

Eight-Way Unix Server Keeps HP on Top in Midrange Segment

Hewlett-Packard's (HP's) new 8-way Unix server, the rp7410, brings Keystone functions to midrange server customers. Enterprises needing an 8-way server but unable to justify paying for Keystone should consider the rp7410.

Event: On 25 February 2002, HP announced the rp7410, an 8-way Unix server (code-named "Matterhorn"). The rp7410 replaces the older rp7400 (i.e., N-Class), which was terminated last year when HP decided not to deploy the new Itanium processors (e.g., McKinley) in the design.

First Take: HP has always won most respect for its midrange server offerings. Since launching the venerable K-Class in 1995, the 8-way Unix server segment has represented about 50 percent of all HP-UX business, and this new 8-way server will maintain the company's reputation. The rp7410 delivers many benefits not available to customers of the older rp7400:

- It supports up to two hard partitions, which can be used in conjunction with HP's virtual partitioning and workload management.
- It supports the latest PA8700 CPUs (between two and eight can be deployed in two-CPU increments) running at 650 MHz or 750 MHz.
- It also supports later generation PA-RISC, plus the new Intel McKinley and later-generation Madison and Montecito CPUs.
- Memory capacity doubles to 64GB, and bandwidth increases by more than 50 percent.
- The rp7410 has a rack-mounted design, which will aid data center footprint and service access.

Enterprises requiring the headroom of an eight-way platform but unable to justify the cost of the larger Keystone (rp8400) server should consider this platform. The rp7410 provides a welcome replacement for the older N-Class that was an increasingly dubious for new investments. With a completely new design center, heavily leveraged from the Keystone, enterprises physically cannot upgrade an rp7400 to an rp7410. However, HP offers strong trade-up programs to compensate. The rp7410 will maintain HP's mastery of the midrange Unix segment. In fact, by delivering equal partitioning granularity, Gartner expect that the rp7410 could even cannibalize some Keystone business.

Analytical Source: Andrew Butler, Unix & Midrange Strategies

Need to Know: Recommended Reading and Related Research

- "Unix Midrange Servers: Comparison Columns" (DPRO-89884). Complete detail of the leading RISC-based midrange servers. **By Ian Brown**

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- “Unix Midrange Servers: Overview” (DPRO-89827). Comprehensive analysis of the leading Unix server market players and the issues they face. **By Ian Brown**

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