

Houston NetWare Conference and Exhibits

Education, New Technologies, and Great Weather!

Laura Chappell

While most of the United States was freezing, flooding, or snowed in, I was greeted by 85-degree weather when I arrived in Houston, Texas for the Houston NetWare Conference and Exhibits, which was held on February 22-23 at the magnificent and mazelike George R. Brown Convention Center. And to think people laughed at me for packing a swimsuit!

EDUCATING THE MASSES

The Houston NetWare Conference and Exhibits is part of a series of regional trade shows hosted by NetWare Users International, North America (NUI, NA) to help NetWare users manage their networks more effectively and to keep them up-to-date with new technologies. These trade shows offer in-depth tutorials, seminars, and an exhibit hall featuring third-party companies and products. For example, on the first day of the Houston NetWare Conference and Exhibits, NUI, NA offered the following eight-hour tutorials:

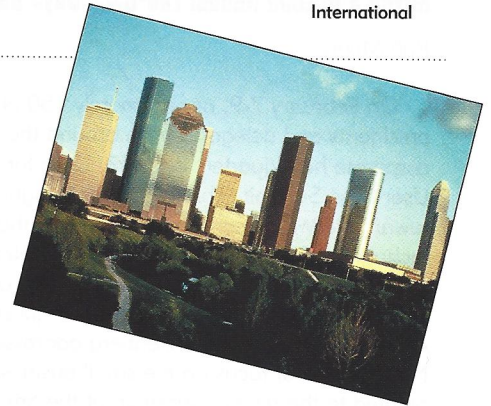
- Integrating Windows 95 and NetWare, presented by Ed Sawicki
- Upgrading to NetWare 4.1, presented by Dave McClellan
- CNE Recertification Boot Camp for NetWare 4.1, presented by David James Clarke, IV
- Understanding and Analyzing NetWare LAN Performance, presented by Laura Chappell (That's me!)

The second day of the conference featured a variety of 90-minute seminars such as Network Security, Remote Connectivity and the Internet, Printing with NetWare 3 and 4, and Designing and Administering NetWare Directory Services (NDS) Security.

EXHIBIT HALL HIGHLIGHTS

After checking out some of the seminars, I hit the exhibit hall. At Novell's booth, the presenter created a World-Wide Web (WWW) home page to show attendees how the NetWare Web Server works. The booth was packed with people eager to sit down, drink free sodas, and watch someone build a WWW site on-the-fly.

Citadel Computer Systems gave out free, 30-day trial copies of NetOFF, a workstation management tool. NetOFF runs on client workstations and automatically logs users off the network at a specific time of day or after a certain length of time, which the network administrator defines. NetOFF also includes an automatic file-save feature for Windows users. (To get a free, 30-day



How to Contact the Companies Mentioned in This Article

For more information about the products and services mentioned in this article, contact the following companies:

Company	Telephone Number	World-Wide Web Site
CallWare Technologies	1-801-486-9922	http://www.callware.com
Cisco Systems, Inc.	1-800-GOCISCO or 1-408-526-7209 (technical support)	http://www.cisco.com
Citadel Computer Systems	1-800-962-0701 or 1-713-686-6495 (fax)	http://www.citadel.com
Cyber State University	1-510-253-TREK	(No WWW site)
Micro House International	1-800-926-8299 or 1-303-443-3388	http://www.microhouse.com
Novell, Inc.	1-800-NETWARE or 1-801-429-7000	http://www.novell.com
Olicom	1-800-654-2661 or 1-214-423-7560 (technical support) or 1-800-446-5426 (QuickFax, Olicom's fax-on-demand system)	http://www.olicom.com
Teknowlogy Education Centers	1-713-439-1916	http://www.teknowlogy.com
Tricord Systems, Inc.	1-800-TRICORD or 1-612-557-9005	http://www.tricord.com
Xircom, Inc.	1-800-775-0400 (FactsLine, Xircom's fax-on-demand system)	http://www.xircom.com

Novell's Second Annual End-User Days Summit

Rob Moore

On February 7-9, approximately 150 NetWare user group presidents and delegates from around the world met at Novell's corporate headquarters in Orem, Utah for the second annual End-User Days Summit. This event was designed to recognize and reward NetWare user group leaders for their investment in Novell technologies and their support of other NetWare users.

Attendees met with Novell's president and CEO, Bob Frankenberg, who responded to their questions and comments. Among other things, Frankenberg addressed concerns about Novell's lack of focus on the small business market. First, he pointed to the recent formation of the Small-Office/Home-Office (SOHO) Business Unit, and then he reviewed Novell's plans to work with companies such as IBM, Corel Corporation, and Cheyenne Software to provide turnkey solutions that meet the needs of small businesses.

trial copy of NetOFF, call 1-800-962-0701, or fax your request to 1-713-686-6495.)

