AT&T 3B2/300

Product Enhancement

AT&T Information Systems has expanded its 3B family of supermicrocomputer systems with the introduction of the 3B2/400. The 3B2/400 is a full 32-bit, multiuser, supermicro based on Unix System V and handles up to 25 users. At the same time, AT&T announced the enhancement of the 3B2/300 and also reduced 3B2/300 prices.

The 3B2/400 is based on a WE 32100 processor chip and is fully software- and feature card-compatible with the 3B2/300. As an option, the system offers a WE 32106 math accelerator unit co-processor for enhanced floating-point performance.

A typical 3B2/400 system includes one or two built-in 32MB or 72MB hard disk drives and one built-in 23MB streaming tape backup unit. A built-in 720KB formatted double-density floppy disk drive is also included in the basic configuration. Memory implements of 1MB, 2MB, 3MB, or 4MB of main memory can be configured. Although 46 terminals can be physically connected, AT&T recommends between 10 to 25 simultaneous users. A minimum number of two RS-232-C connections are included with each I/O expansion card, containing four RS-232-C ports and one parallel port. The model features an I/O backplane for peripheral expansion, with up to 10 usable expansion slots.

The operating system supported on the 3B2/400 is the Unix System V, Release 2.0.3 in a virtual memory swapping environment. An optional Unix System V Release 2.1.0, Version 2 in a virtual memory, demand paging environment is also available.

The 3B2/400 is physically larger than the 3B2/300. The 3B2/400 is 7.2 inches high, 22 inches wide, and 18 inches deep, as compared with the 3B2/300, which is 3.6 inches high and about the same width and depth of the 3B2/400. The 3B2/400 weighs 60 pounds. The new model's AC voltage is 120 VAC at 15 amps, with 60 Hz frequency. Heat dissipation is a maximum of 540 watts per hour and consumption is under 200 watts in a maximum configuration.

3B2/300 Enhancements

Three enhancements were announced for the 3B2/300: an optional cartridge tape controller (CTC); an intelligent serial controller (ISC); and an expansion disk controller (XDC).

The CTC is a feature card that supports one cartridge tape drive and a floppy disk drive. The 3B2/300 optionally supports the capability provided by the CTC via the Expansion Module (XM). The CTC allows the addition of floppy disk space and backup, as needed. It also allows users to restore a small number of lost files without logging off.

The ISC is a general-purpose synchronous communications feature card that allows communications over synchronous channels, like IBM's Systems Network Architecture (SNA)/SDLC and Bisync, by loading the appropriate software from the 3B2/300 or 3B2/400 onto the ISC. It is available as an optional upgrade for existing 3B2/300 and 400 systems. The ISC provides 3B2 users access to IBM host computers.

The XDC optional feature card (in combination with the AT&T XM) allows for the addition of disk drives to either 3B2 supermicro models. Beyond the two hard disk drives supported by every 3B2, each XDC allows for the addition of two hard disk drives. The 3B2/300 supports up to two XDCs and the 3B2/400 up to four XDCs. The resulting total disk storage allowable is about 0.5GB on the 3B2/300 and approximately 0.75GB on the 3B2/400.

The addition of the 3B2/400 is part of AT&T's planned growth path for its supermicro users. The upgraded model allows the hookup of 25 workstations as opposed to 18 for the 3B2/300 model. The announced file transfer capabilities between a 3B2 system and an IBM mainframe are part of AT&T's communications products plan to sell its systems to large companies who need both small system and large system connectivity, via ISC.

AT&T's 3B2/300 and 400 models are taking aim at DEC's MicroVAX II and IBM's System/36 low-end model, the 5362. Both the AT&T and Micro VAX II systems have full 32-bit microprocessors. AT&T must target the system toward large corporations, who can develop their own applications because the amount of software currently available for the 3B supermicro line is limited. Hence, AT&T is focusing on the custom ap- ▷

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▷ plications market for the 3B2 supermicro system, providing users with complete systems for specific application requirements.

Following is an equipment and software price list.

EQUIPMENT PRICES

		Purchase Price ($)
BASIC SYSTEMS		
3B2/300	Model E	15,300
3B2/300	Model F	9,650
3B2/300	Vertical stand	100
3B2/300	Demand paging	360
3B2/300	Unix System V Release 2.0	Included
3B2/400	Four basic models, priced from $19,950 to $34,950	—
3B2/400	Four floating-point models, priced from $21,550 to $36,550	—
3B2/400	Add-on math accelerator unit	2,200
3B2/400	Demand paging	360
3B2/400	Unix System V Release 2.0	Included
Model 1	Communication processor (direct attach)	27,000
Model 2	Communication processor (remote attached)	—
ISN	ISN (priced based on configuration)	—
STARLAN	STARLAN systems and mainframe connectivity	895
3BNET	3BNET systems and mainframe connectivity	2,400
PC INTERFACE	PC Interface systems and mainframe connectivity	500
SNA/3270	SNA/3270 Emulator+	700
BSC/3270	BSC/3270 Emulator+	700
API 3270	API 3270 Application Program	150

SOFTWARE PRICES

		Purchase Price ($)
SYSTEMS/PROGRAMMING SERIES		
INGRES/CS	INGRES/CS data base management system	2,000
INFORMIX	INFORMIX data base management system	1,600
File-it	File-it data base management systems	495
RM/Cobol	Compiler	1,500
Run Time	Run Time language	300
LEVEL II	LEVEL II Cobol-compiler	1,600
Animator	LEVEL II Animator	800
RUN TIME	LEVEL II Run Time	400
Forms 2	LEVEL II Forms	200
UX-Basic	UX-Basic Interpreter	975
Run Time	UX-Basic Run Time	225
C language	C programming language, utilities, 1 set of 3	340
Unix	Unix developer's workbench	1,400 ∎