Web Week

NEWS • TECHNOLOGY • PEOPLE • TRENDS

DIGITAL MEDIA WORLDWIDE

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Vice President, Solutions and Marketing for QUALCOMM

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Asus Extreme Striker Motherboard

It is capable of handling the multiple NVIDIA SLI-compatible video cards.

Sun Fire x4600 M2 Server

This particular Sun Microsystem's server can house up to 64GB of memory.

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Web *Week*

NEWS • TECHNOLOGY • PEOPLE • TRENDS

Cisco Showcases the Network as Platform for Anytime, Anywhere Collaboration and Communication at Interop 2007

Cisco will exhibit a broad portfolio of solutions that help deliver rich customer experiences across any network -- anytime and anywhere. Interop 2007 runs from May 22 through May 24 at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas. Key activities for industry analysts and media include:

John Chambers

John Chambers' Keynote Address

Cisco Chairman and CEO John Chambers will deliver a keynote presentation on Tuesday, May 22, at 9 a.m. (PT) at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center, Las Vegas, on how communications and collaboration technologies are enabling the second phase of the Internet -- Web 2.0. This keynote presentation will be Webcast live and can be viewed at the following Web address: http://newsroom.cisco.com/interop/2007/.

Media and Industry Analyst One-on-One Briefings in Booth 1225

Cisco executives will be available for meetings with press and industry analysts to discuss many technology and market-trend topics, including:

Mobility: Mobility changes our concept of work from being a place to go, to a thing to do. Cisco will announce new mobility initiatives as enterprise organizations look to incorporate mobility as a strategic element of their IT infrastructure. Cisco will also unveil new research that identifies core elements of enterprise mobility, and several new solutions that utilize the power of mobility to effect greater business productivity and enhance efficiencies.

Data Center Networking Solutions: Hear Cisco's point of view on how data centers are changing and how the company aims to boost the agility, performance and scalability of data centers while helping lower operational costs for customers.

Network Systems Technologies (Switches, Routers, Software): Discuss how the wave of new produc-tivity applications raises the bar for the network and why it will require more than a few new simple twists to extend the network to be ready for business in the 21st century.

Press interested in scheduling briefings with Cisco executives should contact Linda Horiuchi at 408-853-5464 or by e-mail at lhoriuch@cisco.com. Industry analysts should contact Rebecca Noriega at 408-853-5819 or by e-mail at rnoriega@cisco.com.

"Your Business Moves With You" Demonstrations (Booth 1225):

Cisco will show how its broad portfolio of intelligent network technologies is redefining how companies are communicating and collaborating in ways never before realized. Technology experts will be available to demonstrate how large and small organizations can benefit from the latest networking technologies, such as those for mobility, unified communications, data center, security and network systems.

Nortel Multimedia Services Bring Enterprises Face-to-Face for Greater Productivity

Imagine face-to-face meetings with co-workers that aren't really face-to-face. Picture a high-definition (HD) virtual meeting experience so real you'll almost believe you're in a conference room in Toronto rather than your office in New York. This is typically referred to as 'telepresence.'

Now envision increasing productivity and reducing travel costs with a quick and painless global implementation of telepresence for your business. That's what Nortel brings to the table with its new video conferencing services, one of four new network application services announced today as part of Nortel's Multimedia Services portfolio.

IDC

Analyse the Future

"Companies in transition from multi-national fiefdoms to truly global organizations need to conduct business across distances without the limitations and opportunity costs of travel," said Abner Germanow, Enterprise Networks research director at IDC, which expects the global market for telepresence systems to exceed US$1 billion by 2011.

"By mimicking the experience of a live meeting, telepresence technologies enable everyone from corporate jet regulars to employees who rarely travel to manage, collaborate and share expertise without geographic constraints," Germanow said.

Nortel implements, manages and supports video conferencing and HD telepresence for enterprises through non-exclusive relationships with industry leaders, like the one announced today with Polycom* for resale of its video solutions including RealPresence* Experience High Definition** (RPX* HD). RPX HD uses large, seamless HD displays and StereoSurround* audio to create a realistic environment more conducive to effective multi-location meetings than traditional video conferencing.

In addition to telepresence, desktop video and other video conferencing services, Nortel's Multimedia Services portfolio includes hosted and managed reservation-less and operator-assisted audio conferencing multimedia webcasting of live, on-demand and subscription multimedia content; and web collaboration for online meetings, virtual classrooms, training and eLearning.

Available around the world, these application services are designed to unify video and audio conferencing, webcasting and web collaboration, enabling seamless connectivity for employees, suppliers and customers in a collaborative virtual environment.

"Nortel's Multimedia Services can help enterprises capitalize on an emerging era of hyperconnectivity, where everything that can be connected to the network will be connected," said Dietmar Wendt, president, Global Services, Nortel. "This translates to more efficient and effective communications across the globe, improved productivity and business reach, and significant savings in network operations."

Nortel's Multimedia Services are part of the Nortel Global Services portfolio, which offers a full range of network application, implementation, management and support services for end-to-end multi-vendor, multi-technology networks.

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Dietmar Wendt

MSN Receives Ad Measurement Accreditation From the Media Rating Council

Microsoft Corp. announced that its process for the measurement of ad impressions has received accreditation from the Media Rating Council (MRC), indicating that MSN® complies with the Interactive Advertising Bureau (IAB)'s Ad Impression Measurement Guidelines and the MRC's Minimum Standards for Media Rating Research. Through compliance with these guidelines and standards, MSN provides critical assurance to advertisers and agencies about the accuracy and standardization of campaign measurements and when and how an ad impression is counted online.

buying community by offering consistent and accurate data."

"In addition to actively supporting the MRC process, MSN and its leadership team have been important members of the development team and supporters of the IAB guidelines for years," said George Ivie, CEO and executive director of the MRC. "The MRC accreditation of MSN provides assurance to the online advertising community that MSN is measuring and reporting ad impressions in accordance with the industry guidance and

Bill Shaughnessy

that they are seeking to align with the needs of customers and best practices."

The guidelines developed by the IAB, with the assistance of the MRC, represent a significant innovation in the advertising industry. This is the first time that any advertising medium has developed a standard that measures the delivery of the ad itself to a consumer's browser, as opposed to other measures that focus on the programming or content.

"One of our objectives this year is to maximize the effectiveness and accountability of advertising industry standardization for our customers," said Bill Shaughnessy, general manager, Microsoft Digital Advertising Solutions at Microsoft. "These standards will help to free the market of existing confusion about how ad impressions are counted and satisfy the needs of our global media-

Interop Las Vegas 2007 Network Managed by Avocent Data Center Solutions

Avocent Corporation announced it has been selected as the official out-of-band management solutions provider of the InteropNet network for Interop Las Vegas 2007, North America's largest and most comprehensive business technology event, produced by CMP Technology. Avocent is an event sponsor.

The InteropNet network is designed to support data, video and voice for the more than 450 exhibitors as well as over 18,500 attendees at Interop Las Vegas. Avocent management solutions featured in the Network Operations Center include DSR® KVM over IP switches, Cyclades ACS serial console servers, MergePoint™ service processor managers all centrally accessed and controlled via a single interface by DSView® 3 management software. The software also is integrated with Server Technology's Sentry(TM) Switched Cabinet Power Distribution Units, selected as Interop's official provider for Power Distribution Units.

Out-of-band management provides a cost-effective, secure and efficient solution. It helps ensure a high level of IT infrastructure performance and productivity by meeting the demand for uninterrupted service availability. If an IT asset goes down, out-of-band management tools can remotely restore it to the network infrastructure, where it can be managed back to productivity in the shortest time possible. Out-of-band management tools minimize the need for local management and site visits, dramatically reducing the time and operational costs needed to bring IT assets back online.

"The InteropNet provides a unique opportunity for Interop attendees to see the latest innovations operating and interacting with each other in a live production network," said Lenny Heymann, Interop General Manager. "We are delighted to showcase these leading technologies in partnership with our exhibitors, sponsors and volunteer IT experts, and invite all the show attendees to take advantage of this opportunity."

INTEROP®

LAS VEGAS | MAY 20–25, 2007

Interop Las Vegas 2007 is held May 20-25th at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center. The InteropNet is accessible to attendees via engineer-led behind-the-scenes tours at specifically scheduled times during exhibition hours Tuesday through Thursday.

Avocent solutions, including DSView 3 management software integration with LANDesk Server Manager and other third-party tools is demonstrated in booth 739.

Lenny Heymann

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- **Now with Higher Resolution**
  New and improved to scan at 600dpi

- **Compatible with Thousands of Software Programs**
  Industry standard TWAIN interface

- **Durable Design & Construction**
  Built for years of trouble-free use in the field

Scan directly to PDF with ADOBE® Adobe PDF

Business

QUALCOMM and TeleCommunication Systems, Inc. Announce Agreement for BREW Locate Signature Solution

QUALCOMM Incorporated , a leading developer and innovator of advanced wireless technologies and mobile data solutions, and TeleCommunication Systems, Inc. (TCS), a global leader in mission critical wireless data communications, today announced they have entered into a non-exclusive definitive agreement for QUALCOMM's BREW(R) Locate Signature Solution. Under the agreement, QUALCOMM will have the ability to offer to WCDMA (UMTS) operators a location service solution that makes use of TCS' hosted Xypoint(R) Secure User Plane for Location (SUPL) Server. The solution supports the Open Mobile Alliance (OMA) SUPL 1.0 standard and serves as a position location server for assisted-GPS (A-GPS) devices. This will allow operators to quickly deploy new location-based services such as navigation, traffic, social networking applications and buddy-finder service applications, which can leverage the accuracy and time to fix advantages of A-GPS technology. First announced in December 2006, the BREW Locate Signature Solution will allow operators to realize the potential that location-based services can provide to their wireless end users around the world, while limiting the upfront capital expenditures normally associated with launching premium services.

QUALCOMM's BREW Locate Signature Solution includes (i) a compelling catalog of location-based applications from leading global publishers and developers; (ii) a hosted content delivery service for such applications through the deliveryOne(TM) offering, which enables quick time to market on mass market devices; and (iii) access to TCS' Xypoint Location Service, a hosted location service offering. The combination of QUALCOMM's advanced location-based offerings and availability of TCS' hosted location service offering presents operators with the opportunity to offer scaleable, accurate location services to their users.

"By working with TCS, a recognized industry leader in the location-based services field, QUALCOMM believes it can accelerate adoption of wireless location-based services, a technology with tremendous opportunity for mobile content," said Mitch Oliver, vice president, solutions and marketing for QUALCOMM Internet Services. "QUALCOMM is constantly looking for ways to help empower the wireless community of operators, handset manufacturers, publishers and developers with technology solutions. The BREW Locate Signature Solution achieves this by enabling operators to make advanced location services available with the accuracy and reliability expected from wireless subscribers."

"By making the BREW Locate Signature Solution available to operators, QUALCOMM is providing a streamlined track for operators to launch and begin offering advanced location-based services to their users," said Drew Morin, chief technology officer for TeleCommunication Systems, Inc. "The services TCS provides for the BREW Locate Signature Solution include access to a TCS-hosted, A-GPS location server platform, which incorporates QUALCOMM's QPoint location server software into an OMA SUPL 1.0 compliant solution, thus making potential deployment of advanced location services easier for operators around the world."

Drew Morin

BREW(R) solutions change the way people relate to wireless data services. By enabling the discovery and delivery of high-value content, BREW creates opportunities for the wireless industry to enhance consumers' mobile data experience. QUALCOMM's comprehensive and targeted BREW Signature Solutions offer reduced time to market and lower capital investment for companies providing mobile products and services. Customers also can benefit from several modular BREW offerings, including uiOne(TM), deliveryOne(TM) and QPoint(TM), which provide the foundation for customer-differentiated wireless data capabilities. QPoint is QUALCOMM's location-based services server software and set of accompanying tools and services to enable mobile network operators to deploy

Business

high performance, compelling location services on CDMA2000(R) and WCDMA (UMTS) networks. QUAL-COMM works with system integrators to offer QPoint to operators and hosted providers.

