CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

SP2 Clears Path for Digital Electronic Library

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SP2 Clears Path for Digital Electronic Library

NERDC recently acquired a new state-of-the-art IBM scalable POWERparallel SP2 UNIX-based supercomputer. The SP2 uses multiple POWER2 microprocessors, IBM's RISC System/6000 technology, redundant power supplies (if one fails, another takes over), and a High Performance Switch for fast parallel execution.

NERDC's Bill Kirchhoff (right), and Neil Chapin of IBM stand next to NERDC's new scalable POWERparallel SP2 shortly after the machine was powered up for the first time.

The machine will be made available to NERDC's Research Computing Initiative (RCI) users beginning this month.

The Florida Center for Library Automation (FCLA), which operates the statewide LUIS library catalog system, is developing ways to offer large-scale state-wide digital library services to the State University System of Florida using the parallel computing technologies available on the SP2. Also to be explored are the ramifications of running full-text search and electronic-document delivery on this type of system across local and state-wide communication networks using diverse workstations and end-user interfaces.

Although initial offerings will consist primarily of materials in the public domain such as government maps and charts, FCLA is working to resolve royalty, licensing, and copyright issues so that a broader range of materials can be put online. The SP2 provides NERDC and FCLA with the operating system and hardware architecture necessary for full-text search and electronic document delivery.

NERDC's rate structure will not change as a result of this acquisition, but the movement of some research to the new machine is expected to free up resources on NERDC's ES/9000 so that applications which remain on that architecture can continue to grow. The ES/9000
mainframe will continue as NERDC’s primary computer, and text-based LUIS services will remain on the mainframe even after graphics become available on the SP2.

Other computing centers that have acquired an SP2 computer include Cornell University, the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), the University of North Carolina (UNC), Florida State University (FSU), and the University of Michigan.

Your Comments are Welcome

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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