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Press Release

Dubai - U.A.E., Septem

Compaq, Farabi and Microsoft to offer legacy system web conr bundle

Web publishing solution to open up data access to legacy systems, u simplified e-commerce & web solutions, builds DNS potential

Dubai, U.A.E., Sept 19, 1999, Three leading regional companies have teamed up to bundle hardware, software and services solutions designed to ease the transition to Internet applications for companies using legacy systems to store their data.



L-R: Samer Karawi (Compaq), Murad Lakhdir (Microsoft), Bachar Kassir (Farabi)

Compaq Computer MEMA, Farabi Technology Middle East and Microsoft GEM, Saudi have put together a bundle of Compaq server hardware, Farabi co software and Microsoft server software which will give browser based access to on IBM Mainframes or AS/400 systems.

"This bundle simplifies the browser access to IBM SNA host applications. HostF key element that allows businesses to leverage their investments in these ap by incorporating totally secure Internet functionality into their business proces Bachar Kassir, General Manager of Farabi Technology Middle East.

The bundle provides an 'out-of-the-box' solution for accessing data frc platforms and bringing that data into web-based publishing environments, an of Compaq's leading ProLiant 1600 server, Farabi's HostFront web-to-host s Microsoft's BackOffice 4.5 with SNA Server software. With a unique trialling discounts of up to 35% on the investment required to purchase these separately, the bundle provides an intelligently packaged access solution with appeal to companies developing e-commerce solutions. Uniquely, it is an Arab solution.

"This bundle represents great value for companies who need to get broader, v access to their data," said Samer Karawi, Alliance Manager at Compaq Compu "It brings together a leading server solution with software that supports sim powerful data access. The ProLiant 1600 is the ideal machine for this type of a and brings a stable, reliable and cost-effective platform to bear."

Together, the products allow data from legacy systems to be accessed via the

corporate intranets or extranets using standard browser software, and a simplified and standard access solution for applications such as Internet banking reservation systems, call centres and other web access applications. Farabi's web-to-host server software, based on Microsoft's Windows NT, delivers secure 3270 data access through Java based applets and ActiveX components.

"To leverage your existing systems in IBM Mainframe or AS/400 and to customers access to that data, whether merely to look things up or to actually time transactional capability, for instance to book a flight on an airline, then it makes the process easy and cost-effective," said Haider Salloum, Business Division Product Manager at Microsoft GEM. "This solution forms an important powerful building block for companies who are looking at ways they can build true Digital Nervous System, and opens up huge possibilities for collaborative and knowledge management in environments where the legacy system was previously a block to this."

The bundle is being offered for \$11,000 and includes:

1. Compaq ProLiant 1600 Server 1 PIII 500 (upgradable to dual) 128 MB GB Ultra SCSI HD and 14" monitor.
2. 3 years on-site warranty for Compaq ProLiant 1600 Server, including 1 parts.
3. Microsoft BackOffice 4.5, 5 user license
4. Farabi HostFront web-to-host server, with 32 sessions
5. On-site set-up, configuration & implementation of the solution
6. One year technical support for SNA Server and HostFront server
7. One year software maintenance for HostFront server

A 10-days trial offer is also available to customers for a \$500 fee. Following the trial customers may purchase the full bundle and get the trial fees refunded. The offer remains open until January 2nd, 2000.

About Compaq Computer.

Founded in 1982, Compaq Computer Corporation, a Fortune 100 company, is an information technology company. Compaq is the second largest computer company in the world and the largest global supplier of personal computers.

With world wide sales of \$37.6 billion in 1997, Compaq develops and markets software, solutions and services, including industry-leading enterprise solutions, fault-tolerant business-critical solutions, networking products, desktop and portable products and consumer PCs. The company is an industry leader in environmentally friendly programs and business practices. Compaq products are sold and supported in more than 100 countries through a network of authorized marketing partners. Customer support and information about Compaq and its products can be found at <http://www.compaq.com>.

Compaq Computer Middle East Mediterranean and Africa is based in the Jebel Ali Zone in Dubai and currently has a network of resellers offering its full range of products and services in Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Yemen, and North and West Africa. Compaq's regional office in Jebel Ali provides marketing, sales, technical and administrative support to its marketing partners and customers.

Compaq Contact: Abdul Aziz Mohammed,

Compaq Computer FZE
Tel: (9714) 818 100
Fax: (9714) 818 313
E-mail: abdulaziz.mohammed@compaq.com

Press Contact: Carrington Malin,
Spot On Public Relations.
Tel: (9714) 491 686
Fax: (9714) 493 245
E-mail: carringtonm@spoton.com

About Microsoft Corporation.

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in so personal computers. The company offers a wide range of products and se business and personal use, each designed with the mission of making it easier enjoyable for people to take advantage of the full power of personal compu day.

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Microsoft opened its Dubai-based Middle East headquarters office in 1991, si subsidiaries have opened in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Microsoft GEM (Gulf ar Mediterranean) is responsible for the company's business in Pakistan, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Jordan, Cyprus and Malta. In 1999, Microsc offices in Lebanon and Kuwait and announced it would soon open new Pakistan.

Microsoft Corporation's address on the World Wide Web is: www.microsoft.com
Middle East's Web site is: www.microsoft.com/middleeast

Microsoft Contact: Helena Gilman,
Microsoft Corporation
Tel: (9714) 3973888491 686
Fax: (9714) 3972244
E-mail: helenag@microsoft.com

Press Contact: Alexander McNabb,
Spot On Public Relations
Tel: (9714) 491 686
Fax: (9714) 493 245
E-mail: alexm@spoton.com

About Farabi.

Farabi Technology Corporation designs, manufactures, and markets advanced that connect to IBM AS/400 and IBM Mainframes worldwide. With extens experience in the PC-to-host and Web-to-host markets, Farabi continues to leading-edge solutions that Web-enable applications for legacy systems and ; commerce opportunities through a complete suite of advanced products and pi services. Headquartered in Montreal, Canada, Farabi makes its international felt through offices in the U.S.A. and U.A.E., as well as an established n distributors worldwide.

Farabi Technology Corp. www.farabi.com

Farabi Technology Middle East www.farabi-me.co.ae

HostFront site: www.hostfront.com

Farabi Contact:

Bachar Kassar

Farabi Technology Middle East

Tel: (9714) 262-7300

Fax: (9714) 269-6300

E-mail: bachar@farabi-me.co.ae

Press Contact:

Mazin Al-Hassan

Farabi Technology Middle East

Tel: (9714) 262-7300

Fax: (9714) 269-6300

E-mail: mazin@farabi-me.co.ae

For information about Farabi products, call +971-4-262-7300. Mi customers may fax their request for pricing or product information Technology Middle East at +971-4-269-6300 or **fill out our info request form.**