



News Release

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Compaq, Dell, IBM, Intel and Microsoft Work Jointly with PCI-SIG to Create Open Specification for Next General-Purpose I/O

Arapahoe Industry Specification Debuts As Cross-Industry Successor to PCI

SAN JOSE, Calif., Aug. 3, 2001 – Compaq, Dell, IBM, Intel and Microsoft, promoters of a third-generation interconnect architecture, and the PCI-SIG, a non-profit special interest group, today announced a working relationship to define a new serial I/O interconnect architecture code-named “Arapahoe.” The Arapahoe architecture will allow high-speed connection of components inside a system and offer increased bandwidth for emerging applications. The Arapahoe promoters chose the PCI-SIG as the preferred industry body to promote and support an open, cross-industry interconnect architecture.

The Arapahoe promoters and the PCI-SIG have entered into an agreement to manage the Arapahoe architecture based on the PCI-SIG’s proven ability to promote interconnect standard requirements such as PCI (Peripheral Component Interconnect). Although PCI will continue to be used in product designs, the PCI-SIG recognizes that the Arapahoe architecture offers an opportunity to develop a new interconnect to address bandwidth demands of increasingly powerful applications such as desktop, mobile, servers and embedded communications. Arapahoe is the general-purpose interconnect of the future for these demanding applications.

"PCI lives on in ‘Arapahoe.’ While today's PCI will fulfill the needs of local I/O devices for many years to come, a broad range of applications will see the benefits of choosing the Arapahoe interface," said Roger Tiple, president of the PCI-SIG. "Arapahoe's scalability expands the list of hardware solutions that will gravitate to PCI-SIG technologies, and PCI-SIG adoption will help establish Arapahoe as a highly successful industry standard I/O interface."

Executives from promoter companies Compaq, Dell, IBM, Intel and Microsoft fully endorse the Arapahoe Work Group objective to enable an open industry specification. Arapahoe will be

designed as a highly flexible, reliable, serial I/O architecture that will scale to the theoretical limits of copper, and comprehend the needs of multiple markets.

“Compaq’s endorsement as a member of the Arapahoe Work Group is a natural progression of our long-standing leadership and innovation in driving both PCI and industry standard technologies,” said James Mouton, vice president, enterprise servers, Compaq Industry Standard Server Group. “Compaq is committed to lending its expertise towards developing standard specifications for this, the third-generation of PCI technology, to develop and bring to market the best solutions for addressing new bandwidth requirements of increasingly demanding IT environments.”

"Dell looks forward to participating in the development of an industry-standard solution that will help our Server and Client customers speed the transition to third-generation bandwidth capabilities," said Jeff Clarke, vice president and co-general manager, Dell Client Product Group.

"Arapahoe will be valuable to IBM customers because it will provide them with new, high-bandwidth options for the future while protecting their current investment," says Fran O'Sullivan, general manager, IBM Personal Computing Devices. "The combination of scalability for the future and compatibility with the past will create an easy customer migration from the existing PCI architecture."

“One of the most compelling benefits of Arapahoe architecture is its ability to not only support high levels of I/O bandwidth, but also deliver maximum bandwidth per pin creating both a scalable and cost-effective I/O solution,” said Louis Burns, Intel vice president and general manager, Desktop Platforms Group. “Arapahoe will co-exist and complement other I/O attach technologies such as InfiniBand, IEEE 1394b, USB 2.0, serial ATA and 1/10Gb Ethernet.”

"Microsoft is pleased to be working on the ‘Arapahoe’ architecture with the PCI-SIG and other key developer companies to design a flexible, general-purpose I/O interconnect that will meet future customer needs for speed and bandwidth," said David W. Williams, director of Windows Hardware Platform Strategy at Microsoft. "It will provide an architecture that allows the industry to create innovative customer solutions and build on its existing investment in the PC platform."

The Arapahoe promoters, together with additional key developer companies, will develop a draft 1.0 specification that defines the Arapahoe architecture. Upon completion of the draft 1.0 specification, it will be transferred to the PCI-SIG for final review and released to the industry at large. Further information on the Arapahoe draft specification will be made available at the Intel Developer Forum, Fall 2001, San Jose, Calif., Aug. 27-30, on www.idf.intel.com and on the PCI-SIG website at: www.pcisig.com.

Promoter Company Information

About Compaq

Founded in 1982, Compaq Computer Corporation ("Compaq") is a leading global provider of enterprise technology and solutions. Compaq designs, develops, manufactures and markets hardware, software, solutions and services, including industry-leading enterprise computing solutions, fault-tolerant business-critical solutions, communication products, and desktop and portable personal computers that are sold in more than 200 countries. Information on Compaq and its products and services is available at www.compaq.com.

About Dell

Dell Computer Corporation (Nasdaq: DELL) is the world's No. 1 computer systems company and is a premier provider of products and services required for customers to build their information-technology and Internet infrastructures. The company's revenue for the past four quarters totaled \$32.6 billion. Dell ranks No. 48 on the Fortune 500, No. 154 on the Fortune Global 500 and No. 7 on the Fortune Global "most admired" lists of companies. Dell, through its direct business model, designs, manufactures and customizes products and services to customer requirements, and offers an extensive selection of software and peripherals. Information on Dell and its products can be obtained on the World Wide Web at www.dell.com.

About IBM

IBM is the world's largest information technology company, with 80 years of leadership in helping businesses innovate. In the 20 years since announcing the first PC in August 1981, IBM has actively participated in the continued development and evolution of PC architecture and standards. For more information on IBM, please visit www.ibm.com.

About Intel

Intel, the world's largest chip maker, is also a leading manufacturer of computer, networking and communications products. Additional information about Intel is available at www.intel.com/pressroom.

About Microsoft Corp

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (Nasdaq "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software, services and Internet technologies for personal and business computing. The company offers a wide range of products and services designed to empower people through great software — any time, any place and on any device.

About the PCI-SIG

Formed in June 1992, PCI-SIG is the industry organization that owns and manages the PCI Local Bus specification. More than 970 industry-leading companies are active PCI-SIG members. The PCI-SIG maintains the specification of this industry-wide standard. The organization is chartered to support new requirements while preserving backward compatibility for all PCI revisions. For more information visit the PCI-SIG web site at <http://www.pcisig.com>.

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