

Echo²

High Availability™

“Finally,
we've found a
high availability
solution that meets
our needs.”

*Dirk Anderson, V. P. of Information
Technologies, C.R. England Trucking,
Salt Lake City, UT*



iTera
No Time for Downtime™

High Availability is Truly a Bet-Your-Business Proposition...Choose Wisely.

There's a great deal to consider when shopping for IBM iSeries high availability software. Many products exist with an array of features and a wide range of prices, but the net analysis is this: the software must get your business back online quickly if your production system goes down hard, and it must deliver a fast return on investment by reducing or eliminating business-stopping planned downtime events.

Echo² provides exceptional business-continuity protection — but don't take our word for it. Ask customers of all HA products the following:

- Do you have problems keeping objects synchronized?
- How difficult is it to work with your HA software?
- Do you test the role swap procedure quarterly as recommended by IBM?
- How much time is spent each day managing HA software?
- How well does your HA software self-correct problems?
- How much processor overhead does your HA software take from the production system?
- How long did it take to achieve return on investment?
- Do you have a high level of satisfaction with the vendor's support? How long does it take for someone to call back?

Not All High Availability is Created Equal

Many of the older HA vendors have introduced “lite” versions of their software in order to compete at the same price point as iTera. But there is nothing “lite” about Echo² High Availability. It's an extremely robust offering with a host of cutting-edge features that ensure all critical objects are quickly and reliably mirrored. Plus, Echo² is significantly automated, making the software remarkably easy to use.

“Echo² just flat out works.”

Bob Davis, AS/400 Information and Imaging Consultant, FedEx Trade Networks, Buffalo, NY

“The iTera solution was affordable and it works.”

Joe Bastarache, Data Center Director, World Travel BTI, Atlanta, GA

“There were no system performance issues related to Echo².”

David Garrett, Senior Systems Analyst, Guilford County Schools, Greenville, NC

Cost of Software is Only the Beginning

Typically, it's the time that people spend managing high availability software that's the most significant cost factor. Many HA products require 20-40 hours of attention each week, but not Echo². It is rare for an Echo² customer to spend more than half an hour a day managing the product, and most customers spend only 15 minutes or less. The difference is simple: Echo² does a better job of keeping objects synchronized, plus it has a host of time-saving automation and ease-of-use features built into the product.

Game-Changing Technology

IBM's remote journaling is the foundation of Echo², which is recognized as the fastest, most reliable mechanism for moving data-change information to a backup environment. With remote journaling, most of the necessary processor activity for replication is done beneath the machine interface layer (operating system), which provides a significant performance and reliability benefit. HA software that doesn't use remote journaling must do most of its processing on the live production environment and above the machine interface. IBM tests show¹ that non-remote journaling replication adds up to 10% additional processor overhead on the production system; however, Echo² customers that used to have another HA product — that did not use remote journaling — often report a savings of 20-30% in processor overhead use! Because of this efficiency, remote journaling is particularly valuable in environments that have high transaction volumes.

Reliable Role Swap is Crucial to Fast ROI (and Saving Your Business)

Every company hopes that high availability software won't need to be used in the event of a system failure or disaster. But if such an event occurs, HA can pay for itself 100 times over. Where HA achieves a quick and tangible return on investment (ROI), however, is the reduction and elimination of planned downtime events like software and hardware upgrades, OS upgrades, applying PTFs, daily tape saves, etc. To do these tasks without downtime, you need confidence that you can role-swap systems (the backup iSeries takes the role of the production environment during downtime). Echo² software and iTera's experienced staff will give you that confidence.

The most prevalent statement from the scores of customers that have switched from another HA product to Echo² is their lack of confidence performing role swaps with the former HA software. It's ironic that these companies purchased a product designed to reduce downtime, yet often didn't use it during planned maintenance events because they didn't want to risk incurring an even greater duration of downtime! But this is not the case with Echo² customers. Powerful role-swap features of the software combined with expert training ensure Echo² users can easily and confidently execute this critical process on a regular basis.

“High availability won't do us any good if we're not confident that we're ready for the worst.”

*Jody Karnes, CIO, CU*Answers, Kentwood, MI*

“The product is truly automated, self-healing and self-correcting.”

*Tim Jensen, Senior Programmer/Analyst,
Great Plains Communications, Blair, NE*

“We regularly and successfully test role swaps with Echo².”

*Jim Ravens, Business Recovery Manager,
Boyd Gaming, Las Vegas, NV*

“Echo² clearly paid for itself within a short time.”

George Despinoudis, Technical Support Manager, Berri Ltd, Melbourne, Australia

There's nothing "lite" or scaled down about Echo² High Availability...

Built natively on IBM'S remote journaling technology

- The fastest, most reliable data transport engine
- Causes significantly less production-side overhead than other methods (2-4% vs. 10-30%)¹
- Eliminates queuing of transactions on production system for improved data protection
- Built in auditing of sent and received data

Extensive autonomic functions

- Automatically audits objects, and when necessary, resynchronizes without interruption of replication process
- Automatic monitoring of journal components with ability to automatically recreate if a failure occurs
- Makes Echo² much easier and quicker to manage – typically half hour a day or less vs. several hours for many other HA products
- Less time needed for training

Reliable, simple-to-use role-swap (switchover) and failover

- Role swap process is very automated, which ensures a faster, less error-prone process
- System can be ready for role swap at any time

Extensive auditing features

- Innovative, patent-pending record-level auditing for unmatched accuracy
- Keeps all necessary system objects reliably replicated to assure readiness for role swap on backup

Built natively on IBM clustering

- Provides additional automation of processes, even if clustering is not enabled in the environment.
- Echo² was fully redesigned to natively incorporate this critical technology

Fast, easy installation

- When installed on the production system, the software automatically installs on the backup system
- Can be installed and configured – with mirroring started – in a few hours
- No need to manually save/restore during installation – most mirrored objects copy quickly to backup via network
- Installed without downtime

Very scalable

- Adapts easily to all replication environments: single-system via LPAR, one-to-one, many-to-one, one-to-many, cross-directional, and clustered
- Many features can be enabled and disabled as needed

Robust IFS replication capabilities

- Can replicate objects both on an object and a record level
- Integrated, simple-to-use auditing and monitoring functions

Mirrors all system-critical objects

- Program objects, data areas, data queues, IFS, user profiles, device configurations, spool files, MQ Series, and more – all in real-time

World-class customer support

- iTera support personnel have technical, iSeries backgrounds – no novices reading from training manuals

For additional information about Echo² High Availability, please contact us: phone 1-800-957-4511, email: info@iterainc.com, visit: www.iterainc.com.

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¹IBM Redbook: Striving for Optimal Journal Performance on DB2 Universal Database for iSeries, Chapter 6