

Visual **LANSA** Framework

Rapid Windows and Web Development

The Visual LANSA Framework is a design framework that empowers business focused developers and designers to create highly graphical Windows and Web applications. The learning curve is short, productivity is high and the applications are world class. You can prototype the application and user interface design at the same time and use the same design for both Windows and Web deployment.

Why use a framework?

The framework architecture provides a proven development standard for creating robust Windows and Web applications or a combination of both. The framework is designed to answer the question, "How should I design and build Web and Windows applications with LANSA?" The Visual LANSA framework makes LANSA developers as productive as possible by providing a framework for common commercial applications.

The framework assists in the prototyping, design and implementation stages of the application development. Ongoing maintenance and enhancement of your applications are simplified as well.

The framework uses a familiar work-with paradigm to define applications and is structured around working with common business objects such as customers, products, and orders. A business object is anything a user works with.

You complete your application by replacing the prototype parts with real parts that reflect your actual business logic. Code Assistants generate much of the code required and an expanding library of reusable Fast Parts allows developers to rapidly assemble powerful user interfaces. Components are also shipped for user management, authority management, server management and common code management.

Application types and modernization

The framework is most suitable for line-of-business production applications such as an ERP or a General Ledger application. It is best suited for expert users who use the application frequently and require fast response time, frequent task switching and high volume processing.

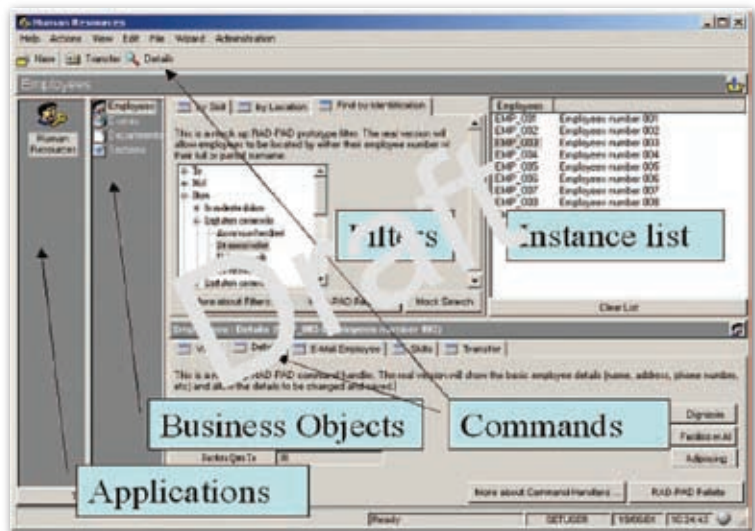
You can also create highly graphical Windows and Web applications by reusing your existing server programs from within 5250 applications. We've combined our experience with refacing and redevelopment tools to create RAMP (Rapid Application Modernization Process) a blended approach that uses delivers immediate results while providing the foundation for stepwise enhancements.

You can use the Framework RAMP tools to quickly enable your System i applications for Web and Windows. Absolutely no change to the 5250 application is required and yet RAMP offers advanced navigation, search and organization capabilities that go well beyond other modernization tools.

Key benefits of prototypes

Developers can be uncertain of what a Windows or Web application should look like and how they should structure the underlying code. Frameworks remove the guesswork, replacing it with proven standards. Prototypes can be defined in minutes and if the application is browser-based, designers can email a URL that users can instantly execute.

Prototypes minimize risk and maximize success. Prototypes are a simple and effective way of managing expectations and uncovering hidden or new business requirements. The prototype is not thrown away but gradually converted to a real application by using a snap-in architecture.



The Visual LANSA Framework provides a design environment that makes building Windows and Web applications much easier.

Framework concepts

A framework consists of a number of components. Each Application, for example, Human Resources or ERP, has its own icon in the left column. On selecting an application icon, its Business Objects such as employees and departments appear in the next column. A Business Object Filter is a way for end users to select a subset of information, for example, a list of unpaid invoices. The list that results from searching with a filter appears as an Instance List.

