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Technology Preview Overview.
The BEA WebLogic Server 10.3 Technology Preview is a pre-release of the upcoming WebLogic Server 10.3 release. WebLogic Server 10.3, the follow-on release to WebLogic Server 10.0, enables a more productive development environment with new features for diverse enterprise application types and performance, standards, and technology integration improvements. WebLogic Server 10.3 provides enhancements in the following areas:

- **Lightweight WebLogic Server**–Features that improve WebLogic Server flexibility, agility and usability, and that make developers more productive.
- **Web Services/SOA Server**–Enhancements for building and hosting services for Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) environments.
- **Web 2.0**–New support for building Web applications that provide a rich user interface and a more dynamic and collaborative user experience.
- **Spring**–Enhancements for developing and managing Spring applications deployed to the WebLogic Server runtime environment.
- **Performance**–Performance improvements for usage scenarios that span the application development and deployment life-cycle.
- **Standards and Technology Integration Updates**–Updates to WebLogic Server standards support, and integration with enterprise technologies.

In general, the WebLogic Server 10.3 Technology Preview supports WebLogic Server 10.0 functionality with enhancements as described in this document. For documentation on features supported in WebLogic Server 10.0, see [http://edocs.bea.com/wls/docs100/index.html](http://edocs.bea.com/wls/docs100/index.html).

This technology preview is intended for evaluation purposes only and is not intended for production use. Application programming interfaces (APIs) provided in the technology preview may be modified prior to the general release of WebLogic Server 10.3.

Users with questions or feedback on usage of WebLogic Server 10.3, should direct their inquiries to the newsgroups at the following location:


This technology preview is not supported via the standard BEA Customer Support process.

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**Lightweight WebLogic Server**

WebLogic Server 10.3 leverages BEA’s mSA architecture to deliver a more modular server environment. New features give you more choice in how you use the server, enabling greater productivity in development environments and reduced server resource consumption.
• Lightweight installation—Provides more options to enable you to install only those portions of the product that you need for your environment. This reduces installation time and disk resource requirements. See Lightweight Installer.

• FastSwap—A new feature that enables you to modify applications without requiring application redeployment. Use of this feature enables you to accelerate the iterative development process of building, testing, debugging and modifying your applications. See FastSwap Deployment.

• Lightweight runtime—Enables you to optionally start a subset of WebLogic Server services depending on your application requirements. You can now choose whether (or not) to start EJB, JMS and J2CA services when booting WebLogic Server instances. See Lightweight Runtime.

• Console performance improvements—Improves the usability and responsiveness of the WebLogic Server Administration Console for both developers and system administrators. See Administration Console Performance Enhancements.

Web Services/SOA Server
WebLogic Server provides a solid foundation for SOA environments enabling you to develop, deploy, and manage services that meet the most demanding requirements for application reliability, availability, scalability, and performance. WebLogic Server 10.3 extends the Web Services functionality in the following areas:

• JAX-RPC enhancements—Adds support to the JAX-RPC Web Services support first delivered in WebLogic Server 9.0, focusing on updates to standards for enterprise-class Web Services such as WS-Security, WS-Reliable Messaging, and WS-Addressing,

• JAX-WS enhancements—Enhances the JAX-WS Web Services feature support first provides in WebLogic Server 10.0, focusing on updates to JAX-WS 2.1 and JAXB 2.1, WS-Security and WS-Policy support.

• .NET interoperability—Interoperability with Microsoft .NET applications required for your enterprise environments has been improved through new WS-* standards support and other enhancements.

BEA intends to deliver technology preview support for execution of composite applications based on the Service Control Architecture (SCA). SCA support is not provided with this WebLogic Server Technology Preview release.

See Web Services Feature Overview.

Web 2.0
WebLogic Server 10.3 delivers feature support for new Web applications that provide a richer and more dynamic user experience, and that support social computing by enabling information sharing across users and applications:
• AJAX/Dojo support—Dojo client support in WebLogic Server 10.3 gives you the ability to develop AJAX-enabled Web applications using WebLogic Server, supporting powerful widgets, lightweight information updates, and dynamic presentation for a richer user experience.

• HTTP Publish/Subscribe Server—WebLogic Server 10.3 provides a publish/subscribe server infrastructure for publishing data and information to subscribing browser and Java clients. Use of persistent HTTP sessions enables delivery of dynamic updates to users and applications with high levels of performance and scalability.

