

Chrysler patents network management repository

BY JIM DUFFY

Detroit
As IBM, Hewlett-Packard Co. and other vendors brainstorm about how to construct net management data repositories, Chrysler Corp. is already putting one through its paces.

Last month, Chrysler was awarded a patent for the design of its homespun network data repository, which consists of four IBM DB2 relational databases residing on mainframes at the company's data center here.

The repository feeds information to NetView and other management tools about the makeup of Chrysler's 90,000-node global Systems Network Architecture net. This will include an inventory of all devices and software, configuration of physical and logical links, as well as equipment purchase, service and warranty data. It also houses information on telecommunications service orders from Chrysler users.

The repository soon will hold all the data on the company's Internet Protocol router network, as well.

"It has become the place where you

put your network data," said John Baker, a telecommunications specialist for information services at the car-maker.

Members of the Chrysler team that developed the database schema included Baker; telecommunications specialists Michael Cannon, Norman Kent and David Myers; and Kenneth Demski, manager of network management.

The company found it necessary to develop the repository in-house because

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John Baker of Chrysler

New 'public' net era dawns

BY JOANIE WEXLER

Recent moves by AT&T and software partners Lotus Development Corp. and Novell, Inc. to put server-based applications up for rent in the public network have kicked off a new approach to distributed computing.

AT&T rival MCI Communications Corp. as well as some regional Bell holding companies have said they also intend to move LAN-oriented functions into the public network, while Microsoft Corp. and Oracle Corp. are among the software vendors looking to work with carriers in this capacity.

The idea is to build an environment that meets the needs of net managers scurrying to affordably tie remote sites into company backbones and set up on-the-fly communications with trading partners.

According to Paul Weichselbaum, MCI's vice president of data marketing, "Users want to be relieved of capital costs, operational burdens and staffing. So things are getting pulled off the customer premises and put into the network."

Weichselbaum said MCI is talking to "virtually everybody so we can collaboratively offer functions that are easier to use and adopt." To that end,

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Digital polishes DECnet/OSI for upgrade-wary customers

Company will deliver new naming, directory capabilities.

BY JIM DUFFY

New Orleans

Digital Equipment Corp. last week said it plans to add significant extensions to DECnet/OSI aimed at making the network software more appealing to a skittish base of DECnet Phase IV users.

Digital is scrapping the requirement for large DECnet/OSI networks to use the company's proprietary distributed name service by extending the node limit of DECnet/OSI's local naming option from 150 to 100,000 nodes.

And after talking about integrating Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol support into DECnet/OSI for at least two years, Digital will finally deliver it when the next major release of DECnet/OSI for OpenVMS ships in about a year. This will enable users to access applications via TCP/IP in addition to DECnet and Open Systems Interconnection protocols.

Finally, Digital will extend DECnet/OSI's directory support to include TCP/IP's Domain Name Service (DNS)/Berkeley Internet Name Domain (BIND)

Digital's DECnet/OSI agenda



Tighten TCP/IP integration, possibly via XT1 and RFC 1006 support.



Boost node limit for local naming option from 150 to 100,000 nodes.



Support for DNS/BIND and X.500 directory services.

directory and the X.500 standard.

Digital is prepping users to migrate to DECnet/OSI because the vendor will no longer support a DECnet Phase IV-only stack with OpenVMS after Version 6.1, a plan users have decried (NW, Dec. 20, 1993, page 1). The upcoming DECnet/OSI extensions indicate that Digital has finally heeded customer pleas for industry-accepted networking standards and is willing to replace what were integral components of DECnet/OSI in order to adopt them.

See DECnet/OSI, page 67

WINDOWS NETWORKING

Beta users wowed by Daytona's speed

BY CHRISTINE BURNS

Daytona races

Microsoft's move toward Windows NT 3.5

August 1993
General availability of Windows NT 3.1

March 1994
Announces Daytona, also known as Windows NT 3.5 and Windows NTAS 3.5.

May 1994
First beta copies of Daytona shipped.

June 1994
Second beta version of Daytona is expected.

