Four Hot NEXTSTEP Platforms

Your choice of hardware depends on the application

For anyone who still associates NeXT with proprietary black hardware, we have news for you. Information-technology buyers in the financial services industry can choose from a surprising array of Intel 486/Pentium and RISC-based systems. This makes it possible to deploy a company-wide NEXTSTEP strategy with different types of systems allocated to the appropriate application.

In the general office, financial-services companies deploy desktop Intel systems for group productivity and graphic communications. One outstanding option for a NEXTSTEP-optimized Intel box is Canon's object.station 41, which was designed from scratch to unleash the power of NEXTSTEP objects. With its100-megahertz Intel 486DX4 processor; on-board SCSI and Ethernet; CD-quality audio; built-in microphone, speaker, and CD-ROM; and NeXT-specific keyboard, it is as close as you'll find to an original NeXTstation. Used together with Canon's line of graphics-related peripherals, including color copiers, bubble jet printers and high-speed scanners, the object.station 41 makes an ideal system in sales and marketing applications.

Increasingly, financial firms are looking to portable computers for use by mobile executives and salespeople. NEC's line of Versa notebooks, particularly its new M series for multimedia, offers a selection of hosts for NEXTSTEP users on the go. The Versa M's 100-megahertz 486 chip, 16-bit 800x600 active-matrix color display, PCMCIA expandability, and built-in multimedia features make it a top choice for off-site sales presentations.

Downstairs on the trading floor, financial services firms typically deploy high-speed UNIX workstations as client desktops and network servers. Ports of NEXTSTEP are now, or soon will be, available for RISC workstations made by Sun Microsystems, Hewlett-Packard, and Digital Equipment.

Hewlett-Packard's line of Series 700 and 800 PA-RISC systems offers a complete solution for a NEXTSTEP trading system. Series 800 servers can handle central databases and real-time data feeds, while the Model 712 "Gecko" system is an ideal desktop workstation for traders, analysts, and programmers. HP also offers its own brand of Intel-based PCs.

The new arrival on the NEXTSTEP block is Sun Microsystems, whose SPARC architecture leads the pack in servers and workstations for financial services. Sun offers a wide range of server options to run traditional databases and handle real-time requirements. Now, with the addition of Solaris/PDO compatibility from NeXT, Sun servers can also be used as distributed object servers. For the desktop, SPARCstations are ideally suited for running NEXTSTEP because of their fast CPUs; 24-bit accelerated graphics; high-performance Ethernet; and integrated multimedia features. NEXTSTEP for SPARC is compatible with SPARCstation 5's, 10's and 20's, providing a wide range of price/performance points from which to choose.

These four computer lines are just the tip of the iceberg in computer hardware for NEXTSTEP users. Every computer certified for use with NEXTSTEP is listed in NeXT's hardware compatibility guide. Click the button on the screen to view or print an edition of the guide, or contact NeXT at 1-800-TRY-NEXT for their most recent version.