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be our objective to become less transparent as a part of this transaction. Therefore, you should expect that the visibility that you have into the current Symantec or VERITAS segment will in fact be maintained.

There are, however, some differences, particularly around services and support, that we're going to have to sort out as we work our way through the next few months. But beyond that, I don't envision that there is going to be a substantial change in the visibility that you have into the performance of the various reporting segments that you see from the two entities today.

Way in the back, a lady with her hand up.

Unidentified Speaker: (Inaudible question microphone inaccessible).

Gary Bloom: Can you stand up and speak up, please? I'm sorry.

Unidentified Speaker: (Inaudible question microphone inaccessible).

John Thompson: I don't think seasonality the question is related to seasonality of the business. Unfortunately, I think people are stuck on what happened in calendar year '04 and was that norm or an aberration. There's a legitimate argument, I think, to be made that calendar year '04 was in fact an aberration in seasonality and spending for large enterprises, because companies came to the realization of what the SARBOX expense was going to be, and they shut down capital spending to get their arms around the issue of SARBOX compliance and its ongoing, incremental cost to their run rate.

So, our assumptions in our forecast are about normal seasonality for our business and for VERITAS's business, and I don't think that's a concern or an exposure, at least for us, at this point.

Gary Bloom: To just add one piece to that, because it was a little bit VERITAS specific, I think referring to our challenging results in the second quarter, which were I think challenged along with probably 30 other software companies, including IBM's software business, from there, what we've said all along. When John talks about factoring in kind of back to some normal seasonality going into the next year, and certainly in the June quarter, what we've talked about all along and what's factored in continues to be could there be some effect from Sarbanes-Oxley in that period of time? Yes, in the sense that we think that's still the window of time with which people have to start locking down what they're going to do and what they're buying for relative to how it affects Sarbanes-Oxley compliance in Q3 and Q4.

But we don't expect it to be anywhere near as great as it was this past year, where the expense was several things. A, it was kind of unforecasted, unpredicted. People didn't expect to spend as much money as they had to on Sarbanes-Oxley. The second reason we believe there'll be a much less of a trend of an impact on seasonality next year is it's much easier to update your compliance for Sarbanes-Oxley for the new year than it is to kind of create it the first time, write all the documentation and live through it in the first half. So we just don't think it's going to have as much impact.

I also believe that into next year, once people survive year one of Sarbanes-Oxley, they're going to start looking for technologies and products that will make it easier to do that. So whatever we lose, I think we'll get some uplift on some of the products that actually help with Sarbanes-Oxley, especially technologies like the KVS technology. You couldn't implement KVS quick enough buying it today to solve your problems last year.

So, now you can start being smart about it and actually use technology to get smarter about how you do SOX. And I think you'll see some of that positive benefit with a little bit of seasonality on the trend in the second quarter, still, but again, that's all factored into the 18%.

John Thompson: I think we can take two more questions.

John?

Unidentified Speaker: (Inaudible question - microphone inaccessible).

John Thompson: So the question is related to Microsoft and what assumptions have we made about it in our business forecast for the consumer business. And let me be clear. We don't think Microsoft will have a material effect on our consumer revenues in the current fiscal year, or in the forecasted fiscal year. We think Microsoft's entry into the marketplace is likely to create the normal dislocation in our equity, but when people see the performance of our consumer business continue at strong levels, that will come back.

Microsoft's focus, we believe, will be on delivering behavior-blocking-type technologies embedded within the OS, and some subscription-based detection service for worms and viruses and things of that nature. The betting line right now seems to be that that latter component will come sometime around mid-year, and they might do something earlier than that around behavior blocking, which is kind of catching up with where we and some others are in terms of generic exploit (ph) blocking and what have you.

So our assumption is Microsoft has no material effect on our consumer business, certainly in this coming fiscal year.

Final question.

Unidentified Speaker: (Inaudible question - microphone inaccessible).

John Thompson: The question is, have we seen any apprehension by customers in buying either Symantec or VERITAS products since the transaction was announced. And I would have to say, on our side, I've seen none of that. While we're not here to talk about our fiscal third quarter, needless to say, we stand by the guidance that we delivered.

I'll turn to Gary and let Gary comment about VERITAS.

Gary Bloom: Yes, so again, I mean, it was certainly a topic of discussion, but I wouldn't characterize it as apprehension as much as curiosity. So we certainly had to spend more time answering the question about what does this mean, how are we thinking about product roadmaps in the future? But again, I think you have to roll back to the general customer response. The general customer response has been very positive, and our customers look at this as a positive transaction in the future of their IT shop and the future of how they do their vendor management and supplier management. So, by and large, positive response from the transaction.

And, obviously, we'll give you more insight on that as we announce our quarter and Symantec announces their quarter.

John Thompson: We'll let you go, since you had your hand up.

Unidentified Speaker: (Inaudible question - microphone inaccessible).

John Thompson: The question is related to how we might use the cash, other than acquisitions, and might we use it for a share buyback? Both companies have in place buyback programs. We updated ours a couple quarters ago. VERITAS updated theirs a couple of quarters ago, I think.

It's not unreasonable to assume that that would be a very good use of the cash, but the new board has not made that decision yet, and I don't want to presage their decisionmaking capability.

OK, well, look, thank you very much for your interest and support for this transaction. Have a great day.

Gary Bloom: And my thanks to Citigroup for sponsoring this, too, so thanks.

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Additional Information and Where to Find It

Symantec Corporation and VERITAS Software Corporation intend to file a registration statement on Form S-4 containing a joint proxy statement/prospectus in connection with the merger transaction involving Symantec and VERITAS. Investors and security holders are urged to read this filing when it becomes available because it will contain important information about the merger transaction. Investors and security holders may obtain free copies of these documents (when they are available) and other documents filed with the SEC at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov. In addition, investors and security holders may obtain free copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Symantec by contacting Symantec Investor Relations at 408-517-8239. Investors and security holders may obtain free copies of the documents filed with the SEC by VERITAS by contacting VERITAS Investor Relations at 650-527-4523.

Symantec, VERITAS and their directors and executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the stockholders of Symantec and VERITAS in connection with the merger transaction. Information regarding the special interests of these directors and executive officers in the merger transaction will be included in the joint proxy statement/prospectus of Symantec and VERITAS described above. Additional information regarding the directors and executive officers of Symantec is also included in Symantec's proxy statement for its 2004 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on July 30, 2004. Additional information regarding the directors and executive officers of VERITAS is also included in VERITAS' proxy statement for its 2004 Annual Meeting of Stockholders, which was filed with the SEC on July 21, 2004. These documents are available free of charge at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov and from Investor Relations at Symantec and VERITAS as described above.