



## NEWS RELEASE

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### ALTOS ANNOUNCES TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE IN LOCAL AREA NETWORKING

#### Transparent Remote File Access In UNIX Environment

Simplifies system use; saves disk space; accepts multi-user programs without modification

SAN JOSE, Calif. August 22 -- For the first time, a network of XENIX-based microcomputers can present the user with the simplicity and convenience of a single large computer while maintaining the flexibility and cost-savings of a local area network.

Altos-Net II software, developed by Altos Computer Systems, provides transparent remote file access and remote processor execution. As a result, users can save substantial disk space by sharing files, have the benefit of the powerful UNIX commands throughout the network--not merely on their own machine--and save time and expense by running most multi-user applications on the network without modification.

"Until now, the powerful UNIX environment has never extended to local area networks," said Bob Bozeman, Altos director of marketing. "If you wanted to access remote resources, such as disk files or printers, you had to use special network commands.

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"With Altos-Net II, files and applications can be accessed from anywhere on the network using both standard XENIX commands and programming language system calls--a tremendous advantage to users and applications alike. Furthermore, you can run virtually any multi-user application without modification."

#### **New level in the tree structure**

The Altos-Net II system introduces a new directory at the top level of the XENIX tree-structured file system. Called the @ directory (pronounced "at"), it contains the root directories for all machines on the network.

By invoking the @ directory, XENIX commands and application programs can access any file, directory, or peripheral on the network, no matter on which machine it resides.

As a result, an application program may be on one machine, data files on a second, XENIX utilities on a third, while the user works on a fourth. The system avoids having to duplicate resources locally, thereby saving substantial disk space.

Altos-Net II allows most multi-user application software to run on the network without modification. Conventional networks require such applications to be rewritten to invoke networking utilities for transferring data.

The Altos-Net II system also supports transparent remote processor execution, allowing users to take advantage of the large memory or other attributes of a "foreign" processor. Such

applications are processed on a designated remote machine, but appear to the user to be executing locally.

**Networking hardware supported**

The Altos-Net II system supports both the Ethernet LAN and Altos' proprietary twisted-pair cabling network hardware. In an Altos environment, it links both multi-user timesharing systems and dedicated-processor workstations offering graphics capabilities.

Altos-Net II networking software is available in September, 1983, and costs \$495 per CPU, with multiple CPU discounts available. Altos-Net I software can be upgraded for \$100 per CPU. Altos-Net twisted-pair cabling is also available from Altos distribution channels.

Altos is a leading manufacturer of multi-user, networking microcomputers, including the 16-bit Altos 586 five-user system. The company also manufactures the low-cost Altos 580 8-bit machines accommodating up to three users.

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