

WEB SERVICES: Six in Ten European IT Directors are Allocating Significant Resources during 2002 and expect fast ROI

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* European IT Community Predicts Web Services Will Be the Norm by 2005

* 80% of CIOs Look to Developers for Advice on Strategic Investments

High Wycombe, UK, 23 April, 2002 - A recent survey of more than 350 senior IT professionals across Europe* has revealed that web services are set to be significantly more than "hype", with 60% of CIOs allocating IT budget to web service deployment during 2002.

In terms of future predictions, web services remain the hot favourite. Three quarters (74%) of European CIOs believe that by 2005 'web services will be the norm and not a novelty'. Six in ten (59%) are already dedicating resources to web services and almost a third (28%) expect to achieve ROI in 2002 with the remainder providing ROI by 2004 (22%) or later (9%). Also in the popularity stakes are application integration and application development. 72% of senior IT professionals are dedicating resources to solving their integration issues and 63% to development projects, with 40% expecting immediate ROI from these projects in 2002.

"These high results reinforce the growing focus being put on web services by the IT industry," said Alan Banks, managing director, BEA Systems. "Across Europe the survey acknowledges that spending on IT is set to increase and, as we have seen with our own customers, many organisations are now moving towards web services as an integral part of their business strategies. We believe that the adoption of web services by large organisations over the next twelve to eighteen months will be significant."

Increasingly, organisations are looking to their IT developers for advice and input on which systems to deploy - across Europe, 80% of CIOs said their developers have a large role to play in IT strategy and investment.

The main reason for continuing investment in IT projects is not to reduce costs (28%) but to increase customer service (47%). With this in mind, twice as many CIOs across Europe said their IT spending is now on the increase (37%) rather than on the decrease (16%).

And what is keeping European CIOs awake at night? Not surprisingly, security is the 'top of mind' concern

in most countries, particularly the UK, Sweden, Germany, France and Italy, followed by integration and the constant worry of 'keeping up to date'.

Notes to Editors

*The executive summary (attached) contains the full range of statistics and a tabulated version of the total survey is available on request. BEA spokespeople are available to discuss the results of the survey and its implications. Please contact the Weber Group for further information and interview requests. SWR Worldwide conducted this survey of 353 Chief Information Officers and Information Technology Directors in Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden and the UK. Interviews were conducted in February/March 2002.

About BEA

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