

NEWS / HARDWARE

Pipeline

PRICE CUTS

SuperMac printers reduced 25 percent

SuperMac Technology Inc. has cut an average of 25 percent off the price of its ProofPositive dye sublimation printers. Due to ship later this month, the color printers offer new features for faster off-loading of print jobs from the host computer, direct support for color separation files, and support for Windows. Prices range from \$6,999 for the ProofPositive Full-Page Digital Imaging System to \$14,999 for the ProofPositive Two-Page PostScript Printing System. (408) 541-6100.

SHIPPING

Multisync, 20-inch monitor from Apple

As part of its Power Macintosh introduction this week, Apple Computer Inc. will roll out a 20-inch multisync monitor. The Multiple Scan 20 Display enables users to switch resolutions on the fly — from 640 by 480 to as high as 1,152 by 870 on Macintosh Power Mac, Quadra, and Centris systems. Owners of other Macs need to purchase a separate cable to use the new monitor, Apple said. PC users can support resolutions ranging from 640 by 480 to 1,280 by 1,024. The monitor is priced at \$2,149. (800) 538-9696.

Phase X Systems Inc. is now shipping a line of X terminals configured with touch screens. The T series come in monochrome and color, with monitors ranging in size from 14 inches to 20 inches. The terminals range in price from \$3,395 to \$5,195. (503) 531-2400.

ANNOUNCED

Intel starts certifying Pentium-ready PCs

Intel Corp. has released the first list of its Pentium OverDrive certified systems, with 42 companies submitting systems that passed Intel's testing procedure. Intel initiated the certification process following widespread problems with systems that ultimately couldn't meet the original specifications for using Intel's P24T or Pentium OverDrive processor. Although Intel is in the process of redesigning that processor, it also established the Intel Verification Program with a laboratory in Folsom, Calif. Systems passing the lab test can carry an "Intel Verified" label, and users can get a list of the systems that passed by calling Intel. (800) 321-4044.

Sun goes small with Sparc

Workstations small enough for travel use

BY YVONNE L. LEE

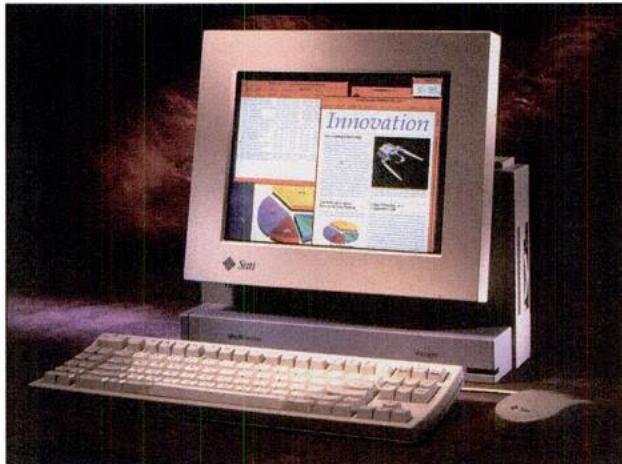
Following its trend toward introducing smaller footprint workstations, Sun Microsystems Computer Corp. today will ship a MicroSparc II-based transportable.

Although the SparcStation Voyager has a flat-panel display and uses PCMCIA slots for expansion, it will be marketed mostly toward desktop users — especially those with limited desktop space.

"If you're looking for a laptop, this is not your machine, but if you're looking for a full-fledged workstation that you can actually take traveling to do demonstrations, it's pretty good," said beta tester Bob Lord, network manager at Andersen Consulting's Center for Strategic Technology, in Palo Alto, Calif. The computer is also useful for remote network management, Lord added.

The system weighs 13 pounds and has a footprint one-third the size of traditional desktops, said Greg Munster, product line manager for nomadic computing at Sun.

The SparcStation Voyager



Sun's transportable Voyager is aimed primarily at desktop users who lack desk space but want a full-featured system.

uses a tilting 14-inch monochrome active matrix or 12-inch color active matrix LCD display. Sun expects to be able to ship between 1,000 and 10,000 of the computers each month, despite the unusual screen sizes.

The SparcStation Voyager has no Sbus slots but uses two stacked Type II PCMCIA slots. Sun offers card and socket services software to allow it to work with compliant cards.

Some of the system's more desktoplike features include its performance (running at 60 MHz, it delivers performance of 43 SPECint92 marks and 37 SPECfp92 marks, similar to a

SparcStation 10); a full-size keyboard and mouse; and TurboGX 8-bit color graphics acceleration.

