

September 1993

FOCUS

The Magazine of the North American Data General Users Group

Data General's new Aviions

AV 8500 & 9500 servers, AV 500 workstation join a growing open systems enterprise strategy

In Focus

New Aviion 'benchmark shock'
Unix Notebook: The letter

Plus

BJ's time tricks
More about sar
FSCOPY: a new backup tool
NADGUG 93: Visiting Atlanta
Preliminary conference schedule

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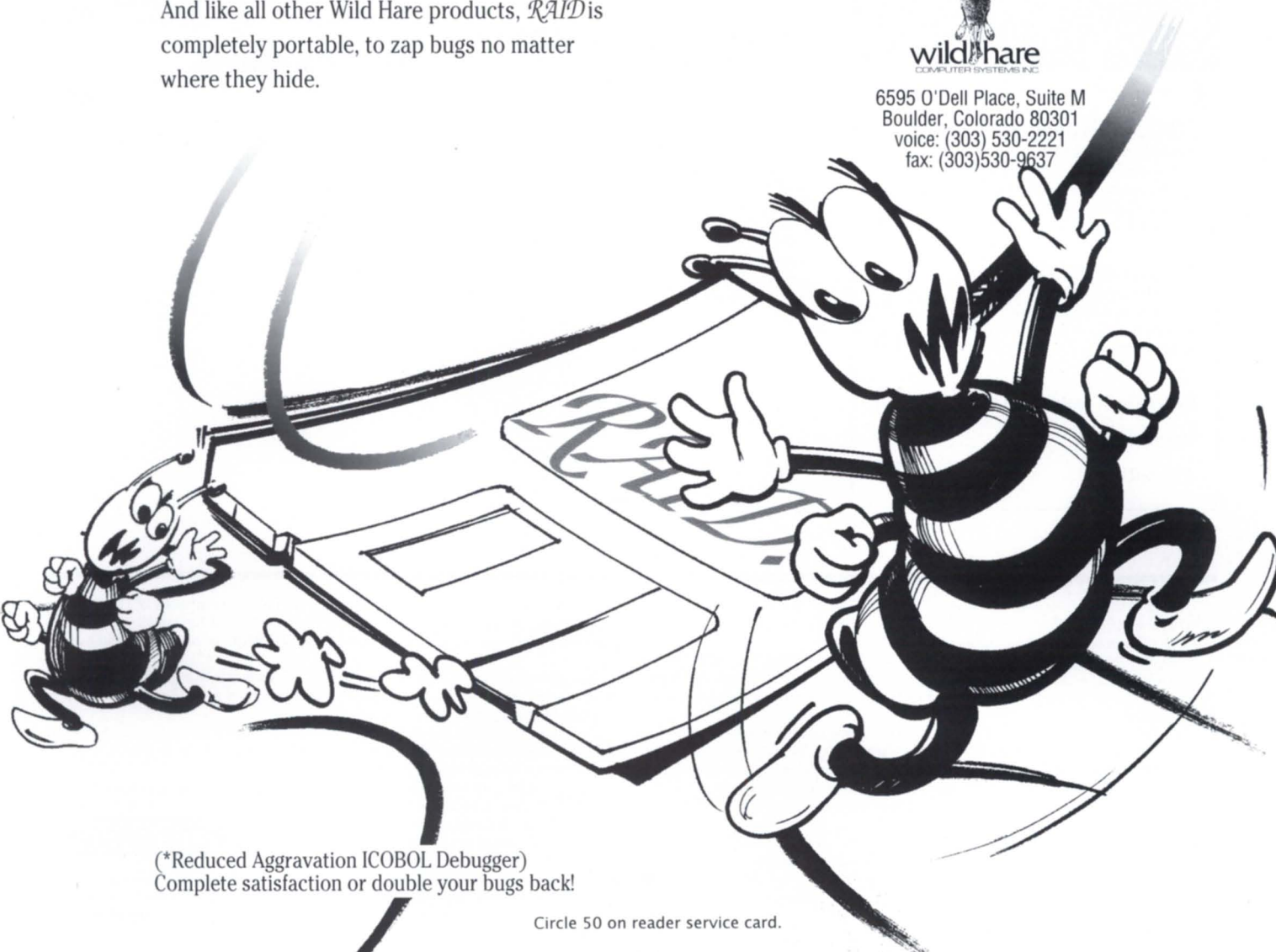


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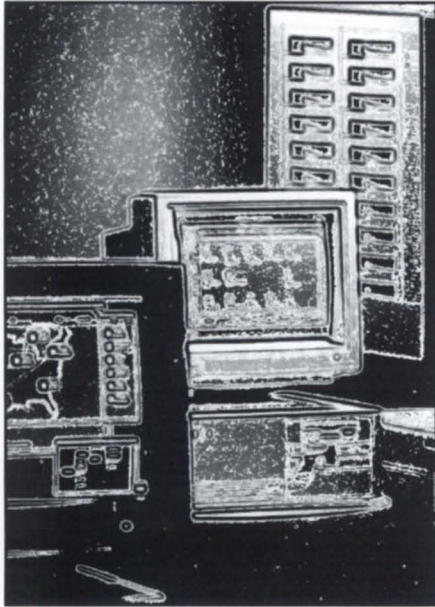
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Cover design by Ann Soto and Casey Hunter; original photo of Aviiions provided by Data General

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Frank Perry

Members, members, members!

by Frank Perry

My role as NADGUG membership chairman is one thing I would like to address in my turn at this column. Any organization is only as good as its membership, and my job (along with all the other members) is to increase that membership. To do that we have developed a series of programs and benefits.

I'm sure most of you have seen our literature touting NADGUG membership benefits, and I won't be repeating them all in this column. Instead, let me tell you why I belong to a user group, and specifically, why I belong to NADGUG.

I was in the data-processing field for some 30 years before my recent retirement. I always found that no one person had all the answers, nor could any one company afford to develop everything it needed. My participation in groups of users always seemed to provide me with more than it ever cost us.

At every meeting or conference I ever attended, I met a person or attended a presentation that gave me an answer to a problem I was facing right then, or would face in the future. I even found answers for problems I didn't know I had—how's that for networking? I also met some nice people who were going through expansions, systems tests, and other experiences. I could call them later for advice.

Another facet of user groups is that they are more effective in getting the attention of the company, in this case Data General. If you are a very large user you probably don't need this clout, but for more average-sized users it helps to collect our problems and con-

cerns for presentation. History has shown that this approach worked for NADGUG, and today we are able to review RFEs (requests for enhancement) and prioritize them through our Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The SIGs have been quite active in this process, which was developed several years ago by Dennis Doyle when he was NADGUG vice president. Meetings at the annual conference and correspondence help SIGs gather input about what various products need.

Enough about benefits! I'm preaching to the choir, anyway. We are trying hard to grow the membership and to retain our present membership. One of our growth vehicles is the "Box-Of-Tide" program, where Data General gives six-month trial memberships to new customers on a selected basis. We have developed a procedure to establish and maintain contact with these prospects in an attempt to convince them of membership benefits and get them to join. We are also working to retain our present membership with a system of follow-up telephone calls by a select committee. Anyone wanting to help in this effort should call me at 401/397-3533.

One of the benefits of living in New England is that I am close enough to attend some of the larger Data General product announcements. I had the opportunity to be at the June 29 announcement in Boston of the new Aviiion AV 8500 and AV 9500 server systems. I was most impressed by these products and their positioning in the overall product line. As an old MV user, as well as a user of centralized systems, it seems that the Aviiion product line has now addressed the needs and concerns of users like me—allowing me to continue with a centralized environment, or to partially (or totally) decentralize.

The ability to network, always one of Data General's strong points, is enhanced even more by the new Aviiions. I encourage all of you to look at these systems as you grow. I'm sure they'll be available in Atlanta during the October conference, so I'll see you there. Δ

Frank Perry is a past NADGUG president, and currently is chairman of the Membership Committee.

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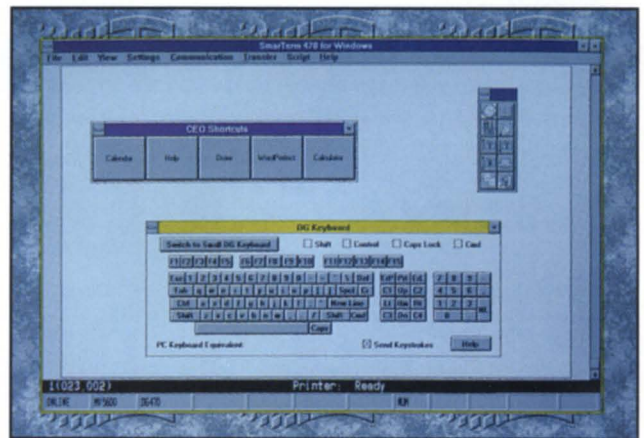
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More (*wince*) red ink

Data General reported a net loss of \$16.4 million (47 cents per share) for the third quarter of fiscal 1993, which ended June 26. The company had reported a net loss of \$11.7 million (35 cents/share) during the same quarter in 1992. Revenues for the third quarter of 1993 were \$252.4 million, down from \$259.2 million for the same period a year ago.

Commenting on the quarter results, Data General President and Chief Executive Officer Ronald L. Skates said, "The weak worldwide economy, particularly in the European marketplace, and industrywide competitive pricing pressures continued to negatively impact both our revenues and overall results."

Avion open systems, the company's leading revenue producer, again

Data General Corporation

Condensed Consolidated Statements of Operations
(in millions except per share amounts)

	Quarter Ended		Nine Months Ended	
	June 26, 1993	June 27, 1992	June 26, 1993	June 27, 1992
Revenues:				
Product	\$151.9	\$151.4	\$494.9	\$501.3
Service	100.5	107.8	304.6	326.5
Total revenues	252.4	259.2	799.5	827.8
Costs and expenses:				
Cost of product revenues	96.7	92.9	302.6	289.8
Cost of service revenues	60.0	63.7	177.8	195.3
Research and development	24.1	27.4	76.0	83.6
Selling, general, and administrative	85.3	85.1	257.4	269.8
Restructuring charge	—	—	—	48.0
Total costs & expenses	266.1	269.1	813.8	886.5
Loss from operations	(13.7)	(9.9)	(14.3)	(58.7)
Interest income	2.1	2.7	6.4	8.7
Interest expense	3.6	3.6	10.9	10.9
Loss before income taxes	(15.2)	(10.8)	(18.8)	(60.9)
Income tax provision	1.2	0.9	4.4	2.1
Net loss	\$(16.4)	\$(11.7)	\$(23.2)	\$(63.0)
Primary and fully diluted net loss per share	\$(0.47)	\$(0.35)	\$(0.67)	\$(1.93)
Weighted average shares outstanding	34.8	33.1	34.8	32.6

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posted growth compared to the previous year's comparable quarter, but declines in proprietary Eclipse MV line revenues and in services business more than offset the gains.

The company added to its Aviiion line in June with the introduction of the AV 9500 and AV 8500 family of servers, and the AV 500 workstation. Also announced was an enhanced version of its DG/UX Unix operating system (see article, beginning page 8).

For the first nine months of fiscal 1993 DG reported a net loss of \$23.2 million (67 cents/share). For the same period in 1992 the company reported a net loss of \$63 million (\$1.93/share). The 1992 loss included a restructuring charge of \$48 million resulting from costs associated with a workforce reduction. Revenues for the three quarters totaled \$799.5 million, compared with \$827.8 million for the same period last year.

"The continued success of the Aviiion line strongly reinforces our belief that our open systems strategy is correct for the needs of the marketplace," Skates said. "However, in light of current worldwide economic conditions, we continue to be very cautious about the remainder of 1993."

Eagle names Heichel

"Still in stride and poised for the future," says the press release from Eagle Software announcing the appointment of David Heichel as president and CEO. Mr. Heichel has been with Eagle Software for seven years, acting as interim CEO since January. Prior to his appointment, he served as vice president of product development. He is the author of Eagle's DISK_PAK software.



In General is compiled by Robin Perry. Please send news items to Robin, c/o Focus magazine, P.O. Box 200549, Austin, TX 78720; 512/335-2286; Fax: 512/335-3083.

Fire sale

It wasn't the fire that damaged the MV/9300 at Ralph's Federal Credit Union in Los Angeles on June 9. It was the water used to douse the particularly stubborn blaze located on the roof directly above the computer room.

The next day, Ralph's transferred computer operations to its hot-site

provider Data Assurance Corporation (DAC) of Englewood, Colorado. DAC built the system to specifications from system tapes that had been stored at DAC so that all that was left to do when the emergency was declared was ship communication equipment and applications data. By Thursday evening, June 11, Ralph's was running live via DAC's system. △

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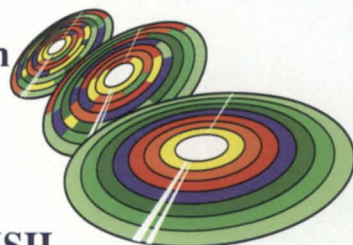


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Benchmark shock

SYNOPSIS

Data General's Aviion line expands again, offering eye-popping numbers and tantalizing possibilities.

by Doug Johnson
Focus staff

Incredible, astounding, inconceivable . . . At some point will we run out of superlatives to describe the transcendently extraordinary systems that crowd the computer industry landscape these days? Well, it may have happened already.

Just a couple of years ago Data General did a clever pizza-box promotion in which it crowed, "We fit 117 MIPS (million instructions per second) of Mainframe Power in a Pizza Box!" That was the Aviion 7000 and 8000 series, top of the line at the time. They *were* quite impressive, stupendous, fantastic, and so on. And then the top-of-the-line number skipped upward to 235 MIPS the very next year.

Today you might stretch, yawn, and ask, "Only 117 MIPS? *Only* 235 MIPS?" and return to channel-surfing on cable TV. We humans possess an innate tendency to grow accustomed to things, even the amazing, the phenomenal, and so on.

But stifle that yawn a moment and imagine a couple of new high-end Aviion servers. Call them the AV 8500 and AV 9500, give them the new Motorola 88110 chips, and unveil them publicly in an important product-announcement event on June 29. As for performance stats on these newest, fastest machines, let's go all the way to the wall with it and toss out a really eye-popping number:

1,600 MIPS

Note the "benchmark shock" on individual faces in the audience.

Now sure, systems just a few years from now probably will blow these away, but allow yourself to be dazzled for the moment. According to Data General, its new 16-processor Aviion AV 9500 server offers *four times* the performance of its previous top-line Aviion system—up to 1,600 MIPS. That's 1.6 billion instructions per second and 1,000 TPS (transactions per second).

