



Marketing Bulletin

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October 2, 2006

AM-8000™ Gets a Faster Processor and a New Look *Fastest AMD Opteron® Processor (3.0 GHz.) Included* *Chassis Upgrade Enhances The Overall Appearance and Versatility*

Dear Alpha Micro Dealer:

Continuing our commitment to incorporate top-end x86 technology in our flagship AM-8000 server, we are pleased to announce that the product has been upgraded to utilize AMD's latest top clock rate processor, the Opteron 256. In addition, we've enhanced the AM-8000 system chassis to improve its appearance and versatility, giving you additional capability with no increase in price!

Take a Look At These Performance Specs

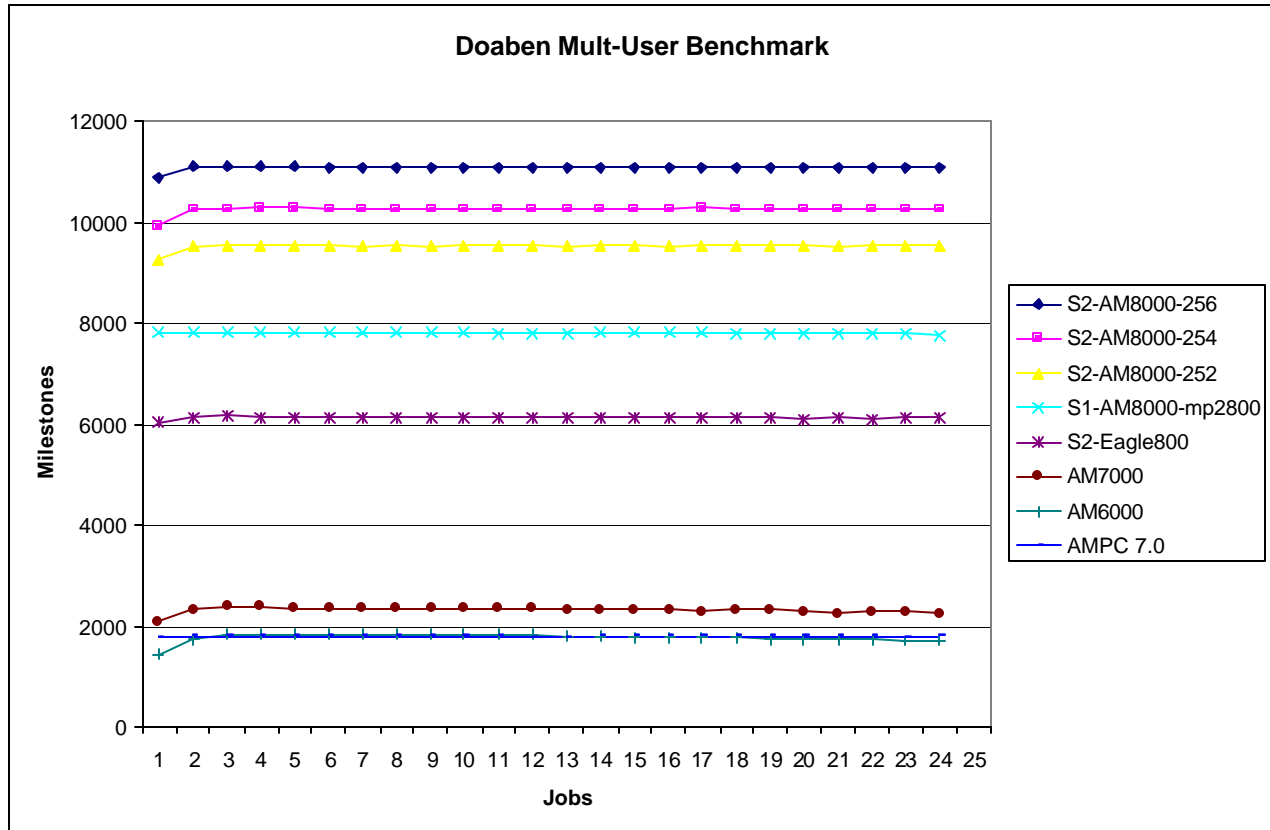
Our testing indicates that AMOS® performance is directly tied to clock rate, more so than to cache size or whether the processor has multiple cores. The new Opteron 256 is AMD's fastest clock rate server processor yet, running at 3.0 GHz. The Opteron 254 CPU used in the present AM-8000 Series II clocks at 2.8 GHz. This translates into a performance improvement for AMOS as follows:

Product	Compute SI	4X SI	FX SI	Disk SI	Dhrystones
AM-8000 Series I	810	1355	92.3	2167	93,567
AM-8000 Series II/Opteron 252	930	1511	111	3251	113,882
AM-8000 Series II/Opteron 254	1001	1672	121	3716	120,827
AM-8000 Series II/Opteron 256	1070	1777	133.3	3716	132,457
Improvement over Series I	32.1%	31.1%	44.4%	71.5%	41.6%
Improvement over Series II/254	6.9%	6.3%	10.2%	0%	9.6%

Note that the performance numbers for earlier systems are slightly different from numbers we have published previously. The benchmarking programs had to be modified to accommodate the Opteron 256, causing the whole scale to change a little. The Disk SI has not changed, because the DDR memory was already exchanging data with the CPU at its maximum data rate.

