

NEWS RELEASE
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MICROSOFT AND LOCAL PARTNERS JOIN TO ASSIST STORM-DEVASTATED BUSINESSES.

Microsoft and Louisiana partners are working hard to assist, and in some cases entirely support, Louisiana businesses wracked by Hurricane Katrina. The Louisiana International Association of Microsoft Certified Partners or LA-IAMCP is the group of technology companies making the aid effort. "The IAMCP member companies recognized the impact of not only the New Orleans business community but the Baton Rouge technology community as well. With the huge surge of people and businesses coming to Baton Rouge, there is an immediate need for computer hardware and software, staffing, office space, and technical support, to get temporary offices fully operational," IAMCP Chapter President Jamie Armanini, Executive VP with Louisiana-based Momentum Inc. "I'm taking this very personally. We have to work together. I don't have competitors right now. I have colleagues that need help."

Microsoft has donated copies of Windows Server 2003, Exchange Server 2003, Microsoft Office, Windows XP and Small Business Server for distribution through the IAMCP partners to local businesses in need. The full version software, usable for up to six months, will keep businesses running while they make long term plans. Use of the donated software is free.

Microsoft has also donated fully licensed versions of software as part of the solutions being offered to qualified displaced companies at the Louisiana Technology Park. IAMCP partner company, Roux Business Systems has temporarily relocated their New Orleans office in the center. "Having a presence and the resources of the La Tech Park has enabled our company to maintain business with our displaced clients and has given us the opportunity to offer our assistance to other companies temporarily housed there," says IAMCP Chapter Vice President, Matt Hunt, a partner in Roux Business Systems, LLC.

Due to efforts led by MS Community Partner Account Manager, Charlie Ramirez, Microsoft has been able to respond quickly to make a huge impact in this challenging environment. Microsoft business teams are also working with local and state governments, businesses, and educational institutions to help them repair their information technology systems as promptly as possible.

Software and services can be obtained from the following IAMCP member companies: AIM Technologies, Camsoft Data Systems, Coe & Company, Diamond Software, LANtec, Momentum, Roux Business Systems, SHI, Softchoice, Software Spectrum, Sparkhound, and Transech.

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