August 1994
Daytona to be generally available.

Late 1995
Cairo, an object-oriented version of Windows NT, expected to debut.

Early users of Microsoft Corp.'s Windows NT upgrade are impressed with its performance and features, including a more efficient TCP/IP stack, better management support and enhanced remote access capabilities.

Microsoft has been promising since last year that Daytona — the code name for both Windows NT 3.5 and Windows NT Advanced Server (NTAS) 3.5 — will be smaller and faster than the 3.1 versions it will replace. Microsoft announced details about the software in April and shipped beta copies to 10,000 customers two weeks ago.

Besides improving its performance, the company promised that the client-side software would consume less memory. For the server, Microsoft developed a faster Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol stack, better ties to Novell, Inc. NetWare local-area networks and enhanced management features for control of Windows NT workstations across enterprise nets.

Beta users said Microsoft has delivered

See Daytona, page 65

IBM plans big role for CICS, MQI

BY MICHAEL COONEY

London

IBM last week announced products and broad new strategies designed to make its CICS software and MQI technology the market standards for building transaction processing and distributed applications.

At a press briefing here, IBM executives said that both technologies will be ported to additional platforms, and they promised new Message Queuing Interface-based applications to help users manage distributed application environments built using the MQI middleware.

The company also announced the formation of the CICS Implementors Forum, a multivendor task force that will meet periodically to suggest revisions and directions for CICS technology.

The CICS Implementors Forum will meet here for the first time this week. Attending the first meeting will be representatives from British Telecom, Ltd., Digital Equipment Corp., Dresdner Bank, Hewlett-Packard Co., Merrill

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Daytona

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ered solid enhancements.

Boro Marinkovich, manager of advanced systems at George Weston, Ltd., a holding company based in Toronto, said he will need the faster TCP/IP transport in Daytona because of his company's growing use of TCP/IP. He is running a beta copy of the server version of Daytona and has noticed a sizable increase in the transport stack's speed.

J. Allard, program manager for TCP/IP connectivity at Microsoft, said Daytona's TCP/IP stack supports the Network Basic I/O Extended User Interface (NETBEUI) transport protocol and runs up to 30% faster than the stack used in Windows NT 3.1 and Windows NTAS 3.1. Microsoft licensed the earlier stack from Spider Systems, Inc. of the U.K.

Other users are running extensive tests with the Advanced Server version of Daytona and like what they have seen of the software's network capabilities.

Briscoe Stephens advanced science information systems manager at the U.S. Space Science Laboratory at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., has been running pre-beta versions of Windows NT 3.5 and Windows NTAS 3.5 on a dozen Intel Corp.-based machines for more than a month.

"We are pushing some heavy-duty mail and file-transfer applications across our networks, and we're only finding a few very minor bugs," Stephens said. "I'm so secure with using this operating system that I installed it on my boss's machine," he added.

Stephens has been most satisfied with Daytona's support for Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP), which allows him to manage a dozen Daytona workstations from a central site. He also is taking advantage of Daytona's ability to support TCP/IP, Novell's Internetwork Packet Exchange (IPX) protocol and NETBEUI.

Using DHCP has helped Stephens cut in half the time it takes to configure a Windows NT network.

"We're in the process of putting in a lot of TCP/IP subnets, and to have their IP addresses automatically set up for you is going to be a godsend in terms of saving money and manpower," Stephens said.

He also gave a thumbs-up to the remote connectivity technology embedded in the Advanced Server version of Daytona. The remote access services included in the software feature has support for a new multiprotocol Point-to-Point Protocol that allows remote

users to gain access to enterprise corporate TCP/IP, IPX and NETBEUI networks.

Some beta users are also finding Daytona attractive as a client operating system.

"We're using Daytona as a souped-up client in lieu of Chicago [the code name for the next version of Windows], and it's running 16-bit applications better than Windows 3.1 ever did," said Arthur Tisi, chief systems officer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

"It has a lot less overhead, which is allowing us to use it in a more widespread fashion as a client than we would have ever thought of using Windows NT 3.1." □

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