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Oracle deploys Xserve RAID internally

By Jim Dalrymple
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In a presentation to be given at OracleWorld in San Francisco, Calif., Oracle Corp. will outline its Resilient Low-Cost Storage Initiative. After including Apple Computer Inc.'s Xserve RAID in the product testing, Oracle has chosen to deploy Apple's solution internally to run the Oracle Collaboration Suite application for e-mail, voicemail and calendar, Oracle officials will reveal.

In a recent whitepaper Oracle discusses the "advent of low-cost ATA disk based storage arrays and low-cost storage networks together with the introduction of Oracle Database 10g" and how these factors have "made it possible to create a Database Storage Grid that has very low cost and excellent performance and availability."

When Apple first showed the Oracle team the Xserve RAID, the Oracle team had questions on its price, scalability, support programs and how friendly it was with other platforms. After using it and putting the Xserve RAID through its paces internally, Oracle bought the system to deploy itself.

"Oracle tested the Xserve RAIDs and they were really surprised," Alex Grossman, Apple director of product management, server hardware, told MacCentral. "Oracle chose to buy Xserve RAID for their internal deployment. They did everything they could think of to make it fail and couldn't."

According to Oracle, a low-cost storage array must implement a core set of fea-

tures, which they outline as: Networked Storage; Inter-Operability Certification; Remote Management And Failure Alerts; High Availability; and Availability From A Higher Perspective.

"Its performance is excellent," said Oracle's whitepaper. "For a workload of 8KB random reads, it can sustain 1100 I/Os per second (IOPS). For a multi-user sequential workload, it can sustain 266 MBps of read throughput."

Grossman also points out that with Mac OS X, Apple tests all of the server components, so you know things work when they are installed -- unlike Linux that may not support some components out of the box, depending on what kernel they are running. .🍏



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



BAC December Meeting

The December meeting will be held on Saturday December 11th, at 10:00am at the Homewood Library in room 116 (lower level). A presentaion on the latest Gifts & Gadgets available for Christmas 2004 will the shown.

Come early and enjoy coffee, doughnuts and cookies, plus.....🍏

2004 BAC Board of Directors

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For Sale/Wanted

Do you have computer related items for sale or is there an item that you would like topurchase?

We will list the item in this space free of charge to currentBAC members.

Send information by the 25th of each month to the editor at: henryw@bellsouth.net.

BAC Disk of the Month

The BAC CDOM (Disk of the Month) is available at each BAC meeting. These CDs contain updates, shareware, and freeware.

The cost is \$2 per disk and is available at the BAC meetings from Disk Librarian Jerry Jenkins.

December 2004 CDOM Descriptions

CookWareDeluxe X 2.1...Shareware

Drag and drop to add recipes to this database. Create a shopping list for one or more recipes. Requires OS 10.1 or later.

FolderIcon X 1.9.8...Shareware

Create custom folder icons and document icons. Requires OS 10.2.1 or higher, or OS 10.3.x

GraphicConverter X 5.3...Shareware

Many, many improvements in this updated version. A good app to change graphics formats and to edit and correct digital photos. Requires Mac OS 10.1 or higher.

Loan Helper X 1.1...Freeware

A loan calculator. Requires OS 10.0 or higher.

MacFamilyTree 6.0.8...Shareware

Updated genealogy program. Requires OS 10.2.6 or higher.

MacPipes 1.2.1...Shareware

Game. Requires OS 9.x or OS 10.1 or higher.

Mactracker 3.0...Freeware

Detailed information on every Mac model made. Also, info on compatible equipment such as keyboards, printers, scanners, etc.

Mr Diary 1.8...Freeware

Weekly notes, calendar, contacts manager in a single window. Requires

OS 9.x or OS 10.1 or higher.

PopChar X 2.2.1...Shareware

Displays the hidden characters of the font you are using and inserts the one you select. Requires OS10.1.2 or higher.

Tex-Edit-Plus-X 4.8.2...Shareware

Easy-to-use text editor, but more like a word processor. This new version is scriptable. Requires OS 10.1 or higher.

VueScan X 8.1.10...Shareware

Updated, keeps getting better and covers more scanners. In most cases, it replaces and improves the original scanner driver. Requires Mac OS 10.2.8 or higher.

Blackberry/Mac in Sync

If you have a BlackBerry and a Mac, PocketMac For BlackBerry may be the perfect tool for you! Check out www.pocketmac.net 🍏

Apple Releases Security Update 2004-12-02

This update delivers a number of security enhancements and is recommended for all Macintosh users.

