



snap FAQ

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1) What is *snap*?

snap is a series of packaged solutions consisting of **look**software products and services, that reuses your IBM back-end applications and enables easy plug-and-play style integration with any other application including:

- Leading front-ends such as Microsoft's Outlook and SharePoint, IBM's Notes and WebSphere Portal, and portals such as Google
- SAP, MS Dynamics, Oracle and any web service compliant back-end application
- New technologies like Unified Communications

The first *snap* solution pack lets users seamlessly access entire application or specific back-end components from Office 2007 and SharePoint, without changing the RPG/Cobol back-end. Further *snap* solution packs, now under development, target popular applications including Oracle's JDE World, Infor's BPCS, iPhone, BlackBerry and other mobile devices, Google and IBM's Notes and WebSphere Portal.

snap encourages greater reuse of core IBM back-end applications, as it includes:

- visual drag-and-drop tools for rendering reusable components from existing core applications
- support for reuse of user interface components, web services connections and offline transactions
- support for multiple channels including rich and thin UI clients, enabling *snap* components to be deployed as rich clients for internal users and as zero deployment, Ajax-based thin clients where required for external users.

2) Why *snap*?

- Easy integration of core applications and processes with:
 - familiar work environments like Microsoft Office, SharePoint, Lotus Notes, Websphere Portal and Google, allowing workers to accomplish tasks from within the applications they use most frequently
 - other apps like SAP, MS Dynamics and any application that supports web services, delivering services based plug-and-play integration and accelerating adoption of SOA
 - new technologies and devices like Unified Communication Systems, driving rapid ROI from technology integration
- Most business users already spend a large part of their day in front-ends like Outlook or Notes, so delivering back-end functionality through a familiar UI, decreases training costs.
- It's not difficult – **look**software's *snap* can connect any green screen back-end application to Office Outlook and SharePoint in a few hours - without changing a line of back-end code. Advanced integration can also be achieved quickly and easily, enabling previously disparate applications to work together seamlessly.
- *snap* can deliver business users with a unified view of their workplace and processes, without needing to switch between different applications.
- *snap* renders sections of core applications as components, improving reuse and efficiency, and therefore streamlines workflow and automates business processes.
- Improved UX (User Experience) by surfacing core application services in today's leading rich-client and AJAX channels.

3) Why is *snap*'s approach to modernization different?

- *snap* is reuse-based. Delivery of modern solutions through reuse, rather than redevelopment, drives significant business benefits including:
 - reducing the risk associated with change
 - improving project success
 - reducing implementation times
 - reducing training costs
 - increasing productivity
 - reducing carbon emissions

Some modernization solutions focus on redevelopment or replacement, not reuse. You need to carefully evaluate whether the modernization alternatives that you're considering are really just about writing more code or, more appropriately, efficiently reusing your existing code.

- *snap* does not force you to change your code. Changing your existing code means possible loss of application reliability and robustness. Sometimes invasive change is necessary, but make sure you avoid it wherever possible!
- *snap* can evolve your existing applications towards SOA. An important part of *snap* is two-way web services support enabling you to benefit from web services, where appropriate. Service-enabling your applications with *snap* improves the independence of your back-end applications and platforms from the multiple channels that make up your front-ends and connections with other systems.
- *snap* builds upon looksoftware's dynamic architecture - a proven, robust technology in use in thousands of organizations.

4) What are the components of *snap*?

Each *snap* solution consists of:

- looksoftware middleware -
 - **newlook**, supporting on-the-fly generation of rich, thin and mobile UI components
 - **soa**rchitect, supporting the rendering of components from core applications as transactions and web services
 - dynamically generated multi-channel support for rich, thin, mobile clients and web services
- Specialized connectors -
 - designed to make it easy to plug core components and applications into the targeted application
 - for example, the Google Gadget connector generates a Google gadget for any *snap* component
- Implementation assistance -
 - access to experienced consultants for knowledge transfer and rapid implementation

5) Are the connectors important?

Historically, integration has been difficult because every vendor does it differently. The universal adoption of the web services standards like WSDL and SOAP make integration much easier today. *snap* has built-in support for web services that dynamically generates the underlying web services code for any *snap* component, making application interoperability easier. Connecting a back-end web service to Office, SharePoint or Notes is not that difficult but typically it requires additional work including defining UI components and scripting. So *snap* includes pre-built connectors that dynamically generate more useful connections for a targeted application. For example **looksoftware** has been helping customers connect their IBM applications to Microsoft Office for 10 years. Over that time we've developed middleware which makes it very easy to plug your subfile into Excel to produce a chart, generate an email or task within Outlook, or produce a Word letter directly from your debtor's inquiry. *snap* connectors make tasks like these a snap!

6) How is *snap* priced?

Please contact **looksoftware** for detailed pricing information at info@looksoftware.com.

7) Which applications are best suited to modernizing with *snap*?

Any typical IBM back-end application including green-screen applications with RPG and COBOL based 5250 and 3270 programs.

8) We already have some **looksoftware** products, do we need to upgrade them or buy new products to avail of *snap* functionality?

All existing customers with active maintenance agreements may upgrade to *snap*. Contact **looksoftware** at info@looksoftware.com.

For more information

Contact **looksoftware** in Australia (see below) or **looksoftware** in the USA on 678-494-5465. Alternatively visit our website www.looksoftware.com



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