



BUYER'S GUIDE

[**Editor's Note:** The Buyer's Guide summarizes vendor-submitted information. To find out about future Buyer's Guide topics or to learn how to include your product in an upcoming Buyer's Guide, go to <http://www.winntmag.com/sh/ntlab/index.cfm>. To view previous Buyer's Guides on the Web, go to <http://www.winntmag.com> and select The Lab from the QUICK NAV menu.]

4-Way Servers

Many vendors promote new Profusion-based 8-way servers, but less expensive 4-way systems are excellent solutions for many computing environments. This buyer's guide provides information about systems

with entry-level configurations: four Pentium III Xeon processors, 512KB of Level 2 cache, and standard memory and disk subsystems. The Description column notes exceptions. Sixteen server vendors submitted pricing and product information. Dell and Data General chose not to participate because of upcoming changes in their product lines.

We expected to find 10,000rpm drives, multichannel RAID controllers, and redundant hot-swappable power supplies and fans in this server class. We were surprised to find 64-bit PCI slots and corresponding network controllers in many of the servers, including the HP NetServer LH 4, Quantex's QX7000, SAG Electronics' STF-4550 QXR, and several Compaq systems. SAG Electronics' server also uses Intel's new 840 chipset and a RAID controller that supports the new Ultra 160m SCSI specification. And the HP NetServer LH 4's RAID controller provides Intelligent Input/Output (I2O) technology support.

The servers in this buyer's guide also come in a variety of configurations. Many products are available in both rack-mount and tower configurations. If you're looking for a server with large internal storage capacity, the HP NetServer LH 4 supports up to twelve 36GB hard disks for a maximum capacity of 432GB. If you need a space-saving



configuration, Compaq offers its 6400R in a compact 4U rack-mount design.

Unlike other vendors, Compaq and NEC provided information about several 8-way processor-capable systems equipped with four CPUs. Considering the focus of this guide, these systems might seem out of place. However, an 8-way server configured with four processors might be a better investment if your needs are likely to grow. The 8-way systems cost a bit more than similarly configured 4-way servers, but they frequently provide greater storage capacity and more expansion slots.

Features, performance, expansion options, and price are important considerations when you're deciding what system to buy, but manageability is just as important. So carefully consider the vendor's management features when you narrow your choices.

—Mark Weitz

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Contact Information	Product Name	Price	Description
Acer • 800-733-2237 http://www.acer.com	Acer Altos 21000	\$11,195	Features one Pentium III 550MHz Xeon processor, 1GB of RAM, an 18.2GB 10,000rpm Ultra 2 SCSI hard disk, a 7U rack-mountable chassis, a suite with online server manageability and offline recovery capabilities, and two 430-watt redundant, hot-swappable, and load-sharing power supplies; price is for one processor; kit upgrade is available; price of additional processor is \$1349
Amdahl • 408-746-6000 http://www.amdahl.com	Fujitsu <i>teamserver</i> L800i	\$11,959	Pedestal or rack-mount Pentium III Xeon server with bays for eight Low Voltage Differential (LVD) disk drives in cabinet, up to 4GB of memory, and one 10/100Base-T NIC standard option; price is for four 500MHz CPUs with 512KB of Level 2 cache, 256MB of RAM, one 18GB 7200rpm hard disk, and one 10/100Base-Tx NIC
	Fujitsu <i>teamserver</i> M800i	\$22,220	Pedestal or rack-mount Pentium III Xeon server with bays for six LVD disk drives in cabinet, up to 8GB of memory, and one 10/100Base-T NIC standard option; price is for four 500MHz CPUs with 1MB of Level 2 cache, 256MB of RAM, one 18GB 7200rpm hard disk, a PCI Ultra SCSI adapter card, and one 10/100Base-Tx NIC
Compaq • 800-345-4365 http://www.compaq.com	ProLiant 8500	\$19,994	High-density data center server provides 8-way scalable performance for 24 × 7 multiserver rack environments; price is for four 550MHz Xeon processors with 512KB of Level 2 cache, 256MB of Synchronous DRAM (SDRAM), and one 9.1GB hard disk
	ProLiant 8000	\$26,726	Combines high-availability, scalable performance, and modular expandability for 24 × 7 environments; price is for four 550MHz Xeon processors with 512KB of Level 2 cache, 256MB of SDRAM, a Smart Array Controller, and one 9.1GB hard disk
	ProLiant 6400R	\$13,829	Merges a new form factor with technology for 4-way computing power and density for space-constrained data center environments; price is for four 500MHz Xeon processors with 512KB of Level 2 cache, 256MB of Error-Correcting Code (ECC) and Enhanced Data Output (EDO) RAM, and one 9.1GB hard disk
DTK Computer • 800-289-2385 http://www.dtkcomputer.com	Vista III NT Server	Call vendor for pricing	SMP server with 667MHz Pentium III Xeon processors; 133MHz front-side bus on the Windows NT platform for scalability and reliability; designed for small- and medium-sized businesses
Everex Systems 800-383-7391 http://www.everex.com	StepServer ES	\$9599	Expandable and scalable when adding processors, memory, and storage capacity; redundant power supplies and fans; optimized to grow with your company
Gateway • 800-315-2536 http://www.gateway.com	Gateway ALR 9200	\$10,096	Enterprise-class quad-capable Xeon server expandable to 108GB of hot-swappable storage and 4GB of RAM; price is for four 550MHz processors, 256MB of RAM, and one 9.1GB hard disk
Hewlett Packard • 800-322-4772 http://netserver.hp.com/ ing netserver	HP NetServer LH 4	Starts at \$11,010	Scalable Intel-based server handles Web hosting and enterprise resource planning (ERP) applications for expanding workgroups to corporate data centers; price is for two 550MHz Pentium III Xeon processors with 512KB of Level 2 cache,



