ENERGY STAR® Computer Specification Revision Progress Update
6/12/06

EPA indicated at the May 18, 2006 stakeholder meeting that EPA would work closely with stakeholders while developing the Draft 3 Computer Specification. EPA has been collaborating with stakeholders on the resolution of issues related to desktop differentiation, workstations, and data collection for all products covered by this specification. This Progress Update summarizes the discussions and proposed solutions arrived at through this collaboration. EPA welcomes any comments stakeholders have on these proposals. Comments would be appreciated as soon as possible, as revisions for Draft 3 will begin shortly. **Please share comments with Katharine Kaplan Osdoba, EPA, at Osdoba.katharine@epa.gov or Arthur Howard, ICF International, at ahoward@icfi.com no late than June, 20th to have them considered in Draft 3.**

Desktop Differentiation
The following draft desktop differentiation scheme was developed through a productive, iterative process with stakeholders:

Category A:
- Default category for all desktops not meeting the category B or C definitions

Category B:
- Required: minimum 2 logical processing cores & minimum of 1 GB system memory

Category C: -
- Required: minimum 2 logical processing cores & a GPU with greater than 128 MB dedicated, non-shared memory
- Include at least two of the following three:
  - Minimum 2GB system memory
  - TV tuner/video capture with high definition support
  - Minimum of 2 storage drives

EPA notes that refinements to this list of capabilities may be necessary depending on the data submitted by industry in August. Furthermore EPA believes a significant amount of data across all product categories will be needed to adequately set levels for three separate product categories. Absent a sufficiently robust data set, EPA would likely collapse this differentiation back into just two categories. It is also important that the data points submitted are reflective of both varied configurations of the same model as well as a range of different models, so that EPA has a solid platform on which to base the specification lines.

Notebook Differentiation
Although some stakeholders have requested that EPA develop a multi-category Idle approach for notebooks, EPA does not find this request justifiable for the following reasons:
- These products have an enormous incentive to reduce power and have advanced technologies to do so; and
- EPA data shows significantly less variability for notebooks than desktops indicating that a flat line spec should be effective without interfering with performance. Final levels will be determined with the data EPA receives.

EPA welcomes any data submitted by June 20th that supports the need for differentiation for notebooks.

Hard Drive Power Management for Idle Testing
EPA strives to have the Idle test procedure closely mimic the actual idle conditions computers experience. Because a large amount of "idle" is experienced when the computer is in operation, doing simple tasks with low processor utilization such as word processing and email, EPA

believes it is important for computers to have the hard drives spun up during testing. EPA is not willing to drop this requirement, but would consider a procedure that involves a test where the hard drive is allowed to spin down half way through the test (i.e. the idle test is ten minutes long and the hard drive spins down after 5 minutes). If stakeholders prefer this hybrid approach with the test including the hard drive both active and spun down, EPA will revise the test procedure accordingly. Please let EPA know if your preference no later than June 20th so that the June 30th data call for the final dataset reflects this change in procedure.

Workstations

Definition
After extensive discussions with industry members, EPA has developed an alternate definition for workstations. Although this definition may need some fine tuning, EPA believes it is a positive step forward towards defining this product group. Acceptance of this definition will hinge on the development of and agreement on an approach for scalable levels for workstations. The proposed definition is found below.

To qualify a computer for ENERGY STAR as a workstation the system must:
A. Be marketed as a Workstation
B. Have a MTBF of at least 15,000 hours based on Bellcore TR-NWT-000332, issue 6, 12/97.
C. Support ECC and/or buffered memory

In addition, a workstation must meet three of the following seven optional characteristics:
1. Have auxiliary power support for high end graphics above simple PCI aux power
2. System is wired for 4x or 8x PCI-E on motherboard beyond the graphics slot (i.e. all slots) and/or PCI-X support
3. Does not support Uniform Memory Access (UMA) graphics
4. 5 or more PCI, PCI-E , PCI-X slots
5. Capable of supporting at least two processor chips (must support physically separate processor packages/sockets, i.e. not met with support for a single multi core processor)
6. Remote platform management support
7. Be qualified by at least 5 Independent Software Vendor (ISV) product certifications; these certifications can be in process but must be completed within 3 months of qualification

Workstation Data Collection for Scalable Levels
On June 12, 2006, EPA released a data collection form intended to collect historic workstation data in order to formalize a performance scaling approach for these products. This data is requested by **June 20th**.

Desktop-Derived Servers
As discussed at the May 18th stakeholder meeting, EPA has received little feedback on the proposed definition or any data reflecting these products' energy use. Thus, it was agreed that partners would consult and come back to EPA with thoughts on defining characteristics for desk-top derived servers. EPA is still asking for feedback and data on these products. Without an agreed upon definition as well as data, EPA will be forced to blend these products into another category for the final specification.

Data Collection
Desktops, notebooks, and all products less workstations: On May 23rd, EPA released a draft data collection form for all products addressed by this specification less workstations. EPA intends to distribute this datasheet as Final with a call for data on June 30, 2006. Data will be requested by August 4, 2006. Please share any comments on this data collection form by **June 20th.**

Updated Timeline
EPA has revised its timeline slightly from that which was shared on May 23rd to allow for the above described work with stakeholders. The revised timeline follows:

June 30 – EPA releases Draft 3 and the final data collection form for desktops and notebooks.
July 21 – Comments due on Draft 3.
August 4 – Industry provides data to EPA.
August 11 - EPA releases draft levels
September 1 - Comments due on draft levels.
September 8 - EPA releases final draft.
September 29 - Specification goes final.
July 1, 2007 – Specification effective.