Message Board ID and password for November

The BAC Message Board is located at www.applecore.org and click on Message Board. The User id for December is: *peel* and the password is *1204*. Some browsers ask for the Name in the top box. This is the place for the user ID. 🍏

December Door Prizes

The following list of door prizes will be awarded at the December BAC meeting, a copy of the monthly CDOM, a one-month rental of any of the instructional CDs that are in our Library. 🍏



Supercomputer located at Colsa Corp.in Huntsville, Al., composed of 1,562 Apple G5 Xserves. Will be used to model hypersonic flight.

Apple of IBM's eye?

By Cormac O'Reilly

(Published by The Register on 6th December 2004 11:32 GMT)

Opinion As the IT world digests the fact that IBM has, according to the New York Times, put its PC division up for sale, another set of speculation revs up.

No, not the fact that the rumored potential buyer is Chinese company Lenovo, nor the cruel related joke that many old IBMers caught in the sold PC division would quickly will appear on a Chinese take-away menu, thereby helping fix IBM's embarrassing pension funding problems.

Instead, an even better and more audacious speculation is that once publicly free of the PC division IBM will either buy, or form a close joint venture with Apple to sell its PCs, which coincidentally are now built around IBM's PowerPC chip.

Selling its PC Division would also pave the way for such an IBM move to be approved by the FTC. To add even more heat to already hot gossip, it turns out that Apple is not among the published list of early companies signing up for IBM's PowerPC consortia - a rather strange gap given Apple's now absolute dependency on that microprocessor range.

Well, you may ask, why would they sign up if a romance with IBM was in the air, or maybe even already consummated? And, knowing just how difficult it is to keep secrets these days, is it coincidence that some financial analysts have doubled their estimate of Apple's stock price expectation recently?

Just think how many positives for IBM such a marriage would provide. IBM would give the same credibility to the

Macintosh computer, and its Microsoft-beating operating systems as it provided for the PC in the first place, thereby opening the flood gates of corporate demand.

Then of course there is Darwin, Apple's version of BSD Unix at the heart of its Mac OS X operating system, which would nicely provide IBM with a non Linux semi-open source alternative, and one that is focused on its on benchmark beating P (sorry G) 5 microprocessor. And of course there is all that synergy in the high performance, bargain priced Unix server and disk array products that Apple has taken to market, which must be hard to resist.

Hitching up with Apple would provide IBM with a real inroad into the fast growing 'lifestyle' market, something the men and women in blue suits kind of missed. Perhaps most of all, it would be a way for IBM to get even with Microsoft for all that bad blood over the early versions of Windows, which IBM partnered in, and apparently accidentally part-funded. Remember that what IBM got out of that for its money was an operating systems that chairman Gerstner famously named Warp, which turned out to be the speed at which it hurtled into oblivion.

Cast your mind back to Apple's announcement that hell had frozen over when they launched a Windows version of iTunes. I wonder what in hell will happen if there is any substance to this rumor. We shall see... ®


www.theregister.co.uk 

Your Mac Life, Mac News Listen or watch over the internet

If you have a high speed Net connection, you can access the live video stream during the Your Mac Life broadcast, brought to you by Channel Storm's Live Channel Pro, by clicking on this URL:

<rtsp://qt.yourmaclife.com/yml/Video>.

Or you can listen in to the plain old audio feed at:

<http://www.yourmaclife.com> 

Apple Discloses 2004 Financial Details

All in all, Apple's revenue painted a rosy financial picture for the company this past year. For the fiscal year 2004, Apple reported US\$8.279 billion in net sales, \$2.062 billion more than for FY2003, and more than \$2.5 billion more than 2002. Net income for the year rose to \$276 million, up from \$69 million for 2003 and \$65 million for 2002. That translated into diluted earnings for stockholders of \$0.71 per share, up dramatically from previous years -- \$0.19 for 2003 and \$0.18 for 2002. Shareholders' equity in Apple rose to \$5.076 billion, compared to \$4.223 billion for 2003 and \$4.095 for 2002. Apple ended 2004 with \$5.464 billion in cash, cash equivalencies and short term investments, compared to \$4.566 billion for 2003.

Of the \$8.279 billion in net sales reported for FY04, Apple's Macintosh line -- Power Macs, PowerBooks, iMacs, eMacs and iBooks -- brought in \$4.923 billion. The iPod brought in another \$1.3 billion for the company in FY04. Its iTunes Music Store and other iPod-related accessories and services brought in another \$278 million. The remainder came from sales of peripherals, software and services.

iPods and other music products and services accounted for 19 percent of Apple's total net sales in FY04. Both numbers were up dramatically year-over-year -- 279 percent for the iPod and 672 percent for other music products. It's little wonder, then, that Apple has sought to expand distribution of iPods from just Apple Stores and select retailers to department stores, discount stores and other retail locations.

