



ClearPath Connection

A Quarterly Newsletter for Unisys ClearPath Customers

September 2013

Contents

- 1 [We Have Realized the Goals of the ClearPath Next-Generation Server Architecture Strategy](#)
- 3 [New eBook: How to Shift Your IT Focus from Administration to Innovation](#)
- 4 [ClearPath Libra 8290 System: Exceeding the Next-Generation Promise](#) MCP
- 6 [Want an Early Look at the Next MCP Release?](#) MCP
- 7 [New Release Brings High Availability to ClearPath Libra 4200 Systems](#) MCP
- 8 [Join the ClearPath OS 2200 Field Test Team](#) OS 2200
- 9 [Resources and Calendar](#)

We Have Realized the Goals of the ClearPath Next-Generation Server Architecture Strategy

By Bill Maclean, Vice President, ClearPath and Agile Business Suite, Unisys TCIS



When we established our vision for the ClearPath Next-Generation Server Architecture in 2006, it revolved around a single goal: Create a Unisys platform based on Intel® processor technology that surpasses CMOS-based systems in the mission-critical attributes that have established ClearPath platforms as market leaders – performance, scalability, reliability, and availability.

An ambitious goal to say the least. But through consistent investments in the ClearPath program – and our commitment to driving innovation with each successive release – I'm pleased to announce that we have introduced the first platform that fulfills the complete Next-Generation Server Architecture vision and strategy.

The release of the ClearPath Libra 8290 platform confirms that our core strategies are much more than just idle promises on presentation slides. This new member of the ClearPath Libra family realizes the potential of every element of the Next-Generation Server Architecture vision – and does so using the advanced architecture we said it would.

To this end, we are delivering a platform that meets – and exceeds – all existing CMOS-based Libra models in terms of performance, scalability, and connectivity. >>



And it achieves this while providing transparent migration from previous Libra platforms. The Libra 8290 design assures that mission-critical security and high availability are native to this advanced platform. It meets the requirements of the largest ClearPath customers, and does so using finely tuned Intel® technology.

A New Benchmark in Performance

Performance is a key element of the Next-Generation Server Architecture strategy, so it's only fitting that the Libra 8290 system is taking the concept to previously unreach heights.

In fact, the Libra 8290 platform provides both single-image and single-processor performance that exceeds the most fully configured ClearPath Libra 800 system. The increase in single-image MIPS is particularly significant, representing a performance improvement of more than 20% relative to the largest Libra 800 platform.

These gains in MIPS are complemented by a sizeable boost in I/O capacity. The platform delivers roughly 3.2 times more input/output operations per second (IOPS) than a Libra 800 system, allowing it to help applications in even the most transaction-intensive environments perform at their peak.

To further support and enable these mission-critical performance characteristics, we've doubled the channel speeds and individual storage and network connections within the system.

All of these gains in performance are coupled with an advanced, internally distributed architecture that accommodates future growth by advancing the capabilities of our s-Par® technology. This allows multiple, dedicated instances of our specialty partitions, such as the [ClearPath ePortal for MCP](#) and [ClearPath MCP JProcessor](#), to function in an efficient, integrated manner. As a result, you can bring greater power and leading-edge capabilities to your application modernization initiatives, further enriching the value of your existing investments.

This architecture will also elevate the mission-critical characteristics of ClearPath Dorado Next-Generation Server Architecture platforms and help them reach the same lofty performance heights in the future.

The Most Resilient Architecture Ever

The Libra 8290 platform is also breaking new ground in the area of system resiliency and availability. With a fully redundant design, the platform is able to mitigate many common hardware failures, enabling it to protect your business from the potentially crippling effects of a disruption.

To this end, the system features dual I/O subsystems, processor cells, and memory modules. The dual I/O subsystems run in parallel, so if there is a major fault in one module, the system will continue operating without interruption. The redundant processor modules support automated failover in the rare event of a system component failure, avoiding interruptions under most circumstances. And because this redundancy comes preconfigured, there's no need for you to manually set up any of these attributes.

While this system architecture is highly advanced, it already has a track record of success. This same approach was used to establish exceptional levels of availability in the ClearPath Libra 6200 platform and the recently announced ClearPath Libra 4200 High Availability models. Mission-critical capabilities truly are an element of every ClearPath system's DNA.

Sustaining Proven ClearPath Security

Security was, is, and will remain a focal point of every ClearPath system. And the Libra 8290 platform is certainly no exception.

