

lookserver FAQ



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What is lookserver?

lookserver is, as the name suggests, a server-based product that supports:

- dynamic UI generation of a thin client UI (**looksoftware thinclient** and **mobileclient** editions) requiring zero client deployment
- an integration layer supporting composite applications

lookserver supports the standard **looksoftware** repository format used by the **newlook** and **centric** release 7 development tools, allowing customers' and partners' existing repositories to be used by **lookserver**.

The **newlook** and **centric** tools support delivery of new forms and functionality and heterogeneous database access. This lightweight development capability is ideal for iSeries customers needing to rapidly extend existing applications and deliver new UIs and functionality to internal and external users.

Customers and ISV partners now have more flexible UI deployment options including:

1. **lookserver** deployment supporting **thinclient** edition (TE), a pure web client requiring no installation or configuration at the desktop.
2. **smartclient** deployment using our existing web deployment support for any Web Server including IIS, Websphere, Apache etc.
3. **smartclient** deployment using a file server such as the iSeries IFS.

Customers and ISV partners need flexible deployment options and will typically use more than one of these options. For example, external partners and mobile employees may be better suited to a thin client environment, while many internal employees - like information workers - will require the high performance and additional functionality supported by **looksoftware's** smart client option. Being able to deploy **looksoftware** functionality, without requiring additional infrastructure or web servers, is an important ISV requirement.

lookserver may also be used to provide a server-based integration layer which may not necessarily deliver UI support. For example, **lookserver** functionality may interact with external applications and platforms using web services. Reusable modules, created from existing iSeries applications using **looksoftware's** programmatic integration support, may be integrated directly with third party programs and databases.

lookserver features summary:

- **lookserver** communicates with the eServer host using TN5250 or TN3270
- **lookserver** dynamically generates an XML definition of the enhanced UI
- the initial release supports ASP.NET, using HTTP to deliver a thin client UI based on DHTML, Cascading Style Sheets and JavaScript
- **lookserver** maintains a persistent session with the browser client
- **lookserver** supports encryption using Secure HTTP (https) and Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)
- **lookserver** authentication support includes ASP.net authentication. eServer host level authentication can be used in place of, or in addition to the ASP.NET authentication.

What is thinclient edition and mobileclient edition?

Customers deploying **looksoftware** technology have previously used **newlook** standard edition (SE) for business user smart client support. **newlook** standard edition, renamed **smartclient** edition (SE), will continue to be enhanced to deliver additional smart client functionality. The **thinclient** edition (TE) and **mobileclient** edition (ME) provide a dynamically generated, pure web client UI and PDA type devices respectively. This offers a new alternative to **smartclient** edition.

Industry analysts agree that smart client, thin client and mobile client UIs are all required to provide a complete UI solution. **looksoftware** agrees with this view and we refer you to our smart client whitepaper for more information.

The zero client deployment option - **thinclient** edition - supports any internet-connected device that supports HTML, including browsers like Microsoft Internet Explorer, Netscape, Mozilla, Safari and Firefox. Also supported are mobile devices like PDAs. **looksoftware's** **thinclient** edition can operate on any platform that supports a HTML browser.

Three classes of browser-based clients are supported:

- **Intelligent browsers**

This category includes Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.5 and above, Netscape Navigator 7.0 and above, Mozilla, Safari and Firefox. It includes modern browsers with full support of DHTML, Cascading Style Sheets, Javascript, layers, divisions and keyboard events.

Browsers with this level of support will utilize the full features of **lookserver**, including support for keyboard compatibility for function keys and aid keys, enhanced control types, context menus for datagrids and full support for control layout and positioning.

- **Low level browsers**

Older and less capable browsers will be supported with lower level representations of controls and without keyboard support for function keys and aid keys.

- **Mobile clients**

Mobile clients will be HTML based browsers running on PDA type devices, such as Windows Mobile and Windows CE.

What is the difference between looksoftware's existing smartclient support and the new thinclient support?

smartclient support provides the superior performance, functionality and host support suited to medium-to-heavy usage of host applications. For example, internal business users using typical iSeries transaction based applications.

thinclient support is best suited to users requiring occasional or light usage.