Key changes in Apple's business for fiscal 2004 included a 10 percent growth in net sales of Macintosh systems - \$4.923 billion for FY04 versus \$4.491 billion for FY03, although Apple notes that net sales per Mac unit sold remained pretty much flat year-over-year. iBooks and PowerBooks gained the largest momentum in 2004, showing 36 percent and 30 percent year-over-year growth. 🍏



Internet Professionals Society of Alabama

The Internet Professionals Society of Alabama (IPSA) is a non-profit professional development organization whose purpose is to:

- Unite, support and represent the statewide community of Internet professionals
- Promote and seek to maintain high standards of public service and conduct
- To serve as a forum for the ideas, people and issues shaping the future of the Internet industry.

We meet on the first Thursday of each month and everyone is welcome to attend.

Join the IPSA announcement-only email list for meeting notices and other items of interest to members and friends of IPSA. www.ipsonline.org/wifi/

VIDEO VOYAGE

Looking to mix travel with hobby maybe an Alaskan Cruise with Digital Video Classes would be a possible solution. The Video Voyage runs August 6 -13, 2005. Check out the details at: www.geekcruises.com

Hints&Tips

www.mac-hints-tips.com

Give Your Mac Some Breathing Room

The electronic innards of your Mac produce heat as a natural byproduct of operation. While most Macs contain ventilation fans, you can defeat their function if you crowd your Mac's desk space. An over-heated computer can cause system errors and reduce the life of your computer. To avoid fried silicon, avoid putting items directly against your computer.

TMUG Insider, Pleasanton CA

Try This

While sitting down, lift your right foot off the floor. Make-clockwise circles with the foot. When the foot is circling nicely, make a figure 6 with your finger in the air. Your foot will reverse and start moving in counter-clockwise circles, and there is nothing you can do about it.

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis OR

Upgrade Advice: Repair Permissions

Before updating Mac OS X to a new version, it's a good idea to do these things first:

1. Run Disk Utility (in the Applications/Utilities folder) and click the Repair Permissions button for all hard drives.
2. Run Alsoft's Disk Warrior on all hard drives.
3. Repair Permissions again. After upgrading, Repair Permissions yet again. You'll be surprised what it finds.

Two more tips: it's also useful to Repair Permissions before and after installing a new application. Also, Repair Permissions and run Disk Warrior before moving an external hard drive from a Mac running one version of Mac OS X to a Mac running another version of Mac OS X.

Design Tools Monthly

[Ed. note: This is good advice even if you do not have Disk Warrior, just skip those parts of the instruction]

Back Up the Address Book

OK, Paul, I told you how I was taught to back up the Address Book. I'm not certain that works. Now I'm taught a new, more plausible way:

1. Open Address Book
2. File menu "Back up Database"
3. SAVE (onto the desktop).
4. Copy THAT onto a CD.

Janet Parkerson

Looking for God?

Is this the holiest site on the World Wide Web? Godchecker.com takes a light-hearted but educational look at the literally thousands of Gods that have been worshipped by Earth's people over the past few millennia.

<http://www.godchecker.com/>

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis OR

Turn Off HTML

You can turn off "display HTML" in your E-mail preferences. Having it on allows others to insert special code into the message that can notify the sender whether or not the email was read.

Design Tools Monthly

Don't Use Glass Cleaner on Your Monitor

Don't use glass cleaner to clean your monitor. Many monitors have an antiglare coating that might be damaged by the glass cleaner. Use a soft cotton cloth dampened with warm water and gently wipe the screen area clean. Don't press too hard against a PowerBook screen. It can be damaged by too much pressure on the display.

Fishwrap, Atlanta GA

[Ed. note: Apple recommends the following for LCD screens.

How To Clean an LCD Panel

This article describes the best way to clean an LCD panel such as those used on PowerBook computers and Apple flat panel displays.

To clean the LCD:

1. Turn off the computer or display. You may need to turn off the computer in order to turn off some Apple displays.
2. Dampen a clean, soft, lint-free cloth or paper with water only.
3. Wipe the screen. Do not spray liquid directly on the screen.

You may also use a mild glass cleaner that contains no alcohol or ammonia. Most office supply stores sell cleaning kits specifically designed for this purpose.

While there are many commercial products available that will work without damaging the plastics, Apple has tested a product called Klear Screen made by Meridrew Enterprises (<http://www.klearscreen.com>) and found it does not cause any harm to the plastics. This product may not be available worldwide.

Information about products not manufactured by Apple is provided for information purposes only, and does not constitute Apple's recommendation or endorsement. Please contact the vendor for additional information.



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