

AcerAltos 2100 "Bar Fridge" Now Shipping

Acer have for years had a wide-body high-reliability system, but it typically lagged in processing speed behind their flagship 9000 series line.

This has changed. The Altos 2100 is now undoubtedly the Acer's new flagship server.



Key Features:

- ◆ Quad Intel Pentium II Xeon processors (400 or 450 MHz) with interleaved memory architecture
- ◆ L2 caches sizes up to 2 MB
- ◆ Three 430 Watt load sharing redundant power supplies
- ◆ Dual integrated Ultra 2 SCSI channels, each with 80 Mbyte/sec transfer rates
- ◆ Integrated 10/100 network controller.
- ◆ Eight hot-swap drive bays
- ◆ Increased I/O performance achieved by integrating 2-channel backplane, on-board dual ultra-wide SCSI and 64-bit PCI video controllers.

Where either processor speed or disk access is your network's bottleneck, the Altos 2100 may be the solution. ☒

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NetWare 4.2

Novell has recently released NetWare 4.2 to replace and enhance NetWare 4.11 and intraNetWare. NetWare 4.2 includes all NetWare 4.11 updates, patches and support packs issued to date.

NetWare 4.2 is basically intraNetWare with several additional features, including the following:

- Netware 4.11 updates
- Zero Effort Networks (Z.E.N.works) Starter Pack 1.1
- Oracle 8 for NetWare (5 user version)
- Netscape FastTrack Server for NetWare
- Novell Upgrade Wizard ☒

Microsoft Products & Y2K

Below is a list of some of the more popular Microsoft products, and their Y2K status according to Microsoft's web site on February 11, 1999. The "Compliant" and "Compliant with minor issues" items assume that all current service packs or patches have been applied.

For more details or to check other products, see the "Microsoft Year 2000 Readiness Disclosure and Resource Centre" web page at: www.microsoft.com/technet/topics/year2k.

Compliant:

- Window 98
- Windows NT Server 3.51
- Windows NT Server 4.0 (Service Pack 4)
- Windows NT Workstation 3.51
- Windows NT Workstation 4.0 (Service Pack 4)
- SQL Server 6.5 and 7.0
- Outlook 97 & 98
- Office Pro 97 8.0
- Exchange Server 4.x & 5.x
- Proxy Server 1.0 & 2.0

Compliant with minor issues:

- Dos 6.22
- Windows 3.x and 95
- Windows NT Server 4.0 (Service Pack 3)
- Windows NT Workstation (Service Pack 3)
- Back Office 4.0
- Office Pro 95 7.0
- Schedule + 7.x, Schedule+ 95

Microsoft Products & Y2K (Continued)

Non-Compliant:

Access 2.0 Office Pro 4.x
Word 5.0 Works 3.0 ☒

Open House March 26

To celebrate the anniversary of our 5th year in business, and our recent move to new premises, we're hosting an open house! Please join us and bring a colleague!

Date: Friday March 26, 1999
Time: 2:00 to 5:00 pm
Where: Our new offices at:
200 Avenue Road
Cambridge

Refreshments and door prizes.

Please RSVP by March 19, 1999
to Mary Kong at Nautalex
(519) 622-8840 x 252
or e-mail mary@nautalex.com

ISPs: Buyer Beware

In the Winter 1998 issue of Nautalex News, we discussed "Dedicated vs. Non-Dedicated Internet Connections". The choice of an Internet Service Provider (ISP) is also important. You will want to consider:

- Rates (both individual and package)
- Overtime rates (if you exceed the package hours)
- Access numbers
- Available lines
- Extra services such as web page creation and maintenance.

Additional technical issues include:

- What bandwidth is the ISP's connection to the Internet?
- Do they have a backup for that connection?

There are some other, less tangible issues with ISPs that you may want to investigate. You will probably find out about these only by speaking with other ISP customers. Below, we present just a few of our ISP horror stories, along with pointers about what you should look out for and/or ways to protect your company.

Does the ISP communicate with its customers about technical difficulties? How, and in what timeframe?

ZAP! Our client called us because their e-mail via NT Small Business Server didn't seem to be working. Our technician checked everything, and all appeared well, except after the carrier signal, the ISP service hung up. We called the ISP and said "Our client seems to be having trouble getting a connection". Their response? "I bet they are!". The ISP's rep went on to explain that their office had been struck by lightning two days earlier. Although working to restore service, they hadn't bothered to try to contact their corporate clients about their little problem.

We favor ISPs that have demonstrated strong and knowledgeable technical support.

At another client, it took 4 phone calls and half a day's delay for us to get the ISP to admit that our client's ISP account wasn't set up in accordance with the specifications that they (the ISP) had confirmed in writing. (This ISP is no longer in business!)

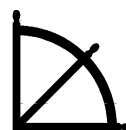
We also favor ISPs with a quick response on tech support calls.

HIGH PRIORITY? Another client subscribed to a very high-profile continent-wide ISP. Their e-mail failed, and during troubleshooting we contacted the ISP's tech support. The tech rep we spoke with couldn't help us, but told us he was escalating the call to a "level 2 priority". Level 2 tech support called us back ... 4 days later. We didn't need them any more.

As with any critical supplier, do some background checking. How long has the ISP been in business? If they go out of business, what happens to your e-mail and web site?

ISPs can (and do) disappear overnight – along with your incoming e-mail and your web site. Make sure you check out your ISP's background, have a contingency plan for your e-mail, and keep copies of the files that comprise your web site. ☒

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Nautalex designs and implements fully-integrated computer network systems for businesses. Providing consulting, software, hardware and peripherals, we offer complete, cost-effective network solutions. ☒