The Xypoint Location Service provides a rapid time-to-market entry for operators interested in deploying location-based services with minimal capital investment. The hosted service can provide precise or coarse location fixes, appropriate to the need, and a broad range of location-based applications can be included. TCS' proven, award-winning Xypoint Location Platform serves as the core of this hosted location service, and the environment interoperates with GSM, UMTS, CDMA and WCDMA protocols. Another component of the service, TCS' Xypoint Reference Network, supplies assistance data used to rapidly secure precise location fixes.

QUALCOMM Incorporated (www.qualcomm.com/) is a leader in developing and delivering innovative digital wireless communications products and services based on CDMA and other advanced technologies. Headquartered in San Diego, Calif., QUALCOMM is included in the S&P 500 Index and is a 2007 FORTUNE 500(R) company traded on The Nasdaq Stock Market(R) under the ticker symbol QCOM.

Except for the historical information contained herein, this news release contains forward-looking statements that are subject to risks and uncertainties, including the extent and speed to which the BREW Locate Signature Solution is deployed and adopted, change in economic conditions of the various markets QUAL-COMM serves, as well

as the other risks detailed from time to time in QUALCOMM's SEC reports, including the report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 24, 2006, and most recent Form 10-Q.

QUALCOMM and BREW are registered trademarks of QUALCOMM Incorporated. uiOne, deliveryOne and QPoint are trademarks of QUALCOMM Incorporated. CDMA2000 is a registered trademark of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA USA). All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Except for the historical information contained herein, this news release contains forward-looking statements as defined within Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. These statements are subject to risks and uncertainties and are based upon TCS' current expectations and assumptions including the extent to which the Xypoint platform, reference network, and applications are purchased or subscribed to by users, that if incorrect would cause actual results to differ materially from those anticipated. Risks include without limitation those risk factors detailed from time to time in TCS' SEC reports, including the reports on Forms 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2006, and 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2007.

Existing and prospective investors are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date hereof. TCS undertakes no obligation to update or revise the information in this press release, whether as a result of new information, future events or circumstances, or otherwise.

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Business

AllForSite confirms excellent results 2006

AllForSite BV. today reported results for the fiscal year 2006. The telecom equipment expert is glad to announce outstanding results for 2006.

ALLFORSITE

Total sales remained the same compare to prior fiscal year despite the down turn of the supply chain management activity. "Sales of new equipments and products have compensated the loss our major supply chain management project that was counting for a third of our last year turnover" AllForSite's spokesman said.

Gross margin was 20.23% compare to 16.23% in the prior year, and cash flow from operation increase of 59.18% compare to the prior year.

Jerome Perret, director for AllForSite, commented, "Our 2006 results were stronger than we had anticipated". The better than expected results were primarily realized thanks to an improvement in gross margins and a decrease in operating expenses versus the year ago period. First of all, 2006 has been marked by the fast growing market in large countries such as Pakistan and Algeria.

Another reasons the better allocation of the company's resources with the moving in June 2006. By focusing on trading, and leaving activities such as equipment and product storing, the company could lower operational expenses and reassign them more efficiently.

AllForSite management is confident for 2007 results, as the year started with the closing of major deals.

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Ateck COMPUTERS, INC.

Coonan caught out over broadband sledge

After slamming the OECD's findings on global broadband rankings as inaccurate, and accusing the Labor party of misleading the Australian public on its broadband adoption, IT minister, Senator Helen Coonan, may have some pie to clean from her face after an OECD spokesperson claimed the Minister's department had been directly involved in the formulation of the findings she was criticising.

The saga started last week when telecommunications analyst firm, Market Clarity, released a report that accused the OECD of using inaccurate data and methodologies to devise its global broadband rankings.

"The OECD's broadband rankings, while providing an interesting snapshot of broadband adoption are not sufficiently rigorous or accurate to inform the basis of national policy making," read the report.

Market ◈ Clarity

Market Clarity's report offered an alternative method for ranking broadband performance that moved Australia from 16th position to as high as sixth in the world for broadband performance.

"Under no measure does the OECD's 16th position assessment stack up," Coonan agreed. "Once pulled apart by Market Clarity, the flaws are so obvious it's like comparing apples and pears."

Upon release of the Market Clarity report, Coonan immediately jumped on the front foot, using the findings to launch a scathing attack at the Labor party which she claimed had used the OECD statistics to support its case about the poor state of broadband in Australia.

"Labor's doomsday rhetoric on broadband has come back to haunt them as this latest report sinks their claim that Australia is a broadband backwater," Senator Coonan said. "It's back to the drawing board for Labor and they will now have to come up with some new misleading data to criticise Australia's broadband standing."

But who is really misleading whom? According to the OECD, it was the Minister's own department, the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, which contributed to the published statistics she chose to use as ammunition to launch her attack.

OECD communications analyst, Taylor Reynolds, said the OECD relied on regulators, ministries and national statistical offices to supply data on broadband subscribers for the global rankings.

When collating its broadband rankings for Australia, the OECD has traditionally sourced data from the ACCC and the ABS, but as the ACCC stopped reporting broadband statistics last year, the OECD had to look to other sources, Reynolds told Computerworld. Queue DCITA.

"Data is supplied by our experts in member countries ranging across regulatory authorities, the ministries responsible for communications poli-cy, and official statistical agencies," Reynolds said. "We worked closely back and forth with the ACCC and DCITA to come up with these estimates based on ABS data. DCITA provided guidance in producing our estimates for December 2006."

Senator Helen Coonan

When Computerworld questioned about DCITA's involvement, a spokesperson for Coonan denied the department had any involvement in working with the OECD on the statistics. Further enquiries to clarify the situation went unheeded.

Broadband
BT and Sony bringing broadband to PSP

BT and Sony Computer Entertainment Europe have signed a four year deal to transform the PlayStation Portable (PSP) gaming device by adding wireless broadband communications functions, including high quality handheld video calls, voice calls and messaging.

David Reeves, president of Sony Computer Entertainment Europe, said: "It is very exciting for us to be partnering with BT. The opportunity to combine our market leading expertise with BT's knowledge in communications opens up many possibilities and we look forward to bringing many exciting communication functions to PSP fans."

BT will be picking up on its ability to provide high quality video and voice calls over the internet, developed as

David Reeves

part of its 21CN project. The partnership intends to integrate PSP with BT

Broadband's video and voice 'softphone' products already available. In the coming months, additional features will be launched to enable calls and messages to pcs, fixed lines and mobiles.

Steve Andrews

Steve Andrews, BT chief, Mobility and Convergence, said: "The PSP is an excellent device for both gaming and communications, because of its high quality screen and audio capabilities."

Broadband

New superfast wireless broadband device prototype submitted to FCC

While the Federal Communications Commission moves ahead with planning for the upcoming 700MHz spectrum auction, the White Space Coalition has submitted a second prototype white space wireless broadband device to the FCC for testing. White space devices could use the so-called white space in the current analog television spectrum (2MHz to 698MHz) to deliver wireless broadband service. Former FCC chief engineer Edmond Thomas (and current technology policy advisor for the law firm of Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis, which is representing the Coalition) told Ars that he believes white space broadband could deliver download speeds of up to 80Mbps, which would make it extremely competitive with fiber-to-the-premises solutions like Verizon's FiOS networks.

The newest white space prototype is manufactured by Philips Electronics of North America and consists of a TV tuner, a digital processing board, and a PC which provides the UI, control, and signal processing. It's proof-of-concept hardware intended to demonstrate that it's possible to sense the presence of TV signals and transmit wireless IP data in a way that does not interfere with TV. According to an FCC filing seen by Ars Technica, the new prototype is capable of picking up analog and digital television signals as well as wireless microphone signals (which operate in the same part of the spectrum). It works similarly to the Microsoft-manufactured spectrum sensing device submitted earlier this year. Microsoft also submitted a transmission device to the FCC for testing which will be used to show that white space broadband transmissions won't interfere with TV signals.

There are a few screenshots in the FCC submission, one of which is reproduced above. It's quite simple: the user selects a type of signal to scan for, and the application shows the results. If the sensing module picks up television transmission on a particular channel, then that part of the spectrum will not be used for white spaces broadband in that particular area.

The goal of the White Space Coalition is simple: take advantage of unused television spectrum to provide wireless broadband. Although analog television transmissions will cease in February 2009, digital TV signals will continue to use the spectrum between 2MHz and 698MHz. That is a highly desirable chunk of spectrum because the signals can easily pass through walls and other solid objects, giving them a much greater reach than WiFi or even WiMAX, both of which operate in higher frequency bands.

Television broadcasters have vigorously opposed the usage of the white spaces, citing fears that wireless broadband will interfere with TV signals. The current round of FCC testing is designed to ensure that the prototype white space broadband devices don't cause any interference problems at all. "Like the personal/portable prototype devices previously submitted by Microsoft on the Coalition's behalf, the Philips prototype is designed to demonstrate that operating parameters set forth by the Coalition... will provide incumbent licensees in the television bands with the interference protection to which they are entitled," reads the FCC filing.

The White Space Coalition is comprised of Dell, EarthLink, Google, HP, Intel, Microsoft, and Philips Electronics. The FCC should conclude its testing of the white space broadband prototypes in July and the first rules governing the use of the spectrum by wireless broadband devices should be released in October 2007. Once that happens, the IEEE will likely begin the work of standardizing the tech. If all goes as planned, white space broadband service could begin in the US as soon as February 2009.

Broadband
Swindon top UK broadband town

Swindon is the UK's best connected town - at least in terms of broadband.

More than 65 per cent of households in the Wiltshire town had a broadband connection at the end of 2006, compared to just under 60 per cent six months before that, according to research from Point Topic.

POINT. topic

However, Swindon has competition - Milton Keynes isn't far behind with 63.7 per cent broadband penetration, a massive leap from June 2006 when less than 50 per cent of households in the Buckinghamshire town had broadband.

Katja Mueller

"The introduction of 'free' broadband offers, increasing uptake of bundled services and migration from dial-up to broadband have all contributed to the rise of Milton Keynes," said Dr Katja Mueller, research director at Point Topic.

"The town has a high proportion of families with children, one of the fastest growing broadband demographics," said Dr Mueller.

The average town in the UK has 46 per cent of households connected to broadband.

Network measurement tool spotlights weakest links

Researchers at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, have developed a computer-based tool that when put to use in large distributed networks, could uncover the most used, expensive and vulnerable links.

The tool would help companies and government agencies better gird their networks against natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina and terrorist attacks, such as those on Sept. 11, 2001, by providing a way to measure network efficiencies and employ a ranking system of managed nodes and links. The information could give companies the information they need to protect the most critical network components, according to researchers.

"Previous measures ignored how users of networks would readjust subject to a failure and could not rank nodes and links in a reasonable way," said Anna Nagurney, John F. Smith Memorial professor and director of the Virtual Center for Supernetworks at UMass Amherst's Isenberg School of Management.

Nagurney and doctoral student Qiang "Patrick" Qiang have worked for the past seven months on the network efficiency and performance measurement project, which is funded in part by the John F. Smith Memorial Fund and in part by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The UMass Amherst team was among several groups funded by the NSF to "address issues of national security under the Management Knowledge Intensive Dynamic Systems (MKIDS) program," Nagurney said. The research supplements an exiting NSF grant on decentralized decision-making in complex networks.

The measurement tool enables a "computation of the loss in efficiency" if network components or links -- or combinations of those -- are damaged or destroyed in an attack, Nagurney said.

"We expect that the measure will have a wide practical use also in peacetime since it provides a quantifiable way in which to identify which network components should be best maintained based on actual usage and costs," Nagurney said. Researchers said the measure can also capture how users readjust after network disruptions. "There is a huge amount of commercial potential in this measure and its variants," she said.

Check out the Network World's Alpha Doggs blog for the latest in networking research at universities and other labs.

