### **INPUT**

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# IBM Global Services' De Facto Strategy

IBM's competitors sometimes dismiss IBM as offering low value-added services that focus on yesterday's technology. In INPUT's view, the reality of IBM's services is quite different from that image. This research bulletin will show where IBM is now, and where it is heading.

IBM services have been organized as "IBM Global Services" since the end of 1995. Global Services consists of six units:

- Managed Operations (commonly referred to as "ISSC")
- IBM Global Network

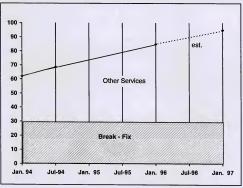
- · IBM Consulting
- Systems Integration/Application Development
- Education & Training
- Availability Services (mostly "break-fix" services)

Global Services is big, and growing: by the beginning of 1997, INPUT believes the Global Services headcount will be close to 100,000. Excluding the break-fix business, this represents a compound growth rate of over 20% (See Exhibit 1).



Exhibit 1

IBM Global Services: Number of Employees (Thousands)



Source: INPUT

In the last year, IBM has been aggressively repositioning itself as a service provider. New offerings are aimed at non-traditional platforms and at "sunrise" parts of the business. The following recent announcements are representative of its expanded range of service offerings:

- Environmental health and safety management products and services
- · Electronic purchasing services
- · An array of multimedia solutions
- A selection of desktop and distributed management services
- Intelligent agent-based products for network information searches
- An "ethical hacker" service to test customers' network security

These initiatives have not yet had much impact on IBM's "mindshare" among customers and analysts:

- There is generally a lag between announcements, sales and delivery.
- IBM has not yet provided a "map" to show how individual offerings or families of offerings fit together.
- IBM's competitors have been making many similar announcements, raising the overall level of noise and "information clutter"

But IBM's services initiatives are far from being just talk. Much of the increase in Global Services headcount will come from adding resources for the mainstream outsourcing and systems integration business. However, IBM is also in the



process of adding significant numbers of staff in areas far outside traditional data center outsourcing (Exhibit 2). INPUT believes that these hiring plans exemplify the new look of IBM services.

#### Exhibit 2

#### Selected Hiring Targets of IBM Global Services

| Business/Technical Area                           | Approximate<br>Headcount<br>Target |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Network Outsourcing/Network Station<br>Management | 1,000                              |
| Internet/Intranet Systems Integration             | 400                                |
| Notes Systems Integration                         | 300                                |
| Network-Focused Business Consulting               | 125                                |
| Internet Security                                 | 75                                 |

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### **Don't Count Outsourcing Out**

Some view IBM's data center outsourcing business as a cow to be milked until mainframes are put out to pasture. In INPUT's view, this is a mistake.

IBM's legacy outsourcing, in fact, represents a significant opportunity for both IBM and its customers to make the transition out of older technologies and practices. Success will depend on:

- Expanding (and, in some cases, rationalizing) its service offerings to cover major market requirements.
- Forming solid partnering arrangements to cover other service requirements.
- Seamlessly integrating (from the customer's standpoint) managed operations and other services.
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  Operations (ISSC) employees who were
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# IBM's Implicit Horizontal Services Strategy

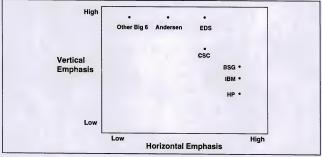
IBM's services strategy is still evolving. There is no master plan provided to the outside world. The lack of an explicit strategy is in part positive, given the rapid changes in the market and inside IBM. A formal plan could lead to inflexibility.

After discussions with IBM services executives, INPUT infers a horizontal services strategy on the part of IBM. This is a strategy that is different from many of its major competitors (See Exhibit 3).



Exhibit 3

#### Strategies of Selected IT Services Firms



Source: INPUT

The sales and delivery strategies of Andersen and EDS are primarily vertical, i.e., driven by industry knowledge and specific applications. Andersen has always followed this approach as has EDS since its reorganization in 1989. Their vertical approaches have been very effective in terms of growth, recognition and profitability. CSC's recent acquisition of Continuum underscores its intention to become a major player in vertical markets. (EDS and CSC also have large horizontal outsourcing businesses.)