Representatives of CallWare Technologies answered questions about CallWare, a voice- and call-processing NetWare loadable module (NLM) that runs on NetWare 3 or NetWare 4. (See "The Network Speaks: With CallWare's NLM," *NetWare Connection*, Jan./Feb. 1996, pp. 58-62. You can also access this article over the Internet at <http://www.nwconnection.com/jan-feb.96/callware/callware.htm>.) I got some useful information about the product, including a diagram showing how CallWare works on a network and details about CallWare ViewPoint, a Windows-based interface for managing voice messages.

CNE training was one of the conference's most popular topics. Teknowlogy Education Centers drew a crowd by passing out free Hershey bars and documents that outline the path to becoming a CNE or a Master CNE based on current Novell Education course offerings. Attendees also visited the Cyber State University booth to check out CNE Online, which provides unlimited access to World-Wire, a remote network that offers hands-on training for a variety of Novell products.

Hardware vendors also exhibited some impressive products at the conference. Tricord Systems opened up one of its multiprocessor PowerFrame servers so that attendees could examine its architecture. In addition, Tricord offered a new white paper, *The Tricord Enterprise Server and Novell NetWare 4.1 SMP*, which examines the NetWare 4.1 Symmetric MultiProcessing (SMP) architecture and explains how the SMP environment handles NetWare kernel calls. (You can download a copy of this white paper from Tricord's WWW site at <http://www.tricord.com>. You can also get a copy by calling 1-800-TRICORD or 1-612-557-9005. The white paper product number is 1005Rev01US-08M-0396.)

At the Olicom booth, I spoke with a technical marketing manager about Olicom's PowerMACH drivers, which make Olicom's network interface boards perform so well. He raved about Olicom's free telephone support, and he even called the number on his cellular telephone so I could ask a question and see if an Olicom technical support engineer could answer it. Sure enough, my question (what Token Ring chipset does

Attendees also met with Drew Major, Novell's chief scientist and senior system architect, who discussed Novell's renewed focus on NetWare. Major explained that NetWare engineers are working on a new distributed file system that will integrate the current NetWare file system into NetWare Directory Services (NDS). In addition, he mentioned that Novell is committed to developing enhanced Internet capabilities for NetWare.

After meeting with Major, attendees were given a tour of Novell's SuperLab, where third-party hardware and software solutions are tested and approved. Other highlights of the summit included an overview of NUI's new technical discussion forums on the World-Wide Web (<http://www.nuinet.com/forums>); focus group sessions in which product managers discussed NetWare implementation and customization, remote access, network analysis, and more; and several in-depth technical training sessions.

Novell and NUI would like to thank those who attended the Novell End-User Days Summit. These volunteers spend thousands of hours each year to help NetWare users worldwide manage their NetWare networks more effectively. ●

Olicom use on its boards?) was answered immediately (the T1 chipset, which enables you to use an Olicom board in your analysis machine). You can call Olicom technical support at 1-800-654-2661 or 1-214-423-7560 if you want to try it yourself.

Cisco Systems presented a terrific multimedia tour of its current product line and offered a stack of one-page product overviews that outline its workgroup and access solutions, including the FastHub 100 (100Base-T repeaters) and the EtherSwitch 1400 Series Modules (100Base-T/FDDI switches). A few lucky people won copies of Internet Junction, Cisco's client-server software that enables you to run WinSock 1.1-compliant TCP/IP applications over IPX without installing a TCP/IP stack on every workstation.

Xircom displayed its PCMCIA adapters, including the CreditCard Ethernet+Modem 28.8 Adapter, which is a combination Ethernet adapter and high-speed 14.4Kbit/s and 28.8Kbit/s fax modem. This adapter includes a Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agent so you can monitor it with any SNMP-compliant management software. Xircom also displayed its full-size MultiPort Modem Card, which is an integrated ISA-expansion board that can support up to 64 modems in a single server.

With all of this cutting-edge hardware on display at the conference, it's no wonder that Micro House International's demonstration of its newest CD-ROM database, Support On Site (SOS) for Hardware, was such a success. In a search for articles relating to Windows 95, SOS for Hardware returned more than 1,800 matches. SOS for Hardware includes all of the features contained in the Micro House Technical Library, plus articles and newsletters from Ziff-Davis Interactive that address hardware and operating system issues.

CONCLUSION

After two full days of tutorials, seminars, and exhibits at the Houston NetWare Conference and Exhibits, I barely had time to catch a few rays and take a dip in the hotel pool before heading home. Although I didn't get to take advantage of the Texas sun, I did return to work armed with exciting new solutions for my NetWare network and some useful information about the hottest products in the industry. ●