BERKELEY SOFTWARE DESIGN
INTERNATIONAL

PLEASE SEND US YOUR CONTACT DETAILS:
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Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you very much for showing an interest in BSD/386. I am pleased to be able to tell you that the Beta release of BSD/386 (Release 0.3) will be available from Berkeley Software Design International (Europe) Ltd on March 16th 1992.

Release 0.3 has repaired almost every known panic, fixed many utilities, enhanced installation procedures, includes SCSI support for disks and tapes on the Adaptec 1542B adaptor, includes new floating point emulation, and also supports on-line floppy formatting. Of course, Release 0.3 is a Beta Release and is liable to have hidden or mysterious problems. Its installation documentation is much improved from the alpha release, but some customers may find their configurations are a bit tricky and will have to do some work to get it to run. That being said, we expect most of the 0.3 customers to boot with absolutely no problems.

BSDI plans to ship a Gamma [0.4] release sometime before the final production release in June. More on that in the future.

If you look at the order form, you will find that the are some changes from our preminary information. There is no change to the low price of £625. This buys you the BSD/386 system on two QIC-150 tapes (one contains X, the other the system). Practical problems mean that the beta release is only being distributed on QIC-150 tapes. The system comes complete with a bootstrap disk on a 3.5 inch High Density floppy, full installation instructions and release notes. You can install the system ‘binary’ only, and then pull in the full source. This system can be run on one CPU only. We shall also include a ‘European’ floppy disk, supplying you with the DES encryption routines that must be removed from any system exported from the US.

In response to many requests, the order form now contains a new ‘Additional Binary Right to Use’ license. This permits you to install binary only versions of BSD/386 on additional CPUs. You must buy a source license, hence the word ‘additional’. However, you can now add BSD/386 users for only £125 per CPU. You should contact us for departmental and OEM deals.

Alpha and beta customers receive free support and upgrades up to 60 days after their shipment of the full production system. In addition to this, we are selling on-going support and upgrades. The upgrades will be licensed on a per-CPU basis, and you should buy ‘additional right of use’ support to match any additional binary licenses.

BSDI's new bug tracking system will enable us to access the known information on any bug in less than 10 seconds. It is hoped that this speed will enable us to ensure that bugs get fixed extraordinarily promptly and that we can talk to you very intelligently about the status of your bug perchance you should call. Requests for enhancement will, of course, take a little longer.

The Beta release supports many kinds of peripherals. Here's a list that explains what hardware you'll need to boot the system:

Requirements for Release 0.3:

- CPU: 386, 386sx, 486
- A Minimum of 4 MB memory (without X), we suggest 8 MB memory with X
- Floating Point Unit is no longer required – there is software emulation for systems without one
- VGA-compatible display, monochrome or colour. X requires colour.
- PC keyboard
- Dual sided high density 3.5 inch floppy controller and drive
- Disks:
  IDE/ESDI/RLL/MFM hard disks
  or SCSI disks (with Adaptec 1542B)
  Preferably 300 MB or bigger for sources, but 100-150MB is enough for binaries. Some reformatting and parameterization may be necessary.
- QIC-150 cartridge tape:
  Local WangTek 5150PK QIC-02
  or Local SCSI Maynard/Archive 2150S (with Adaptec 1542B)
  or Remote access via a supported ethernet card to a networked UNIX system with a QIC-150 drive
- Ethernet:
  Western Digital 8003 Ethernet/Starlan adapter: WD8003E, WD8003EBT, WD8003S, WD8003SBT, WD8013EBT and WD8013EP. Novell NE2000.

We hope to be hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Collinson