The chart on the next page shows performance of various AMOS systems running the DOABEN benchmark, a test comprising a variety of system performance elements under a multi-user load.

All AM-8000 Series II systems shipped from Alpha Micro after October 9th will be built with one Opteron 256 CPU. The system price will not change.



Upgrades From Older Opterons to 256 Version

A kit is available to upgrade existing AM-8000 Series II systems to the Opteron 256 processor. This kit includes a new processor and fan kit and a new Magic Code to enable use of that processor on your existing AM-8000 Series II motherboard. Upon receipt of the original, functional Opteron 252 or 254 chip and fan kit back at Alpha Micro, your account will be credited an exchange fee. See details on the Reseller Supplement page.

The exchange of CPUs is an extremely delicate procedure. Alpha Microsystems will not assume warranty responsibility for any damage done to the 252 chip, the 254 chip, the 256 chip, or any other component of the AM-8000 Series II system as a result of this upgrade.

The upgrade requires a new Magic Code. After installing the 256 chip, you must e-mail the new System Identification Code to Alpha Micro at upgradecode@alphamicro.com. If you are planning on doing an upgrade at a client site, make sure that you can e-mail from that site, and allow sufficient time to receive a Magic Code via return e-mail, before committing to the client that the system will be running the new release. The AMOS PIC Code does not change.

It is prudent to expect that you may need to install the 256 chip on one date, generate the new System Identification Code, and reinstall the older chip to bring the system back up. This will allow time to receive the Magic Code. After you receive this code, you can reinstall the 256 chip and complete the upgrade at another time.

Upgrades From AM-8000 Series I and 68000 Family Systems

Users of earlier systems, including AM-8000 Series Is, can upgrade to the Opteron 256-based AM-8000 Series II via the existing upgrade options.

A New Chassis For The Future

Alpha Micro is also announcing the availability of the AM-8000 Series II system with an entirely new look. This exciting new chassis, shown in Figures I and II, offers capabilities and flexibility not previously available in our product line, including:

- ?? Sleek styling, with modern black color in standard pedestal configuration (Figure I).
- ?? Easily reconfigured to 5U rack mountable configuration with low cost optional rack mount kit (Figure II).
- ?? Ten peripheral bays (five 5.25" exposed and five 3.5" hidden), mounted with slide-in rails and secured behind a lockable front door.
- ?? More compact and lighter than the previous AM-8000 Series II chassis (20% smaller and 42% lighter).
- ?? Black peripherals (monitor, keyboard, mouse, DVD-RAM, streamer) will be provided to maintain consistent system appearance.
- ?? Available as an optional Eagle 800 housing for larger Eagle 800 system configurations.



Figure I: AM-8000 Pedestal Orientation

All AM-8000 Series II systems shipped from Alpha Micro after October 9th will be housed in this new chassis, as described above, and include the new Opteron 256 CPU. The system price will not change.

See details on the Reseller Supplement page for complete part numbers, descriptions, and pricing for all the new configurations and options. For additional information, contact our Sales Administration department.

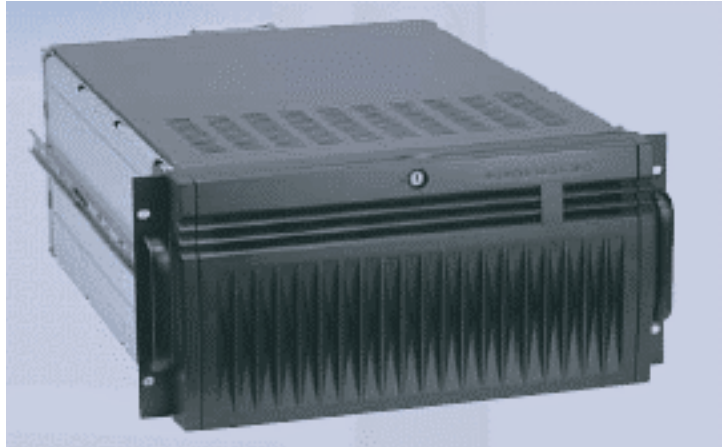


Figure II: AM-8000 Rack Mount Orientation