"Well it *is* staggering," said Stephen Gardner, DG's vice president of Aviion marketing. "It was only six or seven years ago when we were absolutely thrilled when we got around 10 to 15 transactions per second. The majority of the market at that time felt that was pretty good."

But users and customers today are doing things with technology that far surpass what was even possible just a few years ago. And getting more computing power tends to feed the need for still more.

"If we had brought a system to market four or five years ago with 1,600 MIPS and 1,000 transactions-per-second performance, nobody would have known what to do with it," said Gardner. "It would have been the greatest White Elephant of all time. Now, it's mainstream."

AV 9500

It may look like a funky refrigerator in the promo photos, but the AV 9500 is the new flagship

of the Aviiion family. With from 2 to 16 processors, it's intended to satisfy the broad computing demands of a variety of organizations and departments (spec and price charts on page 12), whether it's 100 users or more than 1,000, in distributed or centralized arrangements.

It is in the 16-processor configuration that the AV 9500 server will be able to process up to 1,600 MIPS and handle 1,000 transactions per second. The AV 9500's 8-processor version will provide up to 800 MIPS and 600 transactions per second. AV 9500 models with 12 and 16 processors will be available in the spring of 1994.

AV 8500

The new AV 8500 is considered a mid-range server, available in both dual and quad configurations, and upgradeable from a 2-processor to a 4-processor system by adding CPUs. As an enterprise server the AV 8500 can deliver computing resources for 75 to 300 users, but could serve up to 600 in a larger set-

ting. As enterprise servers, the AV 9500 and 8500 both support Unix, MS-DOS, Apple, and Nextstep operating systems.

AV 500

Offered as a low-end, desktop color graphics tool, the new AV 500 workstation provides a platform for GIS (geographic information systems), data base management systems (DBMS), software development, and other commercial client/server applications. The AV 500 provides faster integer and floating-point performance for CPU-intensive applications. Its expansion capability, from 16 MB of memory to 128 MB, and high storage capacity (up to 2 GB internal), allow the system to grow and evolve along with the work it has to do.

"The Aviiion servers we introduced today [June 29] again demonstrate Data General's ability to design and deliver products that technologically are the finest in the industry," said Thomas West, the company's senior vice president of Advanced Development.

Pricing for the AV 9500 server will start at about \$84,000 for the 2-processor version; \$104,000 for the 4-way model; \$125,000 for the six-processor model; \$144,000 for the 8-processor model; \$220,000 for the 12-way version; and \$280,000 for the 16-way version. AV 8500 prices begin at \$36,000 for the 2-processor model and \$56,000 for the 4-way version. The AV 500 workstation will be priced at \$15,000.

"These new products significantly strengthen our popular Aviiion line," said Ronald L. Skates, DG president and chief executive officer. In its four years of existence the Aviiion line has grown to a customer base of more than 20,000 installations.

Software partners

Joining Data General in its June 29 product announcement were several software industry leaders, including Oracle Corporation, Computer Associates, Information Builders, Inc., and

Continued on page 15



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FOCUS ON: NEW AVIIONS

Philosophically speaking

(Excerpts from an interview with DG's Stephen Gardner)

"Enterprise" computing and a DG philosophy of thinking

"You used the words, "taming and managing complexity," in your question. That is *the* challenge, not only for people trying to move from a proprietary to an open systems environment, but it's the challenge that faces *anybody*...

"[Enterprise computing] is further and further integrating technology into the basic fabric of a business. It's not simple. And I think a vendor who strives to cut through the fog of acronyms and buzzwords and Bs and Cs, and can help provide people with a relatively simplistic view of complex technology, is a vendor that is adding value by its very approach. And that is one of the things that we're definitely trying to do.

"We stressed very heavily during the course of this new product announcement the whole concept of common sense and pragmatism around the creation of solutions. And it felt right to all of us because it was in many ways an embodiment of who we are—if you look at our sales force, or marketing team, our development people; they're very down-to-earth people. They're not people who are up in the clouds, dealing with advanced theory that won't be applied for the next 10 years, or off on missionary efforts trying to open up new markets. What we're trying to do is pragmatically bring good technology, or excellent technology, together to create outstanding, simple systems solutions. It sounds simple, but behind it is really the fact that we're managing a lot of complexity that we're hoping our customers never have to see.

A new Aviion culture

"The [Aviion] customer base is, to a very large extent, relatively new to Data General. In fact, about 70 percent of our base—or 70 percent of our sold systems—came from customers who weren't previously with Data General. So a lot of customers are dealing with us as a supplier for the first time. It also brings a lot of people who are making their initial move to open systems from the proprietary world.



Stephen P. Gardner
Division Vice President
Aviion Business Unit—
Marketing

Stephen Gardner is responsible for all aspects of marketing Aviion hardware and software products, including product marketing, marketing programs, and operations. He joined Data General in February 1993 after five years at Bull Worldwide Information Systems.

While at Bull he held a series of senior management positions, including president of *Integris*, vice president of North American marketing, and vice president of small systems product lines. Prior to Bull Worldwide Information Systems, Mr. Gardner was with *Stratus Computer* as district manager of federal system sales; *Sequoia Systems* as director of sales; *Burroughs Corporation* as director of product management and director of strategic planning; and with *Bain and Company* as a senior consultant.

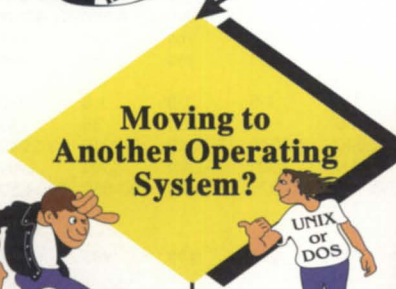
Mr. Gardner holds an MBA degree from Harvard University and a BA degree from Princeton University.

"So, if there's a common thread among our customers that has deeply influenced, *deeply* influenced, the nature of the products we build and the services that we decide to provide, it's a high degree of desire for us not only just to provide a product, but [also] take on a role of helping them match the product to their particular business, through services or software or both. It's a much more service-hungry, solution-hungry base than the old minicomputer customer base necessarily was, although certainly to generalize like that, immediately a dozen exceptions come to mind. But in general I would say that the Aviion base is a very, *very* solution-oriented base, whether it be our VAR solutions, which is about half of our business, or whether it be our directly provided customers, which is the other half." △

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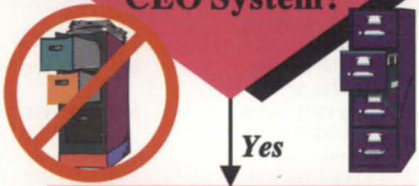
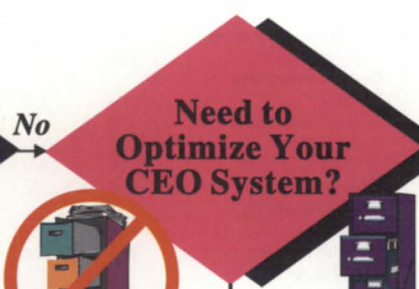


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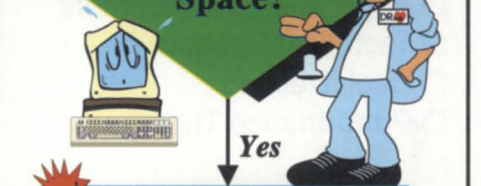
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FOCUS ON: NEW AVIIONS

Aviion high-end servers

	AV8500	AV8500	AV9500	AV9500	AV9500	AV9500	AV9500	AV9500
Processors	2	4	2	4	6	8	12	16
MIPS	180	360	180	360	540	720	1200	1600
Cache	0.5 MB	1 MB	0.5 MB	1 MB	6 MB	8MB	108 MB	144 MB
Memory								
Min.	64 MB	64 MB	128 MB	128 MB	128 MB	128 MB	128 MB	128 MB
Max.	2 GB	2 GB	2 GB	2 GB	2 GB	2 GB	2 GB	2 GB
VME Options:								
VME slots internal	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
VME slots external	N/A	N/A	8/16	8/16	8/16	8/16	8/16	8/16
Form factor	6U	6U	6U	6U	6U	6U	6U	6U
Packaging	Office	Office	Rack	Rack	Rack	Rack	Rack	Rack
Mass Storage:								
Max internal	10 GB	10 GB	10 GB	10 GB	10 GB	10 GB	10 GB	10 GB
Max external	1.2 TB	1.2 TB	1.9 TB	1.9 TB	1.9 TB	1.9 TB	1.9 TB	1.9 TB
Clarion disk array	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Optical	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Backup/Load Devices:								
CD-ROM	std	std	std	std	std	std	std	std
Cartridge	8 mm	8 mm	8 mm	8 mm	8 mm	8 mm	8 mm	8 mm
	525 QIC	525 QIC	525 QIC	525 QIC	525 QIC	525 QIC	525 QIC	525 QIC
	4 mm	4 mm	4 mm	4 mm	4 mm	4 mm	4 mm	4 mm
Clarion tape array	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Reel-to-reel	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Communications:								
LAN	1-4	1-4	1-8	1-8	1-8	1-8	1-8	1-8
Synchronous	12	12	36	36	36	36	36	36
Asynchronous	3-1020	3-1020	3-2040	3-2040	3-2040	3-2040	3-2040	3-2040
Parallel printer	LAN	LAN	LAN	LAN	LAN	LAN	LAN	LAN
Users	50-150	125-300	50-175	150-325	300-425	400-550	500-850	800-1000
High-availability								
Features:								
Fault-tolerant disk array	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
System failover capable	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Power:								
N + 1 cooling	std	std	std	std	std	std	std	std
N + 1 power	N/A	N/A	std	std	std	std	std	std
Uninterruptible power supply	option	option	option	option	option	option	option	option
Recoverable from:								
CPU failure	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Memory failure	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
I/O channel failure	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
VME channel failure	N/A	N/A	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Data General Aviions: example configurations

Configuration	CPU	Memory	Disk Storage	CD-ROM Drive	Tape	Other	List Price
AV 8500	Dual	64 MB	520 MB	yes	--		\$36,000
AV 8500	Dual	128 MB	3.5 GB Clarion array	yes	4 mm DAT		\$80,450
AV 8500	Quad	64 MB	520 MB	yes	--		\$56,000
AV 8500	Quad	256 MB	6.0 GB Clarion array	yes	4 mm DAT		\$123,750
AV 9500	Dual	128 MB	520 MB	yes	--		\$84,000
AV 9500	Dual	256 MB	6.0 GB Clarion array	yes	4 mm DAT	5-slot VME chassis	\$156,575
AV 9500	Quad	128 MB	520 MB	yes	--		\$104,000
AV 9500	Quad	512 MB	14 GB Clarion array	yes	Clarion array	16-slot VME chassis	\$262,255
AV 9500	8-way	128 MB	520 MB	yes	--		\$144,000
AV 9500	8-way	1 GB	24 GB Clarion array	yes	Clarion array	16-slot VME chassis	\$419,255
AV 9500	16-way	128 MB	520 MB	yes	--	16-slot VME chassis	\$280,000
AV 9500	16-way	2 GB	34 GB Clarion array	yes	Clarion array	16-slot VME chassis	\$747,330

New DG/UX features

Data General announced increased high-availability functionality, enhanced storage management, and support for POSIX THREADS in a new release of DG/UX, the AviiON's implementation of the Unix V Release 4 operating system.

"Five years ago, we designed DG/UX to focus on the needs of customers with commercial requirements," said Tom West, DG senior vice president, advanced development. "We focused on symmetric multiprocessing, high availability, security, and systems management. Today, it's arguably one of the industry's best. Now, we're adding more functionality to DG/UX, focused directly at the needs of an enterprise server."

New high-availability features include a distributed lock manager, allowing AviiON systems to be configured in clusters to improve applications availability; online controller restart; applications-transparent use of backup LAN controllers; and dynamic bad-block disk remapping.

Storage management enhancements include virtual disk management (VDM), allowing customers to reconfigure disks online to enhance performance and availability, transparent to applications execution; and the bundling of Legato's Networker for unattended networkwide backup and recovery.

System performance enhancements include support for POSIX 1003.4a standard for THREADS, optimized for symmetric multiprocessing. This allows applications with multiple threads of control, such as data base systems, to take further advantage of the AviiON multiprocessor environment.

DG/UX 5.4, Release 3.0, is scheduled to ship in the fourth quarter of 1993. Pricing will be between \$500 and \$25,000 depending on the number of users. Δ

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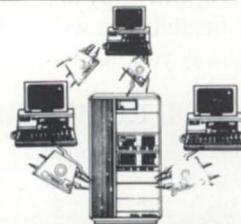
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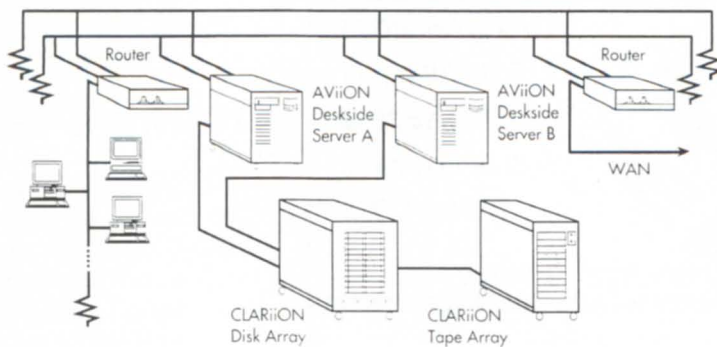
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AT&T	DEC HSC	IBM RISC/	Douglas	PC 386/ix	Sequent	Unisys
Basic-4	DEC Q-Bus	6000	Motorola	PC MS-DOS	Silicon	Ultimate
Concurrent	DEC TU/TA81	IBM RT	NCR	PC Xenix/Unix	Graphics	Wang—and more



An enterprise server LAN (diagram courtesy of Data General)

Continued from page 9

Dun & Bradstreet Software. Because of a myriad of partnerships between Data General and software developers, more than 3,000 applications are available on Aviion systems.

"The technology of this new [Aviion] product line is very impressive," said Dr. Jerry Baker, senior vice president of Oracle. "The expansion from 8-way to 16-way processing pushes Data General into the high end of the marketplace. The Oracle parallel server technology and DG's clustered systems together provide the performance and high availability that is important to be successful in the enterprise marketplace."

Taming and managing complexity

Businesses downsize away from mainframes, but in turn transfer their resources and faith to increasingly complex distributed networks. A word cropping up often these days is *enterprise*. DG considers its new high-end Aviions to be "enterprise servers," and by that the company intends for them to be more than just a big, electronically muscular brute that blazes away at the rate of, say, 1,600 MIPS.

