

# Why Invest in Lotus Notes and Domino Productivity Tools?

A White Paper for Lotus Notes/Domino Managers

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You are looking for ways to develop Lotus Notes applications more efficiently, and to be more competitive in the marketplace. Should you even be interested in productivity software tools? What kind of software should you look for? Are they worth the cost? Where do you start looking? Fortunately, you are not alone in this search, and hopefully this paper can help lead you in the right direction.

The objective of this document is to show how Lotus Notes application developers can (and should) use software tools as part of the development process. These are tools that eliminate the most manually repetitive (yet necessary) burdens in Notes application development. The following class of products discussed in this paper may be the solution you are looking for.

The objective is to eliminate the most common, manually repetitive work during the Notes development cycle

## Why use Lotus Notes Development tools?

Lotus Notes/Domino software tools for developers and administrators are intended to maximize their productivity, by letting software tools handle common and repetitive development challenges.

The result is fewer errors, improved employee morale, and an accelerated application development cycle. Along with improved competitiveness, another added benefit is the control in the size of your workforce. By increasing the output of your personnel, it reduces the need to hire additional employees. For some examples of Lotus Notes development tools used in today's marketplace, see <http://www.ytria.com/Solutions>

Software tools are ideally suited for handling repetitive development challenges

## Consider the Evolution of Word Processing Tools

Imagine editing a document without being able to delete, copy, or paste. It's a scary thought today: the typewriter. Thankfully, such tools do exist, making the entire process of document creation easier, quicker, and with fewer errors. The flexibility introduced with such tools actually changes the way you approach creating a document. These enhancements are similar to the idea of having an add-on software tool perform common tasks for you in Lotus Notes development. If this sounds interesting keep on reading!

## Eliminate common and repetitive tasks

Whether you are in the market for a database file viewer/editor or a mass modification tool for a Notes database application, Lotus Notes professionals will find this kind of technology useful in improving their productivity and effectiveness. How? By virtually eliminating common and repetitive tasks, employees can focus on the "real" challenges in the application development cycle.

Eliminate repetitive work and focus on the "real" challenges of application development

## Large scale changes for minimal effort

For instance, a developer is required to change the color of a Notes action button: open the database in the Domino Designer, open the design element, select the action button, select the proper tab, and then choose the desired colour. The problem begins to appear when you have for example, over sixty design elements. This means changing each one individually by hand. "No problem", you say, "I'll just spend an hour to change the colors". After an hour (if you are lucky) of furious clicking the job is complete. But, wait...you've used the wrong color, and what's this detail you missed...you have to change the font too? This is where having a software tool do this for you, is extremely cost effective.

Individually changing properties manually is better left to a software tool

## Avoid throwing away programming efforts

Notes professionals face this all the time: a trivial change is needed, for instance documents with incorrect values. However, changing it is beyond the original scope of the application. So, now what? It means programming a special single-use view and/or agent...LotusScript anyone? Everyone knows that coding is slow, time-consuming, and sometimes even unpredictable. But, what if you could do away with all that, using a simple point-and-click tool? A small investment now, could mean huge short-term and long-term savings.

Avoid dedicating programming resources on trivial "one-time only" database changes

## Software Cost versus Developer Cost

If having your Notes developers dedicate their time to development purposes, rather than making colour changes or font updates is important to you, then it makes good fiscal sense to equip your developers and put the proper tool support behind them.

It makes fiscal sense to equip developers with proper tool support

- **Cost-prohibitive:** It is cost-prohibitive to ask a high-cost employee such as a Notes developer, to spend their time not developing, but on rather simplistic and tedious tasks (i.e. changing the colour property of a button).

- **Optimize developer time:** By optimizing developer time, it frees up time to focus on critical development tasks, and not waste time on errands a software tool can do much more rapidly. Ytria's tool offering, for example, improves competitiveness, streamlines operational costs, and accelerates the time-to-market for your Notes applications. Such tools help boost software quality and enable more frequent application updates for your customers.
- **Control size of workforce:** By improving the output of developers, it helps reduce the pressure of finding and hiring additional qualified (and expensive) personnel.
- **Take on more projects:** By freeing up developer time, your organization can then take on more projects (which also implies more revenue) with the same personnel.
- **Employee morale:** Be assured, the Lotus Notes developer does not want to spend time on dull chores, but instead be actually developing applications. By improving the development environment, it makes the job much more satisfying and enjoyable.

