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a weekly show

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TRANSCRIPT

Cut #23: Special Lotusphere 2007 Edition

Jennifer Clemente with Alan Lapofsky

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CLEMENTE: Welcome to a special Lotusphere edition of [ShortCuts](#), a weekly online broadcast brought to you by IBM Lotus. This week we're reporting from the show in Orlando, Florida, where over 5,000 Lotus developers and users have gathered to check out what's new from the world of enterprise social software.

I'm joined by long time ShortCuts expert Alan Lapofsky to get a quick rundown on what's new at Lotusphere this year.

LAPOFSKY: Hi, Jennifer. On top of the incredible excitement around the Notes and Domino 8 release – you know, one that's been much anticipated for the last few years we're also introducing new products.

I'll start with Notes 8, Domino, just to give you a quick overview of those for a minute, though. From a user standpoint, this is the release where we really, you know, evolved and modified and modernized the user interface.

They're getting, you know, a brand new in some way Lotus Notes that does all the things they've wanted it to do for years, making it much easier to access their e mail and calendars and share information and have a whole new breed of applications that can be built for Notes with this new...

...you know, we're calling it a composite application model where Notes applications are no longer just Notes applications; they can to almost anything. We've really opened up the possibilities for developers to build some really cool things.

Users are going to be able to recall e mail messages, you know, little things like that that they've wanted to do for

years; we've put a lot of changes into both the front end of Notes and the back end of Domino. So I hope, you know, all our listeners can read more about that on our Web sites.

Along with that of course we have announcements, you know, new things coming with Sametime, and portal, and forms, and many other products they know. But I want to take a few minutes to talk about the exciting new things that we've announced.

So Monday morning Mike announced two new editions to the Lotus portfolio, and those are called Lotus Connections and Lotus Quicker. And Lotus Connections is an integrated series of products that we're sort of bundling under the term social software for the business.

And what that means is really, you know, many of our listeners are probably accustomed to some of the consumer Web sites out there that in 2006 got a lot of attention, things like MySpace, and SpaceBook, and these other type of sites where people get together and they talk about topics they have in common...

And you know, on the Web, it's things like what music they listen to and bands they like, or you know, what TV shows they like.

Well, we're taking the excitement of that social software and bringing it into the business world. So inside a corporation, people are going to be able to find out [or file] information of, you know, who the experts in their company are.

They're going to be able to share links to Web sites that they visit so that, you know, they can take the knowledge that they gather and share that with other people.

We're introducing something called Activities, which is a whole sort of new metaphor for the way that users will be able to interact and work. It's sort of more project based than, you know, which software package am I using.

So instead of being in your e mail or being in your word processor, instead, this is going to allow you to work on a project that you're working on and associate all those documents: e mails or instant messages or presentations or spreadsheets, no matter what it is they'll be able to combine them into one project folder and really get things done.

On the second front is Lotus Quicker, and Lotus Quicker is really our document sharing solution. So it really enables people to drag and drop files from their desktops to shared repositories or take attachments out of e mail and put them into places where multiple people can access them.

They'll be able to access these documents from wherever they are, whether they're in their instant messaging client or whether they're in their e mail package or whether they're on a Web site, you know, whatever connection point into those documents, it doesn't matter; you're going to be able to access that shared information through Lotus Quicker.

CLEMENTE: How is my day going to be different with all of these new products?

LAPOFSKY: So 2007 with the Lotus Notes 8 client, a user's going to come in, they're going to fire it up on their desktop whether it's, you know, on Windows, or Mac, or Linux, whatever they're using, you know, we're going to support cross platforms.

And within the boundaries of that Lotus Notes client, they're going to be able to access not just their e mail or calendar but also their instant massaging, also their documents, their spreadsheets, their word processors. Lotus is integrating all of those office suite sort of tools into that one Lotus Notes client.

You're also going to be able to access those things that I mentioned earlier, your activities that really store the places that you work.

You're going to be able to access the common document repositories where you're saving your files. You know, a very integrated environment all in one very user friendly, intuitive interface. It's really going to simplify I think the way people use their computers.

CLEMENTE: Now, you took me through sort of the day of a Notes user. So what about extending into sort of team projects? Like, you know, I've got a team that's distributed over a large geographic area. And we're working on a project together, so what's going to happen to me as a Lotus user in 2007? How... are all these tools going to make my life easier?

LAPOFSKY: So one of the main things around making teams work together are...[new] the Lotus Connection and the Lotus Quicker capabilities that we're going to deliver. So things like the activity based computing in Lotus Connections.

Activities are really going to be central storage places that you can assign for your teammates. You know, it doesn't matter what geography they're working in or what time zones they're in. It's sort of a central storehouse for all the information that's going on in that project.

And the document sharing capabilities from Lotus Quicker is going to allow people to, you know, edit projects together, you can have revisions and histories, people are going to be able to combine updates and share documents. You no longer, you know, have to rely on, you know, e mailing a file around and waiting to see, you know, one person's comments and then the other. This is going to be a much more truly collaborative experience.

Especially built in with that ability to find the experts inside your company I think being able to add people to a project that you might not have even, you know, have known in the past or maybe may not be a member of your direct team, but inside your company they're the right person to ask those questions to. That's what our software is going to help you do.

So one of the components that we're adding in Lotus Connections is this thing called Profiles. And what Profiles do is allow people to search for people inside their organization based on a whole bunch of set of criteria, based on what their projects they work on, what expertise they have, you know, where they sit in the organization chart, what geography they work in all sorts of, you know, demographic and information about people will allow you to find them quickly.

So if I might not remember the name of somebody, but you know, I know they worked with this person in this organization, I can easily sort of work my way through the chain and find that person. Or I can, you know, search from their profiles to look for keywords, you know, who did I work with on Lotusphere 2007 last year? Well, I can find that if people have identified that as an area of their expertise.

CLEMENTE: Well, that sounds pretty cool, Alan. It sounds like you're having a lot of fun at the show, and we look forward to hearing more from Lotus in 2007. We'll be back next week with the regular programming. And remember, if you've got a question for Alan Lapofsky or any of our other experts, just write us at cuts@us.ibm.com. Thanks for listening.

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