An enterprise server "is defined by the services it provides," says a recent DG promotional brochure. In the open systems world, an enterprise server manages the distribution of corporate data. It provides filing, printing, and communications support to client PCs, workstations, and point-of-sale terminals. Ultimately, the distributed enterprise server is transparent to the individual user.

"The broad scalability, high availability, data management, and storage capacity that the Aviion, Clariion, and DG/UX combination deliver is unequalled in the industry," said Joel

Schwartz, vice president, Aviion Business Unit. "These products, coupled with a broad range of mainframe-class applications and system administration tools make Aviion an excellent choice for an open enterprise computing platform."

Data General seeks to position its various open systems products at all the important spots in building fault-tolerant, distributed computing environments. DG's ideally described LAN (local area network), a double LAN possible with DG/UX (see diagram, above), includes a pair of Aviion servers, a Clariion disk array, and Clariion tape array. Further enhancements to the configuration would include the Oracle parallel server and the Tuxedo transaction processing (TP) monitor. These represent a new class of software that help "glue" client/server computing together. The Oracle parallel server allows a pair of Aviion servers to share a same data base. Two small systems can in effect deliver the performance of a single larger one, and one server failing does not require taking over disks or restarting applications. The TP monitor directs client requests automatically to the available server.

"Our intention is to be a leader in the enterprise server marketplace," said Skates. "With the combination of our new high-end Aviion systems, Clariion open storage devices, the high availability features of our DG/UX operating system, our service capability, and software partnerships, Data General today can provide the industry's most complete open enterprise computing solution."

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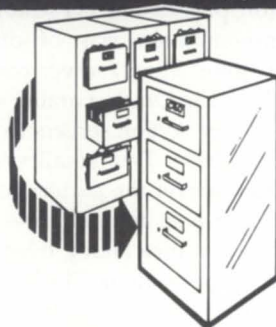
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Netware-ready

Customers who order the new AV 8500 or AV 9500 enterprise servers can receive a 5-user Netware for Unix license included with the purchase at no additional charge.

Data General and Novell have maintained a working partnership dating back three years. "What we're trying to do is make it easier for our customers to implement enterprise networks that include both Unix and Netware," said Stephen Gardner, vice president of Aviiion marketing.

"TCP/IP is the Unix networking standard, but to many customers, the commercial networking standard is Netware. Enterprise customers want Unix servers for the scalability and data base performance, but they also need them to plug and play in their commercial environment."

Rapid expansion of Unix in commercial markets has led to increasing demands for Netware services, said Jan Newman, executive vice president and general manager of the Netware Systems Group with Novell, Inc., "Data General has been at the forefront, providing Netware in the Unix environment since their introduction of Netware for Unix on Aviiion in 1990." Data General is the only Unix vendor shipping the Netware MHS messaging system on Unix, with an optional MHS-SMTP-X.400 Gateway, providing a single-server solution for PC file, print, and mail services.

"One does not have to look at market share numbers for very long before one realizes that Novell with Netware has about 70 percent of the commercial, departmental computing local area networks," said Stephen Gardner. "And if we as an organization are determined to help those departmental networks integrate into the entire enterprise—and of course we would like our servers to be the enterprise servers in the integrated point—for us to provide Netware, a basic Netware license free of charge to show people how that commitment is there, to us it's just good sense." Δ

AV "onGO"

Data General last July announced a suite of enterprisewide office information software for its Aviion family of open systems servers. The first two members of the collection to be introduced were AV "onGO" Office and AV "onGO" Write/Paint/Draw.

AV "onGO" is a scalable, standards-based office information system with a distributed, client/server architecture. It consists of electronic mail, a network calendar, and directory services. AV "onGO" Write/Paint/Draw is a word processor and document publisher for creating documents that include text, tables, graphics, and images. Developed and marketed as "onGO" Office and "onGO" Write/Paint/Draw by Uniplex Limited, Data General is marketing the products under the AV "onGO" Office and AV "onGO" Write/Paint/Draw names, without modification.

The system supports multiple client desktops, including MS Windows PCs, Motif workstations, X terminals, and ASCII terminals; multiple networks including Novell Netware and TCP/IP; and scales across multiple, distributed servers. Users can integrate existing MS Windows or Motif applications. In addition, DG can offer the system with Unix desktop applications such as Wordperfect, Lotus 1-2-3, or Wingz. Data General and Uniplex have worked together under a marketing and development relationship since 1989. The two companies collaborated in developing the "onGO" PC client software, and Aviion is the primary platform used by Uniplex to develop the "onGO" product.

AV "onGO" and AV "onGO" Write/Paint/Draw will be available worldwide through DG's direct sales force and the company's value-added reseller (VAR) channel for Motif workstation and X terminal clients. Pricing will be \$262 per seat for 100 users. Write/Paint/Draw is priced at \$298 per seat for 100 users. Δ

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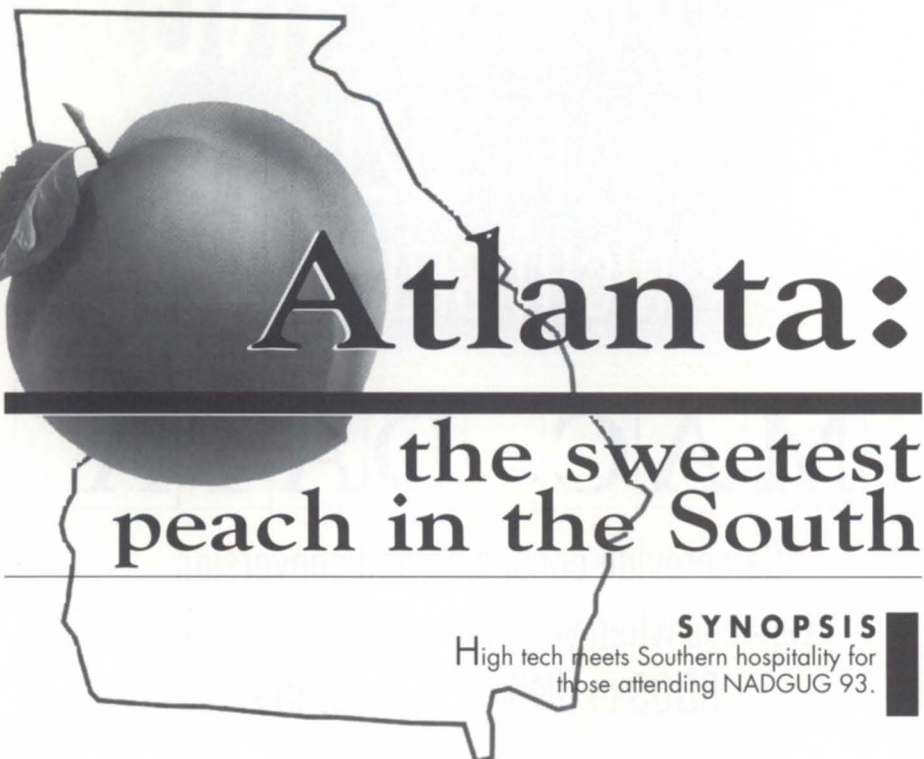
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by Doug Johnson
Focus staff

As James M. McPherson pointed out in his landmark Civil War narrative, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, the South had invested tremendous effort into defending Atlanta. As a result, the strategic railroad hub became a "symbol of resistance and nationality second only to Richmond."

And so it must have been all the more painful for the sinking Confederacy to see this proud city of 20,000 captured, wrecked, and burned by the forces of Union General William T. Sherman. The fall of Atlanta was unmitigated tragedy for the South, but for American President Abraham Lincoln it probably provided the political boost he needed in the North to win re-election during that autumn of 1864.

That November as Atlanta lay in smoking ruins, Sherman's army set out across the rest of Georgia on its notorious "March To The Sea," smashing anything deemed of military value, and demolishing just about everything else for good measure. Sherman pursued this total-war policy to demoralize the South and crush any further resistance. He vowed to "make Georgia howl!"

It would have been impossible at the time to survey the vastness of the war damage, the sheer scale of the disaster for the South, and envision a shining modern city built upon the sad debris. So, because we can and because this article isn't a history lesson, let's leap forward in time and take a look at Atlanta today. What's there to see? Well, let's begin by observing that it's astounding the difference 129 years can make.

Past and future

For those spirited NADGUG conference attendees invading Atlanta and the Inforum convention center during the fall of 1993, there are plenty of historic sites that recall the Civil War. Among others, you can visit Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield or grandly sculpted Stone Mountain. The Atlanta Cyclorama in Grant Park features a huge, in-the-round painting of the historic Battle of Atlanta. And then there's even *Gone With The Wind* novelist Margaret Mitchell's home (not open for tours, but you can look from outside).

But remember that there's much more to late-20th-century Atlanta than just Civil War history. It's the sweetest

peach in the South, the 12th-largest metropolitan center in the United States, with a population now of more than 2.8 million. It's fast becoming the nation's leading media communications and entertainment center, with Ted Turner's Cable News Network, superstation WTBS, and Turner Network Television. The baseball Braves, basketball Hawks, and football Falcons give the city a full complement of professional sports teams. And the whole world will watch when Atlanta hosts the 1996 Summer Olympic Games.

Atlanta is an international city these days, offering all the incredible variety you could want. It's not so much a matter of coming up with something to do during an Atlanta visit. Instead, it's a matter of choosing what you can reasonably fit into your schedule from a huge list of possibilities.

The Atlanta area is an important home for Data General as well. High tech meets Southern hospitality at the Customer Support Center headquarters (which NADGUG 93 attendees will visit during an organized tour; see Thursday morning in the preliminary schedule that begins on page 20), and the Systems Evaluation and Performance Analysis Center (SEPAAC).

In case you *do* find some time away from the Inforum convention center and NADGUG 93's many exhibits and seminars for sightseeing (come early, stay late, make it a vacation trip!), following is just a whet-your-curiosity list of some of the attractions:

Georgia State Capitol. The dome is coated with native Georgia gold, and this 1889 traditional statehouse features natural science displays, a Hall of Flags, and a Hall of Fame honoring outstanding Georgians. It's right downtown; one block south of the Georgia State station.

Jimmy Carter Library and Museum. The nation's 39th president is honored in exhibits recounting his life and administration; 1 Copenhill.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. Visit the King Center site, Dr. King's grave, and the

home where the civil rights leader was born in 1929, also Ebenezer Baptist Church where he preached.

Atlanta History Center downtown. Exhibits, tours, lectures, and videos detail Atlanta's rich history.

Fernbank Museum of Natural History. This is new, completed within the past year. It's the largest natural science museum south of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, and the largest built anywhere in the USA since the 1930s. Georgia's history is the museum's centerpiece.

Underground Atlanta. In the heart of downtown, six city blocks have been transformed into an urban marketplace with restaurants, specialty shops, and entertainment sites.

Zoo Atlanta. In Grant Park, this attraction features primates, big cats, giraffes, elephants, birds, and lots more in natural settings.

Stone Mountain Park. It's not just the world's largest exposed mass of granite with a huge sculpture carved in the side, but also 3,200 acres of parkland featuring swimming, fishing, tennis, golf, a skylift, and other fun stuff.

World of Coca-Cola. This is a bona fide American institution: a collection of more than 1,000 pieces of memorabilia remembering the history of the soft drink with the logo recognized around the world. Give *everybody* on your shopping list Coca-Cola T-shirts for Christmas. Located adjacent to Underground Atlanta.

Six Flags Over Georgia. The Southeast's foremost family theme park. Offers more than 100 rides, shows and other attractions.

Still stumped? Well, you could explore the campus of Georgia Tech University, or take a 200-foot bungee jump at World Bungee Gorgia, or check out an 1855 steam locomotive at the Big Shanty Museum, or get some culture at the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, or . . . you get the picture. Enjoy. Δ

Seeing Atlanta . . .

The Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau is located at 233 Peachtree Street, Suite 2000, Atlanta, GA 30303. Call 404/521-6600.

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It's the largest gathering of anything and everything about Data General you can find in the world. NADGUG 93 features a full slate of events, seminars, and activities. Following is a preliminary agenda. Major categories for seminars include "Introduction to Open Systems," "Downsizing & Your Enterprise," "DG/UX Filing System Tuning," networking, management, migration, and applications development.

For registration information call 800/253-3902, ext. 1234 (U.S. & Canada only) or 508/443-3330, ext. 1234.

Monday, October 25

9:00am - 1:45pm Office Automation Workshop / Roundtable
9:45am - 1:45pm Roundtables & Special Interest Group Meetings
2:00pm - 3:30pm Special Combo Super Session
3:30pm Exhibits Open
Welcome Reception

Tuesday, October 26

8:15am - 9:00am NADGUG General Session

9:00am - 5:00pm
Open Systems Training: Introduction to Open Systems

9:30am - 2:00pm Exhibits

9:00am - Noon
Special 1/2-Day Training Seminars: Network Strategies for the 90s

(General, Conceptual, Future Trends)

Special 1/2-Day Training Seminars: Introduction to DG/UX
(Unix, Technical)

9:00am - 10:00am

Networking: Wireless LANs—Networks for the 90s
(General, Conceptual, Future Trends)

Management: Developing & Implementing a Corporate Security Policy
(Unix, Technical)

Migration: Open Systems Office Automation: Getting There from Here
(General, Conceptual)

Performance: SCSI Peripherals & the MRC
(MV, Technical)

11:00 - Noon

Networking: LAN Servers, The Next Generation—NetWare 4 & Windows NT Advanced Server
(General, Technical, Future Trends)

Management: Mass Storage from Novadisk to the 21st Century
(MV, Conceptual, Future Trends)

Performance: Performance Characteristics of Clariion Subsystems
(General, Technical)

Cooperative Processing: Using Middleware to Build Distributed Applications
(Unix, Technical)

1:15pm - 2:15pm

Networking: When Fault Finding is Essential
(Unix, Technical)

Management: Data General's Different Handheld Computer
(General, Conceptual, Future Trends)

Migration: Downsizing to Data General Aviion Platforms
(Unix, Conceptual)

Performance: Disk Optimization—You've Come a Long Way Baby!
(General, Technical)

2:30pm - 5:00pm

Special 1/2-Day Training Seminar: A Technical Overview of Net-

ware 3.11 for Aviiion Systems (*Unix, Technical, Future Trends*)
Special 1/2-Day Training Seminar: A Technical Introduction to Simple Network Management Protocol (*Unix, Technical*)

2:30pm - 3:30pm

Networking: Aviiion Systems in the Enterprise: Applications & Architectures (*Unix, Conceptual*)

Management: Using Your Information System as a Competitive Weapon—Client/Server Next General ERP (*General, Conceptual*)

