
GLOSSARY

The glossary contains explanations of certain terms used in this prospectus in connection with the Group and its business. The terms and their meanings may not correspond to standard industry meaning or usage of these terms.

“applet”	a small application that runs on an Internet or Intranet workstation
“ASP”	application service provider, a service firm that provides a contractual service offering to deploy, host, manage and rent access to computer applications from a centrally managed facility
“AMS/3”	the third generation of the Automatic Order Matching & Execution System of the Stock Exchange
“BASIC”	Beginners All Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code
“B2B”	an e-commerce model whereby businesses transact with other businesses on-line
“B2C”	an e-commerce model whereby businesses transact with consumers on-line
“client/server”	a configuration in which one computer, designated as a server, communicates and interacts with a number of other computers known as clients
“COBOL”	Common Business Oriented Language, a high-level business programming language
“content”	information contained in a web-site
“CORBA”	Common Object Request Broker Architecture, a standard which provides a way to execute programmes written in any language no matter where they reside in the network or what platform they run on and allows a programme in one location to use a programme’s services in another
“cyber”	a prefix attached to words to add a computer, electronic or on-line connotation
“domain name”	the Internet name of a web-site which is registered with Network Solutions Inc.
“ERP”	Enterprise Resources Planning, being software developed to achieve company-wide integration of business and technical information with the aim of improving business processes, including both front office and back office functions

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“e-business”	conducting business and business-related activities and processes over the Internet, including the automation of business processes, transaction of sales, optimisation of supply chains, improvements of operating efficiencies and management of customer service
“e-commerce”	electronic commerce utilising the Internet
“e-marketplace”	a web-site where buyers and sellers gather to, among other things, conduct e-commerce transactions, communicate, exchange ideas and advertise
“firewall”	a network node set up as a boundary to prevent traffic crossing from one segment to another
“framework”	the building blocks of an application
“Internet”	a combination of computer networks that communicate using the same protocols and that are connected to each other by circuits through which information providers can make information available to users globally
“Intranet”	a network internal to an enterprise that uses the same methodology and techniques as the Internet. An Intranet is not necessarily connected to the Internet and is commonly secured from it using firewalls. Intranets are often used in an organisation’s LANs or WANs
“ISP”	Internet service provider, a company that provides businesses and individuals with access to the Internet
“IT”	information technology
“Java”	a computing environment which enables the development of dynamic, interactive applications that can be distributed across the Internet/Intranet and run on any computing platform
“LAN”	local area network, a communications network that serves users within a confined geographical area
“legacy system”	a computer information system that has been in existence for a long time
“network”	the transmission channels interconnecting all client and server stations as well as all supporting hardware and software
“networking”	a technique for distributing data processing functions through communications facilities (the interconnection of two or more networks)

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“NT”	New Technology, Windows NT is a 32-bit operating system that boots directly and includes built-in networking
“on-line”	being connected to the Internet or computer
“on-line community”	a collection of Internet users organised around topics in such a way that the users actively contribute to both the dialogue and content within the community
“outsourcing”	relying on external computer companies to support day-to-day computer operations
“PC”	personal computer
“platform”	a computing environment, made up of specific types of hardware and operating system, which allows the development and execution of computer applications
“portal”	an entry point and gateway for using the Internet that provides web-related services and links
“reusable framework”	the same unit of software infrastructure that can be used as a building block to develop different software applications
“scalable”	capable of being changed in size and configuration
“server”	a computer that provides services for users of a computer network such as a file server, print server or database server
“servlet”	a small application that runs on an Internet or Intranet server
“software”	a system or utility or application program expressed in a computer readable language
“software component” or “component”	segments of computer programmes with well-defined interfaces, which constitute building blocks for layer program development
“SQA certification”	Systems Quality Assurance certification issued by the Productivity Council of Hong Kong
“systems integration”	a process to integrate different computers, networks, devices and application software packages together to provide a solution
“UNIX”	a multi-user, multi-tasking operating system
“vertical portal”	a narrow specialised portal focusing on a specific area of interest such as sports, travel or dining
“VisualBasic”	a version of BASIC from Microsoft specialised for Windows applications. User interfaces are developed by dragging objects from the VisualBasic toolbox onto the application form

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“WAN”	wide area network, a communications network that covers a wide geographical area
“WAP”	wireless application protocol, an open, global specification that allows Internet access and other services on mobile wireless devices
“web” or “world wide web”	a worldwide network of servers that supports hypertext connections and other links using hypertext mark-up language and hypertext transfer protocol and which permits the communication of text, graphics, video, sound and other data over the Internet
“web-site”	a collection of web pages which are linked together by a web-site operator
“Windows”	a suite of PC operating system developed by Microsoft
“XML”	Extensible Markup Language, a document language designed for use on the web
“year 2000 problem”	also known as the millennium or Y2K bug, a problem in certain computer systems which use only two digits to represent the year, in that these systems may not function correctly in the year 2000 and beyond as they cannot distinguish between, for example, 1st January, 1900 and 1st January, 2000