

NEWSWATCH

Microsoft, Intel Plan "NetPC"

Microsoft Corp. and Intel Corp. recently announced a new computer reference platform called the **NetPC**, to reduce the costs of business computing.

Specifications for the platform will include an Intel Pentium processor rated at 100 MHz or higher, at least 16 MB of system memory.

The computer manufacturers that agreed to support the initiative included Compaq Computer Corp., Dell Computer Corp., Digital Equipment Corp., Gateway 2000 Inc., Hewlett-Packard Co., Packard Bell, NEC and Texas Instruments Inc.

The move is a response to the drive for Internet recently network computers that would cost less than \$1,000 and be cheaper to operate than IBM PCs.

IBM Corp., Sun Micro Systems Inc. and Oracle Corp. are among the companies supporting the network computer effort.

Microsoft to Release Beta of Visual Basic 5.0

Microsoft Corp. will release a beta of Visual Basic 5.0 as well as a beta of the new Internet Studio Web development tool, called **Vista**.

The new edition of VB, called the 'Control Creation Edition'. The final version of this product will be available free on Microsoft's World Wide Web site when VB 5.0 ships at the end of the year.

Compaq's Departmental ProLiant

Compaq Computer Corp. is to fill out the low end of its **ProLiant** server line with a two-processor Pentium Pro department-level server.

The new **ProLiant 2500** running 166MHz or 200MHz is in line between the Pentium-Based ProLiant 1500 and the four-processor Pentium Pro ProLiant 5000 and designed easy to service even for the is managers, without a tool.

The ProLiant 2500 servers also are expected to be the beginning of a new breed of "intelligent" Pro systems that will be compatible with future I2O storage and network controller cards.

Pricing on the new machine is in between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Compaq cut **ProSignia** Prices and **ProLiant** prices. The company slashed ProSignia servers for small and medium-size businesses, with prices ranging from \$1,667 for the ProSignia 300 5/90 Model 1/E to \$3,599 for the ProSignia 500 5/150 Model 2100.

The ProLiant 1500T 5/133 Model 2100 and 5/166 Model 4300 price now start at \$6,799 and \$7,899, respectively.

Industry observers point toward these cuts as an indication that the 2500 was on its way.

The product is approximately 5.5M bytes large and contains the core VB engine as well as the integrated development environment with the editor and debugger.

NCR to Become a US\$7b Company

The market leader in data warehousing, with more than 12 years of experience in the design, implementation and servicing of the largest database systems in the world—AT&T/GIS renamed NCR corp. with new logo is expected to become US\$7 billion company after spin-off from AT&T by the end of this year.

In 1994 NCR was leader in midrange UNIX systems with 13.2% market share and in massively parallel processing market with 50% share.

It may also be mentioned that NCR supports maximum retail and financial transaction-based systems in the world and is leader in automated teller machines (ATMs) with 33% world wide market share.

The company has 38,600 employees, including 20,000 service professionals at 1,100 locations in 130 countries around the world.

The Exclusive Distributor of NCR in Bangladesh is:

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