Migration: Infos to Open Systems—Your/Direct/Path to Unix (*MV, Conceptual*)

Performance: ToolTime! How to Evaluate & Use Performance Analysis Tools (*Unix, Technical*)

3:30pm - 4:30pm Exhibits

4:30pm - 5:30pm

Networking: FDDI to ATM—Choosing the Right Path to Your Network's Future (*General, Technical, Future Trends*)

Management: PICK Data Bases & Technology Update (*General, Conceptual*)

Migration: Re-Engineering to Open Systems (*Unix, Conceptual*)

Applications Development: Integration Toolsets for the 90s (*Unix, Conceptual*)

Wednesday, October 27

8:00am - 9:00am

Networking: Cost-Effective Voice/Fax/Data Networks for the 90s (*General, Conceptual*)

Management: Client/Server Computing: Yes? No? Maybe?/Why? When? Where? (*MV, Conceptual*)

Management: Future Trends in Storage Devices (*MV, Conceptual*)

Applications Development: Taking Advantage of CLI32 (*MV, Technical*)

9:00am - 5:00pm

Open Systems Training: Downsizing & Your Enterprise

9:00am - 1:00pm

Special 1/2-Day Training Seminar: NetWare vs. TCP/IP for PC Connectivity (*Unix, Conceptual*)

Special 1/2-Day Training Seminar: Information Technology Acquisition Support Methodology (*General, Technical*)

9:10am - 10:10am

Networking: Low-Cost Integration of Voice & Data Communications (*General, Conceptual*)

Management: Highly Available MV Storage Solutions (*MV, Conceptual, Future Trends*)

Applications Development: Programming With the AOS/VS II TCP/IP Socket Library (*MV, Technical*)

Cooperative Processing: Cooperative Computing for Infos II Users (*MV, Conceptual*)

10:00am - 4:30pm Exhibits

11:10am - 12:10pm

Management: AV Image—Building Blocks for Open Imaging Solutions (*Unix, Conceptual, Future Trends*)

Management: The Application of Optical Disks for Computer Output Data Storage & Retrieval (*Conceptual, General*)

Applications Development: Rapid Application Development—No Smoke, No Mirrors (*Unix, Technical*)

Cooperative Processing: Remote Printing—Configuring Your MV, Aviiion & PC (*General, Technical*)

1:30pm - 2:30pm

Management: Good Locks Make Good Neighbors—Better Password Management Under DG/UX (*Unix, Technical*)



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NADGUG 93

Management: Symmetry & Scalability in Commercial Multiprocessing (*MV, Technical*)

Applications Development: Advanced Systems Environment Toolset (A*SET) (*Unix, Technical*)

Cooperative Processing: Aviion Remote Printing Without Headaches (*Unix, Technical*)

2:30pm - 5:00pm

Special 12-Day Training Seminar: A Technical Introduction to Domain Name System (DNS) (*Unix, Technical*)

Special 1/2-Day Training Seminar: How to Select the Right Aviion Data Base Management System (*Unix, Conceptual, Future Trends*)

2:40pm - 3:40pm

Management: Automating Management of Distributed Resources (*Unix, Conceptual*)

Management: Recent Developments in AOS/VS II (*MV, Technical*)

Applications Development: Object-Oriented Client/Server Application Design with NEXTSTEP (*Unix, Technical*)

Cooperative Processing: Putting Some Electronic Mail Muscle into Your Network (*General, Conceptual*)

4:30pm - 5:30pm

Management: Implementing Open High-Availability Systems (*Unix, Conceptual*)

Management: New Features in Infos II—Improve Performance & Recovery (*MV, Technical*)

Applications Development: An Introduction to the User SCSI Interface (*Unix, Technical*)

Cooperative Processing: An Overview of Electronic Mail in DG/UX (*Unix, Technical*)

7:00pm

Cocktail Reception & Banquet

Thursday, October 28

8:15am - 9:15am

Management: Data General Tape Array for High Capacity & High Reliability (*General, Conceptual, Future Trends*)

Management: Configuring High-Performance DG/UX Disk & File Systems (*Unix, Technical*)

Applications Development: Effective Design Methodology (*General, Conceptual*)

Cooperative Processing: ORACLE Parallel Server for Aviion (*Unix, Technical*)

8:30am - Noon

Management: Understanding Data General Support & How to Effectively Use Support Services—Special Tour of Data General's Customer Support Center (*General, Conceptual*)

9:30am - 12:30pm

Special 1/2-Day Training Seminar: DG/UX Filing System Tuning (*Unix, Technical*)

10:15am - 11:15am

Management: Remote Support Services & Security Features (*Unix, Technical*)

Management: Lightning Fast Backups (*MV, Technical*)

Migration: Migration to Client/Server Computing: A Four-Step Approach (*Unix, Technical*)

Applications Development: ICobol 2—the Next Generation (*General, Technical*)

11:30am - 12:30pm

Management: Overview of X-Windows (*Unix, Conceptual*)

Management: Evaluation of Performance & Correctness of Data Base Products (*General, Conceptual*)

Applications Development: Totally RADical ICobol—A Simian Systems Session (*General, Technical*)

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FOCUS MAGAZINE NADGUG's monthly publication is devoted exclusively to users of Data General equipment. FOCUS is full of technical articles, product reviews, user profiles, and announcements of the latest products — no matter what kinds of systems you're running, FOCUS has the information you need!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION NADGUG's Conference and Exposition is part of the largest annual Data General gathering in the world. In conjunction with DG's Sales and Systems Engineers meeting and SOURCE, the annual VAR conference, NADGUG provides Data General users the ultimate forum to confer with everyone who is anyone in the Data General community. Join us in Atlanta, October 25–28, 1993, for NADGUG's 20th Anniversary celebration!

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS NADGUG's member bulletin board system is run by Rational Data Systems, with US Robotics modems for service from 1200 to 9600 baud. Dial 415-499-7628 to communicate with other users and to download/upload programs and utilities!

NADGUG members can also access Data General's DASH, or Direct Access for Support Help, Bulletin Board. Dial 800-327-4272 for on-line sign up today!

SOFTWARE LIBRARY NADGUG now has two software collections available for members. Both the AOS/VS and UNIX library tapes are full of programs, utilities, and macros — for any Data General system!

NADGUG MEMBER DIRECTORY The annual directory provides members with a personal guide to users with similar hardware, software, and system needs. This year's directory will present for the first time a Product/Service section.

REQUEST FOR ENHANCEMENT PROCESS Through NADGUG's Special Interest Groups, members have the opportunity to review and prioritize specific product Requests for Enhancements (RFEs). In addition, at NADGUG's annual conference, SIG forums review product enhancements and present them to the development teams with their recommendation for inclusion in the standard product or for follow-up.

REGIONAL AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS RIGs and SIGs are two of the most effective ways that NADGUG promotes the free-flowing interchange of valuable information. RIGs are organized by people who are interested in getting together on special occasions or on a regular basis. SIGs are put together by people who want to share information about common products, technologies, or applications. Join one today!

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Brian Johnson

More time tricks

SYNOPSIS

BJ offers a pair of functions for getting current calendar time and converting a calendar time to local time.

:RECAP

Last month I proposed using Universal Coordinated Time (commonly known as UTC) in applications where there is need for timestamping information in such a way that the timestamp values are guaranteed to always increase, and the actual elapsed time between two events can be computed simply as the arithmetic difference between the two timestamp values.

Because AOS/VS is blissfully ignorant of Daylight Savings Time (DST), I also supplied a program to be run during the UP macro that will adjust the AOS/VS UTC offset during DST so that the ?GTIME system call will report the correct values for both local and UTC time.

This month I'm going to provide you with two functions: one to get the current calendar time, and the other to convert a calendar time to local time.

For those of you without access to last month's column, a couple of terms need defining. Local time is the time in your current time zone, typically expressed in conventional terms (e.g., 21-JUL-93 12:13:14 PST). Calendar time is based on UTC, which we will express as the number of seconds since Jan 1st,

1970, using an unsigned 32-bit number. My choice of Jan 1st, 1970, is no coincidence; it's the same base used by most Unix systems, and it's also the base used by DG C's ANSI-compliant time library routines. Another popular base is Jan 1st, 1900; it's the one chosen by P.J. Plauger in his recent book, *The Standard C Library*.

UTC is available from a variety of sources: in the U.S. it can be heard on several frequencies on the short wave radio band (e.g., WWV on the 10-meter band), or as ASCII text from the Telephone Time Service (TTS) of the National Institute of Standards in Colorado. Local time can always be computed from UTC unambiguously if the rules for local DST are known.

:CALENDAR_TIME

This function is relatively simple once we have DSTMON running to correct the AOS/VS UTC offset during DST. It simply asks the system, via the ?GTIME system call, what the current UTC is, and then converts it to the scalar notation that I've chosen to use.

The time() function to accomplish this is part of Figure 1. It's compatible with the ANSI C time() function, and

can be used in place of the DG C library function. And it should be. It turns out that whoever coded the DG C function blew it and used a pair of system calls, ?GDAY and ?GTOD, instead of a single ?GTIME call. This opens a potential window since the pair of calls might fall on either side of midnight.

:LOCAL_TIME

Once you adopt calendar time as your standard for the purpose of timestamping events, then you're stuck with the problem of displaying a calendar time value as local time for the benefit of the humans using the software. Luckily for us, I made a simplifying assumption in last month's column that will help us a lot; we will be dealing only with times since 1987 when the rules for Daylight Savings Time (DST) in most of North America were standardized.

According to the current rules, DST begins at 02:00 local time on the last Sunday in March, and ends at 02:00 local time on the last Sunday in October. The actual time change sequence here in California (the Pacific Time Zone) during March and October is:

UTC	March	October
09:59:58	01:59:58 PST	01:59:58 PDT
09:59:59	01:59:59 PST	01:59:59 PDT
10:00:00	03:00:00 PDT	01:00:00 PST
10:00:01	03:00:01 PDT	01:00:01 PST

The localtime() function to convert a calendar time to local time is part of Figure 1. For those of you who are porting to some other language, a description of the ANSI C time structure members is in order, since the folks at ANSI chose to use a combination of zero-based and one-based numbering. The structure members are:

To convert an arbitrary calendar time to local time we first have to figure out the true offset from UTC of the time zone where the system that we're run-

ning on is located. Unfortunately, the program I showed you last month compensates for the failure of the current design of AOS/VS to handle DST by fudging the UTC offset while DST is in effect, so we can't just simply ask the operating system.

One alternative would be to locate the currently running system .PR file, find the configuration file associated with a particular system .PR file, and because I'd like to be able to run on lots of AOS/VS revs and VSGEN has changed significantly over the years.

A simpler alternative is simply to create a file somewhere that is visible to everyone and to store the UTC offset in the file. This is easy enough, but it's one more little thing to remember when installing a system, so I came up with a better idea. I added a bit of logic to last month's DSTMON program to create a link in the root named UTC_OFFSET whose resolution string is the UTC offset for the current system in the same notation as that used by VSGEN (i.e., -8:00 for the Pacific Time Zone). Now our conversion program can simply look up the link resolution to get the true UTC offset.

:NIST:TTS

I promised last month to show you the program that I use to dial the National Institute of Standards & Technology Telephone Time Service each night to adjust the system clocks on our MVs. Unfortunately, this column is running a bit long and the program is relatively straightforward, so I'll just give you the phone number of the NIST service and describe what you'll see when you call it. The phone number is 303/494-4774. Use TTY emulation with eight data bits, no parity, and one stop bit. Only 300 and 1200 baud are supported due to the scrambler delays inherent in the modulation schemes used in faster modems. Call the first time with a terminal emulator that can capture the dialog and type "?" to get a tutorial on the service.

The output of a typical call is shown in Figure 2 (page 29).

```
tm_year  0..199; 1900..2199
tm_mon   0..11; Jan..Dec
tm_mday  day of month, 1..31
tm_wday  day of week, 0..6; Sun..Sat
```

```
tm_yday  day of year, 0..365
tm_hour  0..23
tm_min   0..59
tm_sec   0..59
tm_isdst -1 (unknown), 0 (ST), +1 (DST)
```

The On-Time Marker (OTM) asterisk at the end of the line is synchronized so that it is sent precisely at the time indicated earlier in the line, but we don't

need to be that accurate, so simply reading the line, then decoding it, and setting the system clock is good enough to get accuracy within a second. Be sure to use ?NTIME to set the system clock in order to avoid the two call (?SDAY/ZSTOD) window problem mentioned earlier.

