IBM XWork Server FAQ

Q: What is IBM XWork Server?

A: IBM XWork Server is new product offering designed to help ISVs (Independent Software Vendors) and IBM Business Partners deliver social business applications. It provides a powerful and comprehensive application development platform that allows you to quickly develop and deliver applications for web and mobile devices. All of this capability is delivered with attractive pricing and licensing terms that allows the partner to focus on selling the solution, and not the underlying platform.

Q: What technology is XWork Server based on?

A: XWork Server is based on proven Lotus Domino technology which includes XPages, a standards based Web development framework, used to build social business applications. The server platform includes a NoSQL data store, built in security services, directory and messaging services. In short, its a complete platform that includes all the services needed to run, deploy and manage your application.

Q: What tools and skills are used to build applications for IBM XWork Server

A: Developers use Lotus Domino Designer to build applications for XWork Server. Lotus Domino Designer software integrates XPages technology, a design element that greatly enhances Web application development for XWork Server. Since XPages utilizes the Javascript, Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), and HTML technologies, deep programming skills are not required to build powerful, compelling Web applications. Developers can download Domino Designer for free from here.

Q: Where can I learn more about XPages?

A: XPages.info is your one stop shopping for information on XPages. It has information to help developers get started with XPages, downloads, demonstrations, videos and other resources.

Q: Is there an open source community for developers using XPages to build applications for XWork Server?

A: OpenNTF.org is a vibrant open source community for developers working with XPages. There are numerous assets that range from code snippets to reusable controls to complete application templates and are available under Apache or GPL licenses.

Q: How is XWork Server licensed?

A: XWork Server uses a fixed term licence and is licensed per install.

Q: What is a fixed term license?

A: A fixed term license offering grants the right to use the software, including Software Maintenance, for a fixed period of time. At the end of the Fixed Term License period the license and its associated Software Maintenance will be automatically extended for another period and the customer will be invoiced for that new period unless they notify IBM or their IBM Business Partner prior to the end of the term of their intent to terminate the license. If they choose to terminate, they will no longer be authorized to use the software and they will lose their entitlement to Software Maintenance.

Q: Does per install licensing mean this is not a PVU based offering?

A: IBM XWork server does not use Processor Value Unit (PVU) based licensing. Instead, the offering entitlement is purchased per install. An install is an installed copy of XWork server on a physical or virtual disk made available to be executed on a computer. Customers must obtain an entitlement for each Install of XWork server subject to the products licensing terms. See here for product licensing < link tbd>

Q: How many applications can be run on an XWork server?

A: You are authorized to run up to a maximum of four (4) applications per entitlement. An application may be comprised of up to 4 databases. A database is defined as a NoSQL database format, the Notes Storage Format or NSF which may store both the application's design and associated data.

Q: Can you give me an example of what constitutes an application?

A: Say you have a product launch application comprised of the following.

- One database for administrative/configuration
- One database for marketing content
- One database for launch tasks
- One database for workflow logic

This would constitute one of the four applications per install

Q: What if my application requires more than 4 databases or I want to run more than 4 applications on the XWork Server?

A: You may purchase an additional XWork Server entitlement for that physical server. This means that each application may contain up to 8 databases. It also means means you can have up to 8 applications on that same physical server thus allowing customers to run more applications before purchasing additional hardware.

Q: XWork Server ships with a lot of databases. Which ones count towards the definition of an application?

A: XWork Server ships with numerous databases that can be broken into two categories. Social Business databases deliver business value to individuals or groups of individuals and would count towards the definition of an application. They consist of Teamroom, Discussion, Document Library and Blog. All other databases are defined as system databases and do not count towards the definition of an application. Some examples of a system database are Directory and Log.

Q: Can I have mail-in databases on my XWork Server?

A: Yes you can. XWork server does not allow you to have an individuals mail file on a server but you may have a mail-in database for use with your application. The mail-in database would count as one of the databases that comprise an application.