The system maintains the proven security measures of the models that came before it. The Next-Generation Server Architecture takes the concept a step further by leveraging unique firmware that seamlessly makes MCP instructions compatible with the Intel® environment. >>

This preserves all MCP security attributes, giving you the confidence that the Libra 8290 system is every bit as secure as all other Libra models – including the Libra 800 Series.

Getting There

Major system enhancements frequently require changes to application programs, databases, or other elements of the solution environment. The Libra 8290 platform does not impose these constraints. Object-code compatibility and operational consistency assure a cost-effective transition from previous Libra models, avoiding the costs and frustrations you might find in other environments. This makes a real difference in achieving a productive transition to an Intel® based ClearPath system.

Next Generation and Beyond

While this platform fulfills the goals of the Next-Generation Server Architecture, it does not represent the final step in the journey.

Our commitment to innovation and focus on delivering mission-critical capabilities will extend to future releases. And, we will infuse the performance improvements, resiliency enhancements, cutting-edge functions, and business value delivered in the Libra 8290 system into all forthcoming ClearPath platforms.

Plus, the foundation we've laid with the Libra 8290 system – especially the ways we've integrated the MCP and Intel® environments and incorporated more specialty partitions into the platform – is enabling us to focus on new ClearPath initiatives. For example, we'll expand these mission-critical features outward to other operating environments, helping you bring the inherent benefits of a ClearPath system to more areas of your data center.

New eBook: How to Shift Your IT Focus from Administration to Innovation

Businesses thrive on innovation. And IT can play an important role in this effort. But when so much of IT's time is focused on “just keeping the lights on,” it leaves little free for initiatives that add tangible value to the business.

But what if there was a way to shift this balance, so you can focus more time on innovation?

In our new high-level eBook, we'll show you how ClearPath Advisory Services make this goal possible.

Like a GPS for IT, ClearPath Advisory Services enable you to build a strategic roadmap that helps you:

- Drive greater efficiencies through increased IT automation
- Accelerate service delivery with the help of advanced integration capabilities
- Maximize limited budgets by understanding the financial impact of new IT projects

To learn more about how ClearPath Advisory Services can help you spend less time on administration and more on innovation, please read our [new eBook](#).



ClearPath Libra 8290 System: Exceeding the Next-Generation Promise

Calling the introduction of the ClearPath Libra 8290 platform a “big deal” may be a bit of an understatement. When you see just how much power, capacity, and capability we’ve packed into the system, you’ll understand.

First and certainly foremost, this new platform is the most-powerful Libra model Unisys has ever released. It outperforms all previous Intel® and CMOS-based Libra platforms – including the top-of-the-line ClearPath Libra 800 Series.

As such, the Libra 8290 system more than meets the goals we established with our Next-Generation Server Architecture strategy. It delivers performance that exceeds all existing CMOS-based Libra models – while offering the same levels of resiliency and availability. And, it sustains all of the mission-critical attributes that are synonymous with ClearPath platforms.

Much of these gains in performance can be attributed to the new architectural strategy we first released in the [ClearPath Libra 6200 Series systems](#). Leveraging an internally distributed architecture that divides core functions among dedicated cells – such as the Processor Memory Module (PMM) and I/O Specialty Engine Module (ISM) – enables the Libra 8290 platform to significantly increase processing power and I/O and networking capacity.

Plus, this architectural strategy allows the system to simultaneously run four instances of the [ClearPath MCP JProcessor](#) and one instance of the [ClearPath ePortal for MCP](#) specialty partitions – all as built-in, standard functionality.

Second-to-None Performance

When it comes down to pure, enterprise-class performance, the Libra 8290 system is an absolute powerhouse. It offers **single-processor performance of 620 MIPS** and **single-image performance of 7,000 MIPS**. In comparison,

a fully configured Libra 800 system offers single-processor performance of 600 MIPS and single-image performance of 5,800 MIPS, making the jump quite sizeable.

But the performance advances don’t stop there. The Libra 8290 platform also provides a considerable increase in I/O capacity over the Libra 800 system. It features dual, independent MCP I/O engines that deliver an aggregate of 180,000 input/output operations per second (IOPS) – **approximately 3.2 times the capacity of a fully configured Libra 800 system.**

Moreover, the Libra 8290 platform offers a Pay-for-Use business model based on Unisys metering technology, delivering usage-based pricing that simplifies capacity planning and makes costs predictable – while giving you the freedom to tap into additional processing power as your business needs dictate.

