April 10th Meeting

Tonight!

IBM Intros New RISC System/6000 Workstation

By Randy Randall

The April L. A. ACM/SIGGRAPH meeting promises to be a very interesting affair, featuring the new IBM RISC System/6000 workstations and the sophisticated and powerful AIX (UNIX based) developer's environment with AIXwindows and AIX NextStep. Cluade Pelitier, IBM engineer, will discuss the new hardware, the software developer's environment and the relavence of this new workstation technology to the future development of computer graphics. A showcase of images from TDI America will also be presented, and TDI personnel will discuss the Explore software, which is being ported to the new IBM AIX environment. The IBM workstations set new standards for cost/performance; and, at the top end, are among the most powerful available today. The software from Thomson Digital Image is, likewise, one of the most sophisticated tools available for high quality computer graphics animation, and will be a welcome addition to the IBM products.

The IBM RISC System/6000 workstations, which were introduced February 15, 1990, are a part of IBM's full-range AIX (UNIX based) family. The UNIX operating system is now available from the PS/2 PC, through the new RISC System/6000 workstations to the largest ES/3090 mainframes. This new line of workstations offers a well thought out solution to the need to offer increased performance and user accessibility in the nineties. High performance RISC architecture, efficient use of memory and data transmission resources,

and aimed at developers who could use this product for their own applications - and other propeller heads. For the "Rest Of Us," suffice it to say that a major problem in computers today is that hardware and software innovation is running away from the operating systems, or working environments, available on desktop or desk side computers.

UNIX, developed in the late 1960's by AT&T, is a robust multi user, multi tasking, multi everything operating system... but, the operator's manual is 22 inches thick (I measured mine), and that is to get you going before you run any programs! With this new product, IBM has combined state-of-the-art hardware with the powerful, and widely used, UNIX operating system; and they have wrapped it all up with a warm and fuzzy icon and mouse based user interface that looks like an advertising layout and is easy to read and understand. You can even develop your own personal set of documentation, using "bookmarks" and personal notes, with the IBM Hypertext Information Base and InfoExplorer. On this machine, even complex and hard to install applications will be manageable for artist/designers, engineers and others whose creative genius isn't based in silicon.

The heart of this new product line is a very high performance processor with second generation RISC architecture (Reduced Instruction Set Computing). What makes it unique, is the careful integration of components which allow up to four instructions to be executed simultaneously in each clock cycle (see

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PAGE: 1 OF 2

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COMMENTS:

You may not receive a newsletter
this month, so here is a meeting
announcement from tomorrow.
Please attend if you are interested
in this exciting presentation.

Thanx,

Gregory Peter Panos, Chairman - LA SIGGRAPH