Finally, Command Handlers, such as Show Details of a product, or Delete a product are used to perform specifications against the selected instance of a Business Object.

Flexible deployment options

Your framework can be deployed as Windows applications on the desktop for expert users, or as browser-based applications using advanced DHTML with Windows-like functionality with zero-client deployment and ubiquitous access. You can support multilingual environments, too.

You can now create Framework-AJAX Applications to achieve optimal web performance with functionality close to that of a Windows rich client application.

With native Windows applications, your users can personalize framework applications by rearranging them in many different ways to best fit the way they to work. Future releases will exploit Microsoft .NET to provide performance improvements and an even more Windows like Web user interface.

Boost developer and user productivity

The Visual LANSa Framework was designed to boost developer productivity by providing an easy-to-use and easy-to-understand generic application framework. It hides and abstracts some of Visual LANSa and LANSa for the Web's flexibility to achieve higher levels of productivity and an improved learning curve.

Maintenance, too, is easier, because applications follow a consistent coding approach, making it easier to understand code that requires enhancement.

The framework enforces a standard interface design loosely based on Microsoft Outlook that almost all users are familiar with it, whether at work or at home. This model provides a cockpit or dashboard style design where everything that an end-user might need to do is just a few clicks away.

Features

Key Features

- Rapidly prototype commercial applications without coding
- Familiar, simple and easy to understand MS-Outlook style user interface
- Users can navigate to the required view in a single click.
- Deploy applications via Web browser or Windows XP/Vista rich-client
- Deploy to single- or multi-tier System i, Windows, UNIX and Linux servers
- Supports Internet Explorer Version 7.
- Optional RAMP tools to rapidly modernize unchanged 5250 applications
- Create AJAX applications for optimal performance with Windows rich client functionality
- Independent or team development environment

Supports the Full Cycle of Application Development.

- Rapidly prototype applications without a single line of code
- Executable prototype communicates design to end-users and to other developers.
- Program Coding Assistant automatically generates most of the code by creating Visual LANSa objects directly into the LANSa Repository
- Snap out prototype 'code' and snap in a real component as completed
- Structured environment makes maintaining and enhancing the application efficient and controlled.
- Extensive RAMP and Visual LANSa Framework documentation and online training materials including "Movie" presentations and demonstrations.

Key Productivity Benefits

- Abstracts Visual LANSa and LANSa for the Web to minimize learning curve and maximize productivity
- Rapidly build commercially focused, medium to large integrated applications
- Enable significant end-user involvement during design to rapidly deliver an approved solution
- Load-on-demand architecture dynamically loads application components as required

- Use a single application model for Windows and Web
- Modular structure of the snap-in filters and command handlers standardize development practices
- Gradual, benefits-driven introduction to OO concepts
- Fast parts library of reusable components.
- Program Coding Assistant creates filters, command handlers and snap in instance lists by generating code for complete Visual LANSa components or code fragments for common operations.

Users, Groups and Security

- The Framework has a convenient, optional security system with user profiles, passwords, and authorities to objects in the Framework.
- This offers a moderate level of security that can interface with your own security system if needed

Flexible Development and Deployment Environment

- Framework development can be structured and managed to support One Designer/Multiple Developers or Multiple Designers/Multiple Developers
- Use the Administrator interface in a deployed Framework Web application to create users and groups, set authorities and custom property values.
- Detailed checklists for planning a deployment, packaging the material and installing the package.
- HTML startup pages for the Framework or an individual application provide links to other resources.

Based on Visual LANSa and LANSa for the Web

- Component-based OO development
- LANSa's fast and scalable middleware
- Multilingual and DBCS
- Online client and remote server HLL debugger
- Active X integration
- .NET integration?
- Integrated Adaptive Server Anywhere database for development and testing
- Integrated Microsoft C/C++ compiler
- A2A and B2B integration through XML and Java services with LANSa Integrator

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