Q: I am a partner who used the Domino Utility offerings for my applications, how does XWork Server differ?

A: XWork Server shares the same code base with Domino Utility server but provides different branding and licensing terms. Many partners found that Domino Utility's licensing and pricing were not cost effective in certain scenarios. For instance, Domino Utility server would prove cost prohibitive for an ISV selling their solution into a customer who did not qualify for Domino Express licensing. XWork Server is licensed and priced so ISVs and partners could sell solutions which are competitively priced compared to solutions built on other application development platforms.

Q: Are there any other licensing restrictions for XWork Server when compared to Domino Utility servers

A: Besides restricting the number of applications that can be run per entitlement, there are a number of other factors that differentiate XWork Server from the Domino Utility offerings.

- XWork Server supports an unlimited number of authenticated and anonymous users. Domino Utility Express cannot be used in companies with more than 1000 users.
- Replication services can only be used with application replicas that reside on other XWork Server. The one exception is that you can replication your Directory with Directories residing on non-XWork Server.
- You cannot partition a XWork server. Domino Utility and Domino Utility Express do support partitioning.

Q: With XPages, can I access data that resides in an NSF on a Domino server?

A: Yes. XPages allows you bind your controls to data that resides in a separate NSF and that NSF may be on a different Domino server. If that NSF resides on a non-XWork Server, you can access that NSF and that NSF would not be counted as part of an XWork Server application.

Q: Can my XWork Server application access data outside of a Domino database?

A: XPages provides a great framework for integrating data from disparate resources. You can integrate data from relational databases, or other data stores and those data stores do not count towards the definition of an application.

Q: Can I run non-XPages Domino Web and Notes applications on XWork Server?

A: While the messaging for XWork Server focusses on XPages as the programming model, you can run non-XPages Domino Web applications and Notes client applications on the XWork Server.

Q: Do I need a Client Access License to access XWork Server?

A: You do need a Client Access License (CAL) when accessing from a desktop browser or mobile device. You may access an application running on an XWork Server from a Lotus Notes client provided you have purchased a Domino Enterprise Client Access License.

Q: Can I cluster XWork Server?

A: You may cluster XWork Server for fail-over or load balancing but it requires one to purchase XWork S erver entitlements for each server in the cluster.

Q: Do I have to be authorized for IBM's Software Value Plus (SVP) program in order to sell XWork Server

A: No. XWork Server is categorized as Open distribution which means it does not require SVP.

Q: What operating systems does XWork Server support?

A: XWork Server runs on Windows, Linux and AIX

Q: What Education does IBM provide for XPages?

A: IBM offers a variety of courses for XPages that range from basic to advanced. Whether you are Web or Java developer who is new to XPages or an experienced Notes developer looking to develop with XPages, there is a course for you. See here (link tbd) for more details

Q: Are there any certifications for ISVs and BPs

A: Currently, there are two different certifications available for XPages. The Developing IBM Lotus Domino 8.5.2 Applications: Advanced XPage Design exam (here) is a technical certification. The XPages Technical Sales Mastery (here) certifies that you can convey the value of XPages in a sales context.

Q: As an IBM Business Partner, where can I publicize my applications for XWork Server?

A: Partners are encouraged so submit their solution to the IBM Lotus and WebSphere Portal Business Solutions Catalog (here).

Q: What is the correct spelling and case sensitivity for XWork Server and XPages,

A: IBM XWork Server is the product offering. The first instance should always be IBM XWork Server. Subsequent instances in the same body of work may drop the IBM and be XWork Server. XPages is an umbrella term for the technology that is available in XWork Server and Lotus Notes and Domino. There is never a space between X & Pages.

Case sensitivity: The X and P should always be capitalized. The rest of the characters should be lower case.

XPages vs. XPage
- When referring to the technology, always use XPages
- When referring to the design element, use XPage when referring to a single design element and XPages when referring to two or more.