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Datapro Reports on
Minicomputers

M09-261-**051**

Supermicrocomputer
Systems

Data General Corp.
AViiON Family

Product Enhancement

Data General has again expanded its AViiON Family of workstations and servers with four new models and a new disk drive.

The latest additions are the AV200 workstation and the AV3200, AV4100, and AV4120 servers. This announcement comes less than six months after the major introduction of three new series of AViiON systems, including 10 new products. That announcement included the AV400 Series midrange graphics workstations, the AV4000 Series entry-level servers, and the AV5200/ 6200 Series high-end servers.

All the new systems are RISC-based UNIX systems compatible with the rest of the AViiON models.

Product Definition
The current AViiON line comprises the AV200, AV300, and AV400 Series workstations and the AV3200, AV4000, AV5010, AV5200, and AV6200 Series servers.

The AV200 Series workstation is the new entry-level model. It offers the same 17-MIPS performance of the AV300 at a lower price. The AV200 provides up to 16M bytes of main memory (compared to 28M bytes on the AV300) and up to 3G bytes of mass storage.

The 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 AV3200 server is the new entry point to the AViiON server family. This server, like the AV200 workstation, offers up to 16M bytes of main memory and up to 3G bytes of mass storage.

The AV4000 servers are the midrange of 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 single-processor Models AV4000 and AV4100 and dual-processor Models AV4020 and AV4120.

The high-end AV5200 and AV6200 server series 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

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Table 1. System Comparison—Workstations/Servers

Model	AV 200	AV 400/402	AV 410/412
System Characteristics			
Date of introduction	May 1990	January 1990	January 1990
CPU Type	MC88100	MC88100	MC88100
CPU Cycle Time	16MHz	16MHz	20MHz
Operating System	DG/UX 4.2	DG/UX 4.2	DG/UX 4.2
Memory			
Minimum capacity, bytes	8M	8M	8M
Maximum capacity, bytes	16M	32M	32M
Disk Storage			
Minimum capacity, bytes	—	—	—
Maximum capacity, bytes	3G	3G	3G
Communications Protocols	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 5,950	From 9,500	From 36,890

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

AV5220 and AV6220 are the dual-processor systems.

A comparison of the new AViiON Series AV200, AV400, AV3200, 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 it did to expand the performance levels. The AViiON Family now has a price/performance range of both workstation and server products it did not have before.

Data General's AViiON Family is competing with well-established RISC- and UNIX-based workstation and server products including those from Hewlett-Packard, NCR, Digital Equipment, and Sun Microsystems. Data General needed to expand its product line and the availability of software before it could establish itself in the commercial and technical markets. There are now more than 600 software applications available for the AViiON Family.

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

- The Motorola 88100 CPU with speeds of 16-, 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:

- 16- or 20MHz Motorola 88000 chip (two chips on AV4020 and AV4120)

- 8M bytes of main memory

- 332M-byte Winchester disk drive

- 2-slot VME bus

- integrated Ethernet controller

The AV5200 and AV6200 servers configure as follows:

- 25MHz Motorola 88000 chip (2 chips on AV5220 and AV6220)

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

- 10-slot VME bus

- integrated Ethernet controller

- deskside (AV5200/5220) or rackmount (AV6200/6220) enclosures

Availability
New Models AV200, AV3200, AV4100, and AV4120 are available 30 days after receipt of order (ARO). All other models are available immediately.

Base Configuration Pricing
Model AV200: starting from $5,950.
Model AV400: starting from $9,500.
Model AV402: starting from $12,500.
Model AV410: starting from $36,890.

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Table 1. System Comparison—Workstations/Servers (Continued)

Model	AV 3200	AV 4000/AV 4020	AV 4100/AV 4120	AV 5200/AV 5220	AV 6200/AV 6220
System Characteristics					
Date of introduction	May 1990	January 1990	May 1990	January 1990	January 1990
CPU Type	MC88100	MC88100	MC88100	MC88100	MC88100
CPU Cycle Time	16MHz	16MHz	20MHz	25MHz	25MHz
Operating System	DG/UX 4.2	DG/UX 4.2	DG/UX 4.2	DG/UX 4.2	DG/UX 4.2
Memory					
Minimum capacity, bytes	8M	8M	8M	16M	16M
Maximum capacity, bytes	16M	32M	32M	208M	208M
Disk Storage					
Minimum capacity, bytes	—	—	—	—	—
Maximum capacity, bytes	3G	3G	3G	5.3G	25.9G
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	TCP/IP, NFS, Ethernet, IBM SNA, OSI
Purchase Price (basic, $)	From 12,995	From 17,000	From 21,545	From 55,000	From 81,875

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

Model AV412: starting from $43,890.
Model AV3200: starting from $12,995.
Model AV4000: starting from $17,000.
Model AV4020: starting from $25,545.
Model AV4100: starting from $21,545.
Model AV4120: starting from $34,545.
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; 24-bit option—$9,495; 24-bit z-buffer option—$4,000.
　　　The new 332M-byte disk drive costs $4,950. ■