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HPC Times

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News From Microway

As 2002 draws to a close, we look back on an industry that started the year with lingering uncertainty. By November, we saw record attendance at SC2002 in Baltimore. Microway is proud of our accomplishments and activities during the year. We served over 200 customers with cluster solutions and installations, continuing our reputation as a solid provider to the HPC market for our twentieth year. Here are just a few of our accomplishments.

- We announced and began shipping NodeWatch™, our innovative remote monitoring tool for clusters.
- To tackle the cooling and packaging challenges of dense computing cluster nodes, we announced and began shipping proprietary 1U designs with Across the Board™ Cooling for our AMD® and Intel® offerings.
- Microway signed agreements to sell Intel Performance Tools and Platform Computing's suite of products, both highly regarded contributors to the market.
- Microway was named as one of fifteen members to Intel's Premier Provider Advisory Board. I represent the company on this board.
- We designed, built and installed a 210-node cluster with Myrinet connectivity at the University of Maine.
- As the largest integrator of API Alpha products in North America, Microway was chosen to fulfill API's warranty on its products for all resellers in North America, Europe and Asia. We maintain a large inventory of Alpha

products to meet continued sales and warranty needs of our own Alpha customers as well.

- We designed and manufactured a new 21264DP Alpha platform with dual 833 processors and 8MB cache.

I want to thank our customers, business partners and employees for our continued success in this market. As the team at Microway looks forward to 2003, we see exciting technologies and trends on the horizon. We view the HPC market as one with great potential for solving important challenges from the life sciences arena to many environmental problems in the world around us.

This month's newsletter is shorter than normal due to holiday and trade show commitments. We look forward to the next installment and the addition of a new column *Tech Notes* to share knowledge gained by our tech support staff that will benefit the HPC community.

Please give us feedback on how Microway can continue to meet your high-speed numeric needs and be a valuable partner in providing cost-effective state-of-the-art solutions. I am always available to speak with our valued customers.

Finally, and most importantly, on behalf of Microway, I want to wish you best wishes and good health in the New Year.

Ann Fried
Chairperson

Microway and Platform Computing Expand Relationship to Deliver Comprehensive Clustering and Grid Solutions

Jay Owen, Vice President Business Development

As an integrator of custom Linux clusters, Microway is always looking for new products and services that will be beneficial for our customers. Last summer while we were developing our family of cluster management tools we also evaluated Clusterware™, a foundation product for effective use and administration of Linux clusters built on Platform Computing's highly successful LSF product.

In July, we signed an agreement with Platform Computing giving us access to Clusterware. This enabled the technology for our CW Series -- AMD and Intel based Linux clusters powered by Platform's Clusterware. Based on our early success, Microway just recently signed a separate agreement, providing access to Platform's entire suite of products [see below].

Our experience shows that Linux clusters are beginning to gain popularity in traditional SMP applications. The price/performance proposition and scalability are two compelling features. We are seeing customers demand the same requirements for a cluster management interface that matches their experience with SMP systems. With the emergence of "grid computing" as another means of maximizing usage of IT resources, Platform LSF also provides a logical migration path from Clusterware building on the modular tools initially installed.

As experts in Linux networking, we are sometimes asked to contrast open source to commercial products. In this case we see benefit to users concerned with scalability, migration paths to products with increased functionality (e.g. grid computing) and the need for reliable support. While the acquisition cost may be higher, the total cost of ownership may be better due to reduced administrative support. We also see Platform's products as enabling technology to unify disparate underutilized resources and make them manageable and useable under one umbrella. This is definitely a space to watch in 2003.

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PRESS RELEASE - December 13, 2002

Microway, a leading provider of custom Linux clusters, and Platform Computing announced that Microway will now resell all Platform products and services, including Platform Intelligence™ and Platform LSF® 5. This marks an expansion of the existing OEM relationship through which Microway bundles Platform Clusterware™, Platform's cluster management solution, as part of its CW Series Clusters offering.

"We have been pleased with the initial reaction to our CW Series Clusters powered by Platform Clusterware," commented Jay Owen, Vice President of Business Development at Microway. "Many of our customers want to be able to obtain a wider range of Platform's products from us. This is a natural step." Microway intends to increase the level of in-house expertise in Platform's products, especially those enabling Grid computing.

"We are pleased to leverage the success of our existing relationship with Microway and extend our OEM relationship to a broader reseller agreement," said Paul Hill, Vice President Marketing and Business Development, Platform. "This closer working relationship will enable Microway and Platform to provide customers in the life sciences and research markets with solutions that increase operational efficiency, improve business results, and increase return on investment on the corporate IT asset."

With a new high performance, Grid-enabled architecture, Platform LSF 5 is the foundation of Platform's Grid computing solutions, empowering enterprises to harness the untapped processing power of globally distributed, heterogeneous computing resources. Platform Intelligence is a unique solution that enables IT professionals to understand and proactively manage complex distributed IT computing environments. The first 'IT Analytics' solution of its kind, Platform Intelligence provides visibility into the utilization, performance and value of distributed enterprise-wide IT resources.

HPC Community Feedback

If you attended SC2002, what was the most interesting aspect or technology at the show?

Share your thoughts with us by emailing hpc@microway.com and we'll post some of the answers in next month's newsletter. Creating a community of questions and answers.