

DEC MicroVAX Family

Product Enhancement

Overview

In another overhaul of its entire product line, Digital Equipment Corporation introduced 15 computers that significantly strengthen its competitiveness in the midrange and workstation marketplace.

There are eight new VAX 6000 systems to meet growing application and performance needs. At the entry level, the VAX 6000 Model 210 starts at \$129,000, followed by Models 310/410/420/430/450, up to the top-of-the-line VAX 6000 Model 460, with up to 36 times the performance of the VAX-11/780. There are also four new VAX server systems, delivering from 2.8 up to 13.0 VUPS of performance.

The VAX 6000 systems redefine VAX system potential with a quantum leap in price/performance and expansion capability, as well as a unique, integrated vector processing option. The capability to support either one or two vector processors will be available within the next 12 months. This option—with full VAX compatibility—brings compute-intensive processing capabilities to a flexible, general-purpose system.

Along with the new lineup of VAX systems, a new numbering scheme reflects the upgradability of the 6000 Series platform. Existing 6000 systems models have been renumbered. The VAX 6200 and 6300 series are now called VAX 6000-200 and VAX 6000-300 series, respectively.

Compatibility is a key feature of the VAX 6000 series. This family supports the same I/O devices, systems options, and software—a platform strategy that provides an extra measure of investment protection.

All VAX 6000 Model 400 systems use a new central processor, based on CMOS II semiconductor technology, to deliver 85 percent more performance. Each system has 11 slots to support up to six processors, 256M bytes of memory, and six VAXBI channels.

Highlights

The following systems and upgrades comprise Digital Equipment's latest product line announcements:

- The new VAX 6000 Model 400 systems provide a major enhancement to the VAX 6000 line. They deliver up to 85 percent more performance than today's VAX 6300 systems with significant price/performance improvements. The Model 410 provides 85 percent more performance for only 30 percent more dollars than the VAX 6310. At the top of the line, the Model 460 provides 60 percent more performance at no additional cost, compared to the 6360. The VAX 6000 Model 460 is the most powerful VAX system available to date—with up to 36 times the performance of the VAX-11/780. VAX 6000 Model 400 kernel prices start at \$239,000, and system prices start at \$257,000.
- The VAX 6000 Model 210, a new, lower-priced entry model in the VAX 6000 family, provides performance of 2.8 times the VAX-11/780 system. Priced 30 percent lower than the previous entry-level VAX 6310 system, it can expand by 13 times within the same cabinet, all the way to the VAX 6000 Model 460. Kernel prices start at \$129,000, while system prices start at \$147,000.
- The VAX 6000 platform strategy allows users to upgrade from existing VAX 6000 systems to the new Model 400 systems. This pattern eliminates obsolescence by enabling customers to add new processor technology for increased performance as it becomes available. Upgrades can be completed within minutes and all within the same cabinet.
- Within the next 12 months, Digital plans to extend the VAX architecture by adding vector processing to VAX 6000 Model 400 systems.
- The MicroVAX 3100 and VAXserver 3100 systems lower the entry-level price of the MicroVAX family by up to 40 percent while providing 2.5 times the performance. These systems offer improved price/performance for users in branch offices, retail operations, and small businesses. Complete server systems, including storage, are priced from \$6,680. 

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- • Version 5.2 of the VMS operating system supports the new systems with new features that include an increase in the maximum number of computers in a VAXcluster system from 42 to 96; VAXcluster support for the license management facility (LMF); backup and security enhancements; and increased centralized system management capabilities. The new VMS version is available at no increase in price.

New RISC-Based Systems

Last January, Digital Equipment entered the UNIX-based RISC market with the DECstation 3100. Now, with the introduction of three new systems and additional third-party ULTRIX applications for this market, Digital offers users the most complete family of RISC-based open systems on the market. They are:

- The new DECstation 2100 workstation, which delivers 10 integer MIPS performance, is currently the lowest-priced color RISC-based workstation in the industry. Priced from \$11,450 for an eight-plane color system and \$7,950 for a monochrome unit, these workstations are ideal for a broad range of applications including CASE and technical publishing.
- The DECsystem 5400 computer provides 16.6 integer MIPS processing power and is available with up to 2.4G bytes of storage in a compact desktop enclosure or up to 9.7G bytes in a cabinet. The system supports hundreds of Q-bus options available from Digital and third parties while offering high performance in compute-intensive, UNIX-based timesharing or client/server applications for workgroups or departments. Prices start at \$49,900.
- The DECsystem 5800 computers are Digital's highest performance RISC systems. The DECsystem 5810 delivers 18.7 integer MIPS and is easily field upgradable to the 5820 dual processor delivering up to 36 integer MIPS. Supporting up to 128M bytes of memory and 38.8G bytes of storage, the systems will be extended to 256M bytes of memory and 115G bytes of storage in the next release of ULTRIX. An announcement on these and other ULTRIX enhancements will be made before the end of the year. The new systems make excellent choices for a large department or a data center resource, as a server or as a timesharing system. DECsystem 5800 series kernel prices start at \$99,900; entry system prices start at \$121,500.
- Over 100 vendors of engineering, electronic publishing, laboratory, financial, office, and software development applications, as well as Q-bus hardware option vendors, already are committed to Digital's RISC systems. In addition, Digital's Innovators Program has been adopted by over 50 universities worldwide to produce over 100 applications.

Along with the new products, Digital unveiled the next phase of Network Application Support (NAS), the company's unified software environment for the 1990s. The latest enhancements include:

- VAX SQL/Services, an option to Digital's relational database system at no additional cost, offers a consistent way for applications and users to access information from Digital and IBM databases, anywhere on the network. Digital also made available VIDA for DB2, a tool that, through the new VAX SQL/Services, enables information sharing between Digital's relational database and IBM's DB2 database. Server software is priced at \$35,700; client software prices start at \$7,229.
- Conversion Services, supporting VMS and ULTRIX workstations, industry-standard PCs, and Macintosh systems, enable users to share revisable text, data, graphics, and images with any other user on the network. The price is \$200.
- DECprint Services enable document and image printing on any Digital or supported third-party output device anywhere on the network, without having to specify formats or characteristics. □

DEC Vaxstations

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