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Hitachi Data Systems 408-970-1000 http://www.hds.com	Hitachi VisionBase 8455	Starts at \$7000	256MB of SDRAM, and three 9.1GB 7200rpm hard disks Midrange server with 550MHz Pentium III Xeon processors in either tower or rack-mount versions
IBM • 800-426-4968 http://www.ibm.com	Netfinity 5500 M20	Starts at \$8045	Powerful, reliable performance; Predictive Failure Analysis and light-path diagnostics; up to 550MHz Pentium III Xeon processor with ECC, SDRAM memory, and integrated RAID
	Netfinity 7000 M10	Starts at \$9179	Peak performance, high availability, and up to 550MHz Pentium III Xeon processor
Intergraph • 800-763-0242 http://www.intergraph.com	InterServe 9400	Starts at \$23,500	Highly available, highly scalable server for companies deploying mission-critical, enterprisewide applications on Intel and NT platforms
NCR • 800-225-5627 http://www.ncr.com	NCR S50	Starts at \$8220	A midrange SMP server offering scalability and reliability
	NCR WorldMark 4400	Starts at \$10,460	Scalable; available in a midrange SMP server; meets departmental computing and scalable data warehousing requirements
NEC Computer Systems 888-632-8701 http://www.nec-computers.com	Express5800 HV8600	Starts at \$22,845	Scalable performance and high-reliability features handle heavy database loads with ease and provide expansion room for the future; price is for four 500MHz Pentium III Xeon processors with 512KB of Level 2 cache, 256MB of DRAM, and one 9GB Ultra 2/Wide SCSI hot-plug hard disk
	Express5800 HX4600	Starts at \$9000	Combines fault-tolerant memory, cache, PCI, disks, fans, and power supplies for high-speed reliability; expansion room to help meet a company's growing demands
	Express5800 MH4500	Starts at \$4600	Affordable performance in a low-profile chassis; redundant and hot-swappable features provide reliability in only 7U; expansion room to meet a company's growing demands
Polywell Computers 800-999-1278 http://www.polywell.com	PolyServer 450NX4	\$8999	NT and Linux SMP server; four Pentium III 550MHz Xeon processors with 512KB of Level 2 cache; four Slot-2 cooling fans, 64MB DIMM 168-pin ECC and Buff (256MB), built-in 27GB to 100GB RAID; tower or 7U rack mount configurable
Quantex Microsystems 877-226-6324 http://www.quantex.com	Quantex QX6400	\$10,299	Departmental and enterprise server; supports up to four Pentium III Xeon processors; 16DIMM slots support up to 4GB of RAM; six hot-swappable drive bays, 108GB maximum; dual-peer PCI buses, seven slots; redundant hot-swappable fans, power supplies, and NICs; rack-mountable
	Quantex QX7000	\$13,999	Enterprise server; supports up to four Pentium III Xeon processors; 32DIMM slots support up to 8GB of RAM; 12 hot-swappable drive bays, 432GB maximum; American Megatrend's MegaRAID Controller with battery backup, three PCI buses, 11 slots; redundant hot-swappable fans, power supplies, and NICs
SAG Electronics • 800-706-7065 http://www.sagelectronics.com	STF-4550 QXR	\$15,693	Features four 550MHz Xeon CPUs, multiple 64-bit PCI buses, Ultra 160m 1062 RAID, and an Intel 840 chipset
Siemens ICP CS • 408-428-8470 http://www.siemenscomputers.com	Primergy N70/40, 670/40, 870/40	Starts at \$7000	Intel-based, highly scalable server; features data security and availability while maintaining full compliance with industry-standard OSS
Toshiba • 800-867-4422	Toshiba Magnia 7010	Starts at \$7331	Built-to-order enterprise server; four 550MHz Pentium III Xeon