

The IBM Lotus Greenhouse: Where Collaborative Ideas Come To Grow

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Speaker: Colleen Walker, Operations Manager for the IBM Lotus greenhouse.

Hi everyone. Welcome to today's podcast. My name is Diana Ermini. I am a program manager for the Empowering People program within the IBM Lotus software brand. I am talking to you today about the IBM Lotus Greenhouse. With me, to talk about this exciting new virtual world, is Colleen Walker who is the operations manager for the IBM Lotus Greenhouse. Hi, Colleen.

Colleen:

Hi, Diana.

Diana:

Thanks for joining us today. Just to get us started there are quite a few folks that don't really know what the IBM Lotus greenhouse is. Can you tell us a little bit more about what?

Colleen:

Sure. It is a premier showcase website. We offer free access to experience the latest collaborative innovations from IBM Lotus software. It's a live community website where we allow members to share information, collaborate and exchange ideas on our emerging technologies. It's really collaboration at its best.

Diana:

So basically it's a place for people to check of the latest things that are coming out of Lotus right?

Colleen:

That's correct.

Diana:

So can you tell me what some of those key collaborative solutions are that we're highlighting in the Lotus Greenhouse?

Colleen:

In the Lotus Greenhouse you can evaluate the latest technologies such as Lotus Sametime, which provides presence awareness, instant messaging and Web conferencing. We also have Lotus Sametime 8 data that offers ways for you to find

information and share expertise. One of my personal favorites in this new technology is how you can share a desktop instantaneously. It's really pretty cool.

We also have Lotus Connections which is our social software for business. It empowers you to connect with coworkers, partners, and customers within dynamic virtually linked communities. We have Lotus Quickr which is a team collaboration software to help you share content and collaborate. It doesn't matter whether you're inside or outside your firewall.

Lotus Domino Web access is a Web browser-based messaging client. It enables you to take advantage of the reliable, security-rich collaboration capabilities of IBM Lotus Domino software, whether you choose to work online or off-line.

Diana:

Great, this is just a snapshot of some of the latest collaborative solutions coming out of Lotus. I'm sure there's a lot more information on Lotus Greenhouse if folks would like to explore this further. So thanks for covering those solutions Colleen. I know there are quite a few things on the site, that I think would interest visitors of the Lotus Greenhouse.

Would you say given all of these advances in our collaborative portfolio, would you say that the Lotus Greenhouse is useful only to Lotus power users or do you think that those not familiar with our portfolio would benefit from visiting this site?

Colleen:

The Lotus Greenhouse is definitely beneficial for both Lotus power users, as well as folks that are not familiar with IBM Lotus software. For example, if you're Lotus Sametime users, you'll be interested in checking out our latest feature enhancements in the Lotus Greenhouse. If you're not familiar with Lotus Sametime, we provide the ability for you to download a Lotus Sametime connect client. This allows you to connect to our Lotus Sametime server on the Lotus Greenhouse and you can chat with fellow Lotus Greenhouse users in real-time.

You need to think of the Lotus Greenhouse as a one-stop shopping ground where you can, not only evaluate the most recent products enhancements and collaborate with colleagues and partners, but you can also provide feedback to the Lotus development team. You can do this by participating in chats in our product forums or even from our general Lotus Greenhouse forum. Your ideas can literally help shape the future of collaboration. You are helping us design software that will enable you to work the way you want.

Diana:

That is excellent Colleen. I think what's exciting about it is we are giving people an opportunity to test out the latest innovations that we are providing in our collaborative portfolio. What I love about that is that users can then provide feedback to the Lotus development team and just like you said, they have the opportunity and the ability to influence the future of collaboration. That is so powerful. You've gone over some of the solutions that are on the site today but can you tell me what's in plan for the Lotus Greenhouse in the near future?

Colleen:

Absolutely, we have some more cool stuff coming. For example, we're looking to have Lotus Sametime plug-ins that you can download which will enhance and extend the great value of Lotus Sametime as it is today. We are also doing something that we are calling, "Link to Value," that when you're in the Lotus Connections product you could pull up a person's profile card by simply hovering over their name, you click the profile card pop up and you'll see the individual's profile, their public community blogs, bookmarks, and public activities in public places. So you don't have to sift through separate applications, you can access information right from that card without going anywhere else. It really can't be any easier. It's a really cool design.

Diana:

That's really interesting. I'm just curious. Can you tell me how many people are on the Lotus Greenhouse today?

Colleen:

Today we have over 6500 users. It's really made up of about 2400 different companies across the world.

Diana:

And it's growing.

Colleen:

It's absolutely growing. It's growing every single day and it's amazing.

Diana:

I'm very interested, I want to sign up. How do I get started?

Colleen:

It's very simple. You just go to <http://greenhouse.lotus.com/join> and what you'll do is you will fill out a simple registration form and we will e-mail you a welcome letter and a link to register. Then you can become a member of the Lotus Greenhouse. It's really simple. If you no longer want to be a member, you simply send an e-mail to LGAeach@US.IBM.com which will be included within the letter so you don't have to remember that. You just ask them to unsubscribe. It's that easy.

Diana:

So if I join and I cruise the site and don't feel like doing it anymore I can easily unsubscribe. So there's no hassle and no worry?

Colleen:

Exactly.

Diana:

Excellent. I'm really excited about the Lotus Greenhouse. I can't wait to check it out myself and get more familiar with the latest enhancements of the Lotus collaboration portfolio that are really designed to help companies succeed in today's marketplace.

For those who are listening and are interested in participating in the Greenhouse where you can collaborate with colleagues, share ideas and provide feedback to a Lotus development team where you can literally shape the future of collaboration with your ideas. Please visit us at each <http://greenhouse.lotus.com/join>.

Thanks so much for listening to this podcast. We hope to see you in the Lotus Greenhouse. Thanks Colleen.

Colleen:

Thanks Diana.