Microsoft, Packeteer Team Up on WAN Accelerator

Microsoft Corp. and Packeteer Inc. last week jointly announced a branch office appliance designed to provide WAN throughput optimization capabilities in tandem with native Windows applications.

Microsoft®

With the new Packeteer iShaper device, IT workers will be able to manage and speed up WAN traffic in branch offices while utilizing Microsoft technologies such as Active Directory and the Internet Security and Acceleration Server to boost security protections, said Bala Kasiviswanathan, director of Windows Server branch and storage solutions at Microsoft.

Microsoft and Cupertino, Calif.-based Packeteer are collaborating on the engineering and marketing of the iShaper appliance, which is being manufactured by Packeteer.

Scott Erickson, chief technology officer at Erickson Retirement Communities LLC in Catonsville, Md., uses Packeteer's existing PacketShaper appliance and is beta-testing the iShaper device. "Certainly, it has potential," he said.

### Cost Considerations

Erickson® Retirement Communities

Erickson said iShaper's $11,000 starting price appears to be low enough that he could afford to install one of the appliances at each new branch office as his company, which builds and manages retirement housing communities, continues to grow.

In addition, Erickson hopes to use iShaper to combine file services and other applications with his WAN for easy and fast transmission of bulky engineering drawings and other materials that field engineers need to access.

Zeus Kerravala, an analyst at Yankee Group Research Inc. in Boston, said the joint marketing arrangement between the two vendors gives Microsoft the ability to sell additional server-level software to customers attracted by Packeteer's acceleration technology. "It's incremental for Microsoft, and any box Packeteer sells is the upside for Microsoft," he said.

But Riverbed Technology Inc. has outdone Packeteer on sales over the past two years and is the leader in the application acceleration market, according to Kerravala. "Packeteer had their chance after 10 years in the market and let Riverbed walk right over them," he said, adding that Citrix Systems Inc. also offers WAN optimization products.

The iShaper product supports over 600 applications and is aimed at branch offices with more than 50 end users, Microsoft and Packeteer said. Shipments are slated to start later this quarter, and additional models are due by year's end.

FEATURES
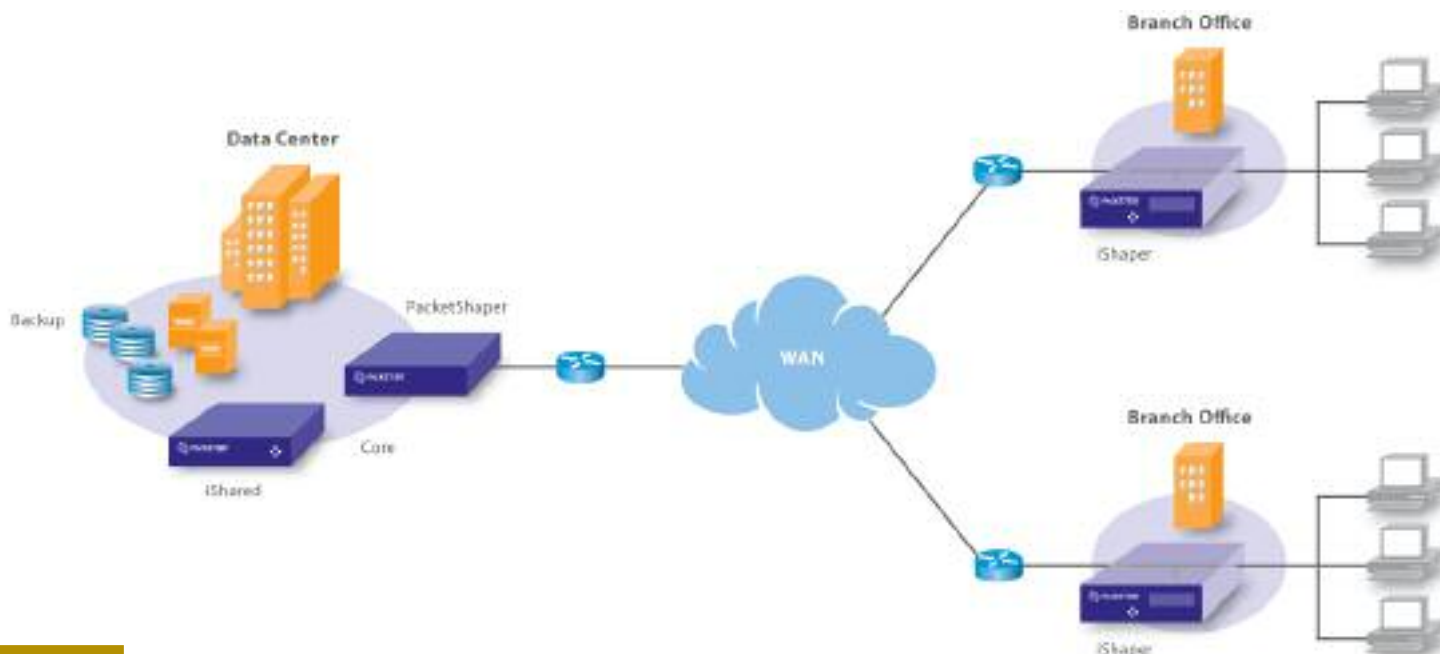
NSW Education graduates to virtualization

The NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) has completed an 18-month project to enable virtualization across its x86 infrastructure resulting in over 100 virtual servers in production.

With a mixture of VAX, Power-based AIX, Windows and Linux servers, the department was interested in applying "the same management regimes" to x86-based server as its high-end systems, according to the manager of enterprise systems, Paul Groves.

Groves told Computerworld the department was looking at strategy that deals with consolidation of Windows and Linux infrastructure and provides better HA and DR capability.

To better understand the emerging technology, DET established a "crash and burn" environment to "come to grips" with its capabilities and went on to create production and testing and development environments in preparation for real workloads.

After six months of testing, a proper project to adopt virtualization began 12 months ago and it has been a steady implementation process since.

"In the data centres we have 400 servers and the virtual machines now number from 100 to 120 and with that there has been a significant number of physical server decommissions," Groves said. "There has been not too much [consolidation], but we certainly have avoided physical infrastructure we would have had to deploy."

DET is running VMWare's ESX Server on about 10 to 12 physical servers and has tested as many as 40 virtual machines per server in the crash and burn environment.

Groves said new 4-way dual-core servers are fairly high-end virtualization machines and run a mixture of Windows Server, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server and Red Hat Enterprise Linux.

With about two-thirds of its server fleet running Windows and Linux, the DET will continue to use AIX as its "high-end platform of choice" for database and portal hosting, and gradually migrate its custom VMS student applications to more modern platforms.

Looking back, Groves believes the business benefits are both hard and soft, with demonstrable savings in TCO.

FEATURES

"We ran our own calculations and model to get a good understanding of the cost and saw savings in hardware and significant improvements in data protection, which we struggled to provide previously," he said. "The soft benefits are being able to respond better to requests for new services. We also saved on the procurement process and cycle time of getting things installed."

The type of production workloads running in virtual machines centre around .Net and Java application services, with "a few database servers" in the testing environment.

"We have made a lot of inroads in running various Windows infrastructure like Active Directory and parts of Exchange," Groves said. "It is yet to be deployed in production but tests have produced quick wins."

VMWare's offerings are not the only virtualization technology DET is evaluating, with "a great deal of enthusiasm" around using the capabilities of AIX and Power, and the open source Xen also being watched.

"We've had a reasonable look at other contenders," Groves said. "Xen was an interesting addition to the tech landscape, particularly with some of the bundling with Red Hat. We're also interested in virtualization in the storage market and are looking at it across all layers."

Groves said server virtualization is not a new technology, but the industry is almost approaching a paradigm shift in the way Windows and Linux environments are managed.

In Sydney to visit customers, VMWare's vice president of product management, Karthik R. Rau, said an interesting direction for virtualization is using a very large computing appliance for a subset of workloads and infrastructure services, whereby virtual appliances run on extra cores of multi-core CPUs.

"We hear about new and innovative ways to use the technology," Rau said. "There is an interesting use for the desktop people have yet to realize. For security virtual machines can be more secure than physical."

Enzo's Database Extrusion Monitor

Enterprises deploy database-extrusion monitors for many reasons. Insider threats. Data leakage from faulty Web applications. Outside attacks. Or, simply, compliance. Pyn Logic wants to cover all these bases and bills its Enzo 2006 as a jack-of-all-database-protection trades, with functions ranging from database-extrusion prevention to granular access control for database servers. To accomplish this, Enzo sits directly between the client and the database server, proxying all connections in both directions.

Because it's software, Enzo differs from the more common DBEP appliance model, and not always in a good way. On the plus side, it'll appeal to IT shops that just can't squeeze one more black box into the server room, as well as those interested in virtualization. Enzo runs on Microsoft Windows, so for our testing purposes, we installed it on Windows Server 2003.

Enzo directly accepts, processes and transmits requests to the database server. Although we found the process completely transparent to the client, this approach makes Enzo a single point of failure that could prevent access to database servers. The box could also become a performance bottleneck under heavy load. Test carefully before buying.

Little show-off.

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Sitestar Reports First Quarter Earnings

Sitestar Corporation (OTCBB: SYTE), a provider of Internet access and value-added online and computer services, announced today that it continued its trend of consecutive profitable quarters, notching its eleventh quarter with strong increases in net income and EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization). The Company also significantly reduced its interest expense by retiring its high interest note payables. Additionally, through its first quarter acquisitions of Magnolia Internet Services and OneWest.net, Sitestar considerably increased its customer base across narrowband, broadband and web hosting services. Financial highlights for the quarter include:

– EBITDA was $649,882, an increase of $162,971 or 33.5% from $486,911 for the same period in 2006.

– Net Income was $308,568, an increase of $120,886 or 64.4% from $187,682 for the same period in 2006.

– Interest Expense was $35,469, a decrease of $25,500 or 41.8% from $60,969 for the same period in 2006.

"2007 is a pivotal year for Sitestar and we have started aggressively," said Frank R. Erhartic, Jr., CEO for Sitestar. "We successfully consummated two acquisitions which will have a positive impact upon our revenue stream. We also garnered attention from the investor community with interviews featured in widely-read investor publications and have effectively sustained a share price over eleven cents. Given our momentum, acquisition pipeline and pending launch of VoIP, we are optimistic about our potential for growth throughout this year."

Safe Harbor for Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements that are based on management's expectations, estimates, projections and assumptions. The Company assumes no obligation except as required by law to update the forward-looking statements contained in this press release as a result of new information or future events or developments. These forward-looking statements generally can be identified by words such as "believes," "expects," "projects," "anticipates," "foresees," "forecasts," "estimates," "should" or other words or phrases of similar import. Forward-looking statements are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, as amended. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve certain risks and uncertainties, which are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual future results and trends may differ materially from what is forecast in forward-looking statements due to a variety of factors, including and without limitation, as found in the Company's reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Frank Erhartic

Procera Networks, Inc. Announces First Quarter 2007 Financial Results

Procera® Networks, Inc. ("Procera") (OTCBB: PRNW), a pioneering developer of intelligent network traffic and service management infrastructure equipment, today announced the results of its 10Q for the quarter ending March 31, 2007.

Procera Networks' financial highlights include continued worldwide selling traction and strong revenue growth from the PacketLogic line of traffic and service management appliances. During the quarter, the company posted a 40% revenue increase over the fourth quarter of 2006 to $1.985 million, and its gross margins were 78%. The company also booked an additional $241,000 in deferred service and support revenue which is not included in its GAAP revenue. The US market continued to gain traction since introducing PacketLogic in mid-2006, and the first quarter sell-through in the US was influenced by broadband service providers evaluating and selecting PacketLogic to help them meet the technical assistance requirements for the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA).

