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Content management advances

MARTIN VEITCH AND PHIL MUNCASTER

Open Text and Interwoven both looked to boost their enterprise content management (ECM) suites last week, in moves that could help the vendors compete with the newly-formed IBM/FileNet combination.

Open Text gave some broad outlines of forthcoming lines at the Storage Expo exhibition in London, although a formal plan will be announced at the LiveLinkUp user conference in Phoenix, Arizona next month. The plans include a roadmap for integrating its recent ECM purchases, with Hummingbird set to take on the front-end role in products emerging from the first half of next year.

"We want to unite the robustness of the Open Text back-end with the unique user experience of Hummingbird," said Kirk Roberts, Open Text vice-president of products. "The nice thing about the



Hummingbird architecture is that it's open and designed to be repository-neutral."

Open Text plans a significant architectural change that will see it deliver functionality through web services. It will also integrate with Microsoft SharePoint to create a shared archiving function that will let Open Text's flagship product LiveLink "enterprise enable" SharePoint, Roberts said.

IBM's just-closed acquisition of FileNet creates an ECM giant that dwarfs even the newly bulked-up Open Text, while rivals such as Ora-

cle have also been stepping up their ECM capabilities. However, Open Text claimed its neutrality could help its case.

"Most large ECM customers have a combination of programs from major software players and they need a Switzerland to make that content available to end-users," Roberts said.

Red Dot Solutions, acquired via another recent purchase, and the Hummingbird Connectivity brands, will continue to operate for web content management and legacy network connectivity respectively.

Meanwhile, ECM specialist Interwoven last week launched the latest version of its TeamSite web content management product, designed to enhance usability for business users and improve workflow creation.

TeamSite 6.7.1, announced at the firm's European user conference in London, boasts full support for Linux, while enhancements to

the FormsPublisher feature let users add and change content more quickly, according to the firm.

Improvements to the product's single sign-on (SSO) capabilities, meanwhile, enable easier integration with third-party SSO systems, said Interwoven.

A new visual Workflow Builder is designed to let business users drag and drop elements onto an interface to easily create and configure complex workflows, which help to automate the business processes underlying web publishing.

European general manager of Interwoven, Erik Hansen, said that by improving speed of deployment the product is able to address one of the main concerns of customers.

Global marketing vice-president, Kevin Hayden, added, "The enhancements to the product are centred on faster time to market and reduced total cost of ownership. The new Workflow Builder reduces process time, allowing content to be deployed faster – a lot of customers want to get it out in 24 hours not 24 days."