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Planet Computer Intros Business Internet Hosting Service 11/05/98

, Nov 5, 1998

DENVER, COLORADO, U.S.A., 1998 NOV 5 (NB) -- By Sylvia Dennis, Newsbytes. Claiming to be beating Oracle's [NASDAQ:ORCL] Business Online service to market, Planet Computer has unveiled PlanetUplink, which it says is the industry's first Internetbased Network (IBN)

hosting service.

According to the Denver-based company, PlanetUplink is a full service, affordable business system that can be used by almost any sized business from anywhere in the world with Internet access.

Initially, the IBN service is available in two flavors: (IOH)

Internet Office Hosting and (IAH) Internet Application Hosting.

IOH is billed as a full Internet desktop hosting system, including e-mail, Internet access, office suites such as MS Office, Corel WordPerfect Suites and database applications.

IAH, meanwhile, is billed as a single database or application shared by multiple offices or users (including Oracle, Microsoft Access, Microsoft SQL, FileMaker Pro, Goldmine and ACT) over the Internet.

According to Planet Computer, both versions allow users to remotely run applications across the Internet. In use, while the applications themselves reside and operate on Planet server cluster in Denver, they appear as icons on the user's desktop.

According to company officials, the firm developed its new business hosting service in its New England office last year and started beta testing it on several baseline configurations, starting with a 486DX/2 laptop using a 28.8 kilobits-per-second (Kbps) modem.

As a result of the high power of its server system, Planet says that typical databases tested on the service actually run faster than they do running locally on such a laptop. In April of this year, the firm implemented PlanetUplink and released it to its recruiting, manufacturer, and software development customers and affiliates.

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Perhaps the most interesting feature of all, Newsbytes notes, is that, using an Apple Mac (an iMac, perhaps), as well as other Internet- enabled non-PC machines, can have access to the latest Windows software without having to turn to a Windows emulation application.



According to the firm, using PlanetUplink, there is no need for businesses to sell older computers, no need to purchase a server, and no need to ever upgrade hardware or software again.

The PlanetUplink service is billed as an affordable business system with an initial set up fee for offices based on number of users -- typically \$1,500 to \$2,500.

In return for this fee, plus a low monthly office fee of \$50 and a further \$45 per workstation, users get access to up to two gigabytes (GB) of storage space, including the cost of database utilities, backups and data maintenance.

According to Planet, if a business needs to buy a new PC for expansion, the most cost effective system is to purchase a network computer (NC). NCs, the firm says, interface well with the PlanetUplink service.

For the launch of the service, Planet has partnered with NCD, Personic Software (maker of Oracle-based Ezaccess recruitment software), and Rocky Mountain Software (maker of Microsoft Access-based realtor software).

According to Bob Carson, Planet's customer services manager, with the new service, firms can now stick to running their businesses instead of having employees wasting their valuable time trying to fix computer networking problems.

Planet Computer's Web site is at http://www.planet-computer.com .

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