Hewlett-Packard 3000 Series

New Product Announcement

Hewlett-Packard has announced a new HP 3000 model, the Series 30. The new silicon-on-sapphire (SOS) Series 30 is significantly cheaper than the existing Series 33 and includes less communications and I/O capabilities.

The CPU and memory for the new system are packaged in a single cabinet measuring only 24 inches wide by 30 inches high and 18 inches deep. A basic HP 3000 Series 30 consists of the CPU with 256K bytes of error-correcting semiconductor memory, a one-megabyte flexible disk, four asynchronous terminal ports, system/maintenance console, 20-megabyte system disk, and eight powered I/O expansion slots. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in December.

A maximum HP 3000 Series 30 configuration consists of 1024K bytes of memory, 960 megabytes of disk storage, up to 32 terminal ports, 4 magnetic tape drives, and 2 line printers. Up to 2 communication lines can be added with each line replacing 4 terminal ports. Like its bigger brother, the HP 3000 Series 33, the Series 30 incorporates a self-test feature and remote system verification program (RSVP) to improve the speed with which on-site services may be performed, and to provide the capability to control the system from an authorized remote console over a dial-up line.

The Series 33 is a full-function HP 3000, capable of batch operation, program development, data entry, and data communications. Like all HP 3000 systems, the Series 30 uses the MPE-II operating system, so applications written on any system will run on any other, without reprogramming, recompiling, or relinking. The Series 30 can execute programs written in COBOL, BASIC, FORTRAN, RPG, and SPL, Hewlett-Packard's own high-level systems programming language. All of these languages except SPL (confined to HP 3000 Series III) may be used for program development as well.

Full HP Distributed Systems Network (DSN) capabilities now apply to all HP 3000 Series systems, including remote data base access, file sharing, and program-to-program communications.

Every HP 3000 is now delivered ready to execute programs written in any of the five languages, and bundled in all are the IMAGE/3000 data base management system, with QUERY, VIEW/3000 (business forms generation), and KSAM/3000 (keyed sequential file-access method). Furthermore, all of the recently introduced HP materials management applications software will run on any model.

Also announced by Hewlett-Packard at the same time as the Series 30, and applicable to all HP 3000's, was an Intelligent Network Processor (INP), a front-end communications processor that is a computer in its own right. Using a proprietary HP SOS microprocessor and 32K bytes of on-board RAM, it off-loads the communications management task from the CPU. The INP is designed for use in HP 3000 configurations to reduce overhead and relieve possible CPU congestion and enable communications via modems at speeds up to 56K bps. HP estimates that deliveries will begin in mid-November.

EQUIPMENT PRICES

HARDWARE	Purchase Price
HP 3000 Series 30; includes 256K bytes of memory, 1-megabyte floppy disk, 20-megabyte disk, 4 asynchronous terminal ports, console, 8 I/O slots	$49,750
Memory expansion to 1 million bytes	15,000
Intelligent Network Processor	4,500