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Chris Maylor, Director of Office Systems Technology for Verizon, discussing benefits of Intel(R) vPro(TM).

Third Generation Enables Virtualized PC Models, Services for Small Businesses

SANTA CLARA, Calif.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--

Intel Corporation today introduced its third-generation Intel(R) vPro(TM) suite of business desktop PC technologies, which among other features enhances security and reduces the time and cost of maintenance by enabling PCs to literally think and act for themselves. The new vPro Technology for desktop PCs also opens the door to new virtualized PC models and products aimed at the special needs of small businesses.

The new Intel vPro Technology (formerly codenamed "McCreary") combines the energy-efficient performance of Intel(R) Core(TM)2 quad-core or dual-core processors with the new Intel(R) Q45 Express Chipset and Intel(R) 82567LM Gigabit Network Connection along with Intel(R) Active Management technology 5.0.

Among the new business-class technology innovations, this 2008 version for the first time extends IT organizations' reach to protect and manage PCs beyond the corporate firewall. With the new Remote Alert feature, a suddenly ailing PC - even one that is turned off - that is experiencing symptoms outside preset parameters can "call" for IT assistance on its own.

Using the new Remote Scheduled Maintenance feature, IT administrators can program PCs for regular tune-ups that have PCs automatically connecting to an IT management program for maintenance. With the new Fast Call for Help feature, the user can get immediate assistance over an out-of-band link by entering a key sequence, even if the computer is completely crippled with a failed operating system or hard drive.

"Intel vPro Technology has been a win-win for the IT industry and high-tech industries, and each year we've unveiled unique innovations to solve IT's biggest challenges," said Gregory Bryant, Intel vice president and general manager, Digital Office Platform Division. "For 2008, vPro Technology continues that trend, automating repair and maintenance functions to not only free IT professionals' time, but rapidly accelerate the time it takes to get endusers up and running."

In addition, for 2008 Intel beefed up access security with two new features. The new Access Monitor feature comprehensively and more securely logs IT activity on systems, further closing the door on potential internal security breaches. The platform also offers the first embedded technology to authenticate PCs using Microsoft(1) Network Access Protection,(1)

enabling protected out-of-band remote maintenance on Intel vPro-based systems.

New Small-Business Solutions Added

For the first time, Intel has molded Intel vPro Technology in a form to specifically fit the needs of small businesses, those whose computer systems are likely managed by someone with no computer background at all. Designed for businesses with less than 25 notebooks or desktop PCs, Intel(R) IT Director offers a user-friendly "dashboard" that provides status on key system settings and health parameters, capability to block connection to risky USB devices and a data back-up feature that enables users to work seamlessly through hard-drive failures.

For small businesses which periodically need immediate help with PC problems, Intel unveiled Intel(R) Remote PC Assist Technology that connects those businesses with service providers that can assist when an end-user enters a key sequence. Once connected, service providers can take full advantage of the out-of-band capabilities, and security and management features of vPro Technology to solve problems remotely. For the service provider, Intel Remote PC Assist Technology means enhanced service delivery, reduced operational costs and broader access to customers. Initially, Intel Remote PC Assist will be available in North America.

Intel also introduced two motherboards supporting all of the new Intel(R) vPro features. Aimed at channel customers, the Intel(R) Desktop Board DQ45CB is for standard-sized PCs and the Intel(R) Desktop Board DQ45EK is for small- form-factor systems.

Creating New Computing Models for Security, Manageability

Many IT organizations are looking to new application delivery technologies to strengthen security, improve management and lower total cost of ownership. Dynamic Virtual Client technologies (DVC), Intel's designation for a new group of computing models, work in conjunction with Intel vPro Technology to centralize data security and application management on a server, but "stream" applications on demand to a desktop or laptop PC where they run under the PCs own processing power. In this way, DVC preserves user mobility and performance, simplifies IT management and security, and, unlike thin-client models, does not require a large-scale burden on the datacenter. Citrix, Lenovo, and Microsoft recently announced DVC products or programs that take advantage of Intel vPro technology.

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Source: Intel Corporation