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

## A.

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

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.

## Q.

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?

## A.

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 position are:

1. An improvement in the support network is vital if Altos is to grow and prosper.
2. 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 Altoserv. 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 <br> EXCHANGE

The new operating system for the Series 1000 "Altos V Version 5.3 b " 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 MIg 3.1SO
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.

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| D In the time it takes for the <br> $\mathbf{U}$ vice to cook, this easy skillet. <br> K and ready to serve Just add <br> E a salad and bottled dressing for a hearty dinner that takes only half an hour to prepare. |  | 1 |
|  |  | $1 / 2$ cup green |
|  |  | Hot cooked rice |
|  |  | Drain peaches, reserving |
| L$\mathbf{O}$$\mathbf{V}$$\mathbf{E}$$\mathbf{S}$ | Golden Sweet-Sour Beef | liquid. Slice steak into thin strips and saute with onion |
|  | 1 can (16 oz.) | in oil until lightly browned. |
|  | California cling | Remove from skillet with |
|  | or extra light syrup | cornstarch, brown sugar and |
|  | 1-1/4 lbs. round steak | soy sauce into remaining oil |
|  | 1 cup sliced onion | peach liquid and water. |
|  | 1/4 cup vegetable oil | Cook and stir over medium |
| H | 1/4 cup cider or white | until mixture boils and |
|  | wine vinegar | kens. Cover and cook for |
| H | 2 Tablespoons corn- | 10 minutes on low heat. Add peach slices, steak, onions |
| S | 2 Tablespoons brow | and green pepper; heat |
|  | sugar, packed | through. Serve at once |
|  | $1 / 2$ teaspoons lite soy sauce | over hot cooked rice Makes 5 servings. |

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made contributions to the sum of knowle that is not the achievement the Britannica Awards celebrate. They are given for acknowledged skill in the sommunication 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 Bach latureate receives $\$ 25,000$ cash award, a gold medal and an allowance for expenses incurred in traveling to a formm where he or she may be invited to speak. Blaincy was cited for his March Is Declared Month In Thousand 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

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throps in thropologist and author. Fighting his way back from the obscurity forced on him by the Cultural Revolution, Fei revived 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. Ile also is an influential fore in the Democratic Party. llis literary out put includes mue than 20 books, the mant cent published in 1988: Capitalism. Communism and "No More Excuses"
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