Data General Commercial Systems Family

Product Enhancement

In February Data General announced a series of price reductions and enhancements for its CS (Commercial Systems) Series family of small business computers, and also introduced the high-end CS Series 200C.

Price reductions of $700 and $3,000 are now offered for Series 100 packaged systems with 256KB and 512KB of main memory, respectively, and $6,600 for packaged Series 200B systems. Prices were also reduced on upgrade options for older CS/10 and CS/30 models, allowing users to benefit from the newer technology and greater performance of Series 100 systems.

Enhancements include a new 15MB cartridge tape backup subsystem for CS Series 100 and 200 systems, a 50MB Winchester disk subsystem for Series 200 models, and an increase in maximum main memory to 2MB for the CS Series 100 and 200B. Previously, Series 100 systems could support 512KB of main memory, and Series 200B systems 1MB.

The increase in available memory and price reductions in packaged 100 and 200B systems result from the use of high-density 64K-bit RAM semiconductor memory chips. The high-density memory increases the number of workstations supported by both the Series 100 and 200B. The Series 100 under the RDOS operating system supports from 9 to 16 workstations, while the Series 200B under AOS supports from 12 to 25.

CS Series systems are targeted to meet the computing needs of small businesses and departments or divisions of Fortune 1000 corporations. Typical applications include order entry, inventory and warehouse control, distribution, financial management, and manufacturing production control.

A packaged Series 100 configuration including 256KB memory, a 15MB Winchester disk drive, a 1.2MB diskette, and one terminal is now priced at $21,655. A similar configuration with 512KB memory is $23,655. A Series 200B system with 1MB of memory, 73MB Winchester disk drive, 1600 bpi magnetic tape drive, and one terminal with 16 asynchronous lines now sells for $61,560.

The 15MB cartridge tape subsystem is priced at $5,500 and uses industry-standard ¼–inch magnetic tape. Recording density is 6400 bpi; tape speed is 60 ips, and data transfer is up to 2.5MB per minute. The tape unit is available in its own rack, or can be fitted into a chassis with Data General's 5 or 15MB Winchester disk subsystem.

The 50MB Winchester disk drive provides users of Series 200 systems with twice the mass storage capacity previously available. Data transfer rate for the system is 242KB per second; disk transfer rate is 971KB per second. The disk costs $10,500.

The reduced price for an option upgrading a CS/10 model 3 with four terminals to a Series 100 system with a maximum of 16 terminals is $9,650. The upgrade cost to change a CS/30 Model 3, using four terminals, to a Series 100 system is $7,750. Both reductions are the result of the use of 64K-bit semiconductor memory. Increased memory, cartridge tape, and Winchester disk subsystems are available 90 days after receipt of order. Price reductions became effective on February 1, 1983.

The new CS Series 200C is an Eclipse-based system which is up to 50 percent faster than the former top-of-the-line system 200B, depending on the application and the operating environment. The 200C is the fourth system within the CS Series family. The earlier Series 100, Series 200A, and Series 200B were introduced in May, 1982.

Main memory for the Series 200C ranges from 512KB to 2MB in single-board 15x15 inch modules. An Error Checking and Correction (ERCC) feature is provided which detects and corrects single-bit errors and detects double-bit errors in main memory. The new system supports up to 32 user terminals and up to 638MB of fixed Winchester disk storage, in increments of 50, 73 and 147MB. Applications that need additional storage can add up to four 277MB disk packs. Total disk storage capacity is in excess of 1400MB.

According to DG, application software developed for any CS computer will run without modification on the 200C, and on the rest of the company's computers—including the 32-bit MV/Family. Two operating systems, DG's Real-Time Disk Operating System (RDOS) and its Advanced Operating System (AOS) support the 200C. Commercial languages include Interactive Cobol and Business Basic. Both languages run under either RDOS or AOS. Other languages that can be used are Fortran IV, Fortran V, Extended Basic, and ▷

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▷ Macroassembler. Utilities for remote job entry and communications include HASP II and RJE/80 for IBM batch protocol emulation, the international packet-switching protocol X.25, IBM's System Networking Architecture (SNA) and Data General's Xodiac Network Management System.

Prices for three packaged versions of the 200C follow.

CS Series 200C packaged system with CPU, 512KB memory, 50MB Winchester disk drive, 1600 bpi magnetic tape, 16-line asynchronous terminal interface, dual-bay cabinet, Dasher D200 terminal, RDOS license, and right-to-use language license. Price $57,130.

CS Series 200C packaged system with CPU, 1MB memory, 147MB Winchester disk drive, 1600 bpi magnetic tape drive, 16-line asynchronous terminal interface, dual-bay cabinet, Dasher D200 terminal, RDOS license, and right-to-use language license. Price $74,630.

CS Series 200C packaged system with CPU, 2MB memory, 147MB Winchester disk drive, 1600 bpi magnetic tape drive, 16-line asynchronous terminal interface, dual-bay cabinet, Dasher D200 terminal, AOS license, and right-to-use language license. Price $83,630.

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