### **What kind of solution to look for...**

When looking for a high quality Lotus Notes productivity solution, it should provide significant business benefits, be easy to use, and be effective virtually right away.

The following are a sampling of the advantages of Lotus Notes development using Ytria software tools.

- Designed by Notes developers for Notes developers
- Reduces or eliminates common, trivial and often repetitive tasks
- High usability, and intuitive interface means a very short learning curve
- Designed to provide the highest levels of Lotus Notes development performance
- Performance improvements for Notes application developers have been found to vary over a range from 50% to 80%

There are solutions in the market that will have significant business benefits, be easy to implement and be effective right away

The performance enhancements provided by productivity tools are very real and widely available. A goal of this paper is to inform Lotus Notes professionals that there are high quality software tools on the market that can have a huge positive impact in the way you approach Lotus Notes application development.

**Table 1: Where does Ytria fit in the Lotus Notes application development cycle?**

	scanEZ	actionBarEZ	designPropEZ	signEZ
<b>Analysis</b>	✓			
<b>Design</b>	✓	✓		
<b>Development</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Testing</b>	✓			
<b>Debugging</b>	✓			
<b>Rollout</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Code Maintenance</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Support</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Migration</b>	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Admin</b>	✓		✓	✓

**A Solution: scanEZ  
Multi-purpose database explorer and editing tool**

For enterprises seeking to equip their developers with the “must-have” tool, Ytria offers scanEZ, an all-in-one Lotus Notes database exploring, editing, and debugging tool. A graphical database support tool for developers and administrators, scanEZ reduces the need of constant agent coding and creating views for simple database changes. scanEZ provides a wide range of database management benefits to enterprises.

All-in-one Lotus Notes database exploring, editing, and debugging tool

**Benefits of using scanEZ**

Competitive Advantages:

- Debugging
- Data and design migration
- Controlling data integrity
- Security checking
- Correcting data
- Fixing replication conflicts
- Access control management
- Replication management

Competitive Advantages (continued):

- Ability to control hidden data, automatically find problem documents and database support features
- Ability to perform preventive support, identifying problems before a client encounters them

scanEZ simplifies many common tasks for developers, and eliminates the problem of developing recurrent tools (for example: simple data changes). Time saving benefits on commonly performed tasks, can literally reach up to 80%.

### **Solution: actionBarEZ**

#### **Action bar blue-print generator and mass editor**

To meet the demands of enterprises with constant updates (or migrations) of their Lotus Notes applications, Ytria offers actionBarEZ, a mass action bar property editor, and action map generator. It relieves users of the painful process of analyzing and editing each action bar individually, enabling mass modifications over all action bars in a database, in one operation. The more design elements a database has, the more essential this tool becomes.

Put an end to repetitive manual labour, with a dedicated mass action bar property editing tool

#### **Benefits of using actionBarEZ**

Competitive Advantages:

- Action bar migration
- Update and/or integrate the look of all action bars
- Generates an overall map of all database actions
- Organize and analyze actions in a database
- Copy and move actions even across different design elements using "drag and drop"
- See where shared actions are used
- Manage all shared actions in a database
- Ability to selectively modify all action bars in a database in one operation
- Maintain action bars for the main design elements in Notes (forms, views, folders, pages...)
- Automatically generate printouts for your actions

Considering that Actions and Action bars in a design element are difficult to access, it saves the developer from performing such redundant tasks themselves. actionBarEZ saves expensive developer time, which leads to a quick return on investment. Under the right circumstances, your ROI can literally be as soon as its first use, with significant savings in time (and resources) on each and every usage.

### **Solution: designPropEZ**

#### **Review and update design properties**

Enterprises who are looking for every advantage for their Lotus Notes developers, Ytria offers designPropEZ, a mass-editing/auditing tool for the design properties of design elements. Developers can change and manage the properties through an intuitive GUI, relieving users of the painful process of analyzing and editing each design element individually in the Domino Designer.

A tool to make mass design property changes on design elements

#### **Benefits of using designPropEZ**

Competitive Advantages:

- Let developers audit and replace design properties of design elements on a large scale
- Control and modify design properties before rollout
- Verify the design refresh properties in one step
- Ability to change the language properties of an entire database design in one process
- Easily enforce the inheritance status of entire design elements can be accomplished in one step
- Automatically generate HTML, XML, or spreadsheet files for a report

### **Solution: signEZ**

#### **Signature management for all design elements**

Enterprises who are looking to give their Lotus Notes team the competitive edge can look to Ytria's signEZ, a Notes signature management tool. Users can sign with a signature ID without access to the ID or its password. Specify the users and databases that can be signed. Schedule and save different signature settings for each and every single database.

