IBM

IBM Distributed Data Services for Windows NT and the Automatic Switch-Over Feature

Dependability for your store
When retail is your business, IBM understands it is crucial to have product and customer information easily accessible at all times. Whether your business has a requirement to distribute data between two servers for data backup or distribute data to all terminals to allow local price look-up, the IBM Distributed Data Services for Windows NT® (DDS for Windows NT) can handle your data distribution requirements.

Automatic file mirroring assists you in ensuring that any file changes made to a primary server's files are also made in the backup server's files so that no valuable transaction detail data is lost. DDS for Windows NT keeps your vital sales information current and accurate. The addition of the Automatic Switch-Over Feature will make data quickly obtainable even in backup.

As mentioned above, DDS for Windows NT can also distribute files to a group of Windows NT registers. This enables the registers to continue to function independent of the server. If a register is offline when file updates occur, DDS for Windows NT assures that the register receives the file updates the next time it is brought back online.

Designed for retail
No LAN Administrator in your store? With DDS for Windows NT, you may not need one! Many data-mirroring products have been designed for the office environment and assume a LAN administrator is on location. Error

handling and error recovery are handled differently if one assumes a technical person is available. DDS for Windows NT makes every effort to recover from errors without human intervention. And, when human intervention is needed, DDS for Windows NT makes it simple! Freedom from complexity starts with installation and continues right through to the process of coming out of backup. Examples include:

- The Automatic Switch-Over Feature allows the backup server to take control automatically—after a user-specified period of non-communication between the servers.

- When the "configured primary server" is ready to rejoin the LAN, the DDS for Windows NT system detects the "acting primary server" and places the "configured primary server" in the role of "acting backup server." As the "acting backup server," it will receive updates to reconcile its files.

Maximum application data availability
Many Windows NT applications use either File Transfer Protocol (FTP) or NET USE to access data on other workstations within the network. In a mirroring environment, applications are only allowed to write to the primary server copy of the distributed file. The DDS for Windows NT Automatic Switch-Over Feature provides the capability to add an Internetwork Protocol (IP) address and/or computer network name to the workstation that is activated as the primary server. When the primary server

role moves from one workstation to another, as a result of either an automatic or user-initiated primary activation, the IP address and/or computer network name moves to the new workstation. By using this floating IP address and/or computer network name, applications do not need to be network aware (aware of which server is the current acting primary server). The combined use of the floating IP address and/or computer network name with the DDS for Windows NT Automatic Switch-Over Feature enables Windows NT applications to avoid interruption to data access.

Access to keyed files

Price lookups are the heart of any retail Point-of-Sale application and thus rapid access to files is key to the performance of the application. The DDS for Windows NT solution offers a keyed file access method that allows the rapid data access needed by such applications. These keyed files are very similar to the keyed files provided by IBM's proven 4690 Operating System. To simplify program management, use of these application program interfaces (APIs) enables transparent access to local and remote data so files can be moved to different locations with no need to update or modify the application. There are also APIs provided for sequential files.

IBM leadership in retail

The IBM DDS for Windows NT and its features deliver high reliability and availability of your system data, building on IBM's leadership in retail. By using this solution today, you can take advantage of current and future retail technologies, while continuing to have the data integrity and availability you have come to depend on in retail.

IBM has been providing data mirroring for retail with our 4680 and 4690 Operating Systems since 1986. Over the years we have learned retail stores need solutions which recover on their own and require minimal human intervention. This knowledge has been applied in the development of DDS for Windows NT, its Data Distribution Feature, and its new Automatic Switch-Over Feature.

For more information

To find out more about the IBM DDS for Windows NT Automatic Switch-Over Feature:

- Contact your IBM representative or authorized Business Partner.

- For sales assistance in North America call 1 800 IBM-4YOU (1 800 426-4968).

- To place an order in North America, call 1 800 IBM-CALL (1 800 426-2255).

- For sales assistance in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, call 33 1 41 88 60 00.

- You can also access IBM Retail at *www.ibm.com/solutions/retail*.

- Obtain copies of this and other related product specification sheets from the IBM Fax Information Service by dialing 1 800 IBM-4FAX (1 800 426-4329) in North America or by dialing 1 415 855-4329 from outside the U.S. and Canada and requesting the document number 9922 IBM DDS for Window NT Automatic Switch-Over Feature.

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IBM Distributed Data Services for Windows NT at a glance

Hardware supported	Any uniprocessing Intel®-based terminal or server capable of running Windows NT 4.0
Operating Systems	MS Windows NT 4.0 workstation or server, Service Pack 3
Networks supported	Ethernet LAN Token-Ring LAN
Components	• IBM Distributed Data Services for Windows NT (product #5639-C71) • IBM Distributed Data Services for Windows NT Data Distribution Feature • IBM Distributed Data Services for Windows NT Automatic Switch-Over

For Position Only

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