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Figure 1: DSTLIB.C

```
#include <stdio.h> /* printf()... */
#include <stdlib.h> /* strtoul()... */
#include <string.h> /* memset()... */
#include <time.h> /* time_t... */

#include "sys_glink.h"
#include "sys_time.h"

#define LOCAL static
#define GLOBAL extern

#define BASE_YEAR70
#define BASE_LEAP((1900 + BASE_YEAR) % 4)
#define BASE_WDAY4 /* 1/1/70 was a Thu */

/* A macro that returns the no. of days to the */
/* start of a given month for a given year. */
#define DTM(year,month) \
    ((year - BASE_YEAR + BASE_LEAP) % 4 == 0 && \
     year != 200 ? \
     leap_tbl[month] : std_tbl[month])

LOCAL const short leap_tbl[12] = {0,31,60,91,121,
    152,182,213,244,274,305,335};
LOCAL const short std_tbl[12] = {0,31,59,90,120,
    151,181,212,243,273,304,334};
LOCAL const char *dow[7] = {"Sun", "Mon", "Tue", "Wed",
    "Thu", "Fri", "Sat"};
LOCAL const char *numsuff[10] = {"th", "st", "nd", "rd",
    "th", "th", "th", "th", "th", "th"};

/* Return the true UTC offset in minutes. The AOS/VS */
/* offset is true if DST is not currently in effect */
/* and one hour less if DST is in effect. */
LOCAL int true_utc_offset(void) {
    int ier;
    char *cp;

    char lrstr[$MXPL]; /* Link resolution string */
    static char uopn[] = "@TRUE_UTC_OFFSET";
    static int utc_offset=-1;

    /* Already done the hard work? */
    if (utc_offset != -1) return utc_offset;

    /* Get the link resolution. */
    if (ier = sys_glink(uopn,lrstr)) {
        fprintf(stderr,"From true_utc_offset(): ");
        fprintf(stderr,"%s, file %s\n",
            strerror(ier),uopn);
        exit(ier);
    }

    /* Convert the link resolution string */
    /* from [+|-][H]H:MM format to minutes. */
    cp = lrstr;
    utc_offset = strtoul(cp,&cp,10);
    cp++; /* Bump past the ':' */
    utc_offset = utc_offset * 60 + strtoul(cp,NULL,10);

    return utc_offset;

    /* Return the no. of days to the start of a given */
    /* year and month taking leap year into account. */
    /* year is assumed to be 70..206 (corresponding to */
    /* 1970..2106) and month is assumed to be 0..11. */
    LOCAL long daysto(int year, int month) {
        long days;
        int leap_days;

        leap_days = (year - BASE_YEAR + BASE_LEAP - 1) / 4;
        if (year > 200) leap_days--;
        days = 365 * (year - BASE_YEAR) +
            leap_days + DTM(year,month);
    }
}

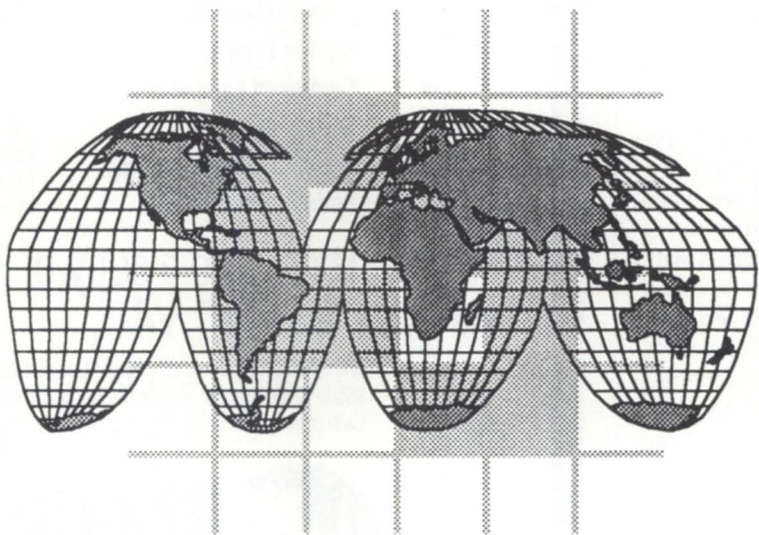
```



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Figure 1: continued

```

return days;
}

/* Return 0 or 1 depending on whether DST is in */
/* effect. The time supplied in tmp is assumed */
/* to be Standard Time. */
LOCAL int isdst(struct tm *tmp) {
    int    dst,last_sun;

    if (tmp->tm_mon < 2 || tmp->tm_mon > 9) {
        dst = 0; /* Jan, Feb, Nov, Dec */
    }
    else if (tmp->tm_mon > 2 && tmp->tm_mon < 9) {
        dst = 1; /* Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep */
    }
    else if (tmp->tm_mon == 2) { /* March? */
        if (tmp->tm_wday == 0) {
            dst = (tmp->tm_hour < 2) ? (0) : (1);
        }
        else {
            last_sun = tmp->tm_mday + 7 - tmp->tm_wday;
            while (last_sun > 31) last_sun -= 7;
            dst = (tmp->tm_mday < last_sun) ? (0) : (1);
        }
    }
    else { /* It must be October */
        if (tmp->tm_wday == 0) {
            dst = (tmp->tm_hour < 1) ? (1) : (0);
        }
        else {
            last_sun = tmp->tm_mday + 7 - tmp->tm_wday;
            while (last_sun > 31) last_sun -= 7;
            dst = (tmp->tm_mday < last_sun) ? (1) : (0);
        }
    }

    return dst;
}

/* Return the current calendar time. */
/* An ANSI-compliant function. */
GLOBAL time_t time(time_t *ctp) {
    P_GTIME gtime_pkt;
    int    ier,mday,mon,year,hour,min,sec;
    time_t ct;
    /* Ask AOS/VS what the current UTC is. */
    memset((void*)&gtime_pkt,0,sizeof(gtime_pkt));
    gtime_pkt.time_pkt_pkt_id = $TIME_PKT_PKTID;
    gtime_pkt.time_pkt_func   = $TIME_PKT_UTC;
    if (ier = sys_gtime(&gtime_pkt)) exit(ier);

    /* Convert to struct tm base values. */
    year = gtime_pkt.time_pkt_year - 1900;
    mon  = gtime_pkt.time_pkt_month - 1;
    mday = gtime_pkt.time_pkt_day;
    hour  = gtime_pkt.time_pkt_hour;
    min   = gtime_pkt.time_pkt_minute;
    sec   = gtime_pkt.time_pkt_second;

    /* Do all the days up to this month. */
    ct = daysto(year,mon) * 86400;

    /* Add in the days for this month. */
    ct += (mday - 1) * 86400;

    /* Add in the time of day. */
    ct += sec + 60 * (min + 60 * hour);

    if (ctp) *ctp = ct;
    return ct;
}

/* Build a local time structure from a calendar time. */
/* DG's library routine doesn't cut it, so we have to */
/* do our own ANSI-compatible version of localtime(). */
/* Plus, readers might port this to (gasp!) COBOL. */
/* An ANSI-compliant function. */

```

nsts

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Figure 1: continued

```

GLOBAL struct tm *localtime(const time_t *ctp) {
    longdays; /* 0..49744 */
    longi; /* Days to start of this year */
    unsigned long secs;
    int year; /* 70..206 */
    static struct tm ltm;

    /* Convert calar calendar time to */
    /* scalar local standard time. */
    secs = *ctp + (60 * true_utc_offset());

    /* DST state is initially unknown. */
    ltm.tm_isdst = -1;

    /* This will only loop a second time if it */
    /* turns out that DST is in effect locally. */
    for (;;) {

        /* Scalar local time -> local time structure. */
        days = secs / 86400;
        ltm.tm_wday = (days + BASE_WDAY) % 7;
        year = BASE_YEAR + days / 365;
        while (days < (i = daysto(year,0))) year--;
        days -= i;
        ltm.tm_year = year;
        ltm.tm_mon = 11;
        while (days < DTM(year, ltm.tm_mon)) {
            ltm.tm_mon--;
        }
        ltm.tm_yday = days;
        ltm.tm_mday = days - DTM(year, ltm.tm_mon) + 1;

        /* Do the time-of-day. */
        secs %= 86400;
        ltm.tm_hour = secs / 3600;
        secs %= 3600;
        ltm.tm_min = secs / 60;
        ltm.tm_sec = secs % 60;

        /* If pass two then we're done. */
        if (ltm.tm_isdst != -1) break;

        /* Pass 1: if not DST then we're done. */
        if ( ( ltm.tm_isdst = isdst(&ltm) ) == 0) break;

        /* DST is in effect; add an hour and recompute. */
        secs = *ctp + (60 * true_utc_offset()) + 3600;
    }
    return &ltm;
}

/* Compile with VALIDATE/DEFINE and then link */
/* in order to make this an executable program. */
#ifdef VALIDATE

main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    int c,i;
    struct tm *ltp; /* Local time structure ptr */
    time_t ct; /* Calendar time */

    if (argc < 2) {
        fprintf(stderr, "\nUsage: DSTLIB ct...\n");
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

    /* Convert each argument. */
    printf("\n Calendar\tLocal\n");
    printf(" Time\tTime\n");
    ct = time(NULL);
    for (i = 0; i < argc; i++) {
        if (i == 0) {
            ct = time(NULL);
        }
        else {
            ct = strtoul(argv[i], NULL, 10);
        }
    }
}

```

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Figure 1: continued

```

ltp = localtime(&ct);
c = (ltp->tm_isdst) ? ('D') : ('S');
printf("%10lu\t",ct);
printf("%s, %02d/%02d/%02d %02d:%02d:%02d P%cT",
      dow[ltp->tm_wday],
      ltp->tm_mon+1,
      ltp->tm_mday,
      ltp->tm_year,
      ltp->tm_hour,
      ltp->tm_min,
      ltp->tm_sec,
      c);
printf(" %d%s day of year\n",
      ltp->tm_yday+1,
      numsuff[(ltp->tm_yday+1)%10]);
}
#endif

```

If you start DSTMON when you boot your system and you use the functions included in DSTLIB, then your AOS/VS system will automatically switch on and off DST and you'll be able to get consistent UTC values for use as timestamps.

The source code shown, including the NIST calling program not shown here, is all available on the :SYSMGR BBS as item SML9309X in the SMLOGS subdirectory. And thanks to KayBee for helping me to test my stuff against DG/UX.

:HIATUS_OF_SORTS

After 8.083 years of writing these System Manager's columns, I've decided to take it easy for a while. This column will be the last of my regular monthly columns, although I will be submitting some articles in the future on an infrequent basis. Δ

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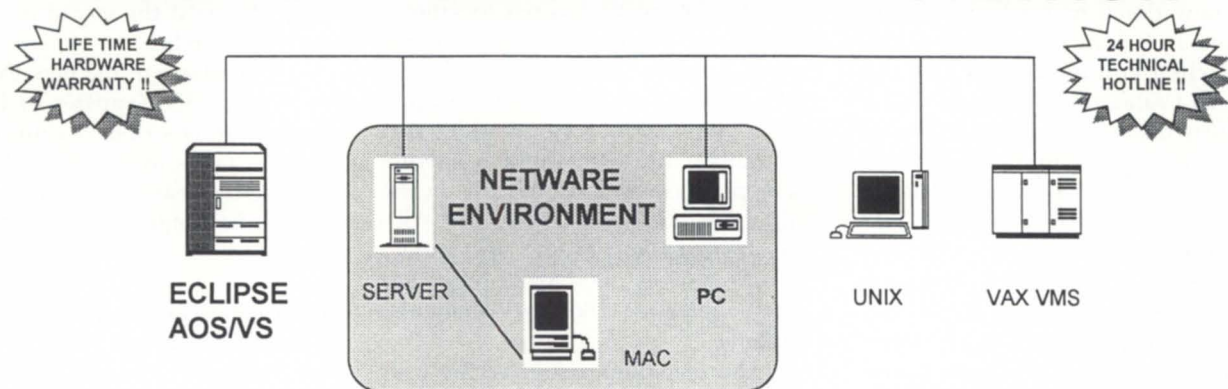
Figure 2:
Sample NIST TTS output

```

National Institute of Standards and Technology
Telephone Time Service, Generator 1A
Enter question mark "?" for HELP?
      D L D
MJD  YR MO DA HH MM SS ST S UT1 msADV <OTM>
49191 93-07-23 06:17:44 50 0 +.6 045.0 UTC(NIST) *
49191 93-07-23 06:17:45 50 0 +.6 045.0 UTC(NIST) *
49191 93-07-23 06:17:46 50 0 +.6 045.0 UTC(NIST) *
{repeats for 30 seconds before hanging up}

```

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Circle 6 on reader service card.



David Novy

The letter

SYNOPSIS

With the release of its new Aviion 8500 and AV 9500 Unix file servers, DG seems to understand what it takes to be successful in the commercial marketplace.

Yesterday I was having trouble getting started on my day's routine. I returned from vacation two days before and knew that I had a *Focus* article deadline. Isn't it amazing how you can move when you have a deadline to meet? So I called the editor and asked what was the theme of the next issue (we schedule these things about two months in advance). I was told that the September theme was the new Data General Aviion machines.

I thought to myself at the time that the issue theme was of little help to me. The most recent Data General Aviion announcement I knew about was a couple of new file servers that offered superb fault tolerance but did not have a lot of firepower. Nothing in the DG sales arsenal would have a lot of firepower until the new Motorola 88110 chip arrived. So, after my editorial conversation I switched my mind into ponder mode to see if I could find a different topic for my September column.

Then I picked up the afternoon mail, and I noticed a rather thick letter from none other than good old Data General. I realized when I opened it that it wasn't just a letter; it was **THE LETTER**.

This was Data General's sales brochure announcing a new family of

machines based on the anticipated Motorola 88110 chip. After reading through the material, all I could think was that DG really has put together a marvelous product line with nearly unimaginable price/performance. Scheduled for availability by August was a four-way-processor machine that can deliver 400 MIPS (million instructions per second) and 210 tpsA. In the fall, an eight-way, 800 MIPS and 450-plus tpsA machine is due. Next spring, a 16-processor, 1,600 MIPS processor with an expected 1,000 tpsA should be available.

The machines also give the user more than just raw power at an excellent price. The new Aviion systems come with Novell Netware for Unix and a five-user license for the network operating system. This is the first time that Novell has entered into a tight integration with Netware on a factory-shipped system coming from a Unix vendor. I have a personal bias toward Sun's PC-NFS for PC networking, but Netware is a fine product and Novell now owns the Unix System Laboratory that is responsible for Unix development. So if you were to do your PC networking using Netware instead of PC-NFS, I doubt that it is a decision you will learn to regret. In fact, by next year

you might be asking *me* what took so long.

Another feature of the new Aviion machines that's easy to overlook when you see their amazing performance and price numbers is their fault tolerance. These machines possess tremendous self-healing capability. The systems come with redundant CPUs, memory channels, and I/O channels. If a machine CPU, memory channel, or I/O channel goes bad the machine reboots itself gracefully, ignoring the defective part and putting in an automatic call to DG for help. Previously, the only way to obtain this type of fault tolerance was to use two separate machines and a manual switch-over. Now if these machines are combined with a RAID box and a redundant tape array, it might be possible for DG system managers to work and have a social life. I don't know if the world is ready for such a possibility.

The release of the new DG Aviion 8500 and 9500 families of Unix file servers shows that DG understands what it takes to be successful in the commercial marketplace. The company should be congratulated on a job well done.

Information management: The saga continues

Recently I attended a presentation by the head of the graduate school of business from a large university. He stated that the Industrial Revolution began around 1650 and that Adam Smith wrote the *Wealth of Nations* in 1776. The Industrial Revolution and Smith's landmark book formed the foundations of our modern industrial society. However, a new type of society is beginning more recently—the information society. Rapid developments in computer technology, high-speed computer networks, global competition, and "flat" organizational structures are leading to changes that will be even more far-reaching than those brought about by the industrial age, he said.

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Later I talked with the chairman of the management information systems (MIS) department of the same university. I asked him where his department was heading regarding the teaching of the principles of product data management. He said he was not aware of the topic, and could I please send him some information. I was not surprised that he didn't know about product data management—it arose from corporate engineering and manufacturing centers, not from the business information systems community. So you can see, the revolution is *really* beginning when someone charged with knowing about information systems that will affect corporations in a major way is not aware even of the existence of product data management systems.

Corporate MIS departments are no longer needed to develop major cooperative information systems, because the computing power *and* the information needed for such systems has become distributed. This is not necessarily a positive development, but you can expect to see it happen more often, especially if corporate MIS departments are not responsive to the needs of the corporation's product development organizations. Computer hardware corporations that fail to recognize this will suffer similar problems. If they cannot provide the applications required to meet customer needs, the customers will buy hardware from a company that can supply the required applications. △

David Novy is a technical computer specialist with 3M in St. Paul, Minnesota. He is past chairman of the AOS/VS special interest group, and current chairman of NADGUG's SIG/UX.