Reserve and store as many signature IDs as required

#### **Benefits of using signEZ**

Competitive Advantages:

- Signature storage: Access a signature ID and sign with it, without access to the ID or its password
- No need to disturb administrators each time signing a database is required
- Administrators can setup multiple databases to be signed, and automate the signature procedure
- Audit feature provides a log for each design element (signers and signature dates)
- Delegate signing of databases without creating any security leaks
- Automatically generate HTML, XML, or spreadsheet files for a report

**Corporate Productivity Benefits**

The table below demonstrates how a single typical developer can **save 525 hours** of development time in one year. At a Notes developer rate of \$60/hour, the corporate fiscal savings would be \$31 500 in the first year alone. Imagine if every developer were equipped with such tools!

It is highly cost effective to increase the productivity and output of a developer with low-cost software tools versus the cost of increasing the size of your workforce. It also helps to drastically reduce the time-to-market in any application development lifecycle.

It is cost effective to increase workforce output with inexpensive tools rather than acquiring new personnel

**Table 2: Savings using Ytria Lotus Notes tools**

Based on the standard Full-time Employment (FTE) work year of 1872 hours:

	scanEZ	actionBarEZ	signEZ	designPropEZ	Hours spent on development tasks
<b>Time spent without tool (%)</b>	20%	10%	5%	2%	
<b>Time spent using tool (%)</b>	4%	2%	2%	1%	
<b>Time spent without tool (hours/year)</b>	375	188	94	38	695 hours/year
<b>Time spent using tool (hours/year)</b>	75	38	38	19	170 hours/year

Table demonstrates how a single typical developer can **save 525 hours** of development time in one year.

See Appendix for more productivity and value benefits.

## Summary

Written in C++ and building on the Notes C API, Ytria tools are designed with advanced capabilities that offer unparalleled features for the entire Notes application development cycle: analysis, development, maintenance, testing, maintenance, administration, support, and migration.

There are many must-have tools for any business with Lotus Notes/Domino application development. Ytria tools are among the leading choices toward improving development quality, while providing advanced development and administration assistance to augment your workforce. Our tools are designed to simplify operations through more efficient procedures, accelerate application development time, and provide better database support.

Investing in Ytria tools is ideal for corporations or independent consultants seeking that competitive edge. With advanced capabilities, comprehensive analysis, and powerful mass editing capabilities, no other software delivers like the Ytria EZ Suite.

To learn more about this flexible and user-friendly development solution, visit <http://www.ytria.com> or contact us for more details. A great way to evaluate our tools is to watch the tools in action through our online demos, or downloading a free version. Ytria Lotus Notes tools: Designed by Notes professionals, for Notes professionals.

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Thank you for your interest in this white paper. We always welcome your feedback, comments, and suggestions. Please consider sending us a short note about how this white paper may have helped you.

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## Appendix

**Table 3: Value and Productivity**

	<b>Time Spent without any Tools (%)</b>	<b>Time Spent with Tools (%)</b>	<b>Time Savings Value with Tools (%)</b>	<b>Increase in Productivity (%)</b>
<b>scanEZ</b>	20%	4%	80%	400%
<b>actionBarEZ</b>	10%	2%	80%	400%
<b>signEZ</b>	5%	2%	60%	150%
<b>designPropEZ</b>	2%	1%	50%	100%

**Table 4: ROI, Return on Investment (for a single user)**

Based on standard work week of 36 hours at a rate of \$60/hour

<b>Task category</b>	<b>scanEZ</b>	<b>actionBarEZ</b>	<b>signEZ</b>	<b>designPropEZ</b>
<b>Everyday use</b>	1 hour			
<b>Application development</b>	2 hours	2 hours	2 hours	¼ hour
<b>Application maintenance</b>	4 hours	1 hours		¼ hour
<b>Application migration</b>		4 hours		½ hour
<b>Testing</b>	5 hours			
<b>Administration</b>	2 hours		2 hours	
<b>Average Time Savings (time saved per week)</b>	6 hours	3 hours	1 hour	¼ hour
<b>Product price (with 2 years maintenance)</b>	\$ 697.00	\$ 697.00	\$ 477.00	\$ 477.00
<b>Average ROI</b>	10 days	20 days	41 days	66 days