StrongLoop Acquisition Announcement

Purpose
The purpose of this document is to address particular questions and provide additional insight about IBM’s acquisition of StrongLoop. To view the full press release, go to IBM Press Release.

More info for IBM customers, WAS developers, and MobileFirst community members
More info for Node.js members
More info for Express and LoopBack community members
More info for StrongLoop customers and business partners

Q. What are you announcing today?
On September 10, 2015, IBM announced that it has acquired StrongLoop, Inc., a San Mateo, CA-based, privately-held company and leading provider of enterprise Node.js capabilities, one of the fastest growing development frameworks for API creation and delivery today.

Q. Who is StrongLoop? What do they do?
Founded in 2013 by engineers who have been contributing to Node.js since 2011, StrongLoop provides a rich set of Node.js tools and services that enable developers to more easily and rapidly create mobile, Internet of Things (IoT), and web applications based on a single platform designed to scale.

For developers creating the REST-based APIs needed for mobile, IoT and web access to core business applications, the StrongLoop platform provides a strong Node.js-based architecture, including an API framework, mobile services, SDKs and connectors to backend sources. StrongLoop also provides a unique GUI interface for Node developers and DevOps tooling for monitoring, clustering and optimizing Node applications.

The StrongLoop Open Source offerings include:
- Express
- LoopBack
- StrongLoop Process Manager
- StrongLoop OSS Connectors

The StrongLoop commercial offerings include:
- StrongLoop Arc
- StrongLoop Enterprise Connectors
- StrongLoop Monitoring Agents

StrongLoop is a leader among the Node developer community, employing many of the top committers within the community, remaining a highly active sponsor, and continually evangelizing around Node.js.

Although small, StrongLoop is rapidly growing, with open source and commercial software modules now being downloaded millions of times per month, and used by clients around the world ranging from startups to Fortune 100 companies.

Q. Why did IBM acquire StrongLoop?
The explosive growth of mobile, Internet of Things (IoT) and web applications to support shifts in client engagement requires that enterprises extend, scale and share their enterprise data and processes to new channels and markets. To help clients in the midst of this digital transformation, the acquisition of StrongLoop allows developers to easily leverage and connect to enterprise processes by building scalable application programming interfaces (APIs) and microservices through an open hybrid cloud.

Together, IBM and StrongLoop will bring to market innovative Java and Node solutions that can help businesses quickly develop and scale mobile, IoT and next-generation web applications.
For IBM customers, WAS Developer and MobileFirst Community Members

Q. What does this mean for IBM customers and partners?
If you haven’t already done so, please read the press release and Marie Wieck’s blog about the acquisition.

Q. How will StrongLoop fit within the IBM portfolio?
The StrongLoop team and offerings are now part of IBM’s market-leading middleware and cloud services portfolio, which is part of the broader IBM Systems portfolio.

The StrongLoop offerings will be made available both on-premise and through IBM Bluemix, readily accessible to developers. Like other Bluemix offerings, StrongLoop will be available for a 30 day free trial use initially, then licensed for commercial use via an easy pay-as-you-go basis.

Q. How will the StrongLoop team fit organizationally within IBM?
StrongLoop will become part of the IBM Systems Middleware business unit, led by Marie Wieck, and part of the broader IBM Systems business. Ken Parmelee from IBM will be the Integration Executive, responsible for making sure all integration activities between the two companies are carried out smoothly and successfully.

Q. How will IBM clients benefit?
With the acquisition of StrongLoop, IBM can help developers easily build and scale compelling mobile, IoT and web applications with APIs that connect to enterprise data and services. By extending these applications, clients can extract additional value from their treasure trove of enterprise application investments.

By bridging the Java and Node capabilities, IBM combines two vibrant development platforms to unleash a new wave of innovation, especially for Web, Mobile and IoT initiatives.

Q. What does this mean for the WAS Developer Community?
Java remains a foundation of enterprise architecture. With StrongLoop, IBM introduces an additional toolkit for agile development and delivery of Mobile, IoT and Web APIs that mix and match Java and JavaScript components on a unified development, deployment and management platform.