The Power of Economy

Just because the Libra 8290 system delivers immense levels of performance doesn’t mean it will break the bank when it comes to power consumption. On the contrary, the platform is one of the greenest, most environmentally friendly Libra models we have ever built.

But that’s not all – it will even take up less space in your data center than a Libra 800 system. Whereas a fully configured Libra 800 platform would require a minimum of two cabinets, the Libra 8290 system can function at peak capacity in just one – with room to spare. As a result, you can benefit from all the system has to offer in **half the floor space.** >>

The Definition of Mission-Critical

Performance on its own is nothing more than numbers. To truly support mission-critical environments, a system must be up, running, and available at all times. And in this regard, the Libra 8290 platform shines.

Fully redundant by design, the system essentially includes two sets of all core components. For example, there are dual, physically separate ISM subsystems functioning in an active-active state. So if one goes down, the system will keep running as if nothing ever happened. The network security appliances also run in an active-active state, meaning users will simply need to log back in to the system in the event one appliance fails. In either case, the MCP environment will not be disrupted. And this attention to resiliency is at the core of the design of every Libra 8290 system.

What's more, the system offers two A/C power inputs that you can configure to draw electricity from separate provider grids, giving you the added confidence that an external disruption won't have any effect on your operations.

A New Era for the Core ClearPath Values

As with every new hardware release, the Libra 8290 system extends our commitment to evolving the qualities that have come to define a ClearPath platform. So while the Libra 8290 system delivers unparalleled levels of security, reliability, and availability, it also maintains object-code compatibility with previous models. This means you can benefit from everything the Libra 8290 platform has to offer without making any changes to your applications. And as a result, you can migrate to the new system as smoothly – and with as little risk – as possible.

[Please visit Unisys.com](http://Unisys.com) to learn more about the [ClearPath Libra 8290 system](#).



Want an Early Look at the Next MCP Release?

Developing and qualifying every new MCP software release requires progressive testing at several levels. As part of this process, we routinely ask the ClearPath user community to take the new software for a test drive and see how it performs under real-world conditions.

With work on ClearPath MCP Release 16.0 in full swing, Unisys Engineering is looking for your help in either or both of the final two testing stages:

- The **alpha test**, which gives you a very early look at mostly complete, though not fully tested, software and documentation. The alpha test is best suited for anyone looking to evaluate the product in a pure test environment.
- The **beta test**, which is meant to be the final test phase, provides fully functional products and customer-ready documentation. The beta test is best suited for anyone looking to do in-house qualification in a non-production environment.

Participating in either test gives you an opportunity to “kick the tires” of the new release prior to its general availability. You’ll get an early look at new features (including a full set of software keys to try every capability), advanced opportunities for in-house qualification, and access to Unisys Support and Engineering for help resolving any questions and issues.

And from our perspective, alpha and beta testing the new release exposes the software to a variety of different environments and workloads, resulting in a more stable end product – truly a win-win for everyone.

Sign up for the Alpha and Beta Tests Today

The MCP 16.0 alpha test is scheduled from mid-November, 2013, to mid-January, 2014. The beta test is slated to run from mid-January to the end of February.

Following the beta test, active sites will be provided with the release candidate (RC) software for final testing. All testing formally concludes with the general release of MCP 16.0, which is currently scheduled for April 2014, but the software will remain valid for 90 days after this date. Please note that the alpha and beta test timeframes, as well as the general release date for MCP 16.0, are subject to change.

If you would like to be considered for either testing program, please contact [Pam Becker](#), MCP Software Field Test Coordinator, by November 1st, 2013, to begin the process. A signed pre-release agreement is required to take part in either the alpha or beta test, so please allow some lead time to get signed up.



New Release Brings High Availability to ClearPath Libra 4200 Systems

We're excited to announce a new addition to the mid-range ClearPath Libra 4200 family: the ClearPath Libra 4200 High Availability models. These new mid-range platforms extend our commitment to supporting enterprise-class computing by delivering the extraordinary levels of reliability, availability, and resiliency the most mission-critical environments demand.

Plus, the high availability option equips the Libra 4200 platform with functionality usually associated with higher-end systems – demonstrating the importance of continual availability for systems functioning in today's high-volume transaction-processing environments.

