashed by a simple to use yet powerful configuration tool.

TCPIP applications: a number of the existing TCPIP applications will be replaced with more modern counterparts, for example an updated DHCP client.

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

Reseller support:

- Reseller day: We intend to improve the relationship of Serenity Systems International, Mensys 'BV and their resellers and distributors. The first visible action of this effort will be the 'Reseller Day' - this day is mainly intended to figure out the questions resellers, consultants and integrators are faced with.
- White papers will be made available, to support their sales efforts.
- We will target system-integrators and consultants with a dedicated mailinglist and direct support whenever possible.

Web support:

- Ticketing: the support structure of eComStation will be improved, the new email-ticketing system allows for a better and more standardized support-flow.
- FAQ: the FAQ engine has been improved and now lists popular items directly on the support page of the website.
- The eComStation newsserver now provides a web-frontend for easy access and supports RSS feeds for integration in other websites.

BetaZone:

The eComStation BetaZone has been launched as a means of releasing new features and components for future releases of eComStation. Certain components are only accessible to those who purchased Software Subscription Services. Access is provided through the customer area of www.ecomstation.com

eComStation DemoCD:

We will be releasing a Demo CD that supports running eComStation entirely from CD without touching the users' harddrives. It will be distributed via the Internet as a downloadable ISO image. Users have long been asking for this capability so they can acquaint other users and colleagues with eComStation.

Developers Workshop 2005:

The OS/2 and eComStation Developers Workshop 2005 will be held on the weekend of 09. and 10. July 2005 in Dresden, Germany.
The workshop is targeted at developers that create software and drivers for OS/2 or eComStation. If you are developing software for OS/2 or eComStation and want to participate in the workshop, please visit the workshop homepage at:
http://wiki.netlabs.org/index.php/Developers_Workshop_2005
This site will contain information about the workshop program, facilities, accommodation and travel.

Although this is not a Serenity Systems International event, we welcome and support this effort by the community.

Conclusion

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 release of the immensely popular, cross-platform, OpenOffice.org office suite, bringing compatibility with Microsoft Office products to the eComStation desktop. By including the latest versions of Firefox, Thunderbird 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