



TenStep Supplemental Paper

29 August 2003

Let's Groove

Ray Ozzie, the man behind Lotus Notes, unveiled software named "Groove" that facilitates peer-to-peer computing, saves money and unclogs bandwidth. Groove augments the collaborative-wired experience as it connects team members and creates a fully functional workspace. In other words, it provides the team with the necessary tools for optimal productive interaction.

What does it do?

It helps the team to:

- Share text
- Communicate by voice
- Share files
- Work with one another's tools

The underlying principle of Groove is to harness the unused processing power into a gigantic network powerhouse. This unclogs the servers and frees the bandwidth. It also makes software systems interoperable, meaning members can depend upon each other's software programs.

Impact of peer-to-peer computing

Groove-connected groups can become formidable and nimble. For example, if one of the members has a great marketing idea, and is networked with people who can provide the skill sets to implement the idea, Groove can provide the shared workspace. Groove taps the creativity and energy of employees who exist at the periphery in large organizations.

Peer-to-peer computing has brought many issues into sharp focus, leadership being the most challenging. For example:

- What is leadership in a peer-to-peer world?
- What are group dynamics in a self-organizing world?
- What holds it all together?

The response to these questions is shared values, which bind people together. Organizations exemplify certain values, and peer-to-peer technologies bring them front and center.

Employee involvement in work becomes maximized as the peer-to-peer technology blurs the distinction between the workspace and personal space. Peer-to-peer platforms such as Groove give their members a tool set to engage in peer communities, both at work and at home.