A premier platform for Microsoft Windows 2000

Helping you make the transition from Windows NT

There's magic in
our relationship.

IBM and Microsoft® are strengthening their relationship, developing and perfecting new solutions, and honing their technology to meet the challenges of the new millennium. Facilitating the transition to Windows 2000 on IBM Netfinity® servers is just one result of this effort.

IBM and Microsoft. Two powerhouses working together to bring their customers the best in industry-standard computing.

Building a winning relationship

IT systems and software developed in cooperation can offer stability and enhanced performance not usually found when the individual components are developed in isolation. IBM and Microsoft are working together to ensure that Netfinity servers and Microsoft operating systems are tuned for optimal performance of both the hardware and the software—especially for Windows 2000.

The IBM Center for Microsoft Technologies (ICMT) will showcase IBM's solutions for Windows 2000 in cooperation with Microsoft. With this facility and its expert technical staff located just minutes from the Microsoft campus, we have made a major investment and commitment to working hand-in-hand with Microsoft. Our goal is to ensure that IBM Netfinity servers and other IBM PC systems are clearly the superior platform for Windows NT, Windows 2000 and other Microsoft products. That's what IBM customers expect and that's what IBM delivers.

IBM is working closely with Microsoft to exploit and harness the exciting new features of Microsoft Windows 2000. Engineers at ICMT and at other IBM facilities are stress-testing Windows 2000 and exchanging information with their counterparts at Microsoft through each step in the development of this new operating system. Because Windows 2000 is being designed to incorporate the reliability and power of Windows 98 and Windows NT®, IBM wants to be sure their customers can benefit from exciting new features like Active Directory, enhanced Plug-and-Play support, automated Update and a command-line-only mode.

To confirm that IBM hardware is optimized for Microsoft software, IBM is performing extensive testing on existing, future and legacy Netfinity server systems in cooperation with Microsoft. This testing helps IBM customers quickly and confidently implement their networked systems.

To achieve that goal, IBM maintains a strict discipline, including:

- Vigorous involvement throughout the design cycle of both companies products

- Timely adaptation and porting of technologies

- Development of complementary software and drivers

- Extensive testing and continuous communication of the results

Working together to help reduce your cost of ownership

IBM Netfinity and Microsoft address the mission-critical requirements of the new digital business environment by combining best-of-class performance, manageability, reliability and availability. Solutions such as the IBM Netfinity Extensions for Microsoft Cluster Service (MSCS) complement and extend that Microsoft product, enabling users to connect as many as eight Netfinity servers in a cluster. Derived from IBM S/390® and RS/6000® SP™ enterprise servers, it's a cost-conscious solution that brings out the best performance of both of these products. The success of the Extensions for MSCS is evidence of the benefits customers gain from the productive joint relationship between IBM and Microsoft.

IBM is facilitating the transition to Windows 2000 by extensively testing Windows 2000 beta software on IBM Netfinity systems, working closely with early adopters of Windows 2000, and providing the technical information and updates needed to install Windows 2000 beta software on current IBM systems.

In addition to working with Microsoft to verify the optimized performance of Netfinity hardware and the Windows OS, IBM works with hundreds of software application developers through the Netfinity ServerProven™, 1 program. With the ServerProven program, developers test and optimize their applications with Netfinity servers and Microsoft operating systems.

Working with IBM, participating vendors have validated and optimized hundreds of software applications, hardware options and network operating systems on Netfinity server configurations—with new ones being added regularly. The Netfinity ServerProven program can help you to reduce your total cost of ownership with an extensive selection of easy-to-install-and-use software and hardware, including Microsoft applications.

Netfinity X-architecture: high reliability and direct access to IBM expertise

IBM Netfinity servers are the platform of choice for Windows 2000 because they deliver minimal downtime and direct access to IBM expertise. **Netfinity X-architecture** draws from IBM's vast storehouse of experience and innovative technologies to reinforce the perfor-mance, reliability, scalability and manageability of Netfinity servers.

Stressing network uptime, IBM launched a Netfinity X-architecture initiative called OnForever™. OnForever deploys proven technologies from IBM's large servers onto select Netfinity servers, including hardware instrumen-tation and design such as:

- **Predictive Failure Analysis™** (PFA) environmental monitoring sensors proactively monitor critical compo-nents to warn of impending problems.

- **Light-Path Diagnostics™** contribute to advanced manageability by helping service personnel easily identify specific failing components—without testing.

- **Redundant and hot-plug components** such as power supplies, fans and hard disk drives allow the Netfinity server to operate nonstop despite component failure and replacement.

- **Chipkill™ Memory** offers 8-bit memory correction that virtually eliminates multibit memory errors and related downtime.

- **Active PCI** technology for hot-add expansion of I/O adapters lets you add users, balance network traffic and increase data storage capacity without downtime and lost productivity.

As an excellent example of Netfinity X-architecture, the Netfinity SP switch draws key technology from the Scalable POWERparallel® (SP) Switch used in massive IBM RS/6000 enterprise server clusters. With superior speed, scalability, manageability and reliability, the IBM Netfinity SP Switch delivers the performance and productivity improve-ments your business needs for a competitive advantage.

Award-winning[2] Netfinity servers set the standard for affordable enterprise computing with powerful processing, top-rated systems management and industry-leading service and support. Whether you are a one-person e-business or you direct the strategic IT resources of a multinational company, IBM has an industry-standard Netfinity server solution that can meet your needs. And—because of our strong relationship with Microsoft—you can count on the superior performance of Netfinity servers with Microsoft 2000.

Netfinity X architecture

IBM

Need more information?

Reseller and general information

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World Wide Web

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Netfinity and Microsoft	www.pc.ibm.com/us/software/windowsnt
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Options by IBM	www.ibm.com/options
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