IBM does have some vertical offerings (for example, in banking and health care) and IBM's consulting arm has focused primarily on industry markets. However, most of IBM's new offerings are high value-added, technically-oriented services. The horizontal approach is the common trait of the new services and hiring patterns noted earlier.

Is IBM out of step? Or, is IBM developing positive differentiation? IBM could have a winning strategy:

- Rapid changes in technology (e.g., client/server, objects, Internet) mean that technical issues may often be as important as industry knowledge.
- HP and BSG have shown that a technology-oriented strategy can be very successful.
- Many customers are now in a "systems clean-up" phase: They have the business solution -- now they have to get it to work reliably.
- Andersen and EDS cannot easily partner with other vertical solution providers; a horizontally-focused Global Services can.

This Research Bulletin is issued as part of INPUT's U.S. Information Services Market Analysis Program.

If you have questions or comments on this bulletin, please call your local INPUT organization or

Tom O'Flaherty at INPUT, 401 W. Burr Blvd., Teaneck, N. 07666-6810, (201) 801-0055.



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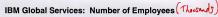
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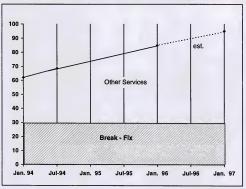
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406



Exhibit 1





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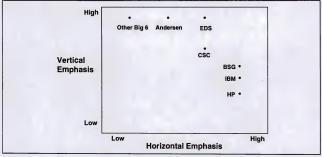
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Exhibit 3

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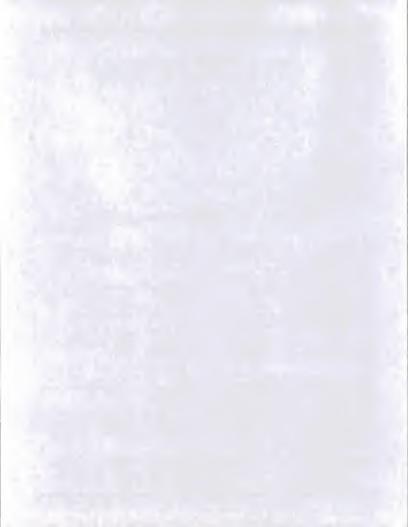
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#### MEMORANDUM

06 June 1996

| TO:      | Judy Parks             | File:Chron:         |  |
|----------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| FROM:    | Janine Crowley         | Adm:<br>Contact:    |  |
| SUBJECT: | MAPS Research Bulletin | Other:<br>If Other: |  |
| CC:      |                        |                     |  |

Enclosed is a hard copy and disk for the June 1996, MAPS Research Bulletin. I have two queries:

- 1). Tom thought that the volume number should be 4. Could you please check that this is the correct volume number?  $\sigma r$
- 2). On the last page of the bulletin, where it has the contact information, should Bob Goodwin's name be there or should it be Tom's and the NJ office address?

If query number 2 should be Tom's name and address, this needs to be changed on the disk before it goes to print.

As always Judy, thank you for all your help!.





Please check if runber is correct.

Vol. VII, No.4

June 1996

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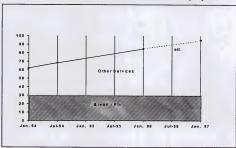
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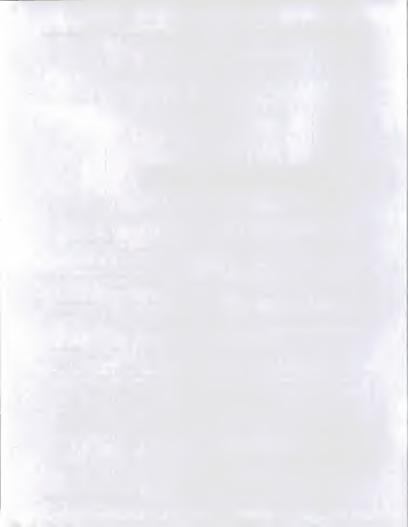
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Horizontal Emphasis

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