NEWS

ALR Announces MCA 33-MHz i486
Company Expects to Begin Shipping Machines in Second Quarter

BY RON COPELAND
AND MARK BROWNSTEIN

Last week ALR Inc. became the first vendor to announce a Micro Channel-based machine using Intel's 33-MHz i486 microprocessor.

Although Intel has yet to announce the availability of its new top-of-the-line processor, ALR is projecting availability of its system in the second quarter — perhaps as early as April,

according to Dave Kirkey, ALR's vice president of sales and marketing.

The ALR Powercache 33/4 machine will be configured with 8 megabytes of RAM and include ALR's proprietary 128K external memory cache. The system uses standard RAM memory modules expandable up to 32 megabytes through ALR's proprietary 64-bit memory slot.

Hard drives up to 1.2 giga-

bytes in size can be used by the unit. Five bays will accommodate two full-height, two half-height, and one 3½-inch storage device. In addition, the system features a 300-watt power supply.

An on-board VGA adapter supports resolutions of 640 by 480 pixels in 16 colors. An optional Enhanced Graphics Package upgrade is also available, and will support display resolutions up to 1,024 by 768 pixels in 16 colors.

In addition to 8 megabytes of RAM, the base system includes seven expansion slots (including one proprietary 64-bit memory slot and six Micro Channel slots); a 1.44-megabyte floppy disk drive; and a 120-megabyte hard disk drive.
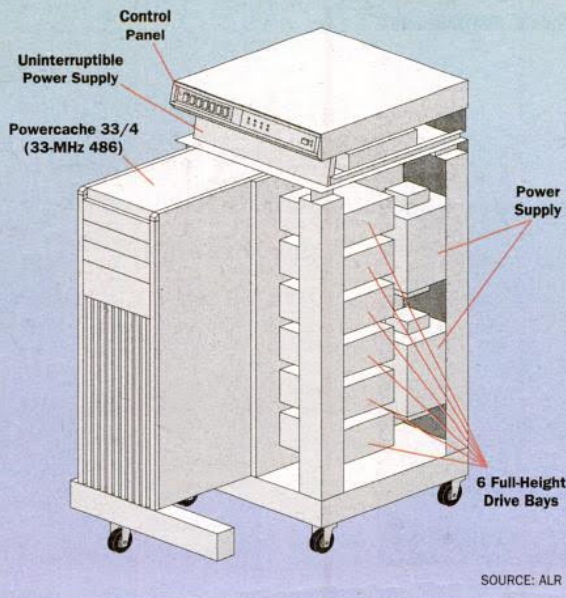
The i486 system will be available in three configurations: the 120-megabyte model with a 15-MHz high-speed ESDI controller with 32K look-ahead cache will sell for $11,990; a model equipped with a 330-megabyte drive with the same controller will sell for $15,990; and a 660-megabyte model that features dual 330-megabyte drives and includes both a SCSI bus-master controller as well as the 15-MHz EDSI controller with 32K look-ahead cache will be priced at $17,990.

Optionally available from ALR is the Flexstore Gigabyte, an external disk subsystem that includes six full-height mass storage bays, three 230-watt power supplies, an on-board uninterruptible power supply, and a power control center, all housed inside a metal cabinet on casters. ALR's floor-standing CPU also mounts inside the cabinet.

The Flexstore Gigabyte sells for $7,995

ALR Inc., 9401 Jeronimo, Irvine, CA 92718; (714) 581-6770.

ALR's Flexstore Gigabyte Helps Soup Up 33-MHz 486

Control Panel
Uninterruptible Power Supply
Powercache 33/4 (33-MHz 486)
Power Supply
6 Full-Height Drive Bays

SOURCE: ALR

ALR's 33-MHz i486 Powercache 33/4 with optional Flexstore Gigabyte offers minilike performance and expansion capabilities.

Microsoft's Codeview 3.0 supports debugging multiple processes, switching between them as control is passed between processes.

Codeview for OS/2 2.0 Borrows Quick Interface

BY STUART J. JOHNSTON

REDMOND, WA — Microsoft will demonstrate this week a new version of its Codeview debugger that supports 32-bit code written for OS/2 2.0 and features a user interface borrowed from the company's Quick languages.

Developers will have the chance to comment on the new version — dubbed Codeview 3.0 — when Microsoft shows it at the Software Development '90 Conference in Oakland, California, company officials said.

The updated debugger is included with early versions of the OS/2 2.0 Software Developer's Kit (SDK), which began shipping in December. (See "OS/2 2.0 SDK to Let Developers Start Writing 32-Bit Applications," January 8, Page 1.)

Codeview now features movable, resizable, character-based windows and supports both the mouse and keyboard. It also features a Quick-like hypertext help facility and provides on-line information on OS/2 2.0's

API calls, supported languages, resource editor, and linker, said Todd Warren, Microsoft program manager for languages marketing.

