

# Graphical user interface key feature of Xerox pack

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PALO ALTO, Calif. — Xerox Corp. last week introduced client/server software for local-area network environments that provides a platform with a common graphical user interface for Xerox's and other vendors' groupware products.

GlobalView, designed for use in Ethernets supporting Unix and DOS client workstations, comes with a set of basic applications, such as electronic mail, and enables users to move from one machine to another in the network and get the same interface and net services to which they're ac-

customed.

In addition, GlobalView supports advanced applications such as Xerox's DocuTeam, document management groupware for creating, accessing and revising files as part of a group project.

In the initial release of GlobalView, the server component of the client/server software will only run on Xerox's proprietary Xerox 8090 server, a minicomputer that supports the Xerox Network Systems protocol.

By mid-1991, Xerox plans to port the server software to run on Unix and DOS computers.

The client software runs on ei-

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ther DOS- or OS/2-based workstations modified with Xerox hardware, or the Xerox 6520 workstation, a modified version of a Sun Microsystems, Inc. SPARCstation.

To support GlobalView from Intel Corp.'s 80286-, 80386- or 80486-based DOS or OS/2 clients, users have to install a Xerox coprocessor board based on a proprietary microprocessor and a proprietary multitasking operating system.

The coprocessor board enables the microcomputers to execute multiple tasks concurrently.

DOS clients must also run the OS/2 operating system to function as a device driv-

portable desktop capabilities are made possible by the software's distributed directory service, which enables all directories in a network to be simultaneously updated when one directory is changed.

In addition to the basic functions, GlobalView supports sophisticated groupware applications such as DocuTeam. DocuTeam runs on a Digital Equipment Corp. VAX connected to the same Ethernet as GlobalView clients on top of an Oracle Corp. data base.

DocuTeam extracts structured data, such as graphs and charts created as part of a project, and stores them as separate files on an Oracle data base. This allows users to view key data gathered as part of the project without searching through all notes and documents relating to the project.

er for equipment such as printers and hard disk drives.

Because the Unix clients run the Sun operating system and supports X/View — Sun's implementation of the X Window System — the Xerox 6520 can run any X/View-compliant application.

### Application support

The GlobalView software provides low-level user productivity applications such as E-mail and a document editor. It also offers a portable desktop, which enables users to decide whether the graphical user interface will be generated by their own workstation or from the Xerox server. When generated by the server, the same graphical user interface will greet the user when logging onto any node. GlobalView's

Xerox is selling the Scalable Processor Architecture-based workstation bundled with GlobalView software and an Ethernet interface board for \$3,995. DocuTeam costs \$20,000 and will support 10 GlobalView clients.

All of the new products will be available in November.

Although the product's list price is relatively high, the productivity benefits it can bring to technical personnel and end users will enable them to cost-justify GlobalView, according to John Dunkle, vice-president of Work Group Technologies, Inc. in Hampton, N.H.

By masking the complexities of Unix, for example, under a graphical user interface, it will reduce the amount of technical support that users require, Dunkle said. □