"Procera's PacketLogic family of products continues to gain validation. There are now over 350 customers with approximately 750 systems installed worldwide," states Doug Glader, CEO of Procera Networks. "PacketLogic continues to win in most head-to-head competitive evaluations,

and our business model is further enhanced by the strength of our gross profit margins. Our customer list now includes some of the major cable and telco providers in Northern Europe, a host of small and mid-sized ISPs in Europe, the Pacific Rim and the US, the largest telco in the Pacific Rim outside of China, and several well recognized colleges and universities. We also have the beginning of an enterprise customer base with the likes of Lucky Goldstar, Panasonic, Volkswagen, and AstraZeneca," concludes Glader.

During the quarter, the company signed an OEM relationship under which a subset of its technology is licensed to a significant customer that could have a positive impact on the company in the second half of 2007 and throughout 2008 and beyond.

During the quarter, the company continued to build its management team. The company added Don Henry as its director of North American sales. Don was a founder and the original vice president of sales for Digi International in Minnetonka, Minnesota and was responsible for building Digi's revenue from zero to over $160M. Don has strong business skills and knowledge in building the channels that are necessary for that type of growth. The company also added Paul Eovino to its staff the first of March as its VP of finance. Paul brings a wealth of financial background that will be of great value as the company expands and implements strong controls headed toward SOX compliance. Evelyn Miller joined the company in mid-April to fill a senior marketing communications role. Evelyn brings a very relevant technolo-

gy background and experience to our team at a time when we are refining market positioning, collateral and training materials for our industry-leading products.

Significantly, the company also added two independent outside directors to its board. Staffan Hillberg of Gothenburg, Sweden joined in January and Mary Losty of Baltimore, Maryland joined in late March. The addition of Ms. Losty and Mr. Hillberg give the company's board of directors a majority of independent, outside directors, which positions the company to move forward with a number of important initiatives including the filing of an application for listing on the American Stock Exchange.

The company held a conference call at 5:00 pm EDT on Tuesday, May 15, 2007, a recording of which can be heard by going to the company's web site at www.proceranetworks.com.

Ericsson to deploy and integrate transport network for Mobiltel in Bulgaria

With MINI-LINK TN Mobiltel will be able to introduce mobile broadband and new bandwidth-intensive services at a lower cost, while expanding transport capacity and increasing network control and flexibility. A smooth migration from voice to data is ensured by the flexibility of the system as both circuit and packet traffic is handled efficiently. This will pave the way for mobile broadband services that combine TV with voice and data.

Josef Vinatzer, CEO of Mobiltel, says: "Ericsson's MINI-LINK TN enhances our traffic control and manageability, and at the same time gives substantial savings in site accommodation costs. The deployment will give us the opportunity to continue growing our subscriber base and to develop new data-intensive and multimedia services."

Josef Vinatzer

Thomas Svanefalk

Ericsson has signed a contract to deploy and integrate its latest microwave transmission solution, MINI-LINK TN, for leading Bulgarian mobile operator Mobiltel, helping the operator reduce both capital and operational expenditure.

The contract involves design, deployment and integration of the transmission network as well as support services for MINI-LINK TN software and hardware. The microwave transmission solution will provide extra backhaul capacity in the existing transport network and makes it easy to add more capacity as needed through the use of Soft Keys. This will allow Mobiltel to add new subscribers to its WCDMA network while reducing operational costs.

Thomas Svanefalk, Country Manager of Ericsson Bulgaria, says: "We are delighted to have further strengthened our business relationship with Mobiltel. Our worldwide leadership in microwave solutions will serve Mobiltel well, offering leading technology and service quality to subscribers."

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Casema and Alcatel-Lucent successfully perform Netherlands' first Universal 802.16e–2005 WiMAX trial

Alcatel-Lucent and Casema, one of the largest cable operators in the Netherlands with more than 1.4 million subscribers, today announced that it has successfully tested Universal WiMAX in the Netherlands. Casema is the first operator in the Netherlands to conduct verification testing for WiMAX, and it used the most advanced version, Universal WiMAX 802. 16e-2005.

This field trial is a significant step toward satisfying growing demand in the Netherlands for access to advanced broadband Internet services from any location. The trial has been designed to test several applications in the framework of the "Smart Homes" project, which is subsidized by the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affaires and is designed to improve the overall welfare of the community by leveraging advances in telecommunications technology in three critical areas. Those areas are videoconferencing/telemedicine for welfare and care; video surveillance for security; and broadband Internet access to enhance general communications.

The WiMAX pilot network was deployed by Alcatel-Lucent in January in the southwestern part of the country and complies with the latest mobile WiMAX standard (IEEE 802.16e-2005). WiMAX stands for Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access, and it is a flexible technology designed to provide broadband wireless access to users in wide coverage areas. This technology enables people to

access high-speed, high-quality broadband wireless services wherever they are and wherever they go, making it truly "Universal Wireless" broadband access.

Mirko Mensink

"The deployment of this WiMAX pilot network plays a key role in accelerating the realization of the 'Smart Homes' project. Very soon, our existing broadband customers will be able to enjoy broadband services no matter where they are as they travel around the country," said Mirko Mensink, Director Strategy from Casema. "We selected Alcatel-Lucent because its solution complies fully with the WiMAX Rev-e standard and because of its demonstrated commitment to provide operators with the most advanced solutions to help them meet their customers' needs. The facts that Alcatel-Lucent's solution is available now and can be easily integrated into our network were also important factors in our decision."

Alcatel-Lucent provided a complete WiMAX solution that operates in the 2.5 GHz frequency band, including base station equipment, wireless

access controller, operation and maintenance center, customer premises equipment (CPE) – including WiMAX fixed CPE and PCMCIA (Personal Computer Memory Card International Association) cards for laptop computers -- to deliver Internet broadband access when on the move. Alcatel-Lucent also provided its advanced WiMAX engineering expertise and integration services.

"This field trial with Casema further illustrates Alcatel-Lucent's commitment to WiMAX as a key element of its universal broadband access strategy," said Luc Defieuw, Vice President Benelux and Scandinaviafrom Alcatel-Lucent. "WiMAX has the potential to give people access to cutting-edge and useful broadband services, no matter where they are and innovative service providers like Casema are leveraging that potential to better meet the needs of their customers. "

Alcatel-Lucent's WiMAX solution integrates state-of-the-art advanced antenna technology such as "Beamforming " (*) that enables better indoor penetration of the radio signal while reducing the number of radio sites needed to provide coverage -– in some instances by as much as 40 percent. In addition, Alcatel-Lucent proposes fixed and nomadic terminals from various CPE partners in a global end-to-end offering. This is part of Alcatel-Lucent's Open CPE policy, which aims at promoting an open device ecosystem and ensuring customers have the widest possible range of interoperable end-user devices.

Alcatel-Lucent is among the world's leading WiMAX vendors, with more than 40 operators worldwide deploying its WiMAX equipment.

International

IBM and SinnLeffers in 5-Year, 8 Million Euro IT Services Contract

IBM announced a 5-year, 8 million euro IT services contract with German retailer SinnLeffers GmbH under which IBM will provide a range of IT infrastructure services to help the company to maintain its leadership in the market. SinnLeffers is one of the biggest German retailers in the textile industry with 47 fashion stores in Germany and annual revenues of EUR 500M.

SinnLeffers required a flexible IT-infrastructure solution to be able to respond quickly to the changing demands in the market. The company chose IBM to host all their IT systems at a high availability IBM data centre. The aim is to help SinnLeffers prepare for future growth in the German market and meet the company's IT challenges.

"Within the repositioning of SinnLeffers, we are focusing on our core business and therefore handing over the IT infrastructure services to IBM. The IBM solution provides best services for all our locations with high availability," explains Patrick Feller, CEO of SinnLeffers.

"SinnLeffers manages massive amounts of financial data," says Michael Diemer, General Manager of IBM Global Technology Services in Germany. "IBM's data center solution provides SinnLeffers with continuous access to their critical information assets and keeps this data safe inside industry-leading facilities designed to withstand the most extreme elements both natural and manmade."

Michael Diemer

The data for SinnLeffers' environment will be hosted at one of IBM's data center, which is part of world's largest commercial technology infrastructure with more than 8 million square feet of data centers on six continents supporting 2.3 million corporate users and billions more end users accessing everything from retail and banking applications to government systems. SinnLeffers will benefit from the latest technology while being able to concentrate on their core business.

The contract was signed in April 2007.

Feel Need For Even More Speed? Alienware, Dell Accelerate Gaming with NVIDIA GeForce 8800 Ultra Graphics Card

Go Play! is the word from gaming leaders Alienware and Dell, who today are taking enthusiasts to the next level by offering the mega-powerful NVIDIA® GeForce® 8800 Ultra graphics cards on high-performance Alienware Area 51® , Alienware AuroraTM and Dell XPSTM gaming desktops.

The SLI-Ready GeForce 8800 Ultra graphics processor delivers outstanding graphics quality for even the most challenging and complex gaming and multimedia applications.

Systems configured with multi-core processors and the GeForce 8800 Ultra GPUs will be primed to take on this year's highly anticipated DirectX® 10 gaming titles as well as next-generation OpenGL® titles. The DirectX 10 3-D graphic programming interfaces deliver unparalleled levels of realism and film-quality effects for games, which the GeForce 8800 Ultra graphics processor can render in real time, contributing to a truly immersive gaming experience.

Motorola and Hybricon Collaborate to Develop Proof-of-Concept for Conduction-Cooled MicroTCA Platform

MOTOROLA

Motorola, Inc. announced a joint effort with Hybricon Corporation to develop a proof-of-concept of a MicroTCATM conduction-cooled platform. The collaboration further demonstrates the MicroTCA standard's viability across a number of industries with demanding environments including military, telecom, medical and industrial.

Hybricon®
Innovation • Quality • Service

Motorola and Hybricon's proof-of-concept will be demonstrated at the first annual MicroTCA Summit being held May 30 – June 1 in Baltimore, Maryland.

The MicroTCA proof-of-concept will be based on Motorola's off-the-shelf MicroTCA product offerings. Hybricon, a leading backplane designs provider, will add rugged aspects such as enclosure and testing.

Paul Freve

"Teaming with Motorola, the leading MicroTCA provider, creates the ideal alliance to address the dynamic and challenging rugged environments that are critical for a number of edge applications in the military, telecommunica-

tions and medical industries, to name a few," said Paul Freve, president of Hybricon. "Due to the architecture's flexibility, extended capabilities, scaling and high-performance, MicroTCA is not only suitable for multiple applications, it has become the industry's focused architecture of choice.

"We believe that this proof-of-concept will help dispel the uncertainty in the marketplace that MicroTCA can be ruggedized and shows that MicroTCA is a viable COTS alternative and platform choice for rugged platforms," said Freve.

"Our collaboration with a leading supplier such as Hybricon opens MicroTCA to a much broader and diverse customer base including similar network centric initiatives in the military, telecommunications and medical industries," said Paul Virgo, director of MicroTCA marketing, Embedded Communications Computing, Motorola. "We're breaking the barriers and truly extending the MicroTCA architecture to industries where rugged and extended environmental issues have previously been obstacles. MicroTCA has provided the solution."

Fujitsu Launches Spring Lineup of LifeBook Corporate, Consumer and Vertical Notebooks Powered by Next-Generation Intel Centrino Pro Processor Technology

Fujitsu Computer Systems Corporation debuted four LifeBook(R) notebooks powered by next-generation Intel(R) Centrino(R) Pro processor technology designed to improve the overall mobile computing experience. The LifeBook E8410 notebook, the flagship of the Fujitsu corporate desktop replacement portfolio, is among the first systems equipped with Intel(R) Centrino(R) Pro processor technology, which offers enhanced security, system and wireless manageability for reduced total cost of ownership.
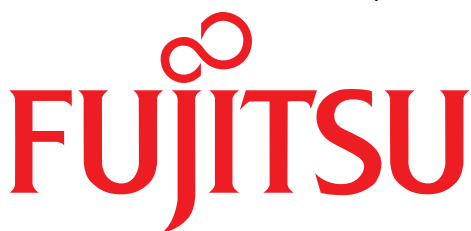
The LifeBook T4220 convertible Tablet PC, the LifeBook E8310 corporate notebook and the LifeBook A6030 mainstream notebook will also sport the new Intel(R) Centrino(R) Pro processor technology. All four LifeBook notebooks, available in Q2 2007, benefit from improvements in performance, graphics, wireless connectivity, and battery life.

