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ASK DR. ALBERT

Does the new Altos Series 500 use the SCSI interface the same as the Series 1000?

The Series 500 is not just a down sized Series 1000. It uses AT compatible slots and a SCSI interface could be installed, but would not be the same as the Series 1000.

I have an Altos Series 2000 with a 170 Mb ESDI drive. Can I install a UK-80 into this machine as a second drive.?

Not a UK-80, but a UK-80E. The second and third drives do not have to be the same size as the first. They do however have to be the same interface. If you have an ESDI machine, then all the drives must be ESDI drives. The same goes for ST-506 machines.

I have two 886's networked together in one office and with the application that I am running, I do not have enough processes. Is there any way to increase the number of processes that I can run?

With an unlinked kernel you can recompile the kernel for more processes. However, since you are running the network version of the kernel, you are already at the maximum size and cannot add even 1 more process.

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

OK! I concede my timing is horrible sometimes. In last month's editorial I encouraged you to voice your opinion directly to Jerry Carpenter - and the same day you received the newsletter Jerry and Will Houd parted company with Altos. We wish them well in their future endeavors and hope that Altos can somehow insure a smooth transition to a new management team for the support area.

Last month's editorial did strike a nerve, and I thought the discussion was healthy and quite positive. One of the negative callers felt that we were "throwing the baby out with the bath water" and was even critical that the editorial was signed (when most are not). Taking the criticism in reverse orderthe editorial was signed because it was the opinion of one person - not a committee effort as many are. The other logic was simply that an accused party has a right to confront their accuser - and the editorial was fairly critical. The whole subject of the editorial is probably moot anyway, in light of the shakeout at Altos.

We do want to make certain that our point of view is correctly understood. The key points of our

- 1. An improvement in the support network is vital if Altos is to grow and prosper.
- The first concern should be for the well-being of the end-user (and then the dealer, P-2, and Altos, in that order.)
- 3. Everyone involved should have a choice. Altos has multiple suppliers of the same items, dealers have choices of product lines (as do end users), and if the circumstances dictate the need - there must be alternatives available in the support arena.

None of this means that we want to sell Altos specific parts outside of our geographic area. We would like to see the P-2's doing such a great job that the dealer network is happy and satisfied. Reality, however, indicates that some P-2's feel that whatever they want to dish out is all a dealer is going to get - and we ain't buying that approach. If a P-2 has inventory and works with the dealer base, why would they ever go outside for support. If a P-2 has problems in holding on to his dealers, maybe he should examine his program and see if there isn't room for improvement.

While I'm picking on people I might as well ask a few questions about Altos' latest program -Altosery. Since servicing dealers who subscribe to their program pay \$1,000 for tech support, purchase training classes at similarly high prices, and invest in parts and people to support the product. I have a problem with \$30.00 per hour to access their database of problems. I guess the criticism comes from the fact that everything in the database is related to something Altos did wrong.

Next month we will offer an alternative dial-up system that will be more powerful than Altos' system, include information developed in the field, and last of all - it won't cost you anything but the phone call. We're going to call it DEALERSERV because its orientation is about that different from ALTOSERV, Keep tuned for more details.

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THE SOFTWARE EXCHANGE

The new operating system for the Series 1000 "Altos V Version" 5.3b" is a significant improvement over the original release. The major improvement is that it now runs many SCO XENIX programs (such as Microsoft Word) which would not run at all under the old version and now appear to work perfectly.

We would like to thank the readers who filled out and returned our "Software Usage Survey". We would also like to remind our other readers that we would also welcome their input.

The reports indicate that the following packages work without problems:

Informix-SQL Informix-4GL **VERTEX Patient Accounting & Billing REALWORLD Accounting** Open Systems Accounting MAS90 Accounting **BBX Business Basic** Resource Mlg 3.150 Uniplex Version 5.04bS1

Problems reported as follows:

- Multiplan will not print.
- 80286 version of Informix will not run on Series 1000.
- Informix 4GL source will not compile on the Series 1000. Source code compiled on a Series 2000 machine will run on the Series 1000.
- BRS/Search will not load a database on the Series 1000.

