

Founded March 1st, 2000, Vita Nuova is a privately held company with headquarters in York, England. Vita Nuova is an operating systems company specializing in technologies for distributed application development on network devices. Vita Nuova has exclusive world-wide rights to the Inferno operating system. Both systems are descendants of UNIX and were developed at Bell Labs.

Vita Nuova is addressing the exploding market for distributed applications across a wide range of computing devices. The company is developing a large, vibrant community of developers using the inferno technology and has customers in most developed countries.

Inferno is a network operating system based on more than 30 years of research in operating systems and programming languages by Rob Pike, Dennis Ritchie, Ken Thompson and others at Lucent Technologies' Bell Labs. Inferno is clearly a cultural descendant of UNIX systems, however, it looks out on a very different world from UNIX. Complexity is no longer confined to mainframes but is pervasive throughout world-wide networks. Inferno addresses the complexity as follows:

Replace a plethora of protocols by a simple, unifying file service protocol (Styx) that can be served on tiny devices, giving a uniform way to access objects across the network.

Let applications 'compute a namespace': all resources are represented as file systems, which an application assembles into an application-specific hierarchy or 'namespace', private or shared, that hides their source, local or remote, and nature, static or dynamic, for completely transparent access.

"We are not a company driven by the latest fads and buzz within the industry. We are a company that has a vision for a computing environment that is efficacious for the development and maintenance of distributed applications. We are searching out the large number of dissatisfied technologists who, like us, are not prepared to accept that this is as good as it gets."

**Michael Jeffrey,
CEO and Co-Founder, Vita Nuova**

Using those primitives, implement windowing systems, networked graphics, remote debugging, device control, and much more, with remarkable ease and great simplicity.

Inferno runs native on a wide range of processor architectures and as a user application on existing systems (Windows, UNIX, and others). In all these environments Inferno applications see an identical interface. The Inferno kernel and device driver are written in C. Inferno applications are written in Limbo, a concurrent, C-like, modular programming language. Limbo applications are compiled into byte code and executed by the Inferno VM. Limbo byte code is absolutely portable.



vita nuova®

distributed applications

Corporate Fact Sheet

While Inferno can be used for a wide variety of distributed applications, it is designed for use with small network devices and Internet Appliances. Inferno will appeal to serious software developers, technologists, researchers, academics, next generation application developers and enthusiasts around the world whose minds are open to new technologies and ideas.

Vita Nuova is a company with the same independent spirit as Plan 9 and Inferno's creators.

Allegedly, Rob Pike was reading Dante's Divine Comedy when the Computing Science Research Group at Bell Labs was working on Inferno. Inferno is named after the first book of the Divine Comedy, as are many of its components, including Dis, Styx and Limbo. The company name Vita Nuova continues the association with Dante: his first work, a book of poetry about his childhood sweetheart Beatrice, was called *La Vita Nuova*. The literal translation of Vita Nuova is 'New Life' which in the circumstances is surprisingly prophetic.

Plan 9 is named after the famous Ed Wood movie Plan 9 from Outer Space. There are no other connections except that the striking artwork for the products is a retro, 60s SciFi image modeled on the Plan 9 movie poster.

Contact Details

For further information about Vita Nuova please contact:

Karen Johnson
Vita Nuova Holdings Limited
3 Innovation Close, York Science Park
York YO10 5ZF
England

+44 1904 428640
karen@vitanuova.com

www.vitanuova.com



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