Codeview 3.0 supports debugging applications with 16- and 32-bit dynamic link libraries. It is also capable of debugging multiple processes at once, switching between them as control is passed between processes.

"I can be stepping through a macro using Excel's macro debugger, and when I hit a DDE interaction that uses my application, I'll suddenly find myself looking at Codeview and the break point in my application," Warren said.

Other features include menu-driven debugging of multiple threads, additional break-point types, the capability to dynamically expand structures and arrays in watch windows, and the capability to directly modify memory and register contents.

Company officials did not say when Codeview 3.0 would be available outside of the OS/2 2.0 Software Developer's Kit.

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Window display terminal, called the X Station 120, that has 512K to 8½ megabytes of RAM and serial and parallel ports.

Other models include the 27½-MIPS Powerstation Model 320 with 8 to 32 megabytes of RAM, four MCA slots, and 120 to 640 megabytes of hard disk space. The deskside Model 520 has the same CPU performance but 8 to 128 megabytes of RAM, 355 megabytes to 2½ gigabytes of hard disk space, and seven MCA slots.

The tower Model 530 generates 34½ MIPS, and has 16 to 128 megabytes of RAM, plus the same disks and slots as the Model 520. The Model 540 Powerserver has 64 to 256 megabytes of RAM, 41.1 MIPS, seven slots, and 640 megabytes to 2½ gigabytes of hard disk.
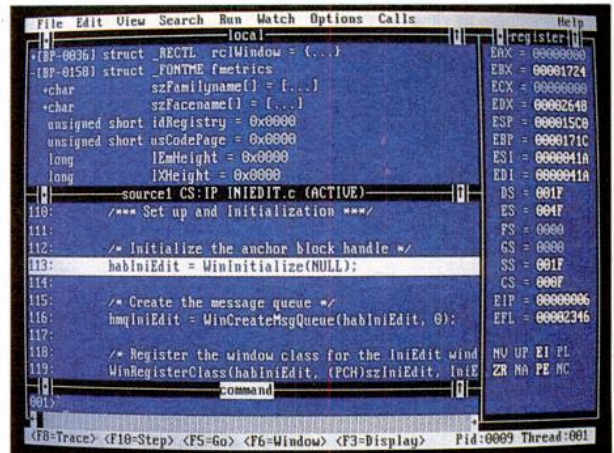
The double-tower Model 730

Powerstation and rack-mounted Model 930 Powerserver both have 34½ MIPS, but the Model 930 holds 670 megabytes to 12 gigabytes of hard disk while the Model 730 holds 670 megabytes to 2½ gigabytes.

IBM sources said that a better price/performance ratio than Sun and Silicon Graphics is the goal.

IBM will support several graphics standards, including X Window, PHIGS, Motif, Next Step, Display Postscript, GKS, GAI, and GL (IBM's own graphics language).

Graphics resolution will be 1,280 by 1,024, with the capability to gear down to the 8514-1 (1,024-by-768 resolution) standard. It will offer a palette of over 16 million simultaneously available colors with the 24-bit Z-buffer, or 256 colors with the 8-bit buffer.

Other supported monitors include the monochrome IBM 8508 and the color IBM 8514, 5081, and 6091.

Novell Plans to Offer SFT III Separately, Delaying Its Release

BY MARGIE WYLIE

Netware 386 users can expect to spend another year and a few more dollars before they see server mirroring — System Fault Tolerance (SFT) Level III — from Novell.

SFT Level III, originally expected in Netware 386, Version 3.1, provides minicomputerlike fault tolerance by duplicating the entire server — operating system, data, applications, users, and security — in two physical locations, according to Darrell Miller, executive vice president of Novell's software group. Such fault tolerance is required by minicomputer-based transac-

tion processing systems for maximum reliability.

Repositioning Version 3.1 as a maintenance release this quarter, Novell has decided to sell SFT III as a separate product, similar to the way it markets its domain naming service, remote configuration utility, and multiple protocol support, Miller said. (See "Novell Debuts LAN Name Service Utility," Page 33.)

"[Version] 3.1 is only for maintenance and bug fixes," Miller said. "SFT III will be implemented separately as a Netware Loadable Module on a multiprocessor platform." Novell now plans to deliver SFT

Level III in about a year and only for a multiprocessor configurations, Miller said.

Multiprocessor support is essential to server mirroring, said Richard King, vice president of engineering, in an earlier interview. "We had Netware MP up and running at the Compaq announcement," he said. "The I/O was running separately from file and print service. That's intrinsic to SFT III."

Miller said Novell hasn't developed SFT Level III for single-processor 386 servers because, even with bus mastering, the power isn't there to run I/O separately from file and print services.