Already heavily invested in SOA, back-end systems? Making use of third-party SaaS solutions? StrongLoop can help aggregate existing services while creating a platform for easily consuming new services at any time.

With StrongLoop, WAS developers can quickly expose sets of enterprise data and services to Mobile developers, eliminating the need for custom integrations that are complex, time consuming and difficult to maintain and extend.

The modern enterprise requires APIs built out with full stack development skills to truly unlock the potential of enterprise data and services. The IBM acquisition of StrongLoop opens opportunities to advance your JavaScript skills and increase your impact and value to your organization.

Q. What does StrongLoop mean for the MobileFirst community?
StrongLoop will augment the MobileFirst platform with powerful multi-channel API integration tools. MobileFirst platform foundation will continue to deliver value around mobile app lifecycle, security, management, and end-to-end analytics. StrongLoop will be more tightly integrated into the platform in the future.
For Node.js Community members…

Q. **What does this mean for the Node.js Community?**
   As a founding member of the Node.js Foundation, IBM has a long history within open communities with significant contributions and investments in Apache and Apache Spark, Eclipse, OpenStack and the Cloud Foundry with the goal of advancing open, community-driven innovation to drive client value. IBM also announces continued StrongLoop contributions to the LoopBack and Express Frameworks that help developers rapidly create APIs that connect applications to enterprise systems of record.

   Enterprises need APIs built out with full stack development skills to truly unlock the potential of enterprise data and services. The IBM acquisition of StrongLoop opens opportunities to advance your full stack development skills to increase your impact and value on the organization.

   IBM’s acquisition of StrongLoop and contributions to the StrongLoop Frameworks can strengthen Node.js in the enterprise and further establish Node.js as one the fastest growing development frameworks for Mobile, IoT and Web API’s.

   The increasing presence of Node.js in the enterprise further enables Node.js Developers to focus on solving interesting problems and stay on the vanguard with Node technology. This acquisition also improves their ability to easily connect their APIs to enterprise data sources in a native or hybrid cloud environment.

   For more details, please also read StrongLoop CPO Issac Roth’s blog about the acquisition.

Q. **Will StrongLoop continue to participate in the Node Foundation, TSC and various working groups?**
   Yes. Expect StrongLoop to contribute as much as in the past with the added benefit of additional resources.
   - Ben Noordhuis, Bert Belder and James Snell will continue to serve as members of the TSC
   - Sam Roberts, Bert Belder, Ben Noordhuis and Ryan Graham will continue to serve as members of the Tracing Working Group
   - Bert will continue to serve as a member of the Roadmap Working Group
   - Ben will continue to serve as a member of the Addon API Working Group
   - Sam will continue to serve as release manager for v0.10 and v0.12

Q. **Will StrongLoop continue contribute code to the Node and libuv projects?**
   Yes.

Q. **What does the acquisition mean for users of any of the 160+ npm modules StrongLoop has published?**
   As in the past, we will continue to enhance and support existing modules along with creating new ones. Those which are open source and liberally licensed will continue to be.

Q. **Will StrongLoop continue to sponsor and speak at Meetups and conferences?**
   Yes.

Q. **As a member of the Node community, if I have additional questions about what the acquisition means to me, who should I contact?**
   Send an email to callback@StrongLoop.com.
For Express Community members…

Q. What does the acquisition mean for the Express community?
If you haven’t already done so, please read Al Tsang’s blog about the acquisition.

Q. Will StrongLoop continue to support the Express project?
Yes.

Q. What will happen to expressjs.org website?
No change. It will remain on-line and continue to be maintained and updated accordingly as in the past.

Q. StrongLoop has done a lot in the last year to improve the Express documentation, will it continue to do so?
Yes, StrongLoop will continue to invest in Express documentation.

Q. As a member of the Express community, if I have additional questions about what the acquisition means to me, who should I contact?
Send an email to callback@StrongLoop.com.

For LoopBack Community members…

Q. What does the acquisition mean for the LoopBack community?
If you haven’t already done so, please read Al Tsang’s blog about the acquisition.

Q. Will StrongLoop continue to support the LoopBack community?
Yes.

Q. What will happen to the loopback.io website?
No change. It will remain on-line and continue to be maintained and updated accordingly as in the past.

