

HARDWARE SYSTEM

Superhawk 915G Now Mainstream...

Compucon has used up the final stock of 865G motherboards and have evolved to 915G as the standard platform for Superhawk and Workgroup Server. 915G provides several new features such as PCI Express support (do not mistake it for PCI-X for server use), Gigabit Ethernet interface controller and 4 Serial ATA HDD channels. It has also created 2 major considerations. It takes LGA775 P4 CPU only and the physical socket is not compatible with the standard Pentium4 478pin socket. Secondly, this motherboard supports DDR or DDR2 but not both at the same time. There are only 2 DIMM slots for each type. For the next 6 months, Compucon intends to support DDR only because DDR2 does not provide any performance advantage until it exceeds DDR2-667 level, it is not backward compatible with DDR and is more expensive. The maximum memory is 2GB only. This new platform has integrated VGA and a spare PCIEx16 slot for discrete VGA if desired. We have tested a Geforce PCIE card and found it to be stable. The platform supports 4 SATA and 4 IDE HDD and the latter with RAID-0, 1 or 10 capabilities. Nevertheless, we recommend to use the on-board RAID for workstations only and to install the Accusys Hot Swap kit for Workgroup Server. Accusys will release a SATA version in May. The good news is we can raise the ceiling of P4 support from 3.06GHz to 3.8GHz but be warned that the numbers do not reflect real life performance.

Superhawk 865P and 875P Available...

For customers wanting to stay on the 800 series platform for their current

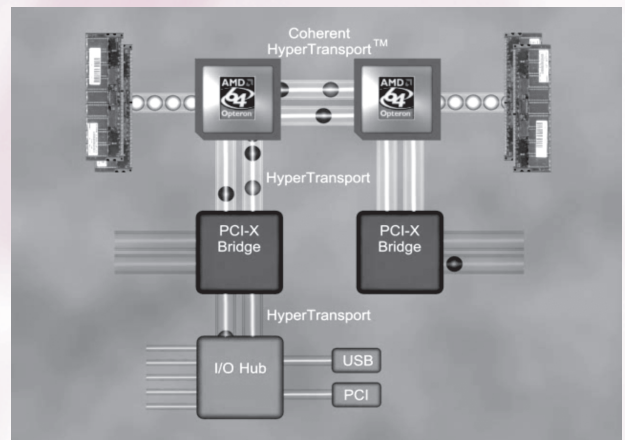
generation of information systems, we can supply 865P and 875P as options.

865P is very similar to 865G that has just been phased out. The main difference is that it has a discrete AGP slot and no integrated VGA. It supports DDR only and up to 4GB. It is the best platform for workstations since most high-end VGA cards have AGP-interface only. PCI Express VGA cards are available but not across the full range.

875P was originally intended for high-end workstation use but our technology supplier has skilfully designed a server grade motherboard based on it. Same as 865G and 865P, it supports 478pin P4 only up to 3.06GHz and up to 4GB of DDR-400 memory. It has on-board VGA and a spare AGP slot. Most importantly, it supports PCI-X that is backward compatible with PCI. It is the ideal platform for single P4 systems requiring high I/O bandwidth.

AMD K8 Architecture Claims Supremacy...

Several third parties have released performance benchmarks showing that systems based on AMD K8 architecture performs consistently better on various real life applications than Intel P4 based platforms that are slightly more expensive. Their findings can be supported by 2 major AMD technology leaderships. They are Direct Memory Access and Hyper-Transport. Hyper-Transport is a modular serial bus providing a high bandwidth communication link between chips. It must not be mistaken for Hyper-Threading from Intel that allows a second application to utilise CPU



resources not used by the first application. Direct Memory Access allows the CPU to transfer data with the main memory modules without going through an intermediate chip as in the case of K7, i800 and i900 chipset series. The performance merits of Compucon Vanadium servers and workstations (Dual Opteron) and Thunderbird desktops (Athlon64) have long been recognised by the Compucon channel.

Compucon Bonus Software Update...

For Compucon desktop systems ordered with Windows OS, we have been including and will continue to include a folder of bonus application software. The folder is named after the OS such as WINXP.PRO or WINXP.HOM.

- WINZIP v9.0SR1
- WINRAR v3.42
- ACROBAT.700
- AUTORUN v7.0
- AUTOLOG v2.1
- FIREFOX v1.02
- THUNDERBIRD v1.01
- JAVA2 VM v1.5-02
- TWEAKUI (W2000)
- POWERTOY (WXP)