

High Times

New Stadium...



Acorn SchoolServer

July 1995

'Whole site networking' from Acorn

Acorn has developed the Acorn SchoolServer product to address the increasingly important issue of 'whole site' networking requirements. More than ever before, users wish to integrate Acorn, PC and Apple Macintosh platforms in order to maximise the use and efficiency of hardware and software resources on local area networks. Using Acorn SchoolServer, it becomes possible for all of these platforms to share resources via a single management and distribution mechanism.

What is Acorn's SchoolServer?

Acorn has worked closely with other industry partners to produce Acorn SchoolServer. Acorn has chosen from among the world's best file-server hardware and software suppliers to produce a product that combines seamlessly with some of Acorn's most advanced network client application software. The net result is a product that demonstrates excellent performance together with easy-to-use, efficient and powerful management tools.

File-server hardware

Acorn is offering extremely high-performance file-server platforms to form the hardware element of Acorn SchoolServer. The models chosen have consistently proven their reliability under heavy network loads, together with an ability to be expandable to meet growing and increasingly more sophisticated user requirements.



AS 500

- 100MHz Power PC processor
- 24MB main memory (RAM)
- 256KB Level 2 cache
- 1GB Enhanced IDE hard drive
- 600MB CD-ROM drive
- 1.44MB floppy-disc unit
- 14" SVGA monitor
- 101 key keyboard
- 3 button mouse
- Integrated 10BaseT PCI Ethernet interface
- 10Base2 ISA Ethernet interface
- 3 slot, 3 bay architecture

AS 1000

- 100MHz Power PC processor
- 32MB main memory (RAM)
- 256KB Level 2 cache
- 2 x 1GB SCSI hard drive
- 600MB CD-ROM drive
- 1.44MB floppy-disc unit
- 14" SVGA monitor
- 101 key keyboard
- 3 button mouse
- Integrated 10BaseT PCI Ethernet interface
- 10Base2 ISA Ethernet interface
- 2GB SCSI DAT tape device
- 5 slot, 5 bay architecture

File-server software

Acorn is utilising Microsoft's Windows NT Server technology for use as the file-server software element of Acorn SchoolServer. This software provides a graphical environment for the distribution and management of software and hardware resources. The Acorn SchoolServer software has built-in support for network protocols utilised by RISC OS, DOS, Windows-based and Apple Macintosh platforms. Therefore, by using the Acorn SchoolServer, network administrators are able to operate in a consistent manner for the management and distribution of software in a mixed platform environment.

Windows NT Server is pre-installed with every Acorn SchoolServer, together with 25 mixed platform simultaneous user licences, free on-site installation and 12 months' on-site hardware maintenance.

Shared resources

Using Acorn SchoolServer, users who wish to share resources across hardware and operating system boundaries within local area networks are able to achieve this via Acorn SchoolServer. As a result of this capability, 'de facto' standard formats such as MPEG, JPEG and Text can be stored on the Acorn SchoolServer and 're-shared' to other platforms and operating systems on the local area network (LAN). Rich text formats (such as those used by word-processing packages) can also be shared via Acorn SchoolServer and utilised by additional applications available for the RISC OS environment.

The file-server hardware also becomes 'common' between Acorn, PC and Mac users within this environment. This means that data management can all be undertaken from a single point and through the use of a single solution.

Industry standards

Acorn SchoolServer uses industry standard Ethernet technology conforming fully with IEEE 802.3 recognised specifications.

RISC OS client technology

Acorn SchoolServer utilises Acorn OmniClient technology to provide seamless connectivity to the file-server software. Acorn OmniClient allows RISC OS users to choose from a display of available file servers. OmniClient has built-in support for NFS, Level 4, Acorn Access, Acorn Access+ and Lan Manager servers as well as Windows for Workgroups, Windows NT Workstation and Windows 95 (when released). Users are able to select individual or groups of file servers, where they can store and retrieve data as well as sharing remote resources such as printers. OmniClient requires Acorn RISC OS platforms with 2MB of main memory and RISC OS 3.1 or later to operate.

OmniClient is also available as a separate product for those users who have already installed products that it supports access to.

Other Acorn networking products

Acorn SchoolServer works in conjunction with all other products from the AUN (Acorn Universal Networking) range. The power of the Acorn SchoolServer can, therefore, be complemented by the multimedia sharing capabilities of the Acorn Access+ and Access CDShare products as well as by the simple-to-use Internet access provided by Acorn InterTalk.

Cost-effective

The Acorn SchoolServer solution is extremely cost-effective when the benefits are considered in terms of expenditure on file-server hardware and software, as well as network client applications. Costs associated with training and ongoing support are also reduced as Acorn SchoolServer utilises standard hardware and software which is well supported.

Training and support

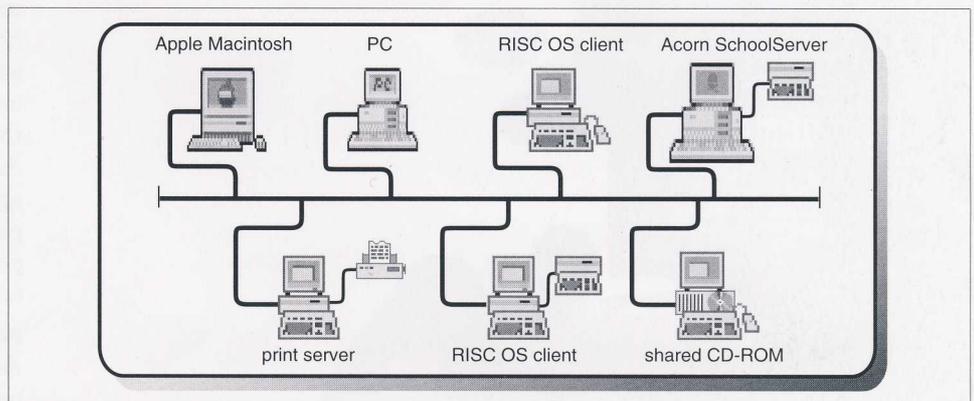
Acorn offers a three-day training course for the Acorn SchoolServer solution, with detailed training on installation, best set-up routines, etc.

Acorn also offers a support commitment for Acorn SchoolServer with 'hotline' support and site visits where necessary. Detailed information on support and training for Acorn SchoolServer is available from Acorn's training and customer support departments (see also datasheet on Acorn SchoolServer support products).

Ordering information:

Acorn SchoolServer should be ordered as follows:

AS500 with Acorn OmniClient	AES56
AS500 without Acorn OmniClient	AES57
AS1000 with Acorn OmniClient	AES58
AS1000 without Acorn OmniClient	AES59
Additional NT User Licences (25)	SKY60



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