

The Road to SQL Server 2008

ISVs are in the driver's seat prepping a host of new applications to run on the latest version of Microsoft's database software

By Bob Violino, From the October 13, 2008 issue of CRN

Ignify Inc., a Cerritos, Calif., developer of accounting and e-commerce applications, has completed development work on two products that will run on SQL Server 2008, and both are in its quality assurance and testing area, said Sandeep Walia, CEO. Walia expects one product, Data Archival for Dynamics, to have been released in September and the other, Ignify eCommerce, set for November.

The Data Archival product helps organizations archive and purge data from their ERP and CRM applications, and improves application performance.

Ignify eCommerce is a business-to-consumer e-store program and business-to-business e-commerce solution. The system is currently used by about 200 customers. Organizations such as McDonald's, the Dallas Cowboys football franchise and Aerosoles use the solution, Walia said.

Customers for the most part can run older versions of the Ignify applications on the new database, Walia said. "However, they need to upgrade certain aspects of the application for eCommerce, as the Reporting Services WMI provider is not backward-compatible with previous versions," he said.

After the upgrade, customers can't use the SQL Server 2008 Reporting Services WMI provider with earlier versions of Reporting Services. This is a known issue with SQL Server 2008, Walia said. But it isn't a problem for Ignify customers, he said, because they just have to install the later versions, which he said is fairly straightforward.

For Ignify eCommerce users, the primary benefits of SQL Server 2008 include the encryption capability (data can be encrypted natively rather than via a third party); the capability of compressing data backups, which can result in an estimated time savings of 25 percent to 35 percent for backups; and enhancements to database mirroring, including automatic page repair and improved performance. For Data Archival, the archival process is able to run faster, Walia said.

These improvements will mean improved data protection, faster performance and higher reliability. "This is now a more secure and enterprise-class type database," Walia said.

SQL Server 2008 will also give Ignify's applications greater scalability, especially in the areas of retail and distribution, Walia said. "This will ensure that the system can scale up to a higher volume of transactions or visitors on the Web site with comparable hardware infrastructure," he said. That means customers can rapidly expand their business, even globally, using their existing infrastructure.