Get Connected

Computing technology can increase employee productivity and help you manage your growing business better. While stand-alone PCs are useful, the "connected" office is even more productive.

One way of getting connected is to install a network that allows you to share resources and improve communication.

Another way is to connect to the world by linking your local network to the Internet.

Benefits of Getting Connected with Networking
A network is a group of computers and peripheral devices, such as printers and fax machines, that are connected via a Local Area Network (LAN). Installing a network in your growing business allows for resource sharing and can help your company accomplish the following:

- **Boost Productivity**. Installing a network increases productivity by saving people time. For example, storing files on a central computer is a convenient way to share files without having to copy them on floppy disks.
- **Reduce Technology Costs**. Networks can reduce technology costs by enabling computers to share expensive printers and other peripherals. Shared software can also be loaded on a centralized computer and accessed by each user, reducing the per-PC software cost.
- **Make Communicating Easier**. Networking improves your employees' ability to communicate with one another via electronic mail. You can also provide superior customer service through immediate access to information stored on computers on the network.

What Type of Networking Is Right for My Business?
The type of network computing environment that is right for you depends on the size of your business and your specific computing requirements:

- **A peer-to-peer network** consists of two or more PCs that are connected. This network configuration is well-suited for small offices with simple computing needs. This is an easy and inexpensive way to implement file and print sharing in your office today.
- **A client/server computing environment** consists of several PCs (clients) that access shared network resources, one or more centralized computers (servers), and a LAN connecting them.

Benefits of a Client/Server Computing Environment
Incorporating a centralized server(s) into your network enables you to harness the processing power and services of client PCs and servers. The server is responsible for providing functions such as electronic mail, Web connections and access to customer order status and inventory information. By centralizing shared resources on a dedicated server(s), data can be better maintained and controlled.

The building blocks of business computing are Intel or AMD processor-based PCX Computers clients and standard high volume servers. These servers are based on industry-leading Intel processors and off-the-shelf operating systems such as Microsoft Windows NT* Server and Novell NetWare*. Because Intel and AMD processor-based servers are widely available, there are many hardware and software components available for these servers—providing you with product value, product innovation and investment protection.

Servers based on the latest technology from Intel and AMD allow you to respond to changing business conditions. They provide scalable performance, built-in manageability and affordability. Your investment is secure because Intel and AMD processor-based servers have the largest software base in the industry. You can maintain your competitive edge through access to thousands of readily available software applications.

Benefits of Connecting to the Internet
Getting connected to the Internet allows you to communicate with customers and suppliers, gather and share information, and market your products or services through electronic commerce. Linking to the Internet is relatively convenient and affordable for growing businesses and allows you to take advantage of the following:

- **Electronic Mail**. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and online services provide access to Internet e-mail, allowing you to communicate easily and inexpensively with prospects, customers and suppliers.
- **Online Research**. You can search the Internet for a variety of information that is useful to your business. For instance, you can access up-to-date market research and trade publications to monitor the latest competitive and industry news.
- **Web Publishing**. Today's software makes it easy to create a Web site for your business in just a few hours. Doing so allows you to advertise your products or services to a worldwide audience. Your site can be hosted by an ISP or you can build and host it on an Intel processor-based Internet server.
- **Electronic Commerce**. Perhaps the most exciting benefit of the Internet is electronic commerce. Straightforward, cost-effective e-commerce solutions allow you to sell your products or services to a global customer base.

Enhance Your Growing Business
You have the opportunity to enhance your growing business by getting connected with a LAN and Internet access. At some point, you may find that your stand-alone PCs no longer meet the demands of your growing company. That's the time to consider getting connected.