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Datapro Reports on
Minicomputers

M09-261-**051**

Supermicrocomputer
Systems

Data General Corporation AViiON Family

Product Enhancement

Analysis

Data General has enhanced its AVi-iON Family of workstations and servers with the addition of three new series of AViiON systems, including 10 new products.

New entries are the AV 400 Series midrange graphics workstations, the AV 4000 Series entry-level servers, and the AV 5200/6200 Series high-end servers. The new systems are RISC-based, UNIX systems compatible with the rest of the AViiON models.

Product Definition
The current AViiON product line comprises the AV300 and AV400 Series workstations and the AV4000, AV5200, and AV6200 Series servers.

The new AV400 Series graphic workstations extend the performance of the AV300 Series, offering up to 32M bytes of main memory and support for up to 2.5G bytes of mass storage. The AV400 Series comprises Models AV400, AV402, AV410, and AV412.

The AV4000 servers are the new entry point to the AViiON server family. These desktop servers, like the AV400 Series workstations, offer 32M bytes of main memory and up to 2.5G bytes of disk storage. The AV4000 Series comprises Models AV4000 and AV4020.

The new high-end server series AV5200 and AV6200 provide a 25 percent performance improvement over the previous server systems. Available in single- or dual-processor configurations, Models AV5200 and AV6200 support up to 208M bytes of main memory and 4.6G bytes of disk storage (2G bytes internal, 2.6G bytes in an expansion cabinet). Models AV5220 and AV6220 are the dual-processor systems.

A comparison of the new AViiON Series AV400, AV4000, AV5200, and AV6200 appears in Table 1.

Analysis
While Data General has introduced a great number of new products, it did more to fill gaps in its product line than to expand the performance levels. The AViiON Family now has a more complete price/performance range of both workstation and server products.

Data General's AViiON Family competes with well-established RISC-, UNIX-based workstation and server products including those from Hewlett-Packard, NCR, Digital, and

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Table 1. System Comparison

Model	AV400	AV4000	AV5200/AV5220	AV6200/AV6220
System Characteristics				
Date of introduction	January 1990	January 1990	January 1990	January 1990
CPU Type	MC88100	MC88100	MC88100	MC88100
CPU Cycle Time	16 or 20MHz	16MHz	25MHz	25MHz
Operating System	DG/UX 4.1	DG/UX 4.1	DG/UX 4.1	DG/UX 4.1
Memory				
Minimum capacity, bytes	8M	8M	16M	16M
Maximum capacity, bytes	32M	32M	208M	208M
Disk Storage				
Minimum capacity, bytes	—	—	—	—
Maximum capacity, bytes	—	—	—	—
Communications Protocols	TCP/IP, NFS, Ethernet, IBM SNA, OSI	TCP/IP, NFS, Ethernet, IBM SNA, OSI	TCP/IP, NFS, Ethernet, IBM SNA, OSI	TCP/IP, NFS, Ethernet, IBM SNA, OSI
Purchase Price (basic)	From $9,500	From $17,000	From $55,000	From $81,875

Note: A dash (—) in a column indicates that the information is unavailable from the vendor.

Sun Microsystems. Data General needed to expand its product line, and still needs to expand the availability of software, before it could establish itself in the commercial and technical markets.

System Features

The Data General AViiON Family achieves its performance through a design that features:

- The Motorola 88100 CPU with speeds of 16.67-, 20-, and 25MHz

- Reduced instruction set computing (RISC) technology

- The DG/UX UNIX-based operating system

- Single- or dual-processor configurations

System Configurations

The basic configuration of the AV4000 servers includes:

- 16MHz Motorola 88000 chip

- 8M bytes of main memory

- two-slot VME bus

- integrated Ethernet controller

The AV5200 and AV6200 servers configure as follows:

- 25MHz Motorola 88000 chip (two chips on AV5220 and AV6220)

- 8M bytes of main memory (16M bytes on AV5220 and AV6220)

- 10-slot VME bus

- integrated Ethernet controller

- desk-side (AV5200/5220) or rack-mount (AV6200/6220) enclosures

Availability

Workstation Models AV400 and AV402 are available 45 days after receipt of order (ARO). Models AV410 and AV412 will be available in June 1990.

Server Models AV4000 and AV4020 are available 45 days ARO. Server Models AV5200, AV5220, AV6200, and AV6220 are available immediately.

Base Configuration Pricing

Model AV400: starting from $9,500.
Model AV402: starting from $12,500.
Model AV410: starting from $36,890.
Model AV412: starting from $43,890.
Model AV4000: starting from $17,000.
Model AV4020: starting from $25,545.
Model AV5200: starting from $55,000.
Model AV5220: starting from $94,400.
Model AV6200: starting from $81,875.
Model AV6220: starting from $116,875.

Color graphics options for the AV400 Series workstations are priced as follows: 8-bit option—$5,495; available 45 days ARO.
24-bit option—$9,495; available in June 1990.
24-bit z-buffer option—$4,000; available in June 1990. ■