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More about sar

SYNOPSIS

The author continues a series of articles explaining the performance-monitoring utilities available for solving some of the most common bottlenecks affecting DG/UX in a multi-user server environment.

by Thomas E. Soukup
Special to Focus

Performance monitoring and tuning the DG/UX system used to be considered difficult tasks. That doesn't have to be the case today, but to monitor and make changes that increase overall system performance, you must become familiar with the utilities available with the DG/UX multi-user system. You must not only be able to collect system activity and performance data, but also analyze the data and implement corrective actions.

The following sections will describe significant data items displayed by *sar*. For each *sar* option, the following columns and descriptions are included: the significant data item that *sar* reports; the significant data item that the real-time performance monitor (UX/RPM) displays on its screen; the significant data item that the AV SysScope performance monitor displays on its screen; a brief explanation of each data item; some general performance guidelines; and additional features included in UX/RPM and AV SysScope not reported by *sar* or other Unix utilities.

System calls by category (*sar -c*)

The *-c* option reports system calls by categories.

Figure 1: The *sar -c* option

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
scall/s	system calls/sec	system calls/sec

The average number of system calls that have been executed per second.

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
sread/s	read calls/sec	read system calls/sec

The average number of read system calls that have been executed per second.

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
swrit/s	write calls/sec	write system calls/sec

The average number of write system calls that have been executed per second.

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
fork/s	fork calls/sec	fork system calls/sec

The average number of fork and vfork system calls that have been executed per second.

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
exec/s	exec calls/sec	exec system calls/sec

The average number of exec system calls that have been executed per second.

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
rchar/s	phys read requests	chars transferred by read/sec

The average number of characters transferred from system buffers per second to read system calls.

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
wchar/s	phys write requests	chars transferred by write/sec

The average number of characters transferred to system buffers per second due to write system calls.

Guideline for *scall/s*. This value is very application dependent. Values can range from a few hundred to a few thousand. If the system is spending a high amount of time in system mode (*sar -u*) and the number of system calls per second value is in the thousands, a kernel profile may need to be run to determine if the system is wasting time in the kernel. A kernel profile may assist to determine if applications are making excessive system calls.

Guidelines for *sread/s* and *swrite/s*. A small number of bytes per read may indicate a performance bottleneck because system call overhead contributes most to the cost of read. When possible, permit an application to read many bytes at once to increase overall read throughput efficiency. A small number of bytes per write may indicate a performance bottleneck because system call overhead contributes most to the cost of write. When possible, permit an application of write many bytes at once to increase overall write throughput efficiency.

Guidelines for *rchar/s* and *wchar/s*. These values are very application dependent. Values for *rchar/s* can range from zero to a few million. Values for *wchar/s* can range from zero to a few million, but are usually less than the *rchar/s* value under normal system loads. These values can assist you in determining the percentage of reads versus writes of an application.

You may issue 10 read calls and 5 write calls in your application program and assume the read-versus-write ratio to be 2 reads for every 1 write. However, the application read call may be serviced by physically reading from disk twice, thus the true ratio to be 4 reads for every 1 write. As changes are made to applications and file system pa-

rameters, *rchar/s* and *wchar/s* can be monitored to see the physical effects of the changes.

Disk Activity (*sar -d*)

The *-d* option reports the activity of block devices.

Figure 2: The *sar -d* option

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
device	disk name	disk name
The DG/UX physical name for the block device.		

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
%busy	% busy	percent busy
The percentage of time the disk unit has been busy processing requests.		

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
avque	aver que	average queue
The average number of requests already queued to the device at the time new requests arrive.		

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
r+w/s	# of requests	reqs/sec
The average number of read and write requests to the device.		

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
blks/s	blocks written	blocks/sec
The average number of 512-byte disk blocks read and written per second.		

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
await	aver resp	average wait
The average time (in milliseconds) disk requests to this device have spent waiting in queues to be serviced.		

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
avserv	aver serve	average service
The average time (in milliseconds) it took to service disk requests to this device, including seek and transfer times.		

Guideline for %busy. The guideline for %busy is never to allow a disk to become greater than 30-percent busy. However, the %busy value by itself is not a very good indicator of the overall disk subsystem's performance. Instead, you should gauge the performance of the disk subsystem on *avque*, *await*, and *avserv* lengths.

Guideline for avque. A high value indicates that several requests are always queued up waiting for the disk to become available. For good system response, it is important for the disk subsystem to be able to keep this value in the low single digits. To reduce this value, more disk spindles, controllers, disk striping, and adjustment of the file system parameters such as DAR size,

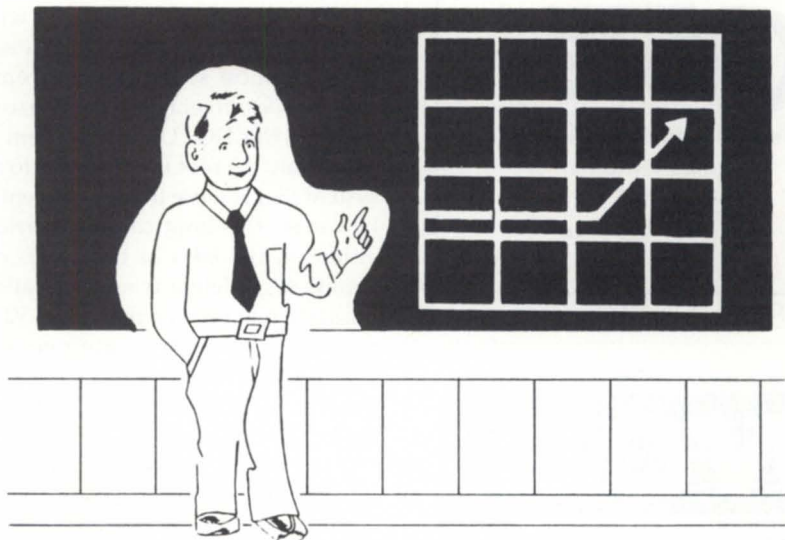
anniversary sizes, and data element sizes may be necessary. Later articles in this series will address disk issues.

Guideline for r+w/s. With a multi-disk configuration of similar disks, the number of requests should be balanced across the disk units. Overall system performance could be bottlenecked if one or a few disk units in a multi-disk configuration handle most of the I/O

load. To balance the load, check which file systems are mounted on the most heavily used disks and attempt to better distribute those file systems. Disk striping may be needed to better distribute the load across disks.

Guideline for await. A high value indicates time spent waiting for the disk to accept an I/O request. As the *avque* increases, the *await* time will

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also increase. For good system response, this value should be less than 15-20 milliseconds and never more than 100 milliseconds.

Guideline for *avserv*. A high value indicates time spent seeking and transferring data. For good system response, this value should be close to the speed of the disk, i.e., 20-25 milliseconds. High values may indicate on-disk cache misses or if you're using a striped file system, that the file system's disk allocation regions are misaligned, causing high seek rates.

It may be possible to improve performance by making some of the changes to the file system that will be discussed in the next part of this series. One common solution is to remove unused files, freeing up disk space. By default, the DG/UX file system will allow only the root user to write to a file system that is more than 90-percent full. However, this limit can be overridden either on the *mkfs* or the *tunefs* command. A guideline is never to allow a file system to become more than 92-percent full. The extra time needed to search bitmaps for free blocks may have detrimental effects on disk and system buffer performance.

Over time, a disk allocation region (DAR) can become fragmented, especially if numerous files are created, deleted, or updated. The *dumpfs* command can be used to display information about the disk allocation regions. It can be run by the root user with the file system still mounted. When the "free data blocks' histogram" shows that a DAR doesn't contain any large blocks (block sizes of 16 or larger), then fragmentation may be an issue. In addition, mixing files of different element sizes hurts overall disk subsystem performance. Eliminate fragmentation by archiving and restoring the files in the affected file system.

Features of UX/RPM and AV SysScope for disk activity. Reports average response that is the average time in milliseconds a disk request spends being processed. List read blocks/sec that is the number to 512-byte block reads from the disk. Reports read reqs/sec that is the number of separate read requests from the disk. Reports write blocks/sec that is the

number of 512-byte blocks written to disk. Reports write reqs/sec that is the number of separate write requests to the disk.

Buffer Activity of Metadata (*sar -b*). The *-b* option reports the buffer activity of the metadata. Metadata in DG/UX revisions 5.4 and later can be defined as data that the file system uses to describe and locate files, i.e., data about data. The buffer activity values indicate how metadata is being managed. By default, "PERCENTSYSBUF" is set to 5 percent of memory. This portion of memory is reserved for the management of metadata.

Figure 3: The *sar -b* option

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>bread/s</i>	phys block reads	MD physical reads blocks/sec

The number of blocks of metadata transferred by physical reads. These are blocks that are read from disk.

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>lread/s</i>	log block reads	MD logical reads blocks/sec

The number of blocks of metadata transferred by local reads. This includes blocks that are cached and blocks that require physical reads from the disk.

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>%rcache</i>	none	none

The average percentage of read requests satisfied from system buffers rather than disk requests.

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>bwrit/s</i>	phys block writes	MD physical writes blocks/sec

The number of blocks of metadata transferred by physical writes to the disk.

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>lwrit/s</i>	log block writes	MD logical writes blocks/sec

The number of blocks of metadata transferred by logical writes. This includes blocks that are cached or physically written to disk.

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>%wcache</i>	none	none

The average percentage of write requests satisfied by updating existing system buffers rather than disk requests.

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>%pread/s</i>	none	MD physical read reqs/sec

The number of metadata read requests from disk.

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>%pwrit/s</i>	none	MD physical writes reqs/sec

The number of metadata write requests to the disk.

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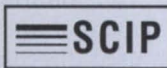
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Guidelines for %rcache and %wcache. The *sar* items you should be most interested in are the cache hit ratios that measure the effectiveness of system metadata buffering. If the read cache rate falls below 95 percent, or the write cache rate falls below 65 percent, it may be possible to improve these rates by increasing the kernel parameters, "PERCENTSYSBUF," and decreasing

ing "MAXSYSBUFSIZE".

File-access operations (*sar -a*). The *-a* option reports the use of file-access operations. The larger the values reported, the more time the DG/UX kernel is spending to access user files. These values indicate how heavily applications are using file systems. The *-a* option is helpful for understanding how disk-dependent the application is.

They are not used for any specific tuning, but many indicate an application that is wasting time opening and closing files unnecessarily.

Figure 4: The *sar -a* option

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>iget/s</i>	lget calls	lget calls/sec

The number of times there was a file system name cache miss. It does *not* indicate the number of times the file system media was accessed.

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>namei/s</i>	pathname searches	pathname searches/sec

The number of times pathnames have been resolved.

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>dirbk/s</i>	directory block Reads	directory block Reads/sec

The number of directory block reads per second.

Guideline for *namei/s*. *Namei* call *iget*, so *iget/s* is always larger than *namei/s*. You should optimize the "PATH" environmental variables, placing often used directories first and removing all unused directories from the search path. In addition, you should avoid creating large directories (more than 256 files).

Message and Semaphore Activity (*sar -m*). The *-m* option reports on inter-process communication activities. Message and semaphore call usage is reported.

Figure 5: The *sar -m* option

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>msg/s</i>	message operations	message operations/sec

The number of messages sent by way of the *msgsnd* call per second.

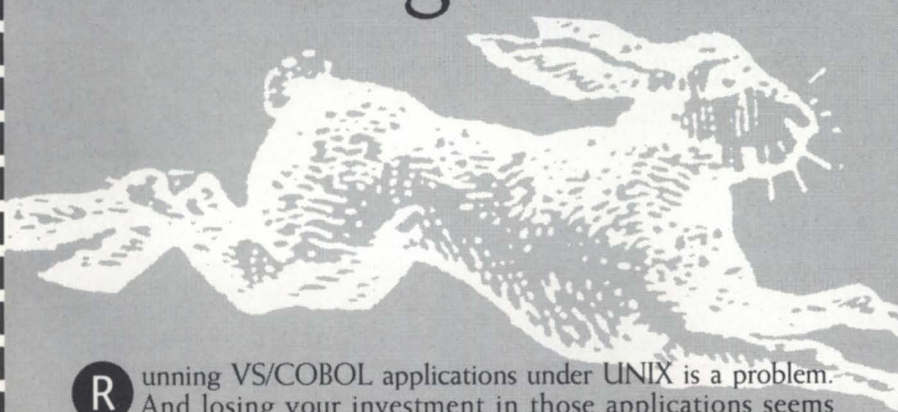
SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>sem/s</i>	semaphore operations	semaphore operations/sec

The number of semaphore operations performed by way of the *semop* call per second.

Guidelines for message activity. If you are using messages in your application or using a relational data base management system (RDBMS), you will most like need to increase the message kernel parameters. The most common message kernel parameters that need modifying are "MSGMNI" (the maximum number of message queues that may exist in the system at one time; "MSGTQL" (the maximum number of

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outstanding messages that may exist in the system at one time); "MSGMNB" (the maximum number of bytes that a message queue may contain); and "MGSMAX" (the maximum number of bytes that a message may contain). Refer to your RDBMS-tuning documentation.

Guidelines for semaphore activity. If you are using semaphores in your application or using an RDBMS, you will most likely need to increase the semaphore kernel parameters. The most common semaphore kernel parameters that need modifying are "SEMOPM" (the maximum number of semaphores that a semaphore net may contain); and "SEMUME" (the maximum number of semaphore undo entries per undo structure). Refer to your RDBMS-tuning documentation.

Terminal device activity (*sar -y*)

The *-y* option monitors terminal device activities. If the system performs a high amount terminal I/O, use this re-

port to determine if there are bad lines or whether an asynchronous controller is a bottleneck.

Figure 6: The *sar -y* option

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>rawch/s</i>	TTY raw input	raw input chars/sec
The total number of characters read in raw mode from terminal devices per second.		

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>canch/s</i>	TTY canonical input	canonical input chars/sec
The total number of characters read from terminal devices and process in canonical mode per second.		

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>outch/s</i>	TTY output characters	output chars/sec
The total number of characters output to terminal devices per second.		

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>rcvin/s</i>	receive interrupts	receive interrupts/sec
The total number of receive interrupts from terminal devices per second.		

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>xmtin/s</i>	transmit interrupts	transmit interrupts/sec
The total number to transmit interrupts sent to terminal devices per second.		