Q. If I have additional questions about what the acquisition means to me, as a member of the LoopBack community, who should I contact?
Send an email to callback@StrongLoop.com.
For StrongLoop customers…

Q. **What does the acquisition mean for StrongLoop customers?**
   
   If you haven’t already done so, please read the press release, StrongLoop CEO Juan Carlos Soto’s blog and IBM’s official blog about the acquisition.

Q. **How will StrongLoop clients benefit?**
   
   StrongLoop can benefit from the increased investment, global reach, industry expertise and support available from IBM. StrongLoop clients can also benefit from the breadth of IBM’s application development platform, expansion of data and services connectors, as well as innovations from IBM Research.

   StrongLoop clients and Node.js Community participants can also benefit from the combined IBM and StrongLoop continuing contributions. IBM contributes to many open source emerging technology projects through communities including Apache, Eclipse, OpenStack and Cloud Foundry, and was a founding member of the Node Foundation, dedicating three technical experts alongside the StrongLoop leadership.

Q. **Has StrongLoop the company, ceased operations?**
   
   No. It is business as usual. StrongLoop is now a wholly owned subsidiary of IBM.

Q. **For customers who currently have a subscription for StrongLoop products, have the terms and conditions changed?**
   
   No. If you have a specific question concerning your subscription, contact sales@StrongLoop.com.

Q. **As a StrongLoop customer, who should I contact with any additional questions about what the acquisition means to me?**
   
   Send an email to sales@StrongLoop.com.

Q. **How will this affect StrongLoop clients’ current support and services contracts?**
   
   IBM and the StrongLoop Client Support & Services team will be completely focused on clients’ ongoing success with the StrongLoop offerings. StrongLoop clients should not see changes at this time in the way they access Support. All existing StrongLoop electronic, phone and email support access will remain the same, along with access to the StrongLoop website. Over time as any changes occur, information will be communicated to clients and partners with ample lead time to allow for planning and a smooth transition.

Q. **For StrongLoop customers who need to log a support issue, does anything change in how they go about opening a ticket?**
   
   No. StrongLoop customers will continue to use the same process concerning logging and tracking support issues. Where applicable, IBM’s world-class customer support team may assist.

Q. **Will the products StrongLoop currently develops continue to include new features and bug fixes?**
   
   Yes. IBM and StrongLoop will continue to invest in the StrongLoop products.

Q. **There is a lot of valuable content on StrongLoop.com and docs.StrongLoop.com, Will it continue to be available online?**
   
   Yes. StrongLoop.com and the documentation site will remain online.
For StrongLoop business partners…

Q. What does the acquisition mean for StrongLoop partners?
   If you haven’t already done so, please read StrongLoop CEO Juan Carlos Soto’s blog about the acquisition.

Q. How will the acquisition affect StrongLoop business partners?
   StrongLoop had a limited partner community in early development stages, however IBM intends to extend and grow with any business partners that have helped launch the StrongLoop business. Existing and potential StrongLoop business partners are always welcome to enroll in IBM’s Business Partner program – IBM PartnerWorld – to access a vast array of benefits and resources, including marketing, selling, technical and training/certification resources.

   Visit ibm.com/partnerworld for additional information.

Q. I currently have a technical, reseller and/or referral agreement with StrongLoop, have the terms and conditions changed?
   No. Where applicable IBM’s partner and reseller team may assist. If you have a specific question concerning your agreement, contact sales@StrongLoop.com.

Q. I am currently displaying the StrongLoop logo on my website, do I need to update it?
   Yes, please send an email to sales@StrongLoop.com to obtain an updated version.

Q. As a StrongLoop partner, if I have additional questions about what the acquisition means to me, who should I contact?
   Send an email to sales@StrongLoop.com.

DISCLAIMER
Clients are responsible for ensuring their own compliance with various laws and regulations. It is the client’s sole responsibility to obtain advice of competent legal counsel as to the identification and interpretation of any relevant laws and regulations that may affect the client’s business and any actions the client may need to take to comply with such laws and regulations. IBM does not provide legal, accounting or auditing advice or represent or warrant that its services or products will ensure that the client is in compliance with any law or regulation.