New Microsoft Office seeks flexibility

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Microsoft's new Office Business Applications program seeks to give individual employees more flexibility in accessing the computer information they need.

The company said at its TechEd 2006 conference in Boston Monday that Office Business Applications would be "people ready" and provide companies with a means to make faster and more-efficient decisions.

The goal is to allow employees to operate more freely outside the confines of common "stovepipe" business information systems.

"Most people conduct their jobs outside of structured, line-of-business processes," Microsoft said in a news release. "Their work is often collaborative in nature, they need information from multiple sources, and they often work offline."

The applications use new platform capabilities built into the Office 2007 system, including workflow, search, security and the new extensible user interface.

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