

For a powerful, profitable e-business strategy



IBM 4690 Operating System Version 2 Release 3





Enhancements in Release 3

Supports the IBM SurePOS™ 700 Series with USB technology, enabling hot plugging capabilities

Runs a pure Java Web browser for Internet/intranet/extranet access

Offers 16-bit graphics with up to 64K colours

Provides an interface between applications written in Java and C or C++

Supports the Symbol® Technologies implementation of the IEEE 802.11 standard for wireless adapters

Highlights

Provides the foundation for e-business

- Allows Web-based programs to run concurrently with point-of-sale/point-of-service applications
 - Access to Internet (for e-commerce and customer service)
 - Access to intranet (for corporate policy, HR, store procedures, training)
 - Access to extranet (for vendor/supplier information, shipping status, inventory)
- Helps sales associates and store managers improve productivity
 - Single access point to multiple applications – Web, POS, back-office – from POS terminal
 - Allows addition of Java GUI to make POS applications more user-friendly and reduce training time dramatically

Optimised for the latest POS solutions from IBM

- Runs on IBM SurePOS 700 Series
 - SurePOS 750 (thick client)
 - SurePOS 730 (thin client)
- Supports USB technology, including hot plugging of 4690 OS-supported USB peripheral devices
- Wider range of available peripherals

Improves investment protection

- Supports current hardware and application software, as well as emerging POS solutions
- Enables enhancement of current applications with Java extensions

- Delivers application transparency and portability
- Increases the number of applications available to store personnel from the POS, which can reduce the need for additional workstations in the store
- Provides access to a larger pool of qualified developers

Reduces total cost of ownership

- Applications written in Java can run on 4690-enabled systems as well as non-POS hardware and software platforms
- Enables 'write once, run anywhere' capability
- Thin client computing helps lower the cost of systems management

Designed for retail

- Retail-hardened, building on the proven reliability of the IBM 4690 OS
- Maximises availability for demanding store hours
- Provides scalability to accommodate individual store environments
- Positions retailers to take advantage of advanced hardware solutions – including the IBM SurePOS 700 Series – as well as new USB peripherals
- Protects data in the event of power loss
- Euro-ready

4690 OS – Open for Business

Open for business and ready to grow

The latest release of the proven IBM 4690 OS – the IBM 4690 Operating System Version 2 Release 3 – delivers the complete foundation retailers need to support in-store e-business strategies. A pure java web browser can be run at the point of sale (POS), so you can run traditional programs alongside Internet, intranet and extranet applications. This opens up significant e-business opportunities, and helps transform the POS to a point of service.

With a Web browser at the POS, operators can access applications, such as customer loyalty and time-and-attendance, and connect to the Internet, intranet or extranet. This makes it possible to give customers access to e-commerce or electronic catalogues while they wait. It gives sales associates a direct link to training materials, policy guides and other centralised information. And it helps link everyone in the supply chain, including vendors, suppliers, merchandisers and other retailers.

The new 4690 OS includes a Java™ Runtime Environment (JRE), available for the server (controller), the client (terminal) or both (terminal/controller). The JRE allows retailers to write applications once and run them anywhere, and integrate applications written in Java, such as a gift registry, at the POS. Java also lets you add graphics to existing, retail-proven 4690 applications, so you can give proven POS applications a dynamic, Java-based graphical user interface (GUI) while reusing the underlying business logic.

At the same time, traditional POS programs run in a solid, retail-hardened operating environment that delivers the 24x7 availability you need to ensure customer satisfaction and productive, profitable operations. This is just one way the IBM 4690 OS V2 R3 builds on the leadership of IBM in retail – by delivering exceptional reliability and investment protection that gives retailers a competitive advantage.

The 4690 OS V2 R3 also functions as a retail-hardened operating system for the new IBM SurePOS 700 Series of POS hardware. It runs on both the SurePOS 730 and the SurePOS 750. When you combine the USB connectivity of the IBM SurePOS 700 Series with the 4690 OS V2 R3, you can hot-plug 4690-supported devices into the system configuration without having to power down mission-critical POS devices. You can also attach or detach peripheral devices with ease, without reconfiguring the system.

The 4690 OS V2 R3 supports the IBM SurePoint™ Solution as well. This flexible display and interface lets you enhance existing applications with touchscreen technology to optimise hand-eye coordination and operator accuracy. Touchscreen performance not only adds a whole new look and feel to the POS, it helps reduce training time with a more intuitive visual presentation.

IBM delivers the services and support you need to expand current applications for full-screen displays or touchscreen performance. We can provide these services directly, or valued IBM Business Partners or customers can make these modifications independently.

With these capabilities, the 4690 OS V2 R3 equips retailers to power virtually any retail application – including next-generation GUI and Web-based tools your business is demanding. Yet you can preserve the technology investment you've already made.

As competition in the retail industry intensifies, a key area for profitable differentiation is the ability to customise store operations. The IBM 4690 OS V2 R3 greatly extends this customisation capability by supporting versatile and easy-to-modify Java applications for use in retail.

Perhaps the most critical benefit of the JRE is that it enables you to incorporate networking and graphical capabilities over time, then utilise these functions on a wide variety of clients and servers. In this way, the IBM 4690 OS V2 R3 provides a strong bridge between the systems you have in place today and the Java applications that will support your e-business strategy, while ensuring reliability and building on your current investment.