Feature	smartclient (SE)	thinclient (TE)	mobileclient (ME)
High Performance	✓ (local client)	DHTML web application performance	DHTML devices
Local client	✓	✗	✗
No client installation required	✗	✓	✓
Supports Windows clients	✓	✓	✓
Supports intelligent browsers	Via ActiveX	✓	✓
Supports low level browsers	✗	✓	✓
Supports mobile devices, PDA's	✗	✗	✓
Keyboard buffering	✓	✗	✗
Host keyboard support	✓	Limited	Limited
Immediate OS/400 break msgs	✓	On next get	On next get
Desktop integration	✓	✗	✗
Web services client consumption	✓	✗	✗
ActiveX	✓	✗	✗
Full function 5250 emulation	✓	limited	limited
Full function FTP support	✓	limited	limited

Table 1: smartclient, thinclient and mobileclient feature comparison

Feature	smartclient (SE)	thinclient (TE)	mobileclient (ME)
Text box	✓	✓	✓
Label	✓	✓	✓
Data grid	✓	Limited	Limited
Panel	✓	✓	✓
Check box	✓	✓	✓
Command button	✓	✓	✓
Option button	✓	✓	✓
Combo box	✓	✓	✓
List box	✓	✓	✓
Menu Item	✓	✓	✓
Image list	✓	✓	✓
Picture box	✓	✓	✓
Tab control	✓	✓	✓
Frame	✓	✓	✓
Updown	✓	✓	✓
Scroll bar	✓	x	x
List view	✓	x	x
Track bar	✓	x	x
Numeric combo	✓	x	x
Progress bar	✓	x	x
Tree view	✓	x	x

Table 2: smartclient, thinclient and mobileclient feature summary

What are the hardware and software prerequisites for lookserver?

- Microsoft Windows 2000, Microsoft Windows XP or Microsoft Windows 2003 Server.
- Microsoft Internet Information Services (IIS)

IIS is a standard component of Windows 2000, Windows XP and Windows Server 2003. Windows 2000 is distributed with IIS 5.0, Windows XP is distributed with IIS 5.1 and Windows Server 2003 is distributed with IIS 6.0. All three versions of IIS are supported.

- .NET Frameworks 1.1 is required and is distributed as standard with Windows Server 2003. For other supported versions of Windows, the .NET Frameworks can be installed from:
 - the **lookserver** installation CD
 - Windows Update
 - Microsoft Download Center
- Windows 95, 98, 98 Second Edition and ME and Windows NT 4.0 are not supported as a platform for **lookserver** but they are supported by **thinclient**.
- MDAC 2.7 is required for data access.
- The minimum hardware requirements specified by Microsoft for running Windows IIS and .NET Frameworks is a Pentium 133 MHz CPU and 128 MB RAM. However, the minimum requirements for Windows Server operating systems are higher than this and therefore the requirements of the operating system must be met.

What are the client hardware and software prerequisites for thinclient and mobileclient edition?

Any device capable of comfortably supporting a browser can support **thinclient** and **mobileclient** editions.

How many clients can a single server running lookserver support?

Performance is dependant upon many factors including hardware specifications and type of application usage. For example, a dual processor server with 1Gb of main memory may support hundreds (possibly thousands) of light usage web users where **lookserver** is processing typical dynamic UI generation requests. Where **lookserver** is configured for heavy DB access and web services consumption, in addition to UI generation, fewer users will be supported.

What are the license terms for the new products?

- **lookserver** is licensed per processor. Please contact **looksoftware** for pricing details.
- **looksoftware thinclient** and **mobileclient** use an active concurrent usage model. Please contact **looksoftware** for pricing details.

How does this enhance looksoftware's position in the application modernization marketplace?

Since releasing **newlook** in 1996, **looksoftware**'s capabilities have grown significantly. The new **lookserver** and **thinclient** edition, together with the **newlook** and **centric 7** developer tools, provide an easy-to-use, dynamic environment that allows rapid reuse of existing application investments. It also provides a lightweight development capability to rapidly extend existing applications and deliver new composite applications functionality. Examples of supported scenarios include:

- Deliver thin client and smart client UIs for existing applications from a single dynamic repository
- Provide a server-based integration layer that offers programmatic access to iSeries applications, heterogeneous DB access and web services support
- Deliver new Business-to-Consumer (B2C) thin client web applications that may access any popular database on most platforms
- Deliver smart client applications to information workers that dynamically combine information from disparate sources
- Reuse, extend and integrate existing applications

About looksoftware

looksoftware, headquartered in Melbourne, Australia is an IBM partner and Microsoft Certified business partner providing easy-to-use, powerful tools to web-enable, reuse, extend and integrate legacy applications. **looksoftware** has been selected by IBM for its Developer Roadmap and is also a member of the Microsoft Alliance Partner (MAP) program. With over 1500 customers in 44 countries, **looksoftware's** products are distributed via a global network of 120 resellers and ISV partners.

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