

TECH TOOLS

IBM Announces BladeCenter HX5

IBM's newest blade server is the first to offer scalability with independent memory expansion. The HX5 is a two- or four-socket 30mm blade server that features an Intel Xenon processor 6500 or 7500. With IBM's MAX5 scalability technology, it allows for memory expansion up to 640GB.

The HX5 supports pay-as-you-grow expansion and extensive diagnostic, error handling, and 24-hour remote access via the IBM Systems Director. The onboard IBM Systems Director Active Energy Manager allows for power optimization and reduced cost. Standard configurations of the BladeCenter HX5 start at US\$ 4,629 with pricing options all the way up to US\$ 23,399. Shipping dates in the US range from 15 days to seven weeks. All HX5 blade servers come with a limited three-year warranty

Pliant Introduces New SSDs

Pliant Technology adds to its stable of enterprise-class solid state drives (SSDs) with the expansion of its Lightning product line. The Pliant Lightning LB 200M and Lightning LB 400M flash drives are based on improved controller and software architecture and offer low energy consumption and improved I/O performance.

Both the Lightning LB 200M and Lightning LB 400M come in 2.5-inch form factors and in capacities of 200GB and 400GB, respectively. The drives use Serial Attached SCSI (SAS) to integrate easily into SAS storage and server systems. The drives feature high sustained performance with input/output per second (IOPs) of >10KB (LB 400M) and >8KB (LB 200M) for 4KB 70/30 read/write with very low response times.

The Lightning LB 200M and Lightning LB 400M are available through OEMs and authorized channel partners, or you can contact Pliant directly at sales@plianttechnology.com.

Harris Launches BeOn Push-to-Talk

International communications company Harris Corporation announced BeOn, the first professional-grade push-to-talk solution for enterprise. BeOn is the first push-to-talk implementation designed to manage group communications via domestic and international 3G and 4G GSM networks.

BeOn offers the usual radio features such as group and individual calling, distress calls, group scanning, and administrative services while integrating with mobile features such as location-based services and SMS.

BeOn is built on Harris Corporation's proprietary Voice, Interoperability, Data, Access (VIDA) network, which has found a home in the public services sector as well as some larger private entities. With the VIDA platform in place, BeOn can create centralized services over commercial wireless networks. For more information visit <http://www.pspsc.harris.com/Solution/BeOn.asp>.

InfiniteGraph Launches Free Program For Technology Startups

InfiniteGraph and its cloud partner GoGrid have announced an initiative to provide its technology freely to startup companies.

InfiniteGraph offers a graph-based data solution that is based on distributed data persistence technology. The solution allows users to observe data relationships and create applications with time-to-market advantages.

"The InfiniteGraph Startup Program enables these innovative entrepreneurs to compete at the highest levels, while more effectively allocating their often limited financial and human resources," said Jay Jarrell president and CEO of InfiniteGraph. Qualifying startups must have an annual revenue below US\$ 1 million. To apply, visit <http://www.InfiniteGraph.com/GoGrid>.

Texas Instruments Announces Power Line Development Kit and Software Library

Texas Instruments announced TMDSPCKIT-V2, a new PLC Development Kit capable of supporting multiple protocol standards and modulation standards on a single hardware platform. The TMDSPCKIT-V2 provides everything necessary to implement monitoring capabilities that reduce maintenance costs and increase reliability.

The PLC Development Kit can handle Smart Grid applications, such as intelligently controlled lighting, industrial and home solar power, home automation, building controls and plug-in vehicle and energy-managed appliances.

The included modems are based on TI's C2000 F28335 controlCARD and are fully programmable and scalable to handle projects large and small. The modems utilize separate microcontroller and analog front end modules. The microcontroller and front end module are isolated, which reduces cycle time and power consumption, allowing for additional savings.

All commands are handled through plcSUITE, TI's own software framework, which provides several communication techniques including OFDM and SFSK communication support.

The PLC Development Kit is available for US\$ 599. Order online at <http://www.ti.com/plc-pr-es>.