



# STATEMENT OF DIRECTION

Output Solutions for DC1 / Iptor.com

April 2023

# Statement of Direction

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## 2. INTRODUCTION

For nearly five decades, since 1978, Iptor have been providing Enterprise Resource Management solutions to the marketplace within an IT landscape that has significantly evolved over that time. Most recently Cloud and SaaS solutions have become the new normality with on-premise solutions declining over the time.

The adoption of Cloud (off-premise) strategies brings new challenges to what are seemingly the most innocuous tasks, but critical to the operations of daily activities within the business landscape supported by Information Technology and their respective Departments. One of those activities is that of "printing" or moreover "Output".

Printing on premise has been simplicity itself. Press "print" and the Local Area Network and associated print server infrastructure seamlessly delivered the print output and a hard copy was produced. Equally, in the world of Internet based solutions, printing of simple and single items across the Cloud and Internet infrastructure is an "out of the box" solution provided by Browser based capability. However, "remote printing" becomes significantly more complex when requiring print jobs and output tasks across the Internet, back into the host user environment. With Iptor moving towards Cloud and SaaS based solutions this is a technological matter that we have had to address.

## 3. THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

Iptor's on premise solutions, coupled with the expertise of our Professional Services consultants have enjoyed the luxury of offering both Iptor preferred output solutions along with accommodating customers local output (printing solutions) decisions. This has led to different implementations of output solutions within many customers and has centered around several common choices:

- JetForms
- Whizzdoc
- Adobe (Multiple Versions)
- Other 3<sup>rd</sup> party products
- Basic solutions –"simple print"

Some of these solutions are now legacy products and others are not "cloud ready". Equally, the requirements for Output Solutions have significantly evolved and customers are requiring more complex answers to this requirement. Examples of this would be:

- Batch Label & Invoice Printing
- Outputs to non paper formats such as XML, PDF, XLS etc.
- Inclusion of RFID tracking / tagging capabilities
- Conformance to changing compliance document standards such as P27, camt.054 etc.
- Inclusion of non-text print items such as 2D & 3D barcodes and QR codes
- Ability to self template and redesign output requirements rapidly by customers

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### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Iptor has chosen a strategic direction to Partner with InterForm for the future of output solutions aligned to the DC1 and Iptor.com product lines. InterForm is the singular choice for outputs solutions associated with DC1/Iptor.com moving forward.

*(Note: Data output to external sources such as Business Intelligence, Data Warehousing, Data Lakes is available via our Data Platform and not affected by or in scope for this Statement of Direction)*

InterForm have over thirty years experience in this field and are specialists across all platforms including IBMi. InterForm is used by over 4,000 customers globally ranging from employee sizes of a few, to several thousand. Interform are currently managing over 1bn outputs per year!

We believe that InterForm has the most comprehensive, cloud ready and commercially competitive offer that will suit our customer's needs for the next decade. We already have multiple Iptor customers who have successfully deployed InterForm packages as their modernized output solution in conjunction with their Iptor ERP solution. InterForm has strong solution principles which position itself for the long term:

- A scalable solution core and incremental modules for enhanced functionality
- Is platform independent based on Java
- Can be on-premise or in the Cloud
- Processes XML, JSON, SCS, AFPDS, IPDS and more
- Is a global solution (supporting Unicode and DBCS)
- Has full image support (JPG, GIF, PNG, BMP, TIFF, SVG)
- Is Browser based
- Supports variables, conditions and flows for Dynamic Output(\*)
- Can be 100% user configurable using the Designer(\*)

InterForm integration is only available "out of the box" for Iptor.com and DC1 version 12 (on premise) so our further recommendation it to upgrade to the latest version of DC1/Iptor.com that is Generally Available. Any implementation of InterForm to lesser versions of DC1 would require locally implemented integration (at additional cost to the customer) and resources may not be available to deliver those integrations on lower (non Generally Available) versions. Note that for Cloud and On-premise solutions, a local server will be required on the customer network to manage Interform data routing.

As an added benefit, InterForm is already integrated with Iptor's preferred archiving solution, NextWay so it is a very simple step to archive invoices for the statutory periods required in local operations, and at the same time achieve a rapid Return on Investment (RoI). Additionally, whilst this Statement of Direction is in relation to the DC1/Iptor.com product line, integration is already achieved with IP1, WM1 and Iptor US Pharma.

(\*) May be an option and subject to additional fees

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### 5. ROADMAP

The development roadmap for InterForm is determined by the Third Party company themselves. What is proven is that the roadmap is driven both by market requirements and user feedback - this is reflected in how comprehensive the solution is.

Iptor's #1 focus is to continue to provide a robust core ERP system which is functionally rich and meets the evolving needs of our clients and the market. We want to continue our development by enriching our ERP core and ensuring that the system and functions are extensible, accessible and open - allowing customers to choose Best of Breed value added services to enhance their business flows.

By having a specialist partner for output solutions (InterForm) we can concentrate on our specialism, and them on theirs. From Iptor's perspective our roadmap around Output Solutions will be to enhance our capabilities to integrate faster, closer and deeper into InterForm. This will be through expansion of our API Services available to InterForm along with maximizing the effectiveness of the core iSeries spooling mechanisms to provide the optimum solution for consumption by InterForm services.

### 6. NEXT STEPS

Our recommendation is to upgrade your Iptor ERP solution to the latest version - either Iptor.com or DC1v12 on-premise. This then ensures you are on the latest, secure, most up-to-date ERP platform and continue to remain supported. Equally, Iptor have offerings and capabilities whereby you can become "cloud ready" by changing your output solution first, in readiness for your DC1 upgrade.

Please talk to your local Account Manager and discuss what options are best for you.