IBM, Yahoo! to collaborate on IM

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IBM and Yahoo! said Monday they will work to provide instant-messaging interoperability between their products.

The plan is to join Yahoo!'s Messenger users with IBM's Lotus Sametime instant-messenger service that is used by corporations.

The two companies plan to enable customers of Lotus Sametime 7.5 to interact with Yahoo! Messenger users worldwide. In addition to exchanging text instant messages, users will be able to see their friends' online presence and manage their contact list by easily adding or deleting people.

Interoperability will be based on the SIP/SIMPLE industry standard protocol and will establish a server-to-server connection, requiring only

one login ID to take advantage of the feature.

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