"Mobile products are now outshipping desktops as the preferred computing device for the enterprise," said Paul Moore, senior director of mobile product marketing, Fujitsu Computer Systems. "Intel Centrino Pro processor technology has helped advance this trend by delivering dual core performance, plus reduced thermals that promote smaller lighter units, longer battery life, better wireless performance, and an overall excellent mobile experience for the mobile user. This -- combined with the unique and diverse lineup of Fujitsu LifeBook notebooks -- is a real boost to increasing productivity and entertainment for both mobile professionals and consumers."

"Fujitsu has always placed a premium on delivering reliable, high-performance uniquely mobile notebooks," said Erik Reid, marketing director, Intel Mobile Platforms Group. "Intel Centrino Pro processor technology provides improvements that will enable Fujitsu to better deliver on that goal and help to drive continued growth in the mobile computing market."

All four Fujitsu LifeBook notebooks get a performance boost and extended battery life from the new Intel(R) Core(TM) 2 Duo processor, and offer either the Intel(R) GM965 Express Chipset or the Intel(R) PM965 Express Chipset. The LifeBook T4220, LifeBook E8410, and A6030 notebooks also offer the Intel(R) Next-Gen Wireless-N, providing up to five times the performance compared to 802.11g and twice the wireless range.(1)

The LifeBook E8410 Notebook

Renowned for its reliability, top-notch performance and ironclad security, the 6.1-pound LifeBook E8410 corporate powerhouse notebook with a 15.4-inch widescreen display, is one of the lightest in its class. Equipped with Intel(R) Centrino(R) Pro processor technology, the LifeBook E8410 notebook offers Intel(R) Active Management Technology, which provides proactive security features that

enforce system compliance and block more threats, along with new wireless management capabilities that remotely diagnose, repair, and protect notebooks. A powerful NVIDIA graphics processor, available as an option, delivers the ability to build and display compelling visual communications with rich multimedia.

The LifeBook E8410 notebook features a new housing, yet maintains its durable and lightweight design featuring magnesium-alloy casing, spill-resistant keyboard, stainless-steel hinges, and the Fujitsu Shock Sensor hard drive protection system. A new optional built-in camera, centered above the display, is ideal for video calls or capturing video or still images.

The LifeBook T4220 Tablet PC

The LifeBook T4220 Tablet PC, a new edition of the highly popular ultra-light 4.3-pound thin and light convertible notebook, is designed for on-the-go mobile professionals who require the flexibility of a tablet for note-taking or navigating through forms-based applications, along with the traditional keyboard input of a notebook computer. The industry's lightest convertible Tablet PC with a modular bay is packed with a full complement of security features and the Fujitsu Shock Sensor hard drive protection system. It offers the market's first bi-directional display hinge, which turns the screen in both directions for added convenience.

"Over 500 caregivers rely on the Fujitsu LifeBook T Series Tablet PC to record, share, and access patient information from anywhere on our distributed campus," said Tanya Townsend, IT director at Saint Clare's Hospital, Weston, WI. "With improvements in performance, wireless connectivity, and battery life, we are looking forward to the productivity benefits that the new LifeBook T4220 will deliver to our clinicians."

The LifeBook A6030 Notebook
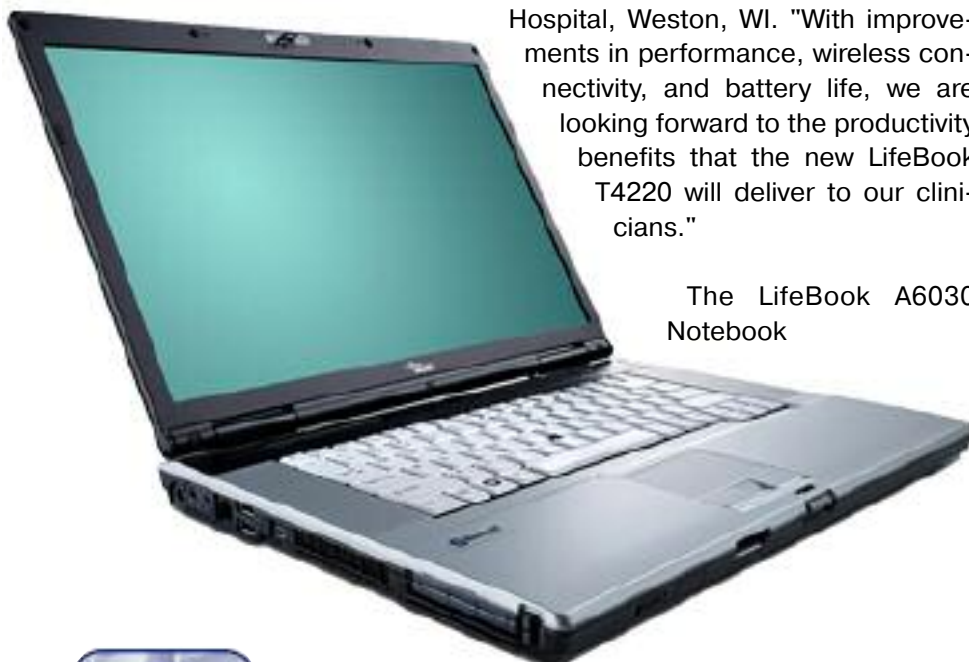
The LifeBook A6030 mainstream notebook, equipped with a 15.4-inch Color-Enhanced Crystal View Display for brighter images and richer colors, meets the multitasking and mobile computing needs of mobile professionals, as well as consumers in the home and education markets. The LifeBook A6030 notebook combines affordability with an impressive feature set including Microsoft Vista Home Premium, a spill-resistant keyboard, the Fujitsu Shock Sensor hard drive protection system, an array of security options, and an optional point-and-write touch-pad for signature capture and short note taking.

The LifeBook E8310 Notebook

The 6.2-pound LifeBook E8310 corporate notebook features a 15-inch display and provides a highly flexible platform that can be configured to meet a diverse array of business demands. Extensive security features keep data safe, and the spill-resistant keyboard, the stainless-steel hinges, and the Fujitsu Shock Sensor hard drive protection system ensure durability.

Product reviews

Asus Extreme Striker Motherboard

Summary: For work or for pleasure, the Extreme Striker Motherboard is a screamer that wins our Editor's Choice Award for speed and value.

Price: $322

www.asustek.com

★★★★★

It is capable of handling the multiple NVIDIA SLI-compatible video cards.

There are some folks that like the advantage of ordering a pre-built computer that they card order online or over the telephone. In most cases however, you're pretty much stuck with the components in the system although you might be able to add a few PCI cards at the most. On the other hand, there are others that are experienced in building their own desktop that includes components meant specifically for their applications and needs. One of the leaders in the production of motherboards throughout the last decade has been AsusTek that is even used by several different leading computer system manufacturers. The company's Extreme Striker Motherboard is a powerful component for any desktop and it receives our Editor's Choice Award for speed and value.

Regardless of the end application, the Asus Extreme Striker motherboard has quite a bit of flexibility when it comes to the CPU you select to use with your system. Bus speeds are selectable between 533, 800, 1066 and 1333MHz. You also have the ability to multiply the bus speed to meet the requirements of your Intel chip. The mainboard is compatible with a wide variety of Intel processors that include the Core 2 Duo, Core 2 Extreme, Pentium IV and Pentium D models. There are a total of four 240-pin DDR2 DIMM slots that allow you to use up to 2GB memory modules per slot for a total memory specification of 8GB. AsusTek has decided to use the latest version of Phoenix's Award BIOS chips for this particular model.

The Asus Extreme Striker Motherboard offers two PCI-Express x16 slots that can be used with various cards in addition to a single PCI-Express x16 slot that runs at an x8 speed. Other cards can utilize a single PCI-Express x1 slot and two more additional card slots that support the PCI 2.2 standard. This motherboard's BIOS supports the use of NVIDIA's SLI (Scalable Link Interface)

technology with the two PCI-Express x16 slots, which means your computer is able take advantage of the faster graphics speeds on the market with graphic adapters like the top of the line NVIDIA GeForce 8800 Ultra.

Other features of this AsusTek motherboard include a single Ultra DMA and six SATA ATA controller interfaces. With NVIDIA's MediaShield feature you'll be able to add several different hard drives that can be set up in RAID 0, 1, 0+1 and 5 configurations. It also takes advantage of the new eSATA technology with two external SATA interfaces. There are a total of ten available high speed USB 2.0 ports in additional to an integrated SupremeFX 8.1 audio chipset that includes both optical and coaxial outputs for home entertainment systems.

Whether you select this motherboard for serious computing or for pleasure the AsusTek Extreme Striker Motherboard is a screamer that can meet the computing needs of any serious user. There are several different internet sites that carry this motherboard with the best price found at $322. Visit the company's web site for more information and technical specifications on this product at **www.asustek.com**.

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Product reviews

Sun Fire x4600 M2 Server

Summary: The Sun Fire x4600 M2 Server is a powerful UNIX system that receives our Editor's Choice Award for value and performance.

Price: $48,000

www.sun.com

★★★★★

This particular Sun Microsystem's server can house up to 64GB of memory.

For several decades many of the Fortune 500 companies have used one of Sun Microsystem's UNIX-based servers in their environment. They are capable of communicating with various types of automation equipment and providing file services as well. The server system capabilities have also improved as technologies have advanced during the same period. We think you'll be impressed with the processing power that is available through the company's Sun Fire x4600 M2 Server that wins our Editor's Choice Award for value and performance.

This particular Sun Microsystem's server is shipped with four 2.6GHz AMD Dual Core Opteron 8218 processors and each core is provided with 1MB of Level 2 Cache. There are also enough sockets on the mainboard to add an additional four processors for extra performance. Sixteen DIMM slots are available to add various amounts of memory to the server which can

handle a total of 64GB. The company uses an LSI Logic SAS RAID controller for fast disk input and output operations. There are two 73GB SAS hard drives with a spindle speed of 10,000-RPM and they can be configured in a RAID-0 or RAID-1 configuration that can result in mirroring or in a large one volume size. It is also equipped with a DVD-ROM drive so that users can install drivers or other types of software onto the system.

The Sun Fire x4600 M2 Server is naturally built to work within an Ethernet network through the system's four 10/100/1000Base-T Ethernet ports. Since the system comes with a six PCI-E and PCI-X slots, administrators can optionally fill these slots with the several different

Fibre Channel cards and configurations if you wish to use it in this type of environment. This model comes with two standard 850-watt power supplies which should be more than sufficient even if the components are maxed out. Two additional power supplies are also included for redundancy reasons.

There are four high speed USB 2.0 ports that are primarily used for the keyboard and mouse but are available for products as well. With the Sun

Lights-Out Manager (ILOM) card in place you can used it with many service processor management appliances although the a Java-based console provides management capabilities as well. The company normally installs the Solaris 10 operating system on the server prior to shipping however you can replace this choice with various Windows or Linux systems as well.

Whether you use this system as a file server, with database products or as part of an automation environment, the Sun Fire x4600 M2 is a powerful server. It has an approximate starting cost of $48,000 and there are many optional items available. Visit the company's web site to find more information on this system at **www.sun.com**.

Product spotlight

Sony Ericsson P1: the 5th generation P-series smart phone and the most feature-rich yet

Sony Ericsson, the manufacturer that pioneered the development of smartphones, today unveils the P1 as the latest addition to its P-series range.

Sony Ericsson

"In one sense the Sony Ericsson P1 is an evolution of our P-series smartphones, as it pushes forward the best attributes of its predecessors," says Steve Walker, Head of Product Marketing at Sony Ericsson. "At the same time there are also significant improvements in design, speed and battery performance."

