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The LAMP Stack (Cont.)

LAMP has several key advantages over proprietary software development:

- **Cost:** Open source software is either free or low cost compared to proprietary software.
- **Open source:** Anyone can review, modify, and work with open source software; developers can improve and fix the technology faster.

Vendors are responding to the challenge that LAMP presents to their traditional business model:

- **Microsoft:**
 - The [ASP.NET](#) web development tool will have new controls designed to reduce the amount of code necessary in common development scenarios by up to 70 percent.
 - Several SQL Server versions—Enterprise, Standard, Workgroup, and the free Express—are offered to make the database-related software useful in more situations, including those using LAMP.
 - The company also is readying an Apache-like version of its [Internet Information Services](#) web server suite featuring a plug-in architecture that will make IIS more modular.
- **Oracle:** Oracle is focusing the next release of the [Java Platform, Enterprise Edition \(Java EE\)](#), on ease of development.

- [Zend](#): High-end database vendors are also supporting dynamic scripting languages. IBM and Oracle are working with Zend on the Zend Core development environment to make it easier to build PHP applications that work with their database engines.

Increasingly, companies are developing applications using both proprietary and open source components to take advantage of both.

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