

IDC – The European IT Forum 2003 Focus on the key challenges facing CIOs

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Over 500 delegates attended IDC's 13th annual European IT Forum, which took place at Le Meridien Montparnasse in Paris on September 29 and 30. This prestigious event provided an overview of the problems facing executives in order to answer to the questions arising from the use of new technologies in the enterprise. The forum focused on five key challenges facing CIOs: · Reducing costs while improving efficiency · Addressing the software complexity crisis · Developing effective integration plans to prevent logical and physical fragmentation · Addressing the challenge of selective outsourcing, from infrastructure to applications, processing services, and BPO · Guaranteeing a high level of security and availability A series of sessions were also held on three key technological innovations: utility computing, Web services, and mobility and wireless. The sessions, all presented by industry specialists, focused on the state of the market, major trends in Europe, technology evolution, levels of risk, implementation of solutions, and security. Figures moved from the uncertainty of today's IT environment to forecast a very slow growth of IT spending in Western Europe (50 billion dollars today), that according to IDC analysts it should reach the total amount of 200 billion dollars during next 4 years. The forum once again included IDC's Research Pavilion (where participants discussed issues with IDC analysts) and the "Guru Labs" (interactive workshops where a limited number of people could brainstorm crucial issues with the main speakers). The 13th edition of IDC's European IT Forum is organized in partnership with Cisco Systems, Nortel Networks, Sun Microsystems, Symantec, Alcatel, HP, Kodak, Palm, SIA, Siemens, Network Associates, and Novell. Main speakers included: · Francis Mer — French Minister of Economics, Finance, and Industry · Jean-Pierre Corniou — President of Cigref and IT Manager of Renault · John Gantz — Senior Vice President and Director of Research, IDC · Lester Thurow — Professor of Management and Economics, Sloan School of Management, MIT · Nicholas Negroponte — Founder and Director, MIT's Media Labs · Paul Strassmann — Strassmann Inc. · Patricia Seybold — Writer, Specialist in New Technologies, and CEO of the Patricia Seybold Group · Soumitra Dutta — Writer, Specialist in New Technologies, and Dean of Executive Education at INSEAD · Jeremy Paxman — Journalist and TV Host

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