



The DIG64 Working Group
Industry Consortium of the DIG64 Specification

BEAVERTON, August 21, 2000 - Support continues to grow within the development community for the Developers' Interface Guide for IA -64 Servers (DIG64). First released in late 1999, the DIG64 is an industry-wide initiative that creates a common definition of compatibility between upcoming IA-64 server hardware and its system-level software.

Now at Release 2.0, the recently updated DIG64 guideline focuses on the next generation of solutions based on the IA-64 processor family. "DIG64 version 2.0 provides Developers a comprehensive roadmap for the design of IA -64 systems that will be in high demand in the new e-business environment," stated Justin Rattner, Intel Fellow and Director, Server Architecture Lab.

Developers of the guideline state that the formally stabilized IA -64 hardware and software interfaces defined by the DIG64 will offer significant benefits to the IT community. For example, system design standardization will ensure that IA -64 operating systems run reliably on different platforms from multiple vendors. This increased interoperability between DIG-compliant solutions will also reduce system qualification costs for IT departments.

"Any time a brand new architecture is introduced you need to have the supporting infrastructure to support that architecture," explains Raja Srinivasan, Technical Director at Oracle Corporation. "If developers base their applications on DIG64 certified platforms, the migration is going to be painless."

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By encouraging concurrent development across the entire solution stack, the DIG64 guideline should also speed the availability of IA -64 solutions. Backers of the initiative stress that this will give businesses greater

choice in IA-64 products and further ease overall migration to the technology.

More than 250 OEMs, OSVs, BIOS vendors and other developers have adopted the DIG64 standards and are expected to begin shipping DIG64-compliant products later this year. "The Developers have been instrumental to the success of the DIG64 by adopting the guidelines and designing to its requirements. This will speed up the delivery and make high-performance, reliable IA-64 solutions readily available to the IT community," says Justin Rattner. These upcoming solutions, including platforms, firmware, and operating systems, will be required to undergo extensive interoperability testing before reaching the marketplace.

For more information on the Developers' Interface Guide for IA-64 Servers, including the latest specification, DIG64 Adopter companies and upcoming solutions, visit www.dig64.org.