FORMAL PRESS RELEASE

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        DISTRIBUTED.NET REAFFIRMS MACINTOSH SUPPORT... WITH A BANG

    Accelerated Mac Software "Twice As Fast" as High-End Pentium III

Birmingham, Alabama (January 11th, 2000) It's payback time for Mac users.
In one fell swoop, distributed.net has upgraded their old Macintosh
software -- which previously lagged behind other platforms in both features
and speed -- to an accelerated powerhouse that takes full advantage of
Apple's new G4 "Velocity Engine" computers. With an RC5 speed increase of
up to 300%, a single G4 can outperform not one but two of the latest
Pentium IIIs, all without breaking a sweat.

"This is one wickedly fast processor. The contribution that could be made
by the new G4 processor is outstanding," said company COO Daniel Baker.

The software [1] is also compatible with any Macintosh running Mac OS 7.5 -
9.0, from Apple's new iMacs all the way back to the venerable Macintosh II
-- a span of more than twelve years.

The "contribution" of the new Mac client is expected to factor highly in
distributed.net's ongoing projects, which currently focus on testing the
strength of high-security encryption. As a whole, the non-profit company
was founded to explore the full potential of distributed computing, on a
global scale. Over the past three years, distributed.net has pioneered
numerous innovations in ease-of-use, very-large-scale coordination, and
(lest we forget) access to significant amounts of prize money.

The principle behind distributed computing is simple. Small "clients" are
downloaded by thousands of computer users around the world, who each
contribute a small part of the puzzle. When installed, these clients sit
quietly in the background, using CPU time that would otherwise be wasted.
A strict policy of non-interference keeps your computer running as quick as
ever, and your privacy secure.

Well known in supercomputing, cryptography, and Rights-to-Privacy circles,
distrubuted.net hit the public limelight with their January 1999 victory
against DES [2]. In association with the Electronic Frontier Foundation,
distributed.net's users legally broke through the US government's Data
Encryption Standard (DES) algorithm within 24 hours, proving the fragility
of the code and the necessity for change. [3]

Current projects include the RC5 [4] crypto-contest and CS-Cypher [5], the
latter of which is not G4-accelerated at this time. "We felt that holding
back the Mac client's release [for CSC acceleration]... would hurt the CSC
project as a whole," explained Evan Vetere, who coordinated the Macintosh
porting efforts. He added that the CSC keyspace will be exhausted within a
week, very possibly before the acceleration is completed.

This is the first family of Mac clients to support CSC. In addition, the
entire program has been rewritten from the ground up, bringing a modern
featureset and an assured path to future upgrades. The software took shape
rapidly thanks to coders Michael Feiri, Don Bruder, and super-accelerator
Dan Oetting.

"distributed.net is committed to all popular computing platforms,
regardless of brand name, market, or speed," said Joseph McLean, press
liaison for the company. "We take any processor, any operating system, and
squeeze as much out of it as we can. With the new PowerPC G4 processors
found in Apple's Power Macintosh line, there was more to squeeze -- a lot
more."

McLean hopes that the new client will help level the playing field between
Macintosh and x86 participants, who compete in distributed.net "teams" for
highest rankings [6]. "I can remember when Macintosh users had the
number-one team on distributed.net," he said. "There was a great sense of
community, and high competition between the other platforms." The
Macintosh team 'EvangeLista' was unseated from its vaunted position
earlier in the year by Slashdot.org. "A lot of Mac users -- literally
thousands -- stuck with us through thick and thin. This is our way of
saying thanks for waiting, and we haven't abandoned your platform -- we've
turbo-charged it."

     Related Links

[1] distributed.net client downloads
    http://www.distributed.net/download/clients.html
[2] DES-III challenge:
    http://www.rsa.com/rsalabs/des3/index.html
[3] CNET News.com E-Commerce: Record set in cracking 56-bit crypto
    http://news.cnet.com/news/0-1007-200-337518.html?st.ne.ni.lh
    ZDNN News Burst -- DES code takes another blow
    http://www.zdnet.com/zdnn/filters/bursts/0,3422,2189264,00.html
[4] RC5-32/12/8 challenge:
    http://www.rsa.com/rsalabs/97challenge/
[5] CS-Cypher challenge:
    http://www.cie-signaux.fr/security/index.htm
[6] distributed.net team statistics (top 10):
    http://stats.distributed.net/rc5-64/tlist.php3?low=3D1&limit=3D10

ABOUT DISTRIBUTED.NET Distributed Computing Technologies, Inc. is the
world's largest non-profit venture in distributed computing. Thanks to the
sudden ubiquity of the internet, computer users can join forces in tackling
great and seemingly insurmountable computational challenges - all while
their computer sits idle. The final sum of these 'idle cycles' is enough to
challenge the dominance of even the most expensive mainframes and research
computers. More information is available from the official distributed.net
web site, <http://www.distributed.net/>.

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