Position your business for the future

Developing state-of-the-art checkout and back-office applications is easier with the 4690 OS V2 R3. It simplifies the interface between applications written in Java and C or C++ through the Java Native Interface (JNI), as well as supporting the IBM VisualAge® Compiler for C or C++. Building a retail development team to implement Java will help you get ahead and stay ahead of the competition. With the growing number of Java developers, there are more skilled resources to address your specific needs. So, you can take advantage of opportunities with the rapidly growing numbers of off-the-shelf Java applications, as well as your own custom-written solutions. Most importantly, you can lead the way in expanding productivity and profitability.

Strength and flexibility for competitive advantage

The IBM 4690 OS V2 R3 meets the relentless challenges of the total store environment with the same retail-hardened performance that makes the 4690 OS the worldwide leader for POS. When you need faster checkout as well as more functionality, the 4690 OS V2 R3 is an ideal choice for a small store or a large chain with many registers. The task prioritisation and multi-user/multi-tasking capabilities of the 4690 OS V2 R3 keep store operations moving swiftly and effectively.

The 4690 OS V2 R3 maximises reliability through multiple levels of backup not found in other retail operating systems. Disk writes at the server are protected by nonvolatile memory, so data integrity is protected – even in the event of a power failure. Multiple servers back each other up to ensure no interruption of checkout due to server failure.

With its modular design, the 4690 OS V2 R3 lets you tailor your system to meet specific requirements for store operations. Multiple LAN options – including Ethernet, Token-Ring and IBM Store Loop – can accommodate any network requirement for the store. Wireless client/server attachment, including the Symbol Technologies implementation of the IEEE 802.11 standard, maximises flexibility in locating, adding and removing checkout stations to meet customer demands.

IBM is with you through thick and thin

The IBM 4690 OS V2 R3 continues to support the thin-client implementation provided by the 4690 OS, which minimises hardware cost while protecting reliability. The thin-client model not only dramatically reduces hardware requirements with no mandatory hard disk drive, it minimises memory requirements. Furthermore, it minimises the cost and complexity of systems management and is enabled for the Tivoli Manager for Retail™. Store clients are automatically loaded and maintained by the server, which helps keep support costs down.

Simple migration path

Specially designed upgrade code makes it easy to migrate to the 4690 OS V2 R3 from earlier versions and releases of the 4690 OS. The migration is similar to applying a new maintenance package. Migration can be handled remotely from the central office, with no store visits. Install the IBM 4690 OS V2 R3 today to take advantage of new retail technologies while maximising your existing investment.



IBM 4690 OS V2 R3 at a glance

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- Supports the IBM SurePOS 700 Series with USB technology, enabling hot-plugging capabilities for 4690 OS-supported devices
- Runs a pure Java Web browser for Internet/intranet/extranet access
- Offers 16-bit graphics with up to 64K colours
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- Supports the Symbol Technologies implementation of the IEEE 802.11 standard for wireless adapters

4690 OS V2 R3 supported terminals

IBM 4683 POS System
IBM 4693 POS System
IBM 4694 POS System, Models 004, 044
IBM 4694 POS System,
Models 104**, 144**, 244, 205, 245
IBM SurePOS 730***, IBM SurePOS 750***

JRE supported

No
No
No
Yes
Yes

Memory requirements*

–
–
–
16 – 64 MB
32 – 64 MB

* Processor and memory requirements in the terminals and controllers are dependent upon the needs of the Java application being utilised.

** Graphical implementations of Java are processor intensive, and are only recommended for Models 244, 205 and 245.

*** The SurePOS 730 can only be configured as a terminal. The SurePOS 750 can be configured as a terminal, controller, or controller/terminal. In the controller or controller/terminal configurations, a PCI NVRAM card is required.

Networks supported

Ethernet, Token-Ring, IBM Store Loop

**4690 OS V1 functions included
in the 4690 OS V2 Base**

TCP/IP for 4690 Controllers and Terminals
Symbol® Wireless Communications
Telxon® Wireless Communications
Communications Dynamic Switching
C API in the Controller and Terminal
Additional 3270 Sessions
Locally Administered LAN Addresses
Event Log Access
Optical Drive Support (IBM and OEM)
Remote Time Management
Save/Restore Distribution Attributes (Backup Utility)
Online System Probe
Store Unique Configuration File
Destination Service Access Point
Touch for 4690 Applications
Token-Ring and Ethernet on same controller
Seagate® TapeStor 8000 TR/4 Tape Drive
IBM TR/4 and TR/5 Tape Drives
XE Editor for 4680-4690

**Optional priced features
(can be ordered separately)**

Communications feature
Distributed Data Management
Loop terminal to controller communications (TCC)
LAN TCC (Ethernet or Token-Ring)
Multiple Controller feature
Terminal feature
NetBIOS feature
Software Distribution Agent



For more information

If you would like to learn more about the IBM 4690 OS V2 R3 or other IBM solutions for retail, contact your local IBM representative or visit us on the Internet at <http://www.ibm.com/solutions/retail>

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Front cover shows a Java graphical user interface running on an IBM SurePOS 730 using an IBM SurePoint Solution.

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