AT&T 3B2 Family

Product Enhancement

Overview

AT&T announced the 3B2/1000 as an addition to its midrange departmental computer line. The 3B2/1000 is a natural extension of AT&T's 3B2 product line. Developed as the commercial version of an AT&T system designed under a U.S. government contract, the 3B2/1000 delivers more flexibility and efficiency to commercial and government computer customers. It is available in three field-upgradable models to suit a variety of networked computer needs: The 3B2/1000 Model 60 supports 64 simultaneous users; the 3B2/1000 Model 70 supports 80 users; and the 3B2/1000 Model 80 supports 120 users. A four-processor Model 80 runs at 16 MIPS. All three models use AT&T's WE 32200 chip set—a 32-bit processor optimized to run UNIX System V Release 3.2.2.

With the 3B2/1000 announcement, AT&T assured a logical growth path for 3B2 customers. According to AT&T, the 3B2/1000 signifies the company's commitment to "scaleability" by offering system upgrades that support 4 to 120 users within the same product family.

The AT&T 3B2/1000 Migration Processing Element Kit, released at the time of the 3B2/1000 announcement, allows current 3B2 customers to upgrade to a 3B2/1000 Model 80 for increased performance based on the Model 80's multiprocessing capabilities. The migration kits are hardware and software add-ons and include a 24MHz system board, a new processing element board, a new backplane and a UNIX System V Release 3.2.2 software upgrade.

Highlights

The following are standard features of the new AT&T 3B2/1000 System:

- A physical cache improves performance by decreasing the time required to fetch data and instructions. Complex algorithms store frequently used data and instructions in the cache, where they can be retrieved faster than from main memory. Models 60 and 70 have 4 kilobytes of cache, Model 80 has 8 kilobytes.

- The Model 80 has a 24MHz clock. Models 60 and 70 have a 22MHz clock.

- The processing element (PE) is a new standard feature card that improves 3B2/1000 Model 80 performance. Running at 24MHz, the PE off-loads processes from the 24MHz master processor, resulting in a balanced work load among the master processor and the PEs. A maximum of three PEs are supported (one card comes standard on the Model 80). Each card is equipped with a WE 32200 chip set including Central Processing Unit (CPU) WE 32200, Memory Management Unit (MMU) WE 32201, and a Math Accelerator Unit (MUA) WE 32206. Optional Multiprocessor Enhancement (MPE) cards are available for the Models 60 and 70. Running at 18MHz, they include a WE 32100 MPU, a WE 32101 MMU, and a 6-kilobyte cache.

- Each Model supports up to 64 megabytes of error correcting RAM and features a 25-slot backplane.

- A Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) host adapter card, which is an intelligent feature card, occupies one of the 12 EIO slots. The card connects with internal disks and a tape controller. The 3B2/1000 will support up to eight SCSI host adapters providing access to 15.9 gigabytes of mass storage.

- Two 300-megabyte (formatted) hard disks are standard on Models 70 and 80. One 300-megabyte hard disk is standard on Model 60 units.

- One internal 720-kilobyte (formatted) diskette drive is standard on all models.

User Reaction

Recently, we interviewed a consultant for Holiday Inn in Memphis, Tennessee who had installed a custom application system on a 3B2/1000. The application tracks problems and resolutions for office equipment in Holiday Inn properties. Through a centralized database, users call in and receive maintenance and troubleshooting assistance.

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▷ The original centralized problem resolution system was designed for a 3B2/400, but Holiday Inn quickly outgrew the older system. With an average of 10,000 calls per day from roughly 1,700 to 2,000 Holiday Inn properties and 25 users on the system during peak hours, Holiday Inn decided to upgrade to the AT&T 3B2/1000 Model 60 shortly after it was announced.

According to its consultant, Holiday Inn has been extremely pleased with both the 3B2/400 and the 3B2/1000. He added that the growth path provided by the 3B2 family is very reasonable, and migration from the 400 to the 1000 was smooth.

EQUIPMENT PRICING

	Purchase Price ($)
3B2/1000	
Model 60 configured with a 22MHz system board, WE 32206 MAU, EPORTS cards, 4-megabyte ECC memory card, 300-megabyte hard disk drive, 720-kilobyte diskette drive, SCSI host adapter card, 120-megabyte cartridge tape drive, and UNIX System V Release 3.2.2.	39,900
Model 70 configured with a 22MHz system board, WE 32206 MAU, EPORTS cards, 16-megabyte ECC memory card, two 300-megabyte hard disk drives, 720KB diskette drive, SCSI host adapter card, 120-megabyte cartridge tape drive, and UNIX System V Release 3.2.2.	59,900
Model 80 configured with a 24MHz system board, WE 32206 MAU, EPORTS cards, 16-megabyte ECC memory card, two 300-megabyte hard disk drives, 720KB diskette drive, SCSI host adapter card, 120-megabyte cartridge tape drive, and UNIX System V Release 3.2.2.	74,900 □