

on the scene



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GT editors report from the road

Microsoft Unveils Cloud Computing Applications for Government

REDMOND, WASH. — Microsoft waded into an increasingly crowded pool of cloud-computing suppliers in April with six on-demand applications designed for government agencies.

Among the offerings are public-records tracking, case management, and licensing and permitting applications. All are built on the company's Microsoft Dynamics CRM platform and delivered as subscription-based services.

Most of the applications already are in use by government agencies as traditional on-premises software, said **Amir Capriles**, a Microsoft strategic alliance manager. "These are not brand-new applications, per se. They're new in the way they can be

deployed," Capriles said. "The difference is that we'll offer them in the cloud."

Capriles said the applications — which are designed for groups of five to 25 users — target government processes that are now largely done manually.

Microsoft also unveiled a new Web site, www.publicsectorondemand.com, which it hopes will become a hub for idea-sharing among government agencies, Microsoft and solution developers.

"Our expectation is that as more dialog occurs in our online community, more of our partners will develop solutions that will be offered in the cloud," Capriles said. "So we expect our offerings to grow over the next year." — STEVE TOWNS, EDITOR