



## **IFS architecture and technology: engineered for change, Packaged for Payback™**

**When you're shopping for an enterprise software solution, don't forget to look under the hood. A glitzy user interface means little if the system's underlying architecture and technology aren't flexible enough to meet your changing needs. IFS Service-Oriented Component Architecture™ combines the benefits of components with the agility and ease of use of a service-oriented architecture to create a system that grows as your company grows. IFS' advanced architecture makes it easy to take advantage of the latest technologies, helping your company to maintain its competitive advantage. And total cost of ownership (TCO) is surprisingly low.**

IFS Applications™ was built using the same principles employed by successful manufacturers. It's a product based on components—more than 60 of them. These components can be assembled to meet your industry- and company-specific needs. And you can add new components step by step as your requirements change and new technologies come along. The result is a flexible system that delivers rapid payback without the risk associated with so-called big-bang implementations.

### **BUILT FOR CHANGE**

In today's global business environment, the most successful companies are those that are most adept at managing change. IFS Applications is designed to help your company meet this challenge through future-proof technology.

IFS carefully plans the evolution of its architecture to build on your existing software investment. You don't have to throw out legacy systems that are still serving you well.

Using open APIs, IFS Applications integrates with other leading enterprise software packages, point solutions, and open-source products so that you can easily change the environment in which the system runs. IFS takes the time to isolate layers of architecture and platform components that might someday change. And IFS embraces commodities: Rather than developing its own proprietary technology, IFS Applications uses standard third-party solutions, such as reporting and bar coding applications, wherever possible. This protects you from being locked into a system that no longer meets your needs.

### **THE RIGHT FOUNDATION**

IFS Foundation1™ is the strategically packaged platform for IFS' component-based business applications. Based on open standards such as UML, SQL, XML, J2EE™, and .NET, it contains the technology and tools for designing, deploying, configuring, integrating, and administering your IFS system. Its advanced security features provide an environment that is highly secure yet manageable and easy to use.

IFS continuously conducts research to evaluate and select new technologies that add value to IFS Applications. The best technologies and products become an integral part of IFS Foundation1. Run-time containers support all tiers—from user interaction to data storage. They add additional capabilities to IFS' core technologies and ensure a consistent, scalable, and feature-rich business solution.



### **SERVICE-ORIENTED ARCHITECTURE WITH A TWIST**

You hear a lot these days about service-oriented architecture (SOA), a way of building business applications so that they are centered around actual business processes, such as processing purchase requisitions or customer invoices. IFS takes this concept one step further by combining SOA with a component-based, object-oriented approach. IFS Service-Oriented Component Architecture provides the benefits of SOA without all the drawbacks. Other SOA systems require redundant implementations to map the software to all business processes within a company. This results in quality risks, complicated maintenance, and impaired performance. In contrast, IFS provides the performance, reliability, and quality you need in a business application, making your business processes flexible and easy to use.

In addition, IFS Service-Oriented Component Architecture is an open architecture, allowing other applications to access information and trigger functionality in IFS Applications. Both the services layer and application core are made available to other applications and environments through IFS access providers for COM, .NET, Java™, and SOAP. IFS web services and the IFS/Connect integration broker provide message-based business processing. This makes it easy for you to take advantage of the latest technologies as they come along.

### **BUILT FOR EASY INTEGRATION AND LOW TCO**

IFS Applications uses standard tools and technologies. It supports most platforms, including Microsoft® Windows®, major UNIX® variants, and Linux®. Because IFS Applications is multitiered, with each tier separated through standard protocols, you can easily mix and match platforms. This gives you considerable freedom in choosing deployment options and, in the long run, leads to lower TCO. In fact, one IFS customer, APW Ltd., considered various enterprise application suites and estimated that IFS' TCO was 23 percent lower than that of the nearest competitor.

### **SIMPLE TO USE**

IFS believes that a business application's user interface should support the way you work, not the way the software vendor wants you to work. An interface that is well suited for engineers in the office might not work at all for technicians in the field. IFS Service-Oriented Component Architecture makes it cost effective for IFS to provide a complete set of user interfaces that suit different users, tasks, role, and environments. The openness of the architecture also makes it easier to create and integrate with other interfaces.

### **NO VENDOR LOCK-IN**

Many software companies make most of their profits after the sale by selling highly proprietary technology, making it cost-prohibitive for customers to switch systems or adopt new technology. IFS doesn't operate that way. IFS' goal is to offer customers a wide choice of hardware, operating systems, application servers, or integration technology platforms on which to run IFS Applications.

Instead of trying to lock you in for life to a particular set of technology, IFS works actively to enable you to choose and change over time. Although it may at first seem counterintuitive, IFS believes in selling advanced technology using an old-fashioned business model: earning customer loyalty by selling a superior product, not by restricting customers' options.

For more information, read the *IFS Applications Architecture and Technology* and *IFS Applications Security* white papers. For general information about IFS and its products, visit [www.ifsworld.com](http://www.ifsworld.com).