New xSeries server sets world record for 2-way performance on SPECweb99_SSL

April 21, 2003 ...The IBM® @server™ xSeries™ 235 has surpassed the competition in performance on the SPECweb99_SSL benchmark, which measures the performance of Web servers, such as e-commerce servers, that experience the high volume of throughput typical of a large enterprise.

The x235 achieved a result of 1,799 simultaneous connections, which is the highest 2-way score on any server architecture and even beats the Itanium 2-based hp server rx5670's score of 1,750. (1)

The x235 achieved this performance using two Intel® Xeon™ 3.06GHz processors (2), 6GB of memory, six 36.4GB Ultra320 SCSI drives, the Red Hat Linux 7.3 operating system and Zeus V4.2r2 HTTPS software. The hp server rx5670 was configured with two Intel 1.5GHz Itanium 2 processors, 24GB of memory, two 36GB drives and one 18GB drive, HP-UX 11i v2 and Zeus 4.2r2 HTTPS software.

The x235 also achieved 1,740 simultaneous connections -- surpassing the hp server rx2600's score of 1,230. The x235 used two Xeon 2.8GHz processors, 6GB of memory, six 36.4GB Ultra320 SCSI drives, the Red Hat Linux 7.3 operating system and Zeus V4.2r2 HTTPS software. The hp server rx2600 used two Intel 1.0GHz Itanium 2 processors, 8GB of memory, two 36GB drives and one 18GB drive, HP-UX 11i v1.6 and Zeus 4.2r2 HTTPS software.

SPECweb99_SSL uses an industry-accepted workload to measure the performance capabilities of a Web server with added SSL (Secure Socket Layer) encryption/decryption. SPECweb99_SSL is intended to measure the performance of Web servers, such as e-commerce servers, that experience the high volume of throughput typical of a large enterprise. The benchmark's metric represents the number of simultaneous connections that a secure Web server can support while meeting specific throughput and error-rate requirements.

These results are current as of April 21, 2003. The SPECweb99_SSL results for the x235 server using the 3.06GHz processor will complete SPEC review on May 13; the results for the x235 server using the 2.8GHz processor will complete SPEC review on May 27. Upon successful review, these results will be posted at www.spec.org, which contains a complete list of published SPECweb99_SSL results.

(1) The comparison with the hp server rx5670 is based on a server using two processors and running Zeus V4.2r2 HTTPS software. The comparison with the hp server rx2600 is based on a the highest score achieved by a server designed to support a maximum of two processors.

(2) Planned availability for the x235 with 3.06GHz processors is May 15, 2003.