See HTTP Publish-Subscribe Server.

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**Spring**

WebLogic Server supports the execution of Spring applications with Web Services, transaction management, JMS, JDBC, security, clustering, and JMX support for production environments. WebLogic Server 10.3 updates Spring support by enabling:

• Spring 2.0.2—Support for applications built with the latest version of the Spring framework running on WebLogic Server.

• Console enhancements—Support for distributed configuration and management of Spring applications for the WebLogic Server Console to supplement existing monitoring support.

• Security integration—Improved integration of Spring security (Acegi) with the WebLogic Server security framework.

• Spring repackaging—Refactor the packaging of Spring components embedded in WebLogic Server to enable more flexible choice of Spring versions with WebLogic Server.

See Spring Integration Enhancements.

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**Performance**

WebLogic Server 10.3 provides performance improvements over previous versions of WebLogic Server in the following areas:

• Server startup performance—lazy deployment of applications used internal to WebLogic Server, such as the WebLogic Console, enables servers to be started without incurring the cost of initial application deployment.

• Console performance—Improves the usability and responsiveness of the WebLogic Server Administration Console for both developers and administrators.

• Runtime performance improvements—targeted enhancements the improve performance of selected server functions.
- J2SE 6 support–Leverage the performance improvements provided in the latest JVM/JDK technology from JVM/JDK vendors.

See Performance Enhancements and Administration Console Performance Enhancements.

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**Standards Updates and Technology Integration**

WebLogic Server 10.3 provides standards updates and important new integration capabilities to enable use of WebLogic Server with enterprise environments:

- JMS C# client support–A new set of APIs enables .NET clients to access JMS messaging services directly without requiring Java to be running on the client. This feature enables more flexible .NET and WebLogic Server JMS integration by providing a natural API for .NET developers, eliminating requirement for management of Java clients, and delivering a high performance interface. See Programming WebLogic JMS .NET Client Applications.

- Security framework enhancements–Support for SAML 2.0 for Web application and Web Services single sign-on, and support for definition of password composition policies. See SAML 2.0 and SAML Token Profile 1.1 Support.

- Web Services and JEE standards updates–Such as JAX-WS/JAXB 2.1, new WS-* support, and support for updates to OpenJPA 1.0.

- J2SE 6 support–WebLogic Server leverages features provided in the latest J2SE version. Note that updates to JDK versions will be required when updating from prior version of WebLogic Server to WebLogic Server 10.3.

- Workshop and Eclipse updates

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**Upgrading from Prior WebLogic Server Versions**

In general WebLogic Server 10.3 will provide compatibility with WebLogic Server 10.0, and deliver API compatibility, domain compatibility and interoperability with prior WebLogic Server versions comparable to that provided by WebLogic Server 10.0. Consult the documentation for WebLogic Server 10.0 and prior versions for compatibility and interoperability support.

- Domain upgrade–The Domain Upgrade Wizard supports upgrade from WebLogic Server 6.1, 7.0, 8.1 and 9.x domains to WebLogic Server 10.3. WebLogic Server 10.0 domains can be run in WebLogic Server 10.3 without changes.

- Application upgrade and compatibility–WebLogic Server 10.3 generally supports applications developed in WebLogic Server 8.1, 9.x, 10.0 using non-deprecated APIs. Exceptions to this general policy may be caused by changes to applicable standards, or similar changes requiring changes to API support. Consult the documentation for WebLogic Server 10.0 and prior versions for more information on API deprecation and removal in prior versions.
• Cross-version interoperability–WebLogic Server 10.3 supports interoperability with WebLogic Server 8.1, 9.x and 10.0 applications.

• Operating System/JDK/chip architecture support–WebLogic Server 10.3 Technology Preview is supported on Windows and Solaris systems. When the product is made generally available, users will need to check Operating System and chip architecture support across versions to determine if there are OS/chip architecture updates required. Upgrade to JDK 6 will be required.

• Maintenance considerations–WebLogic Server patches/defect fixes created for prior WebLogic Server versions that are determined to be low-risk for the user base in general and are created more than 30 days prior to WebLogic Server 10.3 general availability will generally be incorporated into WebLogic Server 10.3. Full documentation of fixes included may be limited during the Technology Preview timeframe.

• Complementary products–Users should review the appropriate BEA product documentation to assess which WebLogic products will be available for use with (or on) WebLogic Server 10.3. In general absence of stated support implies lack of support.