Steve Walker

Building on the feature set of earlier models, the Sony Ericsson P1 supports a wide range of push email solutions and Web browsing applications, plus connectivity via hi-speed UMTS and Wireless LAN (WiFi™). Add to this its compact size and multimedia capabilities and the P1 is the complete mobile office. It is based on the Symbian™ operating system (v9.1)

and UIQ 3.0, an open platform that offers broad potential for multimedia applications from operators/carriers, content owners and third party developers.

In short, the P1 is a device as small as a standard phone that offers flexible ways to work:

Dual function keyboard - full alphanumeric (e.g. QWERTY) text input combined with one hand phone usability

Choice of text input method including handwriting and word completion

Push email enabled including support for Exchange ActiveSync™ and BlackBerry® Connect™

Integrated WLAN and VoIP enabled

3.2 megapixel camera with business card scanner

Large 2.6" touchscreen with a Transflective Display that is easier to view in bright light conditions

Push email and remote working

Always being connected while on the move is now a normal part of working life. The Sony Ericsson P1 gives you the ability to handle your corporate or personal emails, contacts and calendar wherever you are. It offers support for a broad range of push email services including Exchange ActiveSync™ and BlackBerry Connect and allows for remote wiping of email and PIM data; something critical in the event of the phone being stolen or misplaced.

The Sony Ericsson P1 lets you read and edit documents on the move, whether Microsoft Word, PowerPoint or Excel. It also ships with a desk stand and USB cable in-box, making it straightforward to synchronise with your PC.

Product spotlight

High speed connectivity

Both UMTS and integrated WLAN provide for high-speed Web browsing and data downloads, plus email at a rate and performance you enjoy from your office desktop. The Sony Ericsson P1 is also VoIP enabled for making calls over the internet.

Striking visuals

Surfing the Web is intuitive thanks to the Opera™ Web Browser that displays pages in horizontal, wide screen aspect. The large, touchscreen QVGA display can be seen and used even in bright environments due to the Transflective Display. The 3.2 megapixel camera takes great shots to store or share via Picture Blogging and is also a useful tool for work purposes. It does away with the need to collect stacks of business cards when travelling. Just take a close-up shot of a business card and the card scanner transfers the contact details directly into the phonebook.

Quality downtime

As well as a business tool, the Sony Ericsson P1 also serves as an advanced multimedia companion. Its music and video player mean that you can take your favourite tunes and video clips with you on the 512MB Memory Stick Micro™ (M2™) provided. Catch the latest news via the on-board FM Radio or stream mobile TV direct to the large screen. Whichever you choose to do, with the P1 you are never short of options.

The Sony Ericsson P1 is a Tri-Band GPRS 900/1800/1900 and UMTS 2100 handset with Wi-Fi 802.11b. It will be available in selected markets from Q3 2007.

NetBeans Community Embraces Scripting with NetBeans IDE 6.0 Preview Release
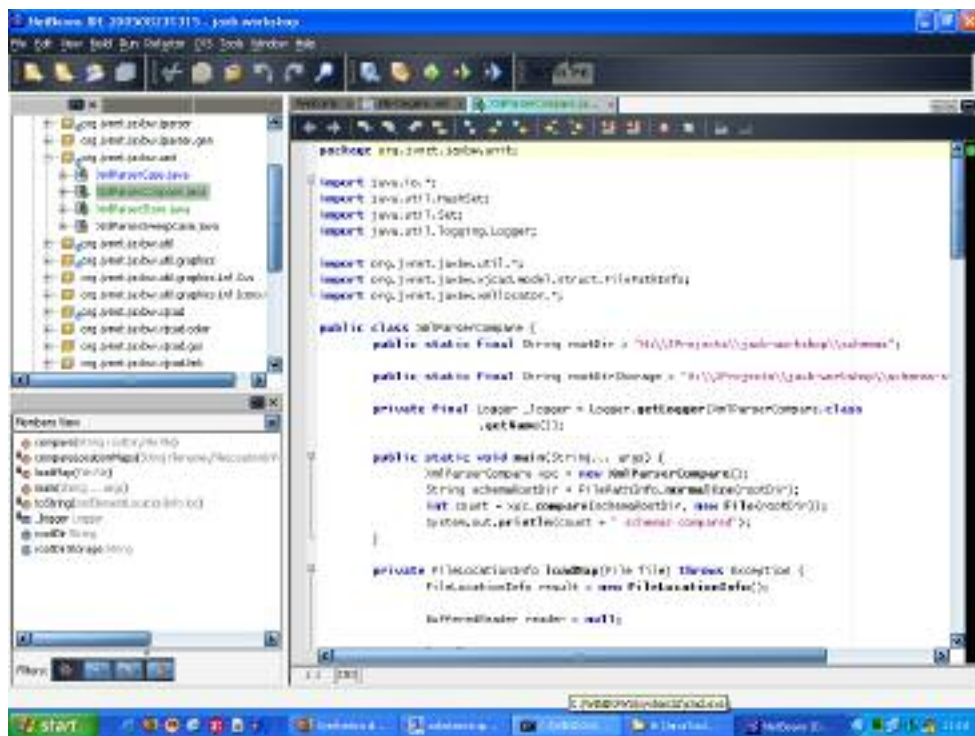
Ajax-based solutions for developing and deploying Java EE, rich Internet applications, has made NetBeans an important part of their developer offering. "Integrating with NetBeans and the NetBeans Visual Web Pack is a key component of our strategy for acquiring and securing new customers," said Robert Lepack, vice president of Marketing and Product Management for ICEsoft Technologies, Inc. "ICEfaces takes full advantage of the NetBeans Visual Web Pack's design-time capabilities to deliver a true rapid application development environment for Ajax-enabled JSF applications. The NetBeans family of tools is at the forefront of JSF visual development and this is being very well received by the ICEfaces community."

Sun Microsystems, Inc. together with the NetBeans community, announced the availability of the NetBeans 6.0 Integrated Development Environment (IDE) Preview release. NetBeans 6.0 IDE extends support beyond Java and C/C++ by providing a rich set of features for the Ruby and JavaScript dynamic scripting languages, and continues to enable developer productivity with ease-of-use and support for the latest Java Standards.

Today we are also announcing further enhancements to the NetBeans GUI Builder which include full support for new desktop technologies, such as Beans Binding (JSR 295) and the Swing Application Framework (JSR 296). Building on NetBeans' history of providing innovative solutions to developers, the NetBeans GUI builder (formerly code named Matisse) continues to revolutionize the way Swing developers build graphical user interfaces. JRuby is included with the NetBeans Ruby support, allowing developers to use Ruby on Rails with existing Java code. Other features of the release include: improved code editing, inspection and navigation capabilities, local history, integrated support for Subversion, and extensive profiling features integrated into the standard distribution.

ICEsoft Technologies, Inc., provider of standards-compliant,

In NetBeans 6.0 IDE the complete set of features from packs, such as the Visual Web Pack, will be delivered via a single install program. The new install program will allow developers to easily customize their development environment, choosing only the tools that they need. The single NetBeans 6.0 IDE installer expedites configuration of the developer's environment and no longer requires the installation of multiple packs to add features to the IDE. These new features in NetBeans 6.0 are in addition to the award-winning features provided in previous NetBeans releases that give developers comprehensive support for building Java Platform, Standard Edition (Java SE), Java Platform,

Enterprise Edition (Java EE), and Java Platform, Micro Edition (Java ME) applications.

"During the last 30 months, we have seen a surge of interest, with adoption of NetBeans doubling each year. We expect the momentum to further skyrocket with the launch of NetBeans 6. This is just another example of the tremendous momentum Sun is experiencing with its open source initiatives," said Jeet Kaul , vice president of Developer Programs for Sun. "With all of the features that are being added and the new install experience, NetBeans 6.0 is the only IDE you need."

Technical Support for NetBeans. Sun offers a tiered set of support services for NetBeans software, ranging from single incident to comprehensive developer plans. In addition, with a broad portfolio of training and certification offerings, developers can enhance their skill sets to take advantage of cutting-edge technologies. To learn more, please visit http://developers.sun.com/services

Try and Buy program. Starting May 8 and running through June 12, Sun will offer the developer community a free 60-day trial of a complete Sun system for Java and Solaris OS application development, as well as unlimited online developer support to answer programming questions and online developer training courses as two key features of Sun Developer Service Plans. When trial systems are purchased, customers can save 25% off the list price when purchasing a Sun Developer Service Plan package. The service plan includes product phone and escalation support and training credits.

Jeet Kaul

Security

Microsoft: Block some Office documents to assure security

Microsoft is recommending IT administrators block users opening Office documents as a way to prevent attacks, tacitly acknowledging that Office cannot be completely secured.

Called "File Block," the feature allows administrators - or technically astute end users - to declare the specific Office file types that can or cannot be opened by Word 2003/2007, Excel 2003/2007 and PowerPoint 2003/2007. File type restrictions are spelled out by editing the Windows registry or through Group Policy settings.

Microsoft pitched File Block as a way to keep individual users from doing the enterprise harm. "Blocking specific Office file types allows administrators to temporarily deny users the ability to open certain files, such as when a threat of attack from a given Office file type exists," the company said in a security advisory.

Even if Office is religiously patched, Microsoft recognises that attacks may be successful and sees File Block as a necessary stop-gap. "Threat[s] may occur even if your Office 2003 or 2007 Office software has been kept up-to-date, for example if a previously unknown new 'zero-day' vulnerability in Office is discovered and then used to attack users of Microsoft Office," read the advisory.

Attacks carried out via malicious Office documents climbed during 2006, and are continuing this year. Many of the attacks have been very tightly targeted, say security professionals, often one-on-one, with a single email carrying an Office attachment sent to just one recipient.

Last month, MessageLabs noted that micro-managed attacks like these had increased ten times over last year. In April, 95 percent of such attacks used malformed Office documents as an exploit vector.

File Block functionality is built into Word, Excel, and PowerPoint 2007 - although disabled by default - and was added to the 2003 editions by updates unveiled two weeks ago as part of the regularly monthly security patch cycle. (Users can also manually download the Word 2003, Excel 2003, and PowerPoint 2003 updates from the Microsoft site.)

Security researchers urged users to consider activating the new feature. "File Block ability is a natural addition for most Office environments," said Symantec in a posting to its DeepSight threat management system customers today. "These new applications provide additional remediation and control over what is considered a significant threat to today's Office environments."

Also on Monday, Microsoft released MOICE (Microsoft Office Isolated Conversion Environment), the conversation tool announced earlier this month that converts Office 2003 format documents into the more secure Office 2007 formats to strip out possible exploit code.

MOICE converts files in an isolated sandbox so that if the worst happens and an attacker tries to exploit and/or infiltrate the converter itself, the utility simply crashes in its protected cocoon without damaging the system or allowing rogue code to install. MOICE requires Office 2003 and the Office Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel,

and PowerPoint 2007 File Formats; the latter is a free add-on download.

Microsoft labelled MOICE, like the new File Block, a defence against imminent attacks or those already in play. "MOICE provides a mitigation that administrators and users can use to protect themselves when the threat of an attack from potentially unsafe Office 2003 binary documents exists," said Microsoft.

Symantec applauded MOICE - with one caveat. "It has been reported that MOICE may add noticeable overhead when opening and converting Office files," the security company told customers. "However, for those who strive to ensure that received Office documents are safe to handle and do not contain malicious code these free tools are a highly suggested addition for your MS Office security arsenal."

MOICE's performance overhead stems from its two-stage file conversion: the first from old 2003 format to the new 2007 format, then another from new back to old.

MOICE can be downloaded immediately by visiting Microsoft Update and installing the recommended update. It will also be pushed out to users in the next scheduled security update, 12 June.

Security

Microsoft bolsters Office security

Microsoft released updates to its productivity suite this week, adding security features for Office 2003 that were developed for Office 2007.

Called the Microsoft Office Isolated Conversion Environment (MOICE), one feature converts Office 2003 binary documents into Office 2007's open XML format.

MOICE allows users to pre-process Office documents while converting them, giving program users an additional layer of security, Microsoft said in today's advisory.