SAR item	UX/RPM item	SysScope item
<i>mdmin/s</i>	modem interrupts	modem interrupts/sec
The total number of modem interrupts per second.		

Guidelines for terminal device activity. Just as the disk or any other device can become a system bottleneck, the asynchronous I/O controllers can slow terminal response.

One possible problem for poor terminal performance is the terminal's definition file in the *terminfo* library. Use the *infocmp* utility to verify that the terminal description does not have unnecessary millisecond waits. The waits are denoted as "###".

For certain terminals, some of the waits are necessary, but in most cases you can remove the wait or decrease it

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by two-thirds. Begin by creating a *terminfo* source terminal file, then use the *tic* command to recompile the *terminfo* source terminal file. For more information, see the online manual pages on *tic* and *infocmp*.

Another problem that causes poor terminal performance is issuing a high amount of "stty" setting commands. This causes the controllers to reset line

discipline that is a very slow operation. Applications should use library calls to change terminal settings.

Although the I/O rates of the asynchronous controllers will vary according to line discipline settings, a VDA/255 should be able to handle around 55 K characters per second, and a VTC should be able to handle around 200 K characters per second. These

numbers will vary depending on the size of write requests, and the use of older model VDC/16s, VDC/8Ps, term servers, and other communication equipment.

Input rates are slower. The *sar outch/s* value reports the character output rate. The *rawch/s* and *canch/s* rates often appear the same. The controllers used on the Aviion system do not provide the data necessary to distinguish between cooked and raw character counts (character processing known as "cooking" is processed at the controller level).

Often high input rates are due to unterminated lines, modem and multiplexors issuing noise. If you notice higher-than-normal *char/s* rates after installing a new modem or multiplexor, check that it is not caught in an infinite loop and "chattering," that is, sending and receiving hundreds of characters that are unnecessary. Also, check that the setup is correct in */etc/termdefs*. For more information, refer to the online manual pages on *termdefs*.

Summary

Performance monitoring and tuning the DG/UX assists you in determining where the system is spending its limited resources, and why. The three areas where the system could be spending its time are in system mode (*%sys*), user mode (*%usr*) or idle time (*%idle*). The Unix system activity reporter (*sar*) is the front-line utility in any performance investigation. Δ

Thomas E. Soukup, currently serving as the worldwide benchmark coordinator, is a member of the Technical Services Group at Data General Corporation in Schaumburg, Illinois. He has been active in benchmark performance at DG for three years, and has assisted system engineers worldwide with DG/UX performance tuning and monitoring. Tom is currently a Ph.D. candidate in computer science and engineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Copyright © 1993 by Thomas E. Soukup and Total Environmental Systems Services Corporation. All rights reserved. Edited by Edward A. Sepich III, Total Environmental Systems Services Corporation.

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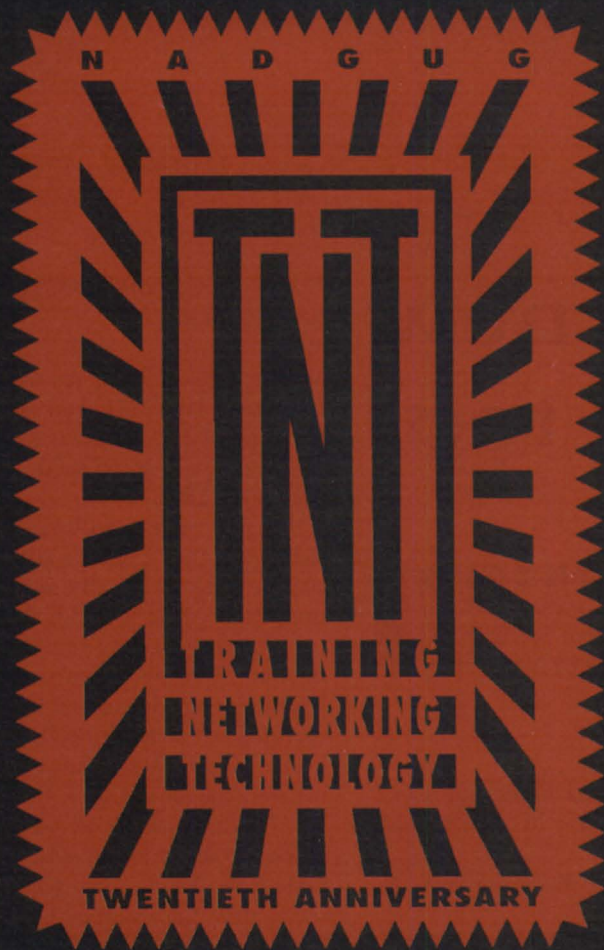
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FSCOPY: a new backup tool

SYNOPSIS

If you have a lot of data to back up, and you need a consistent, fast solution, FSCOPY will likely satisfy your needs.

by Mark Wilding
Special to Focus

When you receive AOS/VS II 3.01, you will find a surprising addition to the AOS/VS II product—a new backup tool named FSCOPY (a compact way of saying, “Filesystem COPY”). It offers the following features:

- *Consistent backup.* FSCOPY allows on-line, consistent backup while users continue to work.
- *Fast backup.* FSCOPY allows backup of up to 20 GB of data in an operator shift, especially when using Data General's Clariion tape array.
- *LDU backup and recovery.* FSCOPY allows LDU backup and restoration (like LDCOPY), but backup occurs while LDUs are in use.
- *File recovery.* Individual files can be restored from the LDU backup.

Backup

Backup with FSCOPY is easy. It can be done interactively or in batch. If your cartridge tape or Clariion tape array has enough capacity to hold an entire LDU, you can perform your backups without an operator present. Assume that you have a 5 GB tape (@MTJ0) and a 5 GB LDU (:UDD) to back up. The following steps are all that's required:

1) Bring your system to a stable

state (checkpoint data bases, get users out of editors, etc.), just like you would for any backup.

2) Start FSCOPY. For example, type

```
FSCOPY/BACKUP/DISPLAY
:UDD @MTJ0
```

to tell FSCOPY to back up the LDU “:UDD” onto the tape @MTJ0.

3) After FSCOPY displays a message that the backup is in progress, allow users to do work again. This will happen in less than a minute.

Now FSCOPY will take a “snapshot” backup while users continue working on the system. What this means is that any recovery operation will recover files as they were when FSCOPY started. Any files changed or created after the backup starts will *not* be included as part of the backup.

FSCOPY backs up all allocated blocks on the LDU as they were when the backup started. FSCOPY calls these “backed up blocks.” If a block is modified by a user, FSCOPY takes the original copy of the data in the block *before* it is modified and puts this information on the backup tape. FSCOPY calls these “copied blocks.”

Recovery

You can choose to recover entire LDUs or individual files. If you have a

catastrophic disk failure, you will likely want to use full LDU recovery. Again, this is easy. Just type

```
FSCOPY/RESTORE/DISPLAY UDD
:UDD @MTJ0
```

This tells FSCOPY to recover the LDU UDD from tape MTJ0 and load the contents into :UDD. While this recovery is taking place, no user can access any files in the LDU.

If you only need to recover some individual files, perhaps because someone accidentally overwrote some important work, you can use FSCOPY to recover these individual files. Because FSCOPY performs an LDU backup, two passes of the tape are required to recover files. The first pass builds a file system index; the second recovers the file or files.

This first pass looks at all the data blocks on the tape and sets aside all file system blocks. Because the AOS/VS II file system has unique “block IDs” on file system blocks, FSCOPY can build a file system index from the backup tape, then use this index to find all blocks in the specified file during the second pass. The following example recovers the files “:UDD:DAVE:IMPORTANT_WORK:#”:

1. Create the index. Type

```
FSCOPY/RESTORE/DISPLAY/INDEX=
UDD_INDEX UDD @MTJ0
```

This reads through the tape and creates a file system index. These index files can take up to 5 percent of the disk space used by the LDU.

2. Next, generate a list of files from the index. Type

```
FSCOPY/RESTORE/DISPLAY/INDEX=
UDD_INDEX/LIST=UDD_FILES
```

This creates a list of pathnames that can be recovered from the tape.

3. Now, create the list of files you want to recover. Use your favorite editor, search for the files you want (everything that begins with :UDD:DAVE:IMPORTANT_WORK:) and copy these

filenames to a different file—for example, FILES_TO_RECOVER.

4. Now restore the files. Type

```
FSCOPY/RESTORE/DISPLAY/INDEX=
UDD_INDEX/FILES=FILES_TO_RECO
VER & UDD @MTJ0
```

The files are recovered as they were when the FSCOPY backup started.

Because we started the restore operation with the /DISPLAY switch, FSCOPY displays how much has been recovered and projects an estimate of how long the recovery will take.

How FSCOPY compares

Compared with DUMP_II/LOAD_II, FSCOPY is faster and provides a “snapshot” backup. While both products allow file recovery, LOAD_II is quicker in recovering files. However, FSCOPY is faster when doing full backups. FSCOPY and DUMP_II/LOAD_II

can be used together as a backup strategy. Use FSCOPY to perform full backups, then DUMP_II/LOAD_II to perform incrementals. This is possible because FSCOPY optionally creates a timestamp file (using the /TIMESTAMP switch). This file is created with the date and time when the FSCOPY backup snapshot occurred. If a small percentage of data changes on an LDU between backups, using DUMP_II for incremental backups makes good sense. If large amounts of data change, it may be quicker to use FSCOPY to back up the entire LDU.

FSCOPY makes LDCOPY obsolete. FSCOPY is faster, and allows the backup to occur on-line, while LDCOPY requires that the LDU be released while the backup occurs. Some sites use disk mirroring as part of their backup strategy. At these sites, synchronized LDU images are broken off, then the broken image “snapshot” is backed up while work continues on the remaining image. The disk mirror is later synchro-

nized, making access to the LDU slow. FSCOPY provides this same “snapshot” feature without using mirroring.

The following performance numbers will make the trade-offs clearer. FSCOPY, LDCOPY, and DUMP_II were run using the same 1 GB LDU to the same tape drives. The LDU was constructed on a RAID-0 Clariion disk array connected to an MV/35000. The backup was performed to a Clariion tape array with five 4 mm DAT tapes. All tape-buffer sizes were set to 32768. Each test was run three times with the average shown. At the same time, the CPU usage was measured for each backup program.

Figure 1: Backup to Clariion tape array

Backup Tool	Time (hrs/min/secs)	CPU usage
DUMP_II	01:01:25	54.0 %
LDCOPY	00:27:33	43.9 %
FSCOPY	00:22:26	26.6 %

Continued on page 43.

U/FOS - INFOS under UNIX

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After these tests were run, some time was spent analyzing the results. Since the 4 mm DAT tapes in the Clariion tape array offer data compression, we ran an alternate, similar test with some highly compressible data and found that a 1 GB LDU could be backed up using FSCOPY in 11 minutes, 24 seconds. The data on our first test LDU (used in the preceding table) were not easily compressed, resulting in longer backup times. In general, FSCOPY backups of a 1 GB LDU to a tape array will take less than 20 minutes.

The other interesting result was CPU usage. FSCOPY is largely implemented inside of the AOS/VS II file system. Since the data being backed up do not get looked at until recovery time, little time is needed to setup the I/O. As a result, FSCOPY uses very little of the CPU, leaving plenty of spare CPU cycles for users to get work done. Clearly, DUMP_II became limited by the speed of the file system, unable to back up our 1 GB LDU in less than an hour. FSCOPY was always limited by the speed of the tape. As Data General introduces faster backup devices, FSCOPY will take advantage of them.

LDCOPY was always just a little slower than FSCOPY and used more CPU to do the backup. The results prove that FSCOPY is more desirable than LDCOPY, especially when you consider that the LDU can be used while FSCOPY runs.

Conclusions

FSCOPY provides a backup option that you must consider. If you have a lot of data to back up, and you need a consistent, fast solution, FSCOPY will likely satisfy your needs. While it has some drawbacks, such as longer time, the benefits of FSCOPY will likely outweigh any of its shortcomings. Δ

Mark Wilding is senior section manager for tools, file systems, and drivers in Data General's AOS/VS II Development Group. He has been employed at Data General for 14 years, and has worked on AOS/VS and AOS/VS II software for 10 years. Special thanks to John Johnson for gathering the performance data used in this article.

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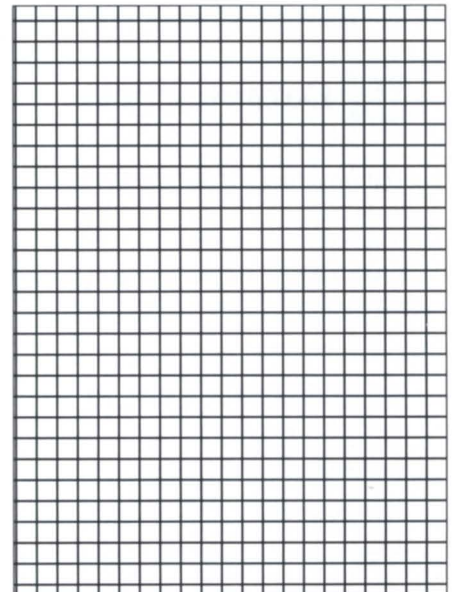
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PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

The latest products for DG systems

Migration solutions

Raleigh, NC—Monarch Software announced availability of two new products for Data General's high-speed Aviiion series of computers running DG/UX: Open Electronic Office (OEO) and Open File Manager (OFM).

Open Electronic Office is an integrated office-automation package for the Aviiion that provides all the CEO capabilities that MV users have depended upon and asked for on open systems. OEO is keystroke-for-keystroke compatible with CEO and provides interoperability. OEO works with existing character-based terminals and does not require PCs or workstation clients. Since OEO is compatible with CEO, retraining current users is not necessary.

Open File Manager is a high-performance, high-reliability, file-management product providing Infos capabilities that users have requested on DG/UX. OFM uses the same application program interface (API) as Infos II, so Infos programs and applications won't have to change when migrating to open systems, avoiding conversion costs for existing VS Cobol programs. OFM offers greatly improved relational-like recovery capabilities while keeping all underlying logical file structures consistent with Infos. Monarch also provides a complete Application Migration Package, which includes OFM, a Cobol runtime system, and a sort/merge, all in one bundle.

Pricing for OEO is based on the number of users, starting at \$125 per user. Pricing for OFM is also user-dependent, beginning at \$95 per user.

Monarch Software, Inc., 4904 Waters Edge Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606; 919/851-5408.

Online optimization

Salina, KS—Eagle Software and Expert Systems, Inc., announced the release of revision 2.00 of "DISK_PAK OnLine!", the only online disk optimization software for Data General MV- class computers.