The computer ships with a minimum of 16MB of RAM, a 340MB hard drive, and the Solaris 2.3 operating system, which runs remote networking over serial lines using the point-to-point protocol. Its infrared serial interface can operate from 9,600 to 115Kb per second.

The \$9,995 monochrome and \$14,995 color versions are available now.

Sun Microsystems of Mountain View, Calif., can be reached at (415) 960-1300.

Compaq expands mobile offerings

BY YVONNE L. LEE

Compaq Computer Corp. last week expanded its mobile computing line by introducing a five-member family of upgradable LTE notebooks and three new docking stations.

The docking stations — which include a multimedia station, a "smart" expansion station with extra drive bays, and a low-end minidocking station — can be used both with the new Elite notebooks and the existing Lite notebook series.



Compaq's Elite line incorporates Intel's 75-MHz DX4 and a 9.5-inch color screen.

The OptiByte Portable Docking Station, developed by AccuMem Systems Inc. of Laguna Hills, Calif., weighs less than 6 pounds including a CD-ROM drive. It has a built-in handle, 16-bit stereo audio, built-in speakers, SCSI interface, a single 16-bit ISA slot, and a 1-inch drive bay that ships with 5.25-inch CD-ROM drive standard.

The station is expected to cost less than \$1,250 when it ships in the second quarter.

Compaq's \$699 Smart Station alerts users if they try to disconnect the computer from the docking station when files are open. When Microsoft's Chicago operating system ships, the docking files will be automatically stored when users unplug the computer from the docking station, Compaq officials said.

Other Smart Station features include built-in Ethernet, SCSI, and support for 1,024-by-768 noninterlaced video. The station has two half-height drive bays and two full-sized 16-bit expansion slots.

The Mini Desktop Expansion base has built-in Ethernet or Token Ring connections, SCSI, and 1,024-by-768 noninterlaced video support. The Token Ring model docking station is \$399, and the Ethernet model will list for \$299.

All the docking stations support existing Compaq notebooks as well as the new Compaq LTE Elite series.

The LTE Elite notebooks include a variety of processors, displays, and hard drives, all of which are user upgradable.

The base configuration Compaq LTE Elite 4/40C uses a 9.5-inch passive matrix display with 4MB of RAM, 486DX2/40 processor, and a 170MB hard drive. The high-end Compaq LTE Elite 4/75CX has a 486DX4/75 processor, 9.5-inch active matrix display, 8MB of RAM, and a 510MB hard drive.

Prices will range from \$3,300 to \$6,500; the notebooks will ship in the second quarter.

Houston, Texas-based Compaq is at (713) 370-0760.

IBM introduces entry-level Pentium server

BY CATE CORCORAN

IBM last week expanded its line of 66-MHz Pentium-based Server 95 systems with an entry-level system that does not come prepackaged with a redundant array of inexpensive drives (RAID).

IBM is now shipping the PS/2 Server 95 566, which features the 66-MHz Pentium, 16MB of memory, and a 1-gigabyte hard drive for \$11,735.

At the same time, IBM also introduced a new server model that lowers the cost of RAID with the PS/2 Server 95 Array 566, which comes with 16MB of memory and three 540MB RAID drives for \$17,133.

The company already has a 66-MHz Server 95 with a RAID array consisting of three 1-gigabyte hard drives, which it announced in September.

Memory on both new systems can be upgraded to 256MB. Each machine features eight slots, nine bays, a keyboard, and VGA graphics. Monitors are not included. The hard drives implement Fast SCSI-2 or Fast SCSI-2 RAID. The systems ship with controllers that support Wide SCSI, which will let users upgrade to Fast and Wide SCSI 2 hard drives. Wide SCSI can be used to either double system throughput to 20MB per second (Mbps) or increase the number of SCSI channels that can be supported by a single controller.

The SCSI subsystems exploit 40MB data-streaming for increased speed, IBM said. The servers' secondary cache also helps improve performance.

All Model 95 systems feature SynchroStream technology, which provides parallel paths between processors, memory, and bus-master adapters.

ECC memory, also known as error correction code memory, comes with the system and is designed to increase data integrity. The systems feature C2-level security and IBM's ServerGuard systems management.

For faster printing, the servers also come equipped with the ExpressPrint Parallel Port, which IBM demonstrated at PC Expo in June last year. The port sends data directly to high-speed laser printers at rates as high as 2MBps. Board upgrades are available for users of older Server 95 systems, but prices were not available at press time.

IBM's headquarters are in Armonk, N.Y. Users can call IBM at (800) 447-4700 for the locations of PS/2 server dealers.