For users of software which ran on the Series 1000 all but one rate performance a "10" on a scale of one to ten. (The other user rated it as a "9".)

We will report further results as we hear from our readers.

Thank you for your support.

DINNER IN HALF AN HOUR

In the time it takes for the D rice to cook, this easy skillet, U stir-fry dinner can be assembled and ready to serve. Just add K a salad and bottled dressing E for a hearty dinner that takes only half an hour to prepare. L

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Golden Sweet-Sour Beef

1 can (16 oz.) California cling peach slices in juice or extra light syrup

1-1/4 lbs. round steak (1 inch thick) 1 cup sliced onion

1/4 cup vegetable oil 1/4 cup cider or white wine vinegar

2 Tablespoons cornstarch

2 Tablespoons brown sugar, packed

1-1/2 teaspoons lite soy sauce

1 cup water 1/2 cup green pepper Hot cooked rice

Drain peaches, reserving liquid. Slice steak into thin strips and sauté with onion in oil until lightly browned. Remove from skillet with slotted spoon. Blend vinegar, cornstarch, brown sugar and soy sauce into remaining oil in skillet; mix in reserved peach liquid and water. Cook and stir over medium heat until mixture boils and thickens. Cover and cook for 10 minutes on low heat. Add peach slices, steak, onions and green pepper; heat through. Serve at once over hot cooked rice. Makes 5 servings.

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986-40 Computer
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886T-80 Computer\$4000
986T-40, 80 Computer\$3500 +
8000-2, 7, 10, 12, 14 Computer \$1000 +
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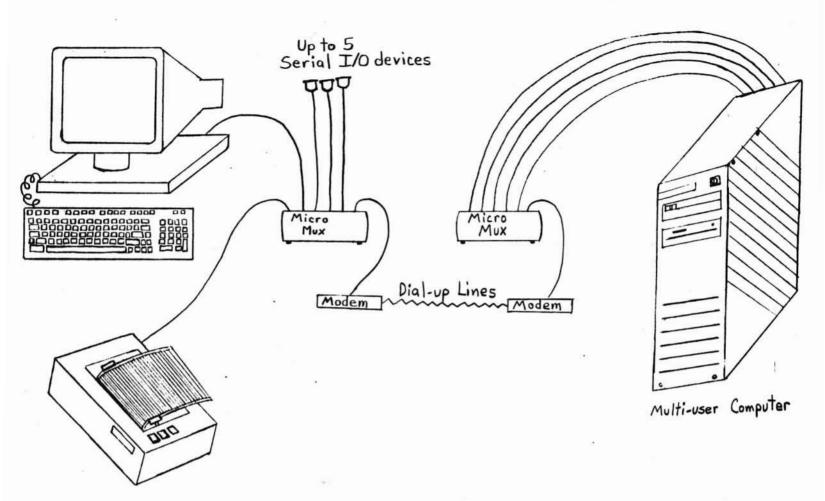
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If you buy a new Altos 1430 nation (configured with sixteen serial benefit They John K ports and 4 Mb of memory) you Mexican Australia Blainey; (Jacobs; ar

also get a 380 Mb (unformatted) hard disk. As an alternative, pologist ar you can start with any model of Xiaotong. The annot the Series 1000 and upgrade by Robert P. and chief ex Encyclopaed Inc., who points ness of the Brita

with the SCSI-298 from Computer Support. (NOTE: The drive is sold as a 380 Mb uncellence in the ar

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"Those to whom Is Awards are given n ong is considered made contributions hina's foremost social anto the sum of knowle thropologist and author. that is not the achievement the Britannica Awards celebrate. They are given for acknowledged skill in the communication of knowledge and a passion for the dissemination of learning."

