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Novell and JBoss Expand Partnership to Strengthen Open Source Application Platform

Novell to provide powerful development and deployment platform based on open source by contributing code and resources to JBoss Enterprise Middleware System

SALT LAKE CITY (BrainShare® 2005), March 21 – Novell and JBoss today announced a dramatic expansion of their strategic partnership. Novell will extend support and contribute code and engineering resources to the open source JBoss Enterprise Middleware System (JEMS) and actively participate in the architectural design and direction of JBoss projects including JBoss Portal. Working closely together, Novell and JBoss will be the first to bring to market a powerful and fully supported application platform that leverages open source software and vendor-driven innovation to reduce the cost, complexity and time needed to deliver service- based, identity-aware applications.

“The contributions Novell is making to JBoss in the areas of portal and security accelerate the momentum of our relationship with Novell,” said Marc Fleury, president and CEO of JBoss, Inc. “Novell brings a committed, mission- critical mindset to the J2EE marketplace, and we look forward to working with them to bring identity-driven security to our Professional Open Source platform.”

Novell’s roadmap includes plans for incorporating more open source technologies, including JEMS components, in Novell exteNd and as part of its Identity and Application Services Foundations, also announced today. The joint effort will provide Independent Software and Hardware Vendor (ISV/IHV) partners and customers with Software Development Kits (SDKs) to enable rapid development of custom applications with a robust and consistent security model that leverages the aggregated benefits of identity information across all applications. As a first step, Novell will contribute its Web Services for Remote Portlets (WSRP) standard-based portlet container and portlet library to help accelerate the delivery of JBoss Portal, a component of the JEMS stack, to the market.

Brad Stoddard, IT manager for the State of Michigan said, “The State of Michigan is an existing user of Novell’s Identity Management and Service Oriented Architecture development capabilities, and we’re actively pursuing our open source strategy. This announcement from Novell and JBoss is definitely the kind of collaboration with open source and strategic vendors that we are looking for. We are very interested in this type of strategy that can deliver such a comprehensive application platform based on open source.”

Yefim Natis, Gartner vice president and general manager, said, “Open- source software will expand into a larger universe of applications, in addition to the Linux operating system. This growth will be based on more development cross-fertilization and reduced vendor lock-in.”**

David Litwack, Novell senior vice president and general manager for Identity-Driven Products, said, “Open source application servers are a real contender today against proprietary offerings and form the foundation for a true competitive offering to the entire commercial stack. Working together with JBoss will deliver real opportunities for enterprises to leverage this exciting new platform.”

About JBoss

Through its Professional Open Source model, JBoss, Inc. is making open source a safe choice for the enterprise. JBoss provides resources, technology direction and core development for innovative open source projects and stands behind them with enterprise-grade support and services. These projects include JBoss Application Server, Hibernate, JBoss jBPM, JBoss Eclipse IDE and Apache Jakarta Tomcat, which are core components of the JBoss Enterprise Middleware System (JEMS). Companies like Corporate Express, La Quinta Inns and Nielsen Media Research rely on JEMS for mission-critical enterprise applications. Partners who embed or bundle JEMS and resell JBoss services include Computer Associates, HP, Novell and Unisys. JBoss has headquarters in Atlanta, Ga. and Neuchatel, Switzerland. For additional information, please visit <http://www.jboss.com>.

About Novell

Novell, Inc. (Nasdaq: NOVL) is a leading provider of infrastructure software and services to over 50,000 customers in 43 countries. With more than 20 years of experience in data center, workgroup and desktop solutions, Novell’s 6,000 employees, 5,000 partners and support centers around the world are meeting customer requirements for identity-driven computing and Linux solutions. By providing enterprise-class software and support for commercial and open source software, Novell delivers increased operating flexibility and choice at a lower total cost of ownership. More information about Novell can be found at <http://www.novell.com>.

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**Source: Gartner, Inc., “Predicts 2005: Open-Source Software Proliferates,” Yefim V. Natis and others, Nov. 1, 2004