

The Auspex NS 5500 NetServer

The Auspex NS 5500 NetServer™ sets a new standard for high-performance network file servers—with 80% greater NFS™ (Network File System) I/O throughput and 30–50% faster user response time than its predecessor. With its Functional Multiprocessing™ (FMP™) architecture and new I/O processors, the NS 5500 provides at least five times greater NFS™ throughput than conventional high-end data servers,

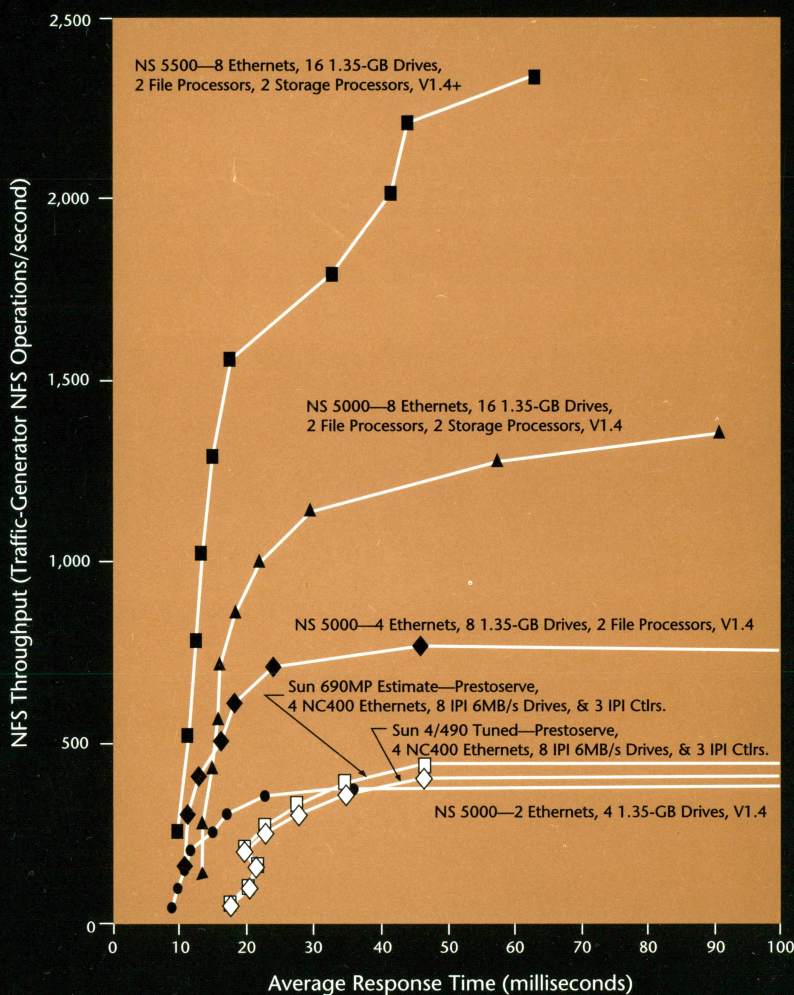
increasing user productivity at a dramatically lower cost per network seat.

The Auspex NS 5500 NetServer's increased network I/O performance meets the increasing I/O demands of the newest 50–100-SPECmark Unix workstations. No other network file server has demonstrated this level of performance.

Increased User and System Management Productivity

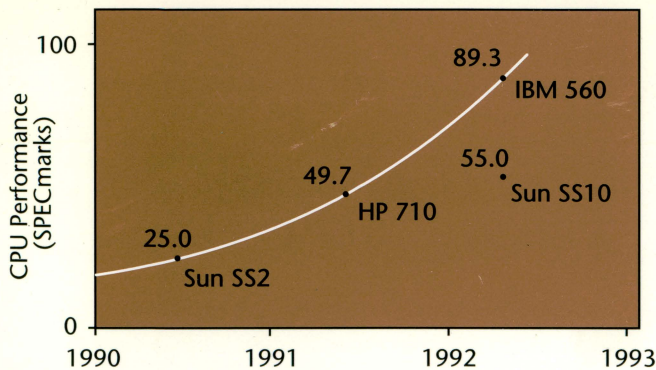
The NS 5500's performance translates into greater user productivity through faster data access. The NS 5500 provides NFS support for more client traffic—up to 150 of today's high-performance (50–100 SPECmark) workstations. It consolidates more data, and thus improves the cost effectiveness of the NetServer itself. In addition, through data consolidation and the elimination of multiple servers, system administration costs are reduced as well.

Combined with the traditional NetServer virtues of high data availability, balanced I/O and compute service, scalability, easy-to-use system management tools, and Auspex's unwavering commitment to customer satisfaction, the NS 5500 NetServer raises the standard for network server excellence.

