Press Contact:
Jason Cox
805.730.7772 (Santa Barbara)
press@commandsoft.com

CommandSoft releases FibreJet™ for Mac OS 8.1 – 9.2.2 shared storage network software

First high-speed SAN software designed specifically for editors, content creators working in high-volume production settings

Santa Barbara, California – Tuesday, July 1, 2003: CommandSoft, Inc., a leading creator and developer of shared storage solutions, today announced the release of FibreJet™ for Mac OS 8.1 – 9.2.2, complementing its already released Mac OS X version of the companies flagship high-speed storage area network software. Targeted at professional digital video, audio and graphics creation, FibreJet is the first SAN network that places editors and content creators, not technicians, at the center of the system.

FibreJet features significant workflow advantages for high-volume production operations such as television post-production/special effects facilities and digital art studios. It enables multiple editors to simultaneously access identical source materials without altering or copying the original files—a key element in managing complex projects. FibreJet's file system management protects the data from unauthorized alteration even when multiple editors access the same material and write to the shared storage It also provides seamless integration with leading applications such as Final Cut Pro, Shake, Media 100, and major Avid and Adobe products, and virtually all 1 or 2 Gbit Fibre Channel hardware installations. Support is available now for Macintosh OS X and OS 8-9 operating systems; a Windows version is under development.

The award-winning engineering team that created Transoft®'s FibreNet™ and StudioBOSS™ are the designers of FibreJet and the principals at CommandSoft. With HP no longer selling FibreNet products, HP and Transoft system owners may now turn to CommandSoft for their present and future SAN technology needs.

"We're pleased to introduce FibreJet to people who depend on creating content for their livelihood," said Jim Wolff, president and CEO of CommandSoft. "After nearly a decade in this field, as the original designer of FibreNet and StudioBOSS, my team and I have rethought storage area networking from the ground up, and produced what we believe to be the flexible, secure networking answer that enables content creators to work together faster and more effectively."

FibreJet technology: The details

FibreJet alleviates problems caused by editing systems directly attached to a computer or an external RAID. Direct-attached storage may work well in a one-editor bay, but work poorly in multiple-workstation environments. FibreJet allows facilities to develop a centralized storage "pool" of high-speed networked storage built on high speed/high-bandwidth Fibre Channel technology, allowing multiple stations in an editing or workstation workgroup and eliminate direct-attached storage issues.

FibreJet features proprietary password-protected project management software, which helps editors and their assistants (or similar project managers) to orchestrate and distribute material to each edit station. It also provides total flexibility for data viewing and manipulation, with no danger of alteration or unauthorized copying of the source material.

In brief, FibreJet allows at most a single writer to place original material into a file system at any time, once given permission to do so. All other stations that have read-only access to that file system will be able to see and use the new data placed in the file system. FibreJet also enables stations to unmount any volume it can see. Stations will only see volumes for which they have permission.

Speeds of up to 200 MB/s per Fibre Channel port are common with FibreJet in a multiple workstation environment (where all units are interacting simultaneously to the same RAID). In addition to working with industry-standard editing and graphics applications, FibreJet interfaces flawlessly within existing SAN networking hardware. Facilities with existing 1 Gbit or 2 Gbit Fibre Channel operations can install FibreJet without added equipment—offering management both cost savings and supporting ROI. FibreJet-ready equipment includes QLogic, ATTO, Astera and Apple host bus adapters; and switches from Brocade, QLogic and Vixel.

FibreJet is the first Macintosh based SAN to demonstrate 4 streams of uncompressed 1080i 59.97 fps HDTV content on a single RAID from Chaparral to 4 workstations with Kona HD cards from AJA and Apple's Final Cut Pro. It also has been tested with Cinewave and Digital Voodoo cards. Apple's Xserve RAID easily support at least 5 streams of uncompressed SD, to the same file on the same file system simultaneously, which makes a perfect low-cost environment for Final Cut Pro 4.0 and Shake 3.0 users.

Other FibreJet features include:

> Unlimited stations and volumes for open-architecture storage capacity.
>
> Specialized CommandSoft QLogic driver offering video-enabled networked Fibre Channel feature including filtering of START-STOP SCSI commands
>
> Multiple projects open at once.
>
> Drag and drop between projects.
>
> Drag and drop throughout the interface.
>
> Resizable windows.
>
> Highly customizable GUI.
>
> Next-generation Fibre Channel support.

FibreJet software is made available through a network of resellers and also directly from CommandSoft. More information, including the complete list of resellers, is available by contacting CommandSoft sales at 800-447-0114 or online at http://www.commandsoft.com.

About CommandSoft
CommandSoft, Inc. is the developer of FibreJet™, a next-generation, shared-storage solution for Storage Area Networks (SANs). FibreJet enables file systems to be dynamically shared in a multiple-reader / single writer environment. CommandSoft was founded by the original developers of FibreNet™, StudioBOSS™, FC Net Director RAID™, SAN Manager™ and other storage software systems. They were among the first Fibre Channel innovators through their development of HBA drivers for Windows™, Solaris™, Macintosh™ OS and IRIX Fibre Channel chip sets from QLogic™, Emulex™, and Agilent™. For more information on the company, its products and its mission, visit the CommandSoft website at www.commandsoft.com or call 800-447-0144.

FibreJet™ is a trademark of CommandSoft, Inc. Transoft, FibreNet, StudioBOSS, FC Net Director, SCSI Director and SAN Manager are registered trademarks of Transoft Networks, a Hewlett Packard Company. All other trademarks are trademarks of their respective companies.

#   #   #