The feature requires that users have the Office Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel and PowerPoint 2007 file formats installed, according to Microsoft, which added that the update is only supported for use with Office 2003 and 2007.

Microsoft programmer David LeBlanc said on his blog earlier this month that researchers noticed Office exploits could not be translated into newer formats during testing.

"One of the things we noticed is that when we converted an exploit document to the new Office 2007 'Metro' format, it would either fail the conversion, emit a non-exploitable or the converter itself would crash," he said. "The possibility exists that

something could make it all of the way through, but we haven't seen any of those yet."

The computing giant also made File Block Functionality available for both Office 2003 and 2007. The program allows administrators to place restrictions on Office file types to keep end-users from opening potentially unsafe documents.

The feature allows administrators to respond to current events — such as public attacks on Office flaws — by preventing end-users from opening malicious documents, according to a security advisory released by Microsoft on Monday.

In an advisory released today, US-CERT urged administrators to "implement these enhancements where pertinent."

Ron O'Brien, senior security analyst for Sophos, told SCMagazine.com today that attackers are generally focused on Office 2003 because it's more deployed than the 2007 version.

"There are a number of reasons why [researchers are unable to convert Office 2003 exploits to Office 2007]," he said. "When you're a hacker, you're looking to deploy onto the systems that are most commonly used, and Office 2007 is just not as ubiquitous as 2003 yet."

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Security

UPDATE 1-World's No.4 PC maker Lenovo jumps back into black

robust home market, posted a net profit of US$60 million from January to March, versus a loss of US$116 million a year earlier.

Lenovo benefited from smaller overhaul expenses this time round. Its quarterly result surpassed by far a consensus of US$28.8 million, derived from forecasts by 16 analysts polled by Reuters Estimates.

Chairman Yang Yuanqing said in a statement that its U.S. business had turned around and become profitable.

Lenovo Group Ltd. (0992.HK: Quote, Profile , Research), which has slipped a notch to No. 4 on the global PC rankings, bounded into the black in its fiscal fourth quarter after it turned around its U.S. division, but faces a potentially tough, competitive year ahead.

Lenovo, which in 2005 bought out IBM's (IBM.N: Quote, Profile , Research) PC division for $1.25 billion, now faces a galvanised Acer Inc. (2353.TW: Quote, Profile , Research), which replaced the Chinese firm as the world's third-largest PC maker in the January-March quarter.

And it might have to wage a price war with Dell (DELL.O: Quote, Profile , Research), which introduced a PC for as low as 2,599 yuan ($340) in the world's second-largest PC market -- Lenovo's home turf.

China's premier PC vendor, whose underperforming Japanese and U.S. arms are taking the shine off a

Yang Yuanqing

47

internet
access
web
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latest
technology
trends
interviews
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features
news &
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Week

HP extends lead over Dell in servers, Gartner says

Hewlett-Packard Co. (HPQ.N: Quote, Profile, Research extended its lead over Dell Inc. (DELL.O: Quote, Profile, Research in sales of business server computers as it shipped more units in the United States, market researcher Gartner Inc. said on Tuesday.

HP's share of first-quarter server shipments grew three percentage points to 30 percent in the first quarter, a level it last reached in 2002, Gartner said. Dell's share slipped to 21.1 percent of the worldwide total from 21.7 percent a year earlier, according to the survey.

Overall, shipments of server computers increased 6 percent from the year-earlier period to 2.1 million units while server revenue rose 4.5 percent to $12.9 billion, Gartner estimated.

Gartner said shipments of servers based on Intel Corp. (INTC.O: Quote, Profile, Research compatible microprocessors returned to growth in the first quarter after a lull in the fourth quarter. Shipments of servers using the Unix operating system fell 15.5 percent while revenue from Unix server sales dipped 1.5 percent.

Jeffrey Hewitt

"The competition remains intense in this portion of the market as it continues to face declines," Gartner research vice-president Jeffrey Hewitt said in a statement.

Software

Fastest IBM server chip enters slowing Unix market

Facing a slowing Unix market, IBM today released its Power6 processor, its fastest chip yet for high-end servers. The chip runs at double the speed of the Power5 line but uses the same amount of power.

IBM

The company also launched a server based on the chip, the System p 570, which will be available in configurations with two to 16 cores. It employs new virtualization technologies to reduce power consumption while keeping performance up. The chip and server will be available in about two weeks, IBM officials said.

Sales of pricier Unix servers are slowing as machines running Windows and Linux operating system on high-

end x86 architecture processors are increasingly capable of handling high-demand applications. Intel Corp. released its dual-core Woodcrest and quad-core Clovertown Xeon processors last year, while Advanced Micro Devices Inc. is expected to release its quad-core Opteron processor, called Barcelona, later this year.

With the release of the Power6, IBM is taking aim at competitors in the Unix market, including Hewlett-Packard Co. and Sun Microsystems Inc.

The Power6 is a dual-core processor that runs at 4.7 GHz. Those two cores use symmetric multithreading technology that allows them to appear as four cores, each of which can execute instruction threads. It means that heavy processing, such as that involved in airplane design or automotive crash simulations, can occur much faster.

IBM claims the Power6 chip is three times faster than the Itanium processor that HP uses in its Superdome servers and has a bandwidth 30 times greater, at 300GB/sec.

To accompany the new processor, IBM also announced the beta release of virtualization technology, supported by Power6 and the p 570, that allows the live transfer of virtualized partitions and workloads to other servers in a process called live partition and application mobility. General availability is scheduled for later in the year, IBM said.

The latest version of IBM's Unix operating system, AIX 6, which is due in November, will include features such as encryption of the file system, the ability to move workloads during maintenance and a new graphical user interface and console. A beta version will be available for download in July, IBM said.

Power6 is the first processor that can do decimal floating-point arithmetic in its hardware rather than requiring software, IBM said. That will allow software compiled for the chip to more quickly process intensive tax, financial and ERP applications.

IBM officials stressed Power6's "green" credentials when it comes to power consumption. An improvement in Power6's design is the separation of circuits that can't support low voltages, thus allowing power to be reduced on other circuits in the rest of the chip, the company said.

"The crisis data center managers are facing … is around energy, space and efficiency," said Bill Zeitler, senior vice president for IBM's systems and technology group.

The chip's bandwidth can also be adjusted according to whether more performance or lower power consumption is needed. Processor clocks can be turned off when not being used, and power can be shut off to parts of the memory when it's not being used.

Need for Speed

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TEW-631BRP

300Mbps Wireless N-Draft
PC Card
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Technology

Numerex Collaborates With GE Security to Provide Wireless Services for Advanced Technology Real Estate Products

Numerex Corp. (NASDAQ: NMRX) today announced a strategic collaboration with GE Security, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the General Electric Company (NYSE: GE) , to provide nationwide wireless services in support of GE's industry-leading advanced technology real estate products, including its new ActiveKEY wireless key.

The relationship between GE and Numerex helps real estate brokers and agents work more effectively and efficiently in support of sellers with wireless-based on-demand reporting, security and other services. Through this collaboration, the ActiveKEY real estate lock box key will be fully integrated with GE Security's electronic key box system.

Numerex services being provided include SMSXpress(TM) and GPRS, real time network activations, provisioning and configuration support and 7x24 network support services. Numerex will also provide GE with operational and customer support from its Network Operations Center in Atlanta, Georgia. The NOC operates 7/24 to safeguard, manage and deliver customer data.

"We are very pleased to have been selected by GE Security, a global leader in innovative products and the industry leader in real estate access management. We have worked very closely with their product development teams to deliver the network, module technology and supporting services for this ground-breaking solution," said Stratton Nicolaides, CEO of Numerex. "This agreement is a prime example of Numerex's unique ability to deliver network and M2M solutions for the wireless monitoring and communications industry."

Stratton Nicolaides

"ActiveKEY's ability to deliver wireless updates, instant showing notifica-

tions, and an improved user interface make it one of the most significant and easiest to use new products introduced to the real estate industry in the past decade," said Stan Earnshaw, VP sales and marketing, GE Security. "We needed a partner we knew could deliver and thanks to a long and successful history and the company's leadership in the wireless machine-to- machine (M2M) data communications market, we knew Numerex was just the company to deliver for ActiveKEY."

Systems integration and testing has been completed and pilots are currently underway in multiple markets. Product launch date is scheduled for July, 2007.

As the market leader in real estate access management, GE Security's ActiveKEY represents the next generation of real estate management and security products and services. The wireless device and associated services will remotely manage and control access to real estate lock boxes and entry into properties. The service provides comprehensive on-line control and reporting tools that allows agents and brokers to manage and track property access. ActiveKEY provides listing agents with a high level of security and access control as well as real time reporting they can share with their property owner customers.

Technology
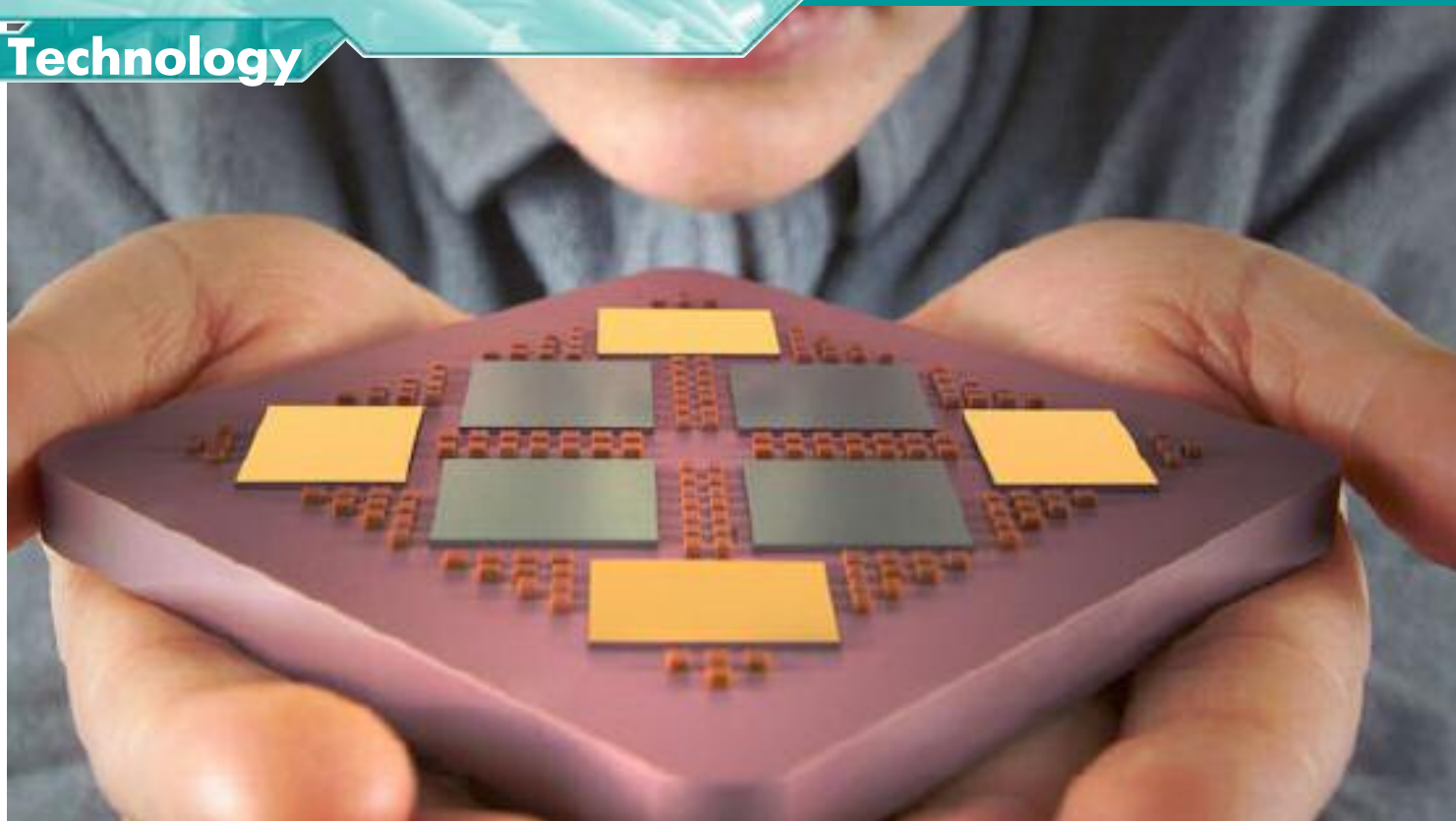
IBM gives servers more Power, without adding to power bills

IBM today officially announced its Power6 chip, saying that the next-generation microprocessor for its Unix and Linux systems offers double the performance of the earlier Power5+ device while consuming roughly the same amount of electricity.