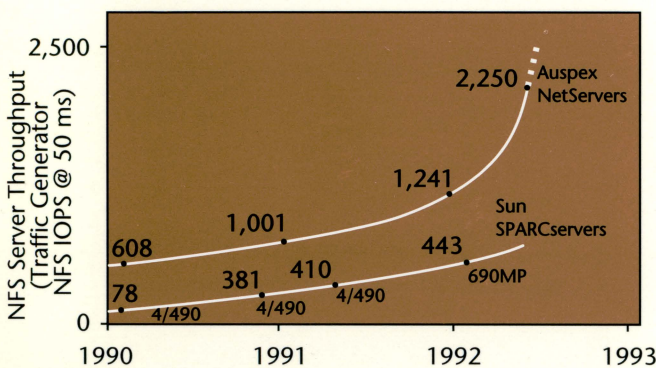


Benchmark results were measured using Auspex's Traffic Generator using the LADDIS NFS operation mix. NFS writes were performed synchronously.

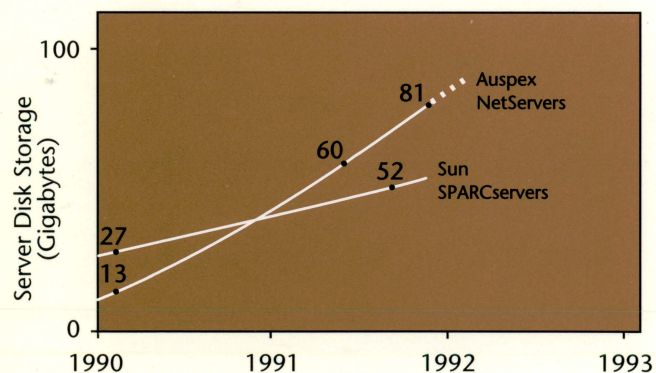




Over the past several years, workstation power has doubled every 12-18 months, with desktop performance increasing from 25SPECmarks in 1990 to nearly 100 today.



Auspex NetServer NFS throughput has quadrupled since 1990, from 608 NFS IOPS in January of 1990 to over 2,250 today. The new Auspex NS 5500 can support over 100 of today's high-performance RISC workstation users, concurrently delivering data to all of them with response times under 50 milliseconds.



Similarly, only Auspex has kept pace with the increasing user demand for more data on the server. Auspex NetServers now support 81 GB, a six-fold increase capacity since 1990.

Higher Data Availability

A second new model, the NS 5502, is designed to eliminate virtually all system downtime due to disk, tape, or power supply failures. The NS 5502 includes redundant power supplies. Redundant power supplies are also available for the 40-drive expansion cabinet. This is in addition to disk mirroring that allows active file systems to be replicated on separate disks, and hot pluggability for online addition or removal of disk, tape, and CD-ROM drives in the NS 5500. Together, these features provide greater data availability.

Functional Multiprocessing

Along with the rest of the Auspex NetServer product family, the NS 5500 employs Auspex's Functional Multiprocessing architecture and delivers truly balanced, independent compute capability and high-throughput network file service for large department and campus network environments. Unlike data servers based on workstation architectures where compute and NFS demands compete for CPU cycles, the FMP architecture distributes NFS workload to multiple, dedicated processors. These processors are individually optimized for Ethernet, file, storage, and Unix system functions. A SPARC™ host processor provides consistently high-performance compute service which is independent of NFS workload—providing the industry's only truly balanced network server.

NS 5500 Features

- 5-10 times the network I/O performance of file servers with conventional architectures.
- 2,250 NFS IOPS* at 50 ms response time.
- SPARC-based host processor for Sun-4 binary compatibility.
- 2-8 Ethernet ports using 1-4 Ethernet Processors.
- Redundant power supply system, or expansion cabinet (optional).
- Up to 30 parallel SCSI I/O channels for disk, tape, and CD-ROM data transfer.
- Up to 81 GB (formatted) disk storage with a single optional expansion cabinet.
 - 1-27 GB of disk capacity in the NS 5500 system cabinet (19 x 1.35-GB disk array plus root drive).
 - 1-54 GB disk capacity in the NS 5500 expansion cabinet (40 x 1.35-GB disk array).
- Hot-pluggable disk, tape, and CD-ROM drives, supporting online installation and removal without service disruption.
- Removable, bootable CD-ROM.
- Up to 3 Write Accelerators with battery-backed, non-volatile write cache (optional).
- High-speed IP routing at over 6,000 packets per second (aggregate).
- 16-96 MB primary I/O cache ECC memory (NFS and IP routing data only).
- 55-MB/s enhanced VME backplane with 14 slots.
- ASCII or optional X terminal operator console.
- Online hypertext-linked documentation.
- Compatible with Unix (SunOS™), ONC™/NFS, SNMP, TCP/IP, and Ethernet.

* NFS IOPS (I/O Operations Per Second): the number of average-mixtue (LADDIS mix) NFS operations per second processed by a server at the request of network clients.

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Document 300-DS005 V1.3 920629.



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