How it Works

So how exactly have we increased the high levels of availability that already exist in the Libra 4200 models? By taking the concept of redundancy down to the individual components.

In previous generations of Intel® based MCP platforms, such as the Libra 4000 and 4100 families, high availability was implemented at the system level through the use of a redundant active and standby platform. So if a failure or disruption struck the active machine, the standby system would automatically come online and take over production.

The new Libra 4200 systems offer a different approach to ensuring high availability. These platforms couple redundant, “warm” standby MCP cells – such as the Processor Memory Module (PMM) and I/O and Specialty Engine Module (ISM) – with mechanisms that manage their activation in the event of both planned downtime and an unplanned event.

Configuring the Libra 4200 High Availability platforms in this way allows them to detect component or cell failures and automatically initiate failover. (Note that the systems do give you the option to temporarily disable this feature as your needs dictate, such as during routine system maintenance.)

Taking redundancy down to such a fine level of granularity allows us to minimize the need for specific hardware components within the system, such as complex Fibre Channel switching matrices. More importantly, however, this design reduces the number of times a Halt/Load of the MCP operating environment will be a necessary part of the recovery process.

[For a detailed look at the Libra 4200 High Availability systems, how the failover process works, and more, be sure to check out our recent webinar.](#)



Join the ClearPath OS 2200 Field Test Team

Field testing is a crucial, instrumental aspect of the comprehensive, progressive process we employ to evaluate each and every one of our new software releases. What makes it so valuable from our perspective is that it provides a great opportunity to run the new release under real-world conditions and learn how the newest features and functionality perform in the hands of actual users.

Since the active participation of our user community plays such an integral role in the success of every field test, we are always looking to expand the roster of potential testers every time a new software release is approaching its general release date.

And with the development of the next releases of ClearPath OS 2200 and Enterprise Output Manager software well underway, we'd like to invite anyone interested in getting a sneak peek at these technologies to join the field test team.

In addition to allowing you to perform in-house testing in a non-production environment, a field test gives you access to engineering team members who can help you work through any difficulties you may encounter. The direct contact you'll have with engineering will help us quickly pinpoint issues and develop a fix prior to finalizing the code.

Ready to Join the Field Test Team?

Field testing activities for both OS 2200 and Enterprise Output Manager are scheduled to start in the early fall and continue until the general customer availability (GCA) of each release. Note, however, that the field test timeframes, as well as the general release dates, are subject to change.

If you are interested in participating in either the ClearPath OS 2200 or Enterprise Output Manager field test program, please contact [Melanie Wolbeck](#), ClearPath OS 2200 Software and Enterprise Output Manager Field Test Coordinator, to begin the process. A signed pre-release agreement will be required to take part in field test.



Resources and Calendar

The list below contains quick links that will help you stay up to date on all things ClearPath.

- [ClearPath Libra homepage](#)
- [ClearPath Dorado homepage](#)
- [ClearPath OS 2200 homepage](#)
- [ClearPath MCP homepage](#)
- [Agile Business Suite homepage](#)
- [Business Information Server \(BIS\) homepage](#)
- [ClearPath & Innovation Blog](#)
- [ClearPath How-To Videos on YouTube](#)
- [ClearPath Libra/MCP Webinars](#)
- [ClearPath Dorado/OS 2200 Webinars](#)
- [eBook: How to Shift Your IT Focus from Administration to Innovation](#)
- [eBook: ClearPath MCP Case Studies – Success through Business Process Automation](#)
- [eBook: Built for Today, Ready for Tomorrow: Unisys ClearPath Systems](#)
- [Guide: ClearPath OS 2200 Course Catalog](#)
- [Guide: ClearPath MCP Course Catalog](#)
- [Guide: ClearPath OS 2200 and MCP Specialty Partitions Course Catalog](#)
- [Video: ClearPath Advisory Services](#)
- [Video: ClearPath Appraisal Service](#)
- [Video: ClearPath TCO Assessment Service](#)
- [Video: ClearPath Consulting Services](#)

WHAT	WHERE	WHEN
Unisys Tech Forum – Latin America	Chantilly, France	October 20-24, 2013

Specifications are subject to change without notice.

© 2013 Unisys Corporation.

All rights reserved.

Unisys, the Unisys logo, ClearPath, and s-Par are registered trademarks of Unisys Corporation. Intel is a registered trademark of Intel Corporation in the U.S. and/or other countries. All other brands and products referenced herein are acknowledged to be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders.