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Gartner Identifies Organisational Implications of the Rise of Mobile Devices

Analysts Examine the State of the Industry at Gartner Application Architecture, Development & Integration Summit 2012, 21-22 June, in London

Egham, UK, 11 June 2012 — CIOs and IT leaders must address three key implications of the “post-PC” era, as workforces and consumers increasingly access IT applications and content through mobile devices, according to Gartner, Inc.

“The release of the iPhone five years ago marked a shift towards a mobile-dominated future,” said David Mitchell Smith, research vice president and Gartner Fellow. “With phones and tablets becoming a platform for the delivery of applications and information, and not simply a communications tool, the era of running applications solely on desktop and notebook PCs is rapidly being superseded by a fast-moving, diverse era of ecosystems that span consumer electronics, business computing, fixed-location clients and mobile clients.”

Gartner analysts identify three key implications of this shift and offer advice to help IT leaders and application development professionals prepare.

IT organisations must rapidly evolve mobile applications and interfaces to meet sharp increases in demand across B2B, B2E and B2C channels

“This shift in computing to mobile devices, and the ongoing trends of consumerisation and 'bring your own device', mean that IT leaders and application development teams need to take a multichannel approach to applications across business-to-business [B2B], business-to-employee [B2E] and business-to-consumer [B2E] channels. Too many IT departments and end users still assume that only desktop applications are needed,” said Mr Smith.

Gartner recommends:

- Performing a mobile-only, mobile-first or legacy assessment during application development.
- Identifying specific demand for mobile applications in B2E, B2C and B2B sectors during the next 18 months.
- Implementing an architectural and tool framework for future context-aware apps.

Application developers need to retool as mobile-centric design replaces desktop-centric design for user interfaces

“The exploding interest in, and use of, mobile devices across consumer and business markets means that mobile interfaces are setting expectations for the usability, appearance and behaviour of future systems and applications,” said Mr Smith. “The leading edge of this change is the touch-and-gesture interface that is fundamental to mobile devices, but beyond this both audio and video channels are being used to expand this new user interface [UI]. Spoken commands drive searches and application actions, while the emerging video channel is leading to facial recognition and in-air gestures.”

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Gartner recommends:

- Tracking advances in new UI techniques (such as touch, audio, video, gestures, search, social and context) and creating a road map for short-term, medium-term and long-term potential.
- Factoring in ensemble interactions where applications integrate the experience across multiple devices into application architectures.
- Building applications with simple, focused capabilities and interactions, but also creating links across applications for coordinated operation.

Organisations need to reallocate resources as mobile advertising projects targeting smartphones and tablets will outnumber native PC projects by four to one by 2015

“When building UIs for multiple screen sizes and operating systems, new tools are needed to make applications function correctly on different devices. There’s no automatic way to do this — it takes engineering skills to design the right outputs,” said Mr Smith.

Gartner recommends:

- Making tactical investments in mobile application development tools.
- Enhancing (automated) testing and support plans.
- Using HTML5 as the lowest common denominator cross-device and cross-vendor UI model, though you should not expect HTML to address all needs.

Additional information is available in the Gartner report "Mobile Applications and Interfaces: New Approaches for a Multichannel Future," which is available on Gartner's web site at <http://www.gartner.com/resId=1920114>.

Gartner analysts will present additional findings on the impact of mobile devices at the Gartner Application Architecture, Development & Integration Summit 2012, to be held from 21 to 22 June at the Park Plaza Westminster Bridge hotel in London, UK. For further information on the Summit, please visit <http://www.gartner.com/eu/aadi>. Members of the media can register for the Summit at no cost by contacting Rob van der Meulen, Gartner PR on + 44 (0) 1784 267 738 or at rob.vandermeulen@gartner.com.

Additional information from the event will be shared on Twitter at http://twitter.com/Gartner_inc using #GartnerAADI.

About the Gartner Application Architecture, Development & Integration Summit 2012

The Gartner Application Architecture, Development & Integration Summit 2012 will focus on rapidly evolving trends that have profound implications for application executives and leaders. The rise of cloud computing, the explosion in mobile apps and the growth of service-oriented architecture are among the trends causing application development leaders to re-examine their strategies. Gartner analysts will explore these trends, identify the opportunities and risks faced by organisations, and suggest practical plans for the next five years.

About Gartner:

Gartner, Inc. (NYSE: IT) is the world's leading information technology research and advisory company. Gartner delivers the technology-related insight necessary for its clients to make the right decisions, every day. From CIOs and senior IT leaders in corporations and government agencies, to business leaders in high-tech and telecom enterprises and professional services firms, to technology investors, Gartner is the valuable partner to clients in 12,000 distinct organisations. Through the resources of Gartner Research, Gartner Executive Programs, Gartner Consulting and Gartner Events, Gartner works with every client to

research, analyze and interpret the business of IT within the context of their individual role. Founded in 1979, Gartner is headquartered in Stamford, Connecticut, U.S.A., and has 5,000 associates, including 1,280 research analysts and consultants, and clients in 85 countries. For more information, www.gartner.com.

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