Up to five Britannica Awards are presented each year, and the fields of the recipients may differ from year to year. Each laureate receives a \$25,000 cash award, a gold medal and an allowance for expenses incurred in traveling to a forum where he or she may be invited to speak. Blainey was cited for his

"Many prizes

advancement of

for breakthrough

lar sciences, for

in technology, for

contributions to

Gwinn said.

March Is Declared "No More Excuses" Month In Thousands Of Eye Care Centers

Contact lenses have been around for quite a number of years. Yet a lot of people who could wear them don't wear them...and for a number of

Altos and Altos model numbers worried about handling lens or they've heard that taking care of them is too much trouble. Are you one of those people?

Well, it's time to bury these and other often-heard excuses, which have stopped millions of Americans from regularly wearing contact lenses. That is the message

Fighting his way back from the obscurity forced on him by the Cultural Revolution, Ferevived the scientific and sociological study of village life in China. Galbraith is considered one

of America's most astute economists. He has provided insightful commentary on modern financial markets. He also is an influential force in the Democratic Party. His literary output includes more than 20 books, the most recent published in 1988: Capitalism, Communism and

a lighthearted reminder that contact lens care is easier

than ever. "Misconceptions and halftruths about contact lenses needlessly prevent millions from seeing how lenses can

Altos uses in the 1430.) This approach allows you to have whatever configuration want and saves you a small sack of money in the process. We are glad to see that Altos recognizes the value of bigger

drives and lends their good name to an uncrowded field of

players. -ring, fall andier may produce con-ditions harmful to skin. Other

Roosevelt, Chairman al Committee to Preserve Security and Medicare

are beneficiaries can e the public follons —and maybe even wh their own pre-a being sien to Medhand Homat Sor-

rtment Inspector General says fraud, waste d abuse cost Medicane more than \$2.8 billion a year. The most common roblems are itting claims provided and

numbersoffice they s for the

AIR'S enty of water men slather on your favorite moisturizer

the skin looks smoother and more attractive

Alleviate dryness and re-

tection Act. Public Law 197493 miver HHS increases author ity if sanction physicians and impose fines. If youthing you've been talled more than once to your physician, pulled for senices with never received or the allowable charge after agreeing to accept direct assignment, you can call the Fraud and Abuse Hot Line at 500 368-5779 or -10 635-3956 if you live in Maryland

dicare Fraud: What You Should Know

You can learn more about Social Security and other is-sues of special concern to older Americans by joining the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, an organization devoted to improving retire-ment income and health care. Free brochures about the organization and a copy of its newspaper are available by by dermatologists-Aqua Care* that penetrates the epidermis to attract and actually hold in moisture

According to the manufacturer, the ability of Aqua Care' to help keep skin moist is made possible by the ingredient urea, a component of the epidermis that aids in the retention of moisture. Urea has been used as a skin care moisturizer ingredient safely and effectively for 50 vears. It's widely accepted as non-toxic, generally non-irritating and non-allergenic. Other ingredients in Aqua

Care tream and lotion-petrolatum and mineral oilhelp seal in water attracted and retained by the urea. You ise a cream for

ainst skin suffiwhen is less makes oring a v to dry reason regimen

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Charteres nancial Consultant and a regular columnist for the Journal of the American Society of CLU & ChFC mate reasons for selecting term insurance-to protect a young family against the loss of your income, for instance

Burke points out, though, that owning permanent life insurance provides balance

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contact lenses and tell former much premiums you can afwearers about the latest adford.

Most people balance their vances in contact lens design

need and budget with a combination of term and permanent life insurance. Premiums for term insurance start low and go up as you grow older. Term insurance is strictly presissemion Once

Burke notes that when you use term insurance for a longterm need, you are guessing that you will be able to cancel the policy and self insure when term premiums become too expensive. That could be a very costly wrong guess if you should need to continue

will be in

the insurance.

When you select permanent insurance, however, you simply

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