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NCR INTRODUCES NEW MODULAR PC ARCHITECTURE

Economical AT-Compatible Increases Choice and Expandability

NEW YORK, NY, May 27, 1987 -- A low-cost, entry-level AT-compatible personal computer that can be precisely configured to a user's requirements was introduced today by NCR Corporation as part of a family of new personal computer products.

The company said the NCR PC710 uses NCR's Incremental Workstation Architecture, which allows users to increase the system's expansion slots and storage capacity by adding discrete, functional modules. The modular design of the PC710, based on the 80286-10 microprocessor, will also allow upgrades to the more powerful 80386 technology, the company said.

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"The PC710 represents a completely different approach to personal computers and is the first PC to use this type of Incremental Workstation Architecture," said Vernon W. Yates, vice president, NCR Corporation, and general manager of NCR's Personal Computer Division. "We see this as a significant advantage because the user can purchase precisely what is needed and then expand the PC's capabilities later."

Yates said users can add up to two additional layers to the PC710's base system, which consists of a layer containing the system's processor board, Personality Card^{TM}, disk drives and power supply. The fully-enclosed expansion layers snap to the main modules and do not require tools for installation, he said.

Users increase the number of slots and storage capacity on a PC710 by adding a layer which accepts two standard AT-sized add-in boards, or a layer for half-size cards, power supply and one or two 3-1/2 inch flex or fixed drives, a single 5-1/4 inch flex drive or a 3-1/2 inch streaming tape drive. A maximum of eight user-available expansion slots and a maximum of four disk drives is possible.

The PC710 uses a functionally modular or "split-card" architecture, isolating the main processor and primary memory segment on an expansion card-sized board. The second board in the split-card architecture is the Personality Card, which combines the functions of the video adapter, disk drive controllers, extended memory and serial and parallel ports.

Yates said this design allows the PC710 to be upgraded to more advanced processors. "Users who want to upgrade to 80386 technology will be able to exchange the PC710's 80286 board for one with the 80386 technology," he said.

In addition to the PC710's ability to expand its capabilities, Yates said another advantage is flexibility to configure the system. The PC710 permits the user to determine the number of slots and the size and capacity of the disk drives, he said.

The basic PC710 model includes a processor board with 640K random access memory (RAM) and an 80287 math coprocessor socket, a Personality Card supporting a color graphics adapter (CGA) or enhanced graphics adapter (EGA), a 3-1/2 inch flex drive, NCR DOS 3.2 operating system, and NCR User Interface and Help facility.

Memory is expandable to 1MB on the processor board, and to 16MB using the Personality Card and standard memory expansion boards. Cards containing 1MB or 4MB of memory are available from NCR.

The basic model with one 3-1/2 inch 720K flex drive lists for $1,954 with CGA, $2,154 with EGA. A PC710 model with dual 3-1/2 inch 720K flex drives lists for $2,144 with CGA, $2,344 with EGA. Models configured with a 3-1/2 inch 720K flex drive, 20MB fixed drive and CGA support list for $2,670. The same model with EGA support is $2,870. Most models are scheduled to be available in September.

An additional layer with four expansion slots costs $395. Layers which include storage devices are priced as follows: with a 3-1/2 inch 1.44MB flex drive, $840; with a 3-1/2 inch 20MB fixed drive, $1,310; with a 3-1/2 inch 40MB tape back up unit, $1,390; with a 5-1/4 inch 360K flex drive, $820; with a 5-1/4 inch 1.2MB flex drive, $870.

Users can choose either the Standard Keyboard with 10 function keys, the Workstation Keyboard with 12 function keys or the Advanced Keyboard with 30 function keys. A range of extended graphics, color and monochrome monitors is also available from NCR.

NCR Corporation, with headquarters in Dayton, Ohio, develops, manufactures, markets and services business information systems for worldwide markets.

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Personality Card is a trademark of NCR Corporation.

NOTE: All prices are NCR's suggested list prices. Retail prices may vary.