

EXHIBIT 20

The New York Times**Business Day****Digital Equipment Offers Web Browsers Its 'Super Spider'**

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If you build a better spider, the World Wide Web will beat a path to your door. At least, that is the hope of the Digital Equipment Corporation, which released a high-speed system for finding information on the Internet's rapidly expanding World Wide Web multimedia service on Friday.

A prototype of the new search system, formally called Alta Vista but known popularly as a "super spider," was made available to the Web-browsing public at no charge.

Allan L. Jennings, Digital's manager of advanced technology business development, said the company would decide later if it would eventually charge for the searching software, offer subscriptions, or make it available free and recoup its investment through advertising or sponsorship. It is expected that Alta Vista will draw large crowds to Digital's Web site and act as a showcase for Digital's own Internet products.

Digital asserts that its new software is "an order of magnitude" faster than current methods for finding information on the Web, which now consists of more than 30 million electronic pages of information stored on tens of thousands of different computers around the world, with thousands of new pages being added each day.

Alta Vista also scans more than 13,000 different discussion forums on the Usenet network.

Attempts to find just the right piece of information in the expanding maze of Internet computers can be frustrating. More than a dozen companies now offer Web-searching systems -- they are known as spiders, crawlers, wanderers and other similar names -- and each searches in different ways, with varying degrees of accuracy and comprehensiveness.

Digital is positioning Alta Vista as the fastest and most precise information agent on the Web. The software program creates complete indexes of every word on every Web page or Usenet news group it encounters, allowing the spider to make highly targeted searches.

The Alta Vista searcher also enhances its performance by sending out what Digital calls a "brood of spiders," technically known as threads, to scan Web sites much more quickly. A super spider search can consist of as many as 1,000 simultaneous threads.

Samuel H. Fuller, vice president of corporate research at Digital's Palo Alto, Calif., research center, said the software runs particularly quickly on Digital's Alpha computers, which are based on a microprocessor that processes twice as much information at a time, 64 bits, as the 32-bit computers now widely used as Web servers. The search is conducted in vast indexes managed by the Alpha computer, so searches are conducted quickly regardless of the speed of a user's computer.

"It's a great showcase for the Alpha, which most people agree is a fast chip and a good computer," said Matthew Koll, president of Personal Library Software of Rockville, Md., a leading maker of information retrieval software for the Web. "Lots of existing products would run faster on Alphas."

But, Mr. Koll added, speed is less important than the spider's ability to locate and deliver the most relevant information needed by the user.

Mr. Fuller of Digital acknowledged the risk of millions of spiders clogging the Internet and potentially overwhelming the network connections of small Web information providers. He said Digital intends to detect the capacity of each Web site the spider visits and avoid a disabling drain on that site.

Brian Pinkerton, creator of a popular Web search tool called WebCrawler and now a consultant to America Online Inc., said the greater drain on the Internet's capacity is not the search itself, or even the indexing of pages, but rather the number of search queries that are conducted.

A year ago, Mr. Pinkerton said, Webcrawler was asked to conduct 30,000 search requests a day. Today, the volume has increased to 2.5 million requests a day, he said.

The super spider is on the Web at <http://www.altavista.digital.com>.

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