

**IBM eServer iSeries**  
***Built for e-business***



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Bob Cancilla



IBM eServer iSeries: Built for e-business

*Bob Cancilla*

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Bill brought together the many people and resources I worked with to obtain the information that is presented in this book.

I have learned that whatever IBM may appear to others, to me it is people—extremely talented people dedicated to doing the best job possible for their customer. Part of my research was a visit to Rochester and the opportunity to meet and discuss the software described in this book face to face with the developers.

The reason that the iSeries is the remarkable computing system that it is today is quite simply the people who design and build it. My sincere thanks to all of you.



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## Preface

**M**y first book, *Getting Down to e-Business with AS/400* was based on my early work with the Internet starting in 1994. When I wrote this book, my objective was to familiarize other users with the Internet-based technologies and features that the AS/400 had to offer. If you've read the book, I hope you have found it helpful. The book was constantly updated with features and changes in our environment through 1999.

In terms of the Internet, 1994 was an eternity ago. It has also been a very long time since 1999 in terms of new developments and new technologies. Not only has the technology changed, the entire focus of e-business has changed. Back in 1994, we were concerned about building Web sites and delivering interactive content beyond the static glitzy Web sites that were the rage of the time.

This book focuses on the new world of B2B (business to business), advancements in B2C (business to consumer), and pervasive computing devices.

During the period that has evolved since I first started building e-business applications, I've been forced to work with other platforms that find their way into my company and integrate applications with my beloved iSeries machines. I have become convinced even more than before that the iSeries (formerly AS/400) is by far the world's best choice for e-business applications.

In this book, I hope to define what is possible in terms of e-business applications at the moment, present and explain the incredibly robust array of tools we have available to us on the iSeries, and demonstrate the ease of use of this incredible machine.

This is not a how-to book, although I will provide references to materials that show you how to use the tools I describe. What I hope to accomplish is to paint a picture that provides a blue print for developing robust state of the art e-business applications. I will show you how to leverage existing skills and legacy systems while migrating and taking advantage of new tools and technologies.

This book is for anyone who has a role in designing, implementing, and deploying e-business applications or is thinking about doing so.

## Foreword

Internet technology has unquestionably revolutionized the way business is conducted in this world. It has opened up unprecedented opportunities for real-time collaboration between businesses at affordable prices. It has made the computing resources of internal IT systems available to the masses. And it has made the long-standing promise of affordable outsourcing a reality. Indeed, e-business computing has changed the way we all approach information technology.

IBM's eServer iSeries is one of today's premier e-business machines. e-Business technologies are not something that simply run on iSeries—these technologies have been carefully built into iSeries in the tradition of simplicity and integration that are the hallmark of this machine. However, the sheer amount of e-business function that has been incorporated into iSeries over the past few years is staggering. Keeping track of this new function and figuring out how to best exploit it in your IS shop can be a daunting task.

With this book, Bob provides a road map for iSeries customers to identify and understand the tremendous wealth of software bundled with OS/400. He takes each of the main e-business components, explains what they are, how they work, and how they can be used to improve your business. The information is timely, relevant, and accurate. Bob focuses on the function available with the latest release of OS/400, V5R1, and provides a glimpse into to future by describing function that is currently under development.

By providing a single reference overview of all the major e-business components, Bob illustrates how iSeries is a complete, integrated e-business solution for an entire enterprise. No where else will you find such a concise description of e-business function in one place.

Bob draws on real-world experiences from many years in the computer industry. He also draws on feedback from numerous questions posed in his popular Ignite/400 forum, which provides him with insight on those topics that are most important to users and those that are least understood. He knows what level of understanding most iSeries customers have on topics like TCP/IP, DNS, LDAP, VPN, and Apache. He anticipates your questions and provides answers in clear, straightforward language. You don't have to be an expert in these topics to learn how to leverage them to your advantage.

I have no doubt that you'll enjoy this book and Bob's no-nonsense approach to communicating essential information you need to know about this wonderful machine that is built for e-business.

—Bill Rapp  
IBM eServer iSeries  
Lead Architect for e-Business