This new revision supports online bitmap verification and correction on both AOS/VS Classic and AOS/VS II systems. With this feature, AOS/VS II users can now more easily recover the thousands of disk blocks that can be lost each time a system failure occurs, without releasing disks to run on Disk Polisher.

Revision 2.00 will be shipped at no additional charge to all "DISK_PAK OnLine!" users currently covered by software support. Pricing for the product is based on CPU class and ranges from \$950 to \$6,450.

Eagle Software, Inc., 123 Indiana Avenue, Salina, KS 67402-0016; 800/477-5432.

ICobol 1.7 support

Boulder, CO—Wild Hare Computer Systems announced that its ICobol products fully support ICobol rev 1.7. The "Choice!" ICobol runtime system and the Axis ICobol compiler are 1.7 binary compatible on all platforms, enabling ICobol users now to utilize all of the features available in ICobol 1.7 on more than 60 platforms and 18 operating systems, including PCs as well as Data General's MV and Aviiion.

Another Wild Hare product, "HareStylist," complements "Choice!" and Axis as a RAD (rapid application development) tool that allows programmers to add windows, hot keys, menus,

and context-sensitive help systems using time-saving, object-oriented techniques.

*Wild Hare Computer Systems, Inc.,
P.O. Box 3581, Boulder, CO 80307;
303/530-2221.*

Compressed libraries

Germantown, MD—Data Bank Associates, Inc., announced release of its Arc compressed-file library program for 88K, HP, and Coherent Unix systems. Arc libraries are compatible on Unix (including Data General's Avion), AOS/V5, MS-DOS, or OS/2-based operating systems.

Arc/UX retains the functionality of the MS-DOS and AOS/V5 versions while demonstrating efficient operation in a multiuser environment. Arc/UX runs at more than 20 times the speed of the AOS/V5 version. And while Arc/UX uses the Unix filenames, it automatically generates an "aka" (also known as) name for the PC. Unlimited users can simultaneously extract or run programs from a common Arc library.

An Arc/UX license may be purchased either as a single-user version or for unlimited mode of operation. Initial licenses include one year of software subscription and hot-line support.

*Data Bank Associates, Inc., 20010
Century Blvd., Suite 104, Germantown,
MD 20874-1118; 301/540-5562.*

Cobol application development

Summerville, SC—Newly released revision 2.51 of Datagen, from Productivity Systems Development Corporation, is intended for data-processing shops that develop application software in Cobol. Datagen writes interactive file-maintenance programs and supports multiple files, multiple screens, user-definable function keys, multiple parts to records, and user-activated field duplication. Datagen programs create new files or access existing files. Principal enhancements in the new release include:

- The generator will search for custom-written copy books to include with a generated program at a variety of entry points, allowing the programmer to generate new versions of the program

repeatedly without destroying previously added custom coding.

- Fields from multiple files and/or working storage may appear on the same screen, making custom changes easier and permitting the use of relational files.

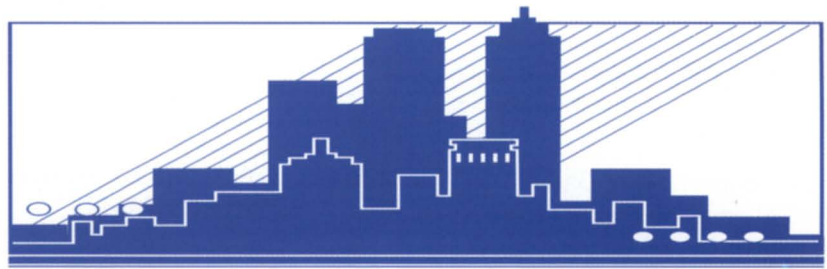
- Defining specifications to the generator is semi-automatic, using information obtained from imported

copy books; this minimizes the programmer effort required to input program specifications.

- Datagen can use pre-existing SELECT copy books so that an existing file will be correctly accessed.

- Record locking is supported; program time-outs are supported, as are program time-outs.

- Generated programs will not



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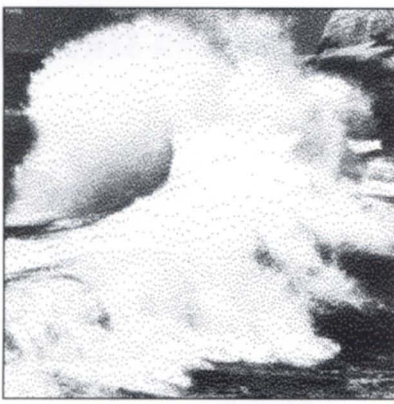
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PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

rewrite a record that has not been altered. In addition, a warning is issued if the user attempts to bypass the code to rewrite an altered record, thus reducing demand for system resources.

• One-dimensional arrays are supported, as are group accepts and displays.

Datagen is priced at \$12,500 per license (United States), regardless of machine size. It includes a two-day training program at the user site or in Summerville. Productivity Systems will generate Datagen source code for a fixed per-program fee for any customer without sufficient programming volume to justify purchase.

Productivity Systems Development Corporation, P.O. Box 1931, Summerville, SC 29484-1931; 803/851-6577.

Optical-disk libraries

Newport News, VA—Contemporary Cybernetics Group (CCG) announced the Model 10C/20C, a desk-side optical jukebox that offers room to expand as storage requirements grow. The basic configuration (10C) features one high-performance, optical-disk drive, the CY-3000, that can store 650 MB on each of 16 erasable or WORM disks. When users need more capacity, they simply add a second optical-disk drive and another 16 disks for capacity of 20.8 GB (20C).

The Model 60C/100C is a free-standing optical jukebox that can store between 57.2 GB and 93.6 GB, depending on the configuration. The base configuration (60C) features two or four optical-disk drives and 88 erasable WORM platters for a capacity of 57.2 GB. By adding two more drives and 56 optical disks, capacity can reach 93.6 GB (100C).

Optical jukebox storage is ideal for companies involved in applications that demand nearline data access. Users involved in CAD/CAM, CASE, financial services, imaging, engineering, construction, technical publishing, multimedia, or geophysical exploration will appreciate both the high capacity and the 27-millisecond average seek time. Disk exchange times are fast—under 8 seconds.

The MTBF (mean time between

failures) rate for optical-disk storage is 80,000 hours; the MSBF (mean swaps between failures) rate is 300,000 swaps. Optical platters offer an archival life of more than 40 years.

All of these library models are compatible with virtually all SCSI computer systems.

Contemporary Cybernetics Group, Rock Landing Corporate Center, 11846 Rock Landing, Newport News, VA 23606; 804/873-9000.

ICobol debugger

Boulder, CO—RAID, a flexible debugger for ICobol applications from Wild Hare Computer Systems, combines simple command operation with multiple overlapping windows, pull-down menus and mouse support in a powerful yet easy-to-use interactive environment. RAID's debugging environment makes maintaining and testing Cobol applications faster and easier.

RAID simultaneously monitors break points, variables, perform status and source code in separate windows, allowing you to immediately zoom in on the problem. The result is faster debugging and more productivity. All RAID capabilities are simultaneously available by using simple command-line control or by using menu selections, giving users the option of using the control method most convenient for you at any particular moment.

RAID is an integrated part of the "Choice!" ICobol runtime system and the Axis ICobol compiler. RAID is portable along with all other Wild Hare products. It is a free upgrade to Wild Hare end users with annual product-support contracts, and to value-added resellers (VARs) with annual VAR-support contracts, who are running version 4.0 of "Choice!" and version 1.4 of Axis.

Wild Hare Computer Systems, Inc., P.O. Box 3581, Boulder, CO 80307; 303/530-2221.

New geo module

Atlanta, GA—Plus III Software released Geodetic Survey, the newest module in the Terramodel software system. Geotronics North America and Plus III Soft-

ware, Inc., were awarded a multi-million-dollar contract by the U.S. Army for total stations and software for use in the civil engineering and surveying departments.

The Geodetic Survey Module was developed to include routines to reduce celestial observations in order to accurately compute the astronomical azimuth of a line. It also includes more than 600 state plane, UTM, and latitude/longitude coordinate conversions, using various data such as NAD-27, NAD-83, and WGS84. The new module is fully compatible with all Terramodel modules.

The Terramodel system is composed of the following modules: Terramodel CADD, CADMAP Transfer, Coordinate Geometry, Geodetic Survey, Drafting, Contour, Deep Mining, DTM Cross Sections, Hydrology, Kork Transfer, LEGAL Writer, Mapping, Microstation Transfer, Sewer Design and Analysis, Site Design, Roadway Design, and 3-D View.

Terramodel is available for MS-DOS and popular Unix workstations.

Plus III Software, Inc., One Dunwoody Park, Suite 250, Atlanta, GA 30338.

Unix migration for Infos



Slough, England—A full Unix implementation of Data General's proprietary AOS/VS Infos data base management system was announced by Transoft Ltd.

Called U/FOS, the new data base product allows a smooth, rapid migration of Infos-based Cobol, Fortran, and PL/I applications from MV machines with the DG AOS/VS operating system to a choice of major Unix platforms, without the need for costly redevelopment or retraining.

Transoft will market the product worldwide, both directly and through a network of approved migration partners and value-added resellers (VARs).

U/FOS offers complete functional compatibility with Infos, but also offers a large number of improved data base management features, such as online

backup, improved checkpointing, and RDBMS-level "COMMIT" and "ROLLBACK" functions. Transoft's product retains the indexed hierarchical data base structure of Infos, and includes commonly used utilities such as "ICREATE", "IVERIFY", "INQUIRE", and "DDUMP".

Transoft provides consultancy services and application conversion tools

to help users migrate their entire applications and data to Unix. The company also plans to publish an Application Programming Interface (API), which will allow third-party products to interface with U/FOS. △

Transoft Ltd., Nash House, Datchet Road, Slough SL3 7LR, England; +44 753 692332.



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DASH Items...

Category: DG/UX

Author: Marlin Lee

Subject: **Mounting File System**

I would like to mount a separate file system to hold the print jobs for *lp* to print, i.e.: `/var/spool/lp/tmp`. I also have two other Aviion systems printing to this one, so there are three host directories in this area. What is the best way to do this? Can I mount a file system as `/var/spool/lp/tmp` and will the three host subdirectories need to be recreated? Or should I create three different logical disks to be mounted as `/var/spool/lp/tmp.host1`, `/var/spool/lp/tmp/host2`, etc. . . . P.S., this is an AV 4620 running DG/UX 5.4.2.

Reply by: DG/UX Support

Create a soft link from *tmp* in `/var/spool/lp` to a *tmp* directory on a file system with more space. For example:

```
lnwxrwxrwx 1 root other
7 Apr 26 15:16 /var/spool/lp/tmp/tmp/lp
```

The extra space does not have to be in *tmp*, just any file system that has the space you require. To make this smooth, allow all the print jobs to complete. Empty the queues. Stop the scheduler. Create the link. Start the scheduler. The host directories will be recreated.

Author: Allen Barkley

Subject: **DG/UX 5.4—SCRIPT FILE**

I am writing a script file using the Bourne shell, and am having difficulty in "incrementing" a variable I would like to use as a "control variable" in a "while" loop. For example, if I define a variable "i" as follows—`i=1`—and then try increasing it by one each time through the loop, it does not work, e.g., `$i=$i + 1` is taken as a literal, and "i" takes the value of "`$i + 1`", and not the value 2, which is what I want. The documentation I have is silent on numeric operators in the Bourne shell.

Reply by: Doug Morgan

The syntax I have used to accomplish this is:

```
i=1
i='echo $i + 1|bc'
```

Reply by: David Dennis

You can also use this (recommended) syntax:

```
var = `expr $var + 1`
```

Author: Gerry Duprey

Subject: **UUCP via a Termserver**

Here's a suggestion for you: is there a way to get UUCP to use a modem that is connected to a Termserver? I noticed in the Devies file an entry for "TCP", but I couldn't find any docs on it. We have one of the 10-port DG Termserver and no free ports on our Aviion itself. So, I was wondering if I could convince UUCP to connect to a given port (the modem port has its own IP address assigned, so you can Telnet directly to it) and dial the modem.

Reply by: Janet Harrison

It is described in the Nutshell handbook, "Managing UUCP," but the TCP device is a built-in dialer device in *uucico*. Insofar as the port that you have connected your modem to, just give it a name and assign that name in the Systems file (`/etc/uucp/Systems`).

Author: Janet Harrison

Subject: **Microplex Termserver**

Does anyone have any idea how to configure the microplex terminal server to work in DG/UX? The termserver emulates a BSD *lpd* spooler, but I cannot get anything to print.

Reply by: DG/UX Support

DG has enhanced the *bsd* protocol portion of the System V.4 *lpsched/lpNet* subsystem for DG/UX 5.4 Release 2.01. I recommend that you upgrade to this pass or install the DG/UX 5.4.2 patch *dgux_5.4.2.p78*. If you have a support contract, then your local support center will provide this patch to you. On the Aviion, under *sysadm Device->Printer->Systems->Add* add the host name of the microplex termserver. This host must be defined as a "bsd" host. This *sysadm* menu executes the *lpsystem(1M)* command. See its man page for more info. Since your termserver emulates a *bsd*

server, then ignore the DG/UX documentation in Chapter 11 of the "Managing DG/UX" manual in favor of the remote BSD printer server documentation. To my knowledge, your configuration is not officially supported, however, this should get you started. If you are still having problems, take a sniffer trace between the two devices and open a call with the CSC.

Category: Other stuff

Author: Gerry Duprey

Subject: **Policy regarding DG responses**

I was wondering what the policy was in regard to DG personnel responding to posts to DASH. I've noticed that a lot of people post queries to the board that are never answered, responded to, or acknowledged. I think it reduces the usefulness of the service if the only thing they can do is go through the formal STR mechanism.

While I suppose you couldn't guarantee a response time, making sure that each message got some sort of response would make this a very valuable service. As it stands now, it's just a black hole of unanswered questions.

Reply by: Bryan Scoggins, Manager Software Support

Our specialists review the bulletin board comments during non-busy periods and answer questions. During busy periods when we're supporting our Support Plus customers, questions may sit unanswered for several days. This bulletin board is designed so that anyone can answer a posted question and our desire is for the bulletin boards to be self-sufficient. We do recommend that customers who are entitled to phone support open an incident rather than asking the question in the bulletin board, so that we can track and ensure a prompt answer. As we move toward having Unix expertise onboard at the CSC 7 days a week and 24 hours a day, more cycles should be available to answer questions. Δ

DASH runs on an Aviion 5200 server located at the Customer Support Center in Norcross, Georgia. The bulletin board is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, free of charge. Call 1-800-DASH-CSC (1-800-327-4272) for the modem rotary.



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