



# IDE NEWSLETTER



**Brigade Combat Team**  
Project Management Office

## SPOTLIGHT

The BCT Integrated Digital Environment (IDE) is designed to selectively apply information technology in support of the core business processes within the project management office. The IDE effectively supports the teaming approach to management by establishing a collaborative working environment, which facilitates improved communication among members of the BCT family. Additionally, our IDE provides a technological infrastructure to support the BCT mission of transforming the Army to the Objective Force. The four major components of our IDE – core processes, data, applications and networks – will be fully integrated, creating a project office and prime contractor team which operates in a common digital environment, empowered by state-of-the-art information technology solutions.

## DoD'S IDE POLICY

On July 2, 1997, the Deputy Secretary of Defense signed the Department's landmark "Policy for the Transition to a Digital Environment for Acquisition Programs." In the memorandum, the Secretary set "a corporate goal of digital operations being the method of choice for all acquisition management and life cycle support information" and stated that "by the end of 2002, the overwhelming majority of DoD acquisition and logistics operations should be based on digital methodologies and products." He further directed DoD Program Managers to establish data management systems and appropriate digital environments that allow every activity involved with a program throughout its total life-cycle to exchange data digitally. On July 15, 1997, the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition & Technology signed a follow-up memorandum providing additional guidance for this critical initiative. (Source: Downloaded on 4 Nov 2002, from <http://www.acq.osd.mil/pm/tpm/ppmo.htm>)

## IDE STRATEGIC VALUE

- Improve and automate core processes
- Promote the digital exchange of data
- Share knowledge through integrated databases
- Establish a centralized common knowledge base
- Promote improved decision making
- Create collaborative work environment for increased productivity



**BCT/EDS**



**EDS**

This *BCT IDE Newsletter* is a joint production effort, edited by BCT with support from EDS.

## IDE COMPONENT STATUS

This release of the IDE provides an information repository where data is created once and used many times, while being shared across BCT's community of interest without constraint by functional or geographic boundaries.

Calendar –

- Provides a web-based system to view various calendars used by BCT (personal, IPT, JV, combined)

Conference Room –

- Provides global access to view conference room availability, being integrated with the Outlook calendar manager

Website –

- Provides public and private websites; global access to public information regarding the BCT program
- Supports easy access to documents
- Provides simple file sharing

Oracle Internet File System –

- Provides a secure document management system
- Supports a common virtual library of program documentation
  - Immediate global access to current documents
  - Access to historical files

## HUMOR: DON'T QUOTE ME...

"I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."

-Thomas Watson,  
Chairman of IBM, 1943





## BCT WEBSITE SUCCESS

Congratulations! Your use of the BCT IDE has been exceptional. Our average weekly website hits has topped the "100,000 hits" mark for eight weeks running. Additionally, the Oracle iFS Document Management System now contains over 10,000 documents. We have compared our IDE achievement to IDE efforts by other DoD Program Executive Offices, and found our IDE to be among the most successful of all such efforts.

## FUTURE EFFORTS

- Enhance user friendliness
- Promote awareness of IDE capabilities
- Relocate server to TACOM in order to greatly improve performance
- Expand IFS user applications
- Establish a BCT knowledge center

## RECENT EVENTS

During August 2002, we initiated a major recalibration of the BCT IDE effort to best align performance, schedule, and cost factors. Highlights of the changes include commitments to dramatically improve performance, better meet customer requirements, and provide additional IDE functionality. By more tightly defining our core user community, we can effectively reduce several major cost efforts and utilize those funds to provide additional and improved software applications (functionality). We thank all of those who have used the BCT IDE and wish to assure you that we are committed to improving its usefulness and its performance. Further, we appreciate your time and effort in providing positive feedback in support of our evaluation efforts.

## TIP OF THE MONTH:

We all wonder just how long an upload or download of a file should take. Several performance tests have been conducted and listed below are the measured average times.

5 MB file	To Upload	1.5 min.
10 MB file	To Upload	3 min.
5 MB file	To Download	1.5 min.
10 MB file	To Download	3 min.

## IDE NEWSLETTER: OUR FIRST ISSUE

We hope you have found this first issue of the BCT IDE newsletter to be interesting and informative. We invite your comments and suggestions for making this publication even more valuable to you. Please send your feedback to:

John Brobst, [brobstj@tacom.army.mil](mailto:brobstj@tacom.army.mil)

## OUR PLEDGE TO YOU:

The BCT IDE Help Desk has committed to respond to each request within 24 hours. We are tracking all help requests and automatically escalating any request which exceeds the 24 hour limit. This policy will help assure a timely problem resolution.

## DID YOU KNOW...

- There are 10,710 documents within iFS.
- There are 810 registered users within iFS.
- Two of the most active cities to access the BCT IDE website (in November) include San Jose, CA and Columbus, OH.
- Two of the top countries besides U.S.A. and Canada to access the BCT IDE website are South Korea and Japan.



## Your IDE Help List

### BCT IDE Help Desk:

[PM-BCTIDEHelpDesk@eds.com](mailto:PM-BCTIDEHelpDesk@eds.com)

Phone: 248-265-6020

### Training:

Teri Chaplin

[teri.chaplin@eds.com](mailto:teri.chaplin@eds.com)

Phone: 248-265-8044

### Access to JV/GDLS IDE:

EDS Help Desk

[PM-BCTIDEHelpDesk@eds.com](mailto:PM-BCTIDEHelpDesk@eds.com)

Phone: 248-265-6020

### Security Officer:

Keith Whitten

[whittenk@tacom.army.mil](mailto:whittenk@tacom.army.mil)

Phone: 586-753-2033

### IDE Manager:

John Brobst

[brobstj@tacom.army.mil](mailto:brobstj@tacom.army.mil)

Phone: 586-753-2110

### PMO BCT Website URL:

<http://www.bctide.com/>

