

# MERIT PROJECT LAUNCHES COMPREHENSIVE E-BUSINESS AND INTER-BUSINESS SURVEY AT interBIZ WORLD 99

Submitted by: Spreckley Partners

Tuesday, 14 September 1999

---

Survey Seeks to Uncover Issues

Related to Conducting Business Electronically

Expanding its knowledge base of enterprise management issues affecting organisations worldwide, The MERIT Project ([www.meritproject.com](http://www.meritproject.com)) conducted a comprehensive survey at interBiz World 99 focused on management issues concerning electronic commerce. The survey will be followed by the creation of a MERIT subcommittee to study e-business and inter-business requirements.

MERIT (Maximising the Efficiency of Resources in Information Technology) is a globally supported initiative that brings together clients, business partners and value-added resellers to promote increased IT reliability, availability, service levels and return on investment. As a charter member, CA acts as the catalyst between its partners and clients to respond to the specific needs identified by the MERIT Project.

The survey was distributed to more than 3,000 visitors who attended interBiz World 99. Results are expected to be available in November.

The goals of the 1999 e-business survey include discovering the current level of engagement in e-business, uncovering current and future e-business management strategies, and determining the financial impact e-business will have on businesses in the future. The study also explores how industry standards, such as the new XML protocol (Extensible Markup Language), will be used. XML is a flexible protocol used to create common information formats while sharing the format and the data available on the World Wide Web, intranets and elsewhere.

The initial phase of the survey was conducted at interBiz World 99, the combined user conference for interBiz Solutions, a division of Computer Associates International, Inc. (CA) dedicated to assisting clients in exploiting CA applications to capitalise on e-business opportunities. interBiz World 99 introduced CA applications product users to the BizWorks™ framework, an architecture for applications integration designed to support intra- and inter-business collaboration, provide tools to intelligently analyse and visualise information from the extended enterprise, and predict future business events.

According to a University of Texas study, Internet commerce created more than 1.2 million jobs and generated more than \$300 billion in 1998. The study also found that annual growth in this burgeoning medium is expected to exceed 170 percent.

"Internet commerce will be a cornerstone for tomorrow's businesses," said Ken Farber, director of the MERIT Advisory Council. "To be successful, executives will need to understand the impact the Internet has on the cost structure of their businesses. This in-depth study will give us valuable insight into what buyers and sellers are looking for, as well as ideas on how to maximise the business opportunities afforded by the Web."

#### About MERIT

MERIT's charter is to identify the factors that reduce total cost of ownership (TCO) related to the acquisition, maintenance and management of IT resources and, more importantly, concentrate on improving the Enterprise Business Value (EBV) of distributed computing environments through end-to-end enterprise management. Through technology partnerships, surveys, client input and regularly scheduled conferences, the MERIT Advisory Council members work to improve the business value of all components in the IT infrastructure--applications, databases, networks, servers, desktops and nontraditional IT computing devices.

#### About interBiz Solutions

interBiz Solutions, a division of Computer Associates International, Inc., was created to assist worldwide clients, suppliers and partners to capitalise on e-commerce opportunities. interBiz Solutions consolidates CA's proven technologies with the competencies of CA's application business units: interBiz Supply Chain Group, interBiz Financial Group, interBiz Banking Group and ACCPAC International to create a new business paradigm. Visit us at [www.interBiz.cai.com](http://www.interBiz.cai.com).

#### About Computer Associates International, Inc.

Computer Associates International, Inc. (NYSE: CA), the world leader in mission-critical business computing, provides software, support and integration services in more than 100 countries around the world. CA has more than 17,500 employees and had revenue of \$5.3 billion in fiscal year 1999.

For more information about CA, please call 516-342-5224 or e-mail [info@cai.com](mailto:info@cai.com). CA's World Wide Web address is [www.cai.com](http://www.cai.com).

All referenced product names are trademarks of their respective companies.

For further information please contact:

Simon Avis/Richard Merrin  
Spreckley Pittham Limited  
Tel: 0171 388 9988  
Fax: 0171 388 8588  
Email: merrin@spreckley.co.uk