But the doubling of processing speed from the 2.2-GHz Power5+ to the 4.7-GHz Power 6 won't be the only reason why users upgrade to the new dual-core chip, predicted Ross Mauri, general manager of IBM's System p business unit. Companies will be able to move existing workloads to Power6-based systems and cut the energy use of their servers almost in half, Mauri said.

That alone will be enough to motivate some users to upgrade, Mauri suggested. "Energy consumption is now an important factor," he said.

Ross Mauri

The Power6 will be generally available within two weeks in a new midrange server, called the System p 570, that can support up to eight physical processor sockets, for a total of 16 cores. The p 570 will run IBM's AIX version of Unix as well as Red Hat Linux and SUSE Linux, and it will be aimed at server consolidation or database and application server uses.

Mauri said that over the next year, the Power6 will be incorporated into other servers within the System p product line, including blade servers. It also will be built into IBM's System i servers, which originally were called the AS/400 and can run the company's i5/OS operating system plus AIX, Linux and Windows.

Meanwhile, the Power5+ chip, which was released in late 2005, will continue in production for the next couple of quarters, Mauri said.

According to IBM, the Power6 also has improved virtualization functionality, including the ability to move a logical partition to a separate p 570 running in a cluster.

The trend among microprocessor makers is to focus on using multicore chips and throughput gains from techniques such as parallel processing to boost performance, instead of ratcheting up clock speeds. But with the

Technology

Power6, IBM is working to keep both the multicore and clock-speed avenues open, said Richard Partridge, an analyst at IT research firm Ideas International Inc. in Rye Brook, N.Y.

Partridge said IBM is benefiting from investments the company has made in its own chip-fabrication facilities. "The challenges of getting a high clock speed right without excessive power consumption have stymied some of the other players," he said. But Partridge added that while IBM now will lead on performance, other server vendors will position their systems as having an appropriate match of price and performance.

Local Officials in Texas Criticize Voter Database

Hiccups in a new centralized voter database in Texas are bogging down the registration process and ejecting eligible voters from the rolls, say local election officials.

"Technology should improve our productivity, not create unnecessary additional burdens," said Cheryl Johnson, Galveston County's tax assessor-collector, who has lodged a number of formal complaints about the system's performance and its problems in retrieving historical records.

The database, called the Texas Election Administration Management system, was built to store and analyze voter registration data from the state's 254 counties. TEAM checks all voter registration applications against driver's license data and Social Security numbers to ensure that potential voters are qualified.

County elections officials have been peppering the state with complaints about TEAM since it went live in January. The protests increased markedly after statewide local elections were held on May 12.

In some cases, Johnson said, TEAM problems forced workers in Galveston County to gather voter data from other sources to prove eligibility, which is often a time-consuming process.

"TEAM has adversely impacted productivity in the Galveston County voter registrar's office as well as negatively impacted many of our voters," she said. "This has been very hard. This is enough to get me thrown out of office."

The $14 million system was built by IBM using an Oracle database and a Java-based registration management application from Hart InterCivic Inc., an Austin-based elections and records management software maker. The system runs on Solaris-based hardware from Sun Microsystems Inc.

A spokesman for Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams said TEAM was built to conform with a provision of the federal Help America Vote Act that requires states to create a centralized repository of eligible voters statewide.

About 30 counties continue to maintain separate local databases of voters instead of depending only on TEAM, the spokesman noted.

He also acknowledged that some problems occurred during the early voting process for the May 12 election, but he said most of them were resolved by Election Day.

"The database performed well on Election Day, and response time has improved dramatically," he contended. "We will continue to work to improve performance, but we feel the system is moving in the right direction."

An IBM spokesman said that "as with any new application deployment, work was required to optimize the solution based on actual usage patterns."

Wireless

Sprint Nextel 'Powers Up' Wireless Coverage, Capacity to Its Networks in Cincinnati

For Sprint Nextel wireless customers in Cincinnati who already take advantage of the company's powerful networks, recent local network enhancements should result in even better wireless service. Sprint added 45 wireless cell sites in 2006 to its Sprint National NetworkSM and Nextel National NetworkSM in Cincinnati.

"Sprint continues to make significant investments to increase coverage and capacity in its wireless networks in Cincinnati and throughout the country," said Kevin Gleason, area vice president, Sprint. "Customer satisfaction and network quality are two of Sprint's top priorities as we further strengthen our powerful networks

where our customers live, work, play and travel."

Last year, Sprint invested more than $32 million in its wireless networks in Cincinnati. The following is a detailed list of the local areas benefiting from these enhancements:

Sprint ®

Together with NEXTEL

Sprint National Network

Miami University in Oxford

Xavier University and surrounding areas of Norwood and Cincinnati

Thomas Moore College in Edgewood, KY

Dry Run in Cincinnati

Monroe

West Chester

Brookville, IN and surrounding areas

Nextel National Network

Downtown Cincinnati including Hwy. 32 in the vicinity of Eight Mile Rd. and west of I-75 in Lincoln Heights and Lockland

Wireless

Rt. 4 in Franklin and between Hamilton and Rt. 63

Turkeyfoot Rd., in Edgewood, KY

In 2006, Sprint added more than 3,400 cell sites across the country to strengthen performance in both of its wireless networks and this year expects to add approximately 4,000 sites.

Increased Network Investment in 2007

Sprint spent more than $7 billion in capital expenditures in 2006, most of which was invested to enhance its wireless and wireline networks nationwide. Across the country, thousands of markets – large and small – received the benefit of this major investment. This year, Sprint will invest more than $7 billion to further enhance its powerful networks and expand mobile broadband coverage.

Power Network Coverage Tool and Sprint Plan Advisor

To help current and prospective customers view coverage information, Sprint provides the Power Network Coverage Tool, which provides detailed coverage maps down to the street address level. By entering an address or ZIP code, customers can check the availability of wireless coverage, recently added cell sites and the network signal strength on the Sprint National Network, Nextel National Network or Sprint Mobile Broadband Network. The tool is available at www.sprint.com/coverage and at self-service touch-screen kiosks at hun-

dreds of Sprint and Nextel retail stores. Once coverage is determined, customers can either change or purchase a new service plan using the new Sprint Plan Advisor. This tool, which helps customers make educated decisions about which wireless plan is right for them based on the criteria they provide, is available at www.sprint.com/planadvisor.

The Sprint Mobile Broadband Network and EV-DO Rev. A

Sprint offers the largest wireless broadband network of any carrier through the Sprint Mobile Broadband Network, which reaches more than 206 million people across the country and covers more than 11,000 cities and 1,000 airports. In many major cities, Sprint has upgraded the Sprint Mobile Broadband Network with higher-speed EV-DO (Evolution – Data Optimized) Revision A technology. Sprint's industry-leading EV-DO Rev. A coverage now reaches more than 193 million people in over 9,600 cities and covers 880 airports. With EV-DO Rev. A, users should experience significantly faster average data upload speeds of 350 to 500 kbps (compared with 50-70 kbps on current EV-DO networks). Average download speeds should increase to 600 kbps to 1.4 mbps (from 400-700 kbps). Sprint expects that the vast majority of its wireless network will be upgraded to faster EV-DO Rev. A technology by year-end.

Wireless

Verizon Wireless Customers Can Create, Customize And Share Their Own Comics From Their Mobile

verizonwireless

Service Provider

Verizon Wireless, operator of the nation's most reliable wireless network, announced today the availability of Comic Creator by AMA, a Get It Now® application that allows customers to create their own personalized comics and send them to other mobile phones and e-mail addresses. When Verizon Wireless customers want to send more than a TXT Message, they can now create their own comic and send it to friends and family – right from the palms of their hands.

AMA
advanced mobile applications

Comic Creator by AMA, developed by Advanced Mobile Applications' partner Longtail Studios, allows Verizon Wireless cus-

LONGTAIL
S T U D I O S

tomers with select Get It Now-enabled phones to write their own story and choose from a variety of backgrounds, settings and characters, each with customizable expressions. For example, characters

Wireless

include: various human and non-human characters including a robot, a panda, a martian and a monster among others. The state-of-the-art messaging technology allows for a seamless experience, enabling Verizon Wireless customers to access friends' phone numbers directly from the application. Plus, Comic Creator by AMA is continuously updated with new backgrounds and characters, providing Verizon Wireless customers with fresh ways to communicate and show off their creative sides.

"Verizon Wireless' Get It Now service provides AMA with the ability to leverage the enormous adoption of consumer generated content, and bring that to mobile phones," said Christian Guillemot, president and chief executive officer of Advanced Mobile Applications. "Comic Creator by AMA takes mobile communication

and personalization to a whole new level with an incredible messaging experience."

David Oberholzer, associate director of messaging content programming for Verizon Wireless, said, "Comic Creator is wild. It's hysterically funny. You have to try it to understand it, but this hot new application capitalizes on our customers' desire to extend the communication capabilities of their phones and connect with friends and family in creative, alternate ways."

Verizon Wireless customers can purchase Comic Creator by AMA in the Picture and Video shopping aisle

under Get New Pictures in the Get It Now virtual store on select phones. Comic Creator by AMA is available for $3.99 for monthly access, which allows Verizon Wireless customers to send up to 20 comics to mobile handsets and an unlimited number of comics to e-mail recipients. Comic Creator by AMA is available on many popular Get It Now-capable phones, including Chocolate and The enV by LG, the MOTOKRZR K1m and MOTO-SLVR L7c, and the Samsung SCH-a990 and SCH-a930. Customers can send a comic created with Comic Creator to any handset that has a color screen and text messaging capabilities.

Download charges for Get It Now applications vary and airtime charges apply when browsing, downloading and using certain applications. Customers need a Get It Now-enabled handset and Verizon Wireless digital service to access the Get It Now virtual store.

Wireless
Ericsson reaffirms GSM lead with 1 millionth base station

Ericsson has delivered its millionth GSM base station. The shipment marks a milestone for the GSM technology that, since its introduction in 1991, has connected more than 2.3 billion users. Today, Ericsson has deployed GSM networks in more than 100 countries. The millionth GSM base station was delivered to the mobile operator MTN Nigeria.

ERICSSON

Since delivering its first base station in 1991 to Mannesmann in Germany, Ericsson rapidly emerged as the market leader in GSM technology. The growth in demand for GSM services has resulted in Ericsson delivering the same number of GSM Base Stations during 2004-2007 as during the period 1991-2003.

The cost efficiencies offered by GSM, its broad portfolio of devices, plus its track record of securing migration to 3G systems have helped secure the GSM technology's position in both high-growth and established markets.

The strong growth is expected to continue. The number of GSM subscribers around the world is set to increase by 40 million per month during 2007 according to the global trade association GSM Association, GSMA. More than 10 million are currently being added every month across India and China. In India alone, Ericsson is currently installing a new GSM base station every 15 minutes.

Kurt Jofs, Executive Vice President and head of Business Unit Networks at Ericsson, says: "After 16 years, the pace of GSM deployments shows no sign of slowing down. In fact, we expect 2007 to be the fifth consecutive record year for deliveries. Ericsson is committed to delivering quality communications for all. We will continue to leverage on our expertise in evolving mobile infrastructure to provide future-proof investment in Ericsson GSM networks."

Kurt Jofs

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