

**NEWS
RELEASE**



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For Technical Editors

**Compaq Introduces World's Fastest PC Server
Featuring Revolutionary New TriFlex System Architecture
COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO/XL Offers Breakthrough Performance, Manageability**

HOUSTON, Oct. 5, 1992 -- Compaq Computer Corporation (NYSE: CPQ) today reinforced its worldwide PC server leadership position with the introduction of the COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO/XL -- the world's fastest PC server¹ -- ideal as an application server or large-scale file server. Featuring the revolutionary new "TriFlex System Architecture", the COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO/XL provides customers with breakthrough performance -- 89 percent faster than the IBM Model 95/XP-- for about the same price².

Compaq's innovative TriFlex System Architecture optimizes the three critical PC server subsystems -- input/output (I/O), processor and memory -- into three separate high bandwidth buses, delivering explosive application and file server performance. The TriFlex DataFlow Manager, which links and manages the three subsystems--a 64-bit processor bus, a 128-bit memory bus, and a 32-bit Extended Industry Standard Architecture (EISA) bus for I/O--allows I/O devices and system processors to simultaneously access memory more than 70% of the time. This provides dramatic performance improvements and greatly reduces bottlenecks.

"The COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO has consistently set the standard for performance and innovation in PC servers. With today's announcement, Compaq once again raises the competitive

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¹ PC Week File Server Shootout test, COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO/XL vs. comparable Dell PowerLine 450SE, ALR Powerpro 486/50, IBM Model 95/XP-486/50, 32 nodes

² PC Week File Server Shootout test, COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO/XL vs. comparable IBM Model 95/XP-486/50, 32 nodes, suggested list prices

COMPAQ

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and technological bar, shattering existing high-end PC server price/performance levels," said Eckhard Pfeiffer, President and CEO, Compaq Computer Corporation. "With prices starting at below \$14,000, the COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO/XL offers greater scalability and server management features, and more flexible networking options than both the IBM Model 95/XP and the COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO, as well as multiprocessor support, unmatched fault tolerance and a free three-year on-site warranty³," he added.

"Compaq has reached a major milestone with the COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO/XL, providing customers running large-scale file servers and demanding business critical applications such as database management an unequalled combination of performance and simpler PC server manageability," added Pfeiffer.

When fueled by up to two Intel 50-MHz 486 processors, each with 256-Kbytes of second-level two-way set associative "write-back" cache for increased performance in complex applications and multi-tasking environments, the COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO/XL delivers blazingly fast speed -- up to 185 transactions per second (TPS)⁴ -- over four times the speed of the enhanced COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO, in large application PC server environments. The COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO/XL is the first PC server to break the \$1,000 per TPS barrier and to achieve a world record performance of less than \$800 per transaction per second.

The new PC server's Future Processor Generation design provides support of current and next generation Intel high-performance processors, in single processor or symmetric multiprocessing configurations. "Compaq and Intel have worked together to insure that the COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO/XL is fully optimized to take advantage of the capabilities of current and future Intel microprocessors," said Paul Otellini, Vice President and General Manager, Microprocessor Products Group, Intel.

The COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO/XL extends the innovative COMPAQ INSIGHT Server Management capabilities with Rapid Recovery Services. These new PC server management features, which dramatically increase PC server uptime and PC server management efficiency, include:

³ Three-year on-site limited warranty in North America; three year limited warranty elsewhere.

⁴ Running TPC-B Benchmark, SCO UNIX, SCO MPX and Oracle7

- ♦ **Advanced Error Correction Code (ECC) Memory**, which corrects memory failures, while using cost effective, industry standard SIMMs, allowing PC server operation to continue in the event an entire DRAM module fails;
- ♦ **Fault Tolerance**, includes data protection features which help assure that data is not lost in the event of a drive failure;
- ♦ **Fault Prevention**, includes the PC server's capability to monitor the health of critical subsystems and alert the administrator to impending failures so the part can be replaced BEFORE it fails;
- ♦ **Rapid Recovery Services**, include:

Automatic Server Recovery (ASR) in which a downed PC server immediately reboots and either restarts its session or prepares for remote diagnostics (a modem is used to page the server administrator),

Critical Error Log which automatically keeps a record of failures in non-volatile RAM (for quick diagnosis), and

Revision History Table which tracks hardware versions of certain boards to provide an easy audit trail for PC server upgrades.

Another first for this class of PC servers is the pre-installed COMPAQ 32-bit NetFlex Controller, which supports either Ethernet (standard configuration) or Token Ring (optionally supported) protocols and allows the PC server to be readily incorporated into almost any existing network. This dual protocol flexibility, provided by the Texas Instruments SuperEagle Chip, offers customers the high performance of a 32-bit network interface card (NIC), yet at price points associated with 16-bit NICs.

Exceptional Growth Potential and Easy Upgrade Path

Compaq ensures customers' investments are maximized by providing outstanding expandability and scalability so that the PC server's memory, processing power and disk storage can be easily upgraded as the customer's requirements increase and business needs grow. For example, customers can increase the PC server's memory to 512 megabytes of Advanced ECC memory with industry-standard SIMMs. The EISA expansion bus and industry standard Fast-SCSI-2 storage devices also ensure cost effective and easy upgrades, in addition to compatibility with a large number of third-party, high performance expansion options. Through meeting the critical levels of systems integration and optimized industry standard hardware, the COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO/XL provides optimal PC server operations in network environments.

The COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO/XL provides exceptional storage capacity--nearly 8 Gigabytes of internal storage and, with the new COMPAQ ProLiant, an external storage system featuring hot pluggable SCSI drives that allows NetWare customers to easily swap out failed drives without shutting down the system--customers can grow their network to over 29 Gigabytes of disk storage.

The COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO/XL is shipping this month and will be available worldwide exclusively through Specialized Resellers.

Systems Division and Company Background

Compaq Computer Corporation is a world leader in the PC Server market, offering a broad range of innovative products and technical support services through its Systems Division. Compaq pioneered the PC Server market in 1989 with the introduction of the COMPAQ SYSTEMPRO and today the company remains a major force in this area, delivering complete networking solutions--including advanced PC Servers, innovative server management software and superior technical support. In addition, Compaq has established strategic partnerships with leading suppliers of network and systems software, including Novell, SCO, Microsoft and Banyan, enabling users to build and manage complex multivendor network environments.

Compaq Computer Corporation is also a world leader in the manufacture of PC systems, and desktop, portable, laptop and notebook personal computers and network laser printers. Founded in 1982, the Company reported 1991 worldwide revenues of \$3.3 billion.

COMPAQ products are sold and supported in more than 85 countries through a network of more than 8,300 Compaq Marketing Partners, including authorized resellers (national chains, franchisers and superstores), specialized dealers, value-added resellers (VARs), distributors, network integrators, systems integrators, and authorized third party maintainers. Compaq also offers a broad range of service and support programs including free technical support through the Customer Support Center, worldwide product warranties and technical product information on CD-ROM.

FOR 24-HOUR CUSTOMER SUPPORT AND INFORMATION, CALL 1-800-345-1518.

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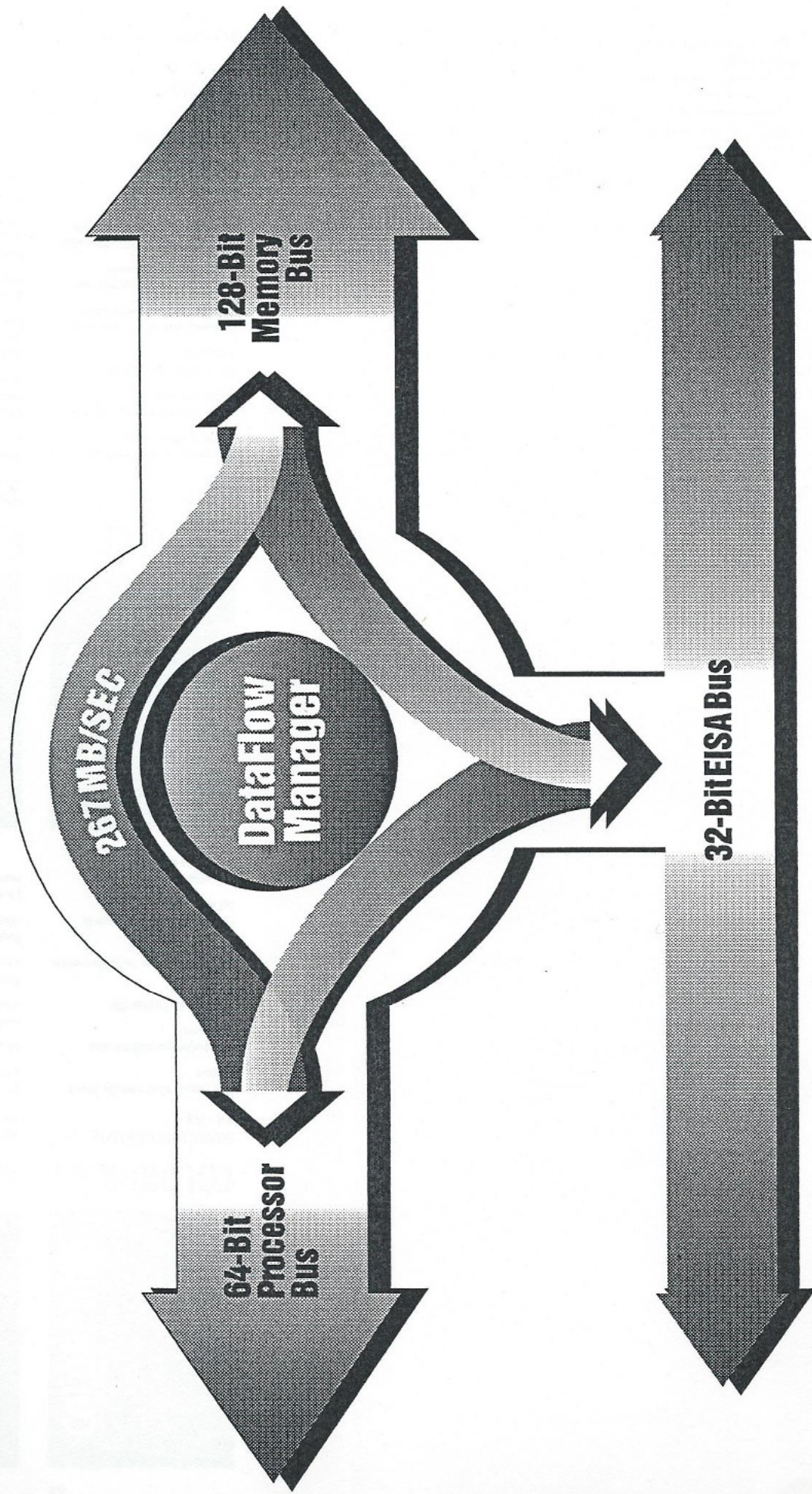
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COMPAQ TriFlex System Architecture



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