

IBM Software Demos
Lotusphere 2008 Comes to You - Lotus Sametime 8.0 Advanced Edition

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Now what you're seeing here is the new Sametime 8 Standard Edition.

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I've gone through these features many times before, with video conferencing and file sharing and being able to share your screen and emoticons, etc. But let's focus a little bit more on what's happening with 'Advanced'.

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With Advanced we're adding the capability for something that we call Broadcast Communities, which makes it very easy to send announcements, do a multi way chat, or ask a poll and get a graphical result on that poll. An important one is 'Skill Tap'. I can ask the community in real time a question, get answers and responses back from that, and then store that information in a database so that other people can utilize and share the knowledge.

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We are also planning on adding the capability for persistent chat rooms. Persistent chat rooms means that you can now join into long running chats, and then be able to see the history of that, which is really good for new users to gain the benefit of previous conversations.

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We can also now share files within that chat room, so it's very easy then, to collaborate with the group of people that you want to.

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Another Sametime Advanced feature is something called screen sharing. Simply select the person that you want and click on the screen sharing session. I'm going to have Dennis in the back here start a session with me so you can see the receiving end. He's going to share his desktop – in this particular case he's actually sharing an application, it's a Symphony spreadsheet. He can give me control if he wants, and then we can collaborate on this spreadsheet together. It's really that easy to start up the screen sharing session.

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Now with Sametime Unified Telephony we are planning to add the capability of integrating multiple phone systems into a single unified experience.

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What this means is that I get a single view of awareness no matter what telephony system I have. You can see the awareness icons here. You could

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have a telephone system that's analog, or a digital system, voice-over-IP, and even coming from multiple vendors.

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In Sametime 7.5 we gave you the ability for something we call 'click to call', but that was basically from PC to PC. With Sametime Unified Telephony, external telephone integration can now be utilized.

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Just to show you this, I'll pick up the hotel phone here, and I'm going to call my PC. What you'll see here (pause while phone is ringing)...I'll get the call – we even have caller ID so we recognize the external number, we recognize the person, and I can hit join, and I now have a PC-to-phone call within the new Sametime Unified Telephony environment.

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So again it's very easy to join no matter what phone system you have.

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Now we extend that functionality through the use of the ability to build rules, and rules allow the system to determine the best way to reach you, based on location and status.

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And it's very easy to create new rules. In fact, I can even build rules for when I'm offline. I don't even have to have the Sametime client running. It will immediately send that information to the phone system

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For example, I could create a rule that says when I'm in a meeting and my location is at my home, then I want all my phone calls routed to my home number. It's that easy – build the rule, and what happens is when that status appears and that location appears within the Sametime client, the phone calls will come to my home.

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In fact, I can do interesting things like this – for example, here's a status where I'm 'Away' and my location is 'Anywhere', so whenever I'm away, and I'm anywhere, I want the calls to be forwarded to my cell phone.

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This is kind of neat because, if you remember, Sametime will automatically change your status to 'Away' if you set it to change after a timeout period. So what that means is, if I leave my desk, my status on Sametime will automatically go to 'Away', and my phone calls will automatically be routed to my cell phone. I don't have to remember to do it, it just does it automatically for me.

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In fact, I can even override these calls and redirect them at any point. For example, if I receive a particular call from someone, like I'm just getting here from Brendan, I have the ability now to redirect that call. I'm going to redirect this call to my mobile phone. This is great because maybe you're at your desk, and you're just about to head out to the car to go home. You see the call coming in, but you want to take the call, you don't want to sit at your desk. You pick up the call, the call's forwarded to my phone, and I can go ahead and pick it up and continue on with that conversation.

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