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## DAL, A/UX, and Informix OnLine 4.0 Support (2/93)

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TOPIC -----

I recently purchased a suite of hardware and software for a project within the Psychology Department:

Quadra 900 with 20MB RAM, 160MB disk  
1.2GB hard disk  
DAT tape drive  
A/UX 3.0  
Informix OnLine 4.0  
Informix SQL 4.0  
DAL Server for A/UX 1.3.6  
DAL Developers Guides

The purpose of the project is to bring department management on line. I will offer accounting, personnel, property management, purchasing, public access to expert knowledge and more. I wanted a system to bring the power of information to any one of the 150 Macintosh users on the department network.

I'm not so sure we made a good decision. The APDA catalog and the APDA sales people stated flat out that DAL for A/UX and Informix 4.0 was a supported product. There was never any indication that there was not support for both the Informix Standard Engine (Informix SE) and the high performance OnLine version.

I went with the OnLine version because I thought it would offer some benefits to my users such as Binary Large Objects which would allow us to store images and other raw data.

After calling Apple I found out that the OnLine engine "wasn't really tested." I also found out that there were no immediate plans to release an OnLine compatible version. I was told there was a report that the 1.3 version of DAL Server for A/UX had appeared to work for one customer.

I don't know if this will solve my problems but I have my fingers crossed.

I'm sorely disappointed with the results of this project, so far. The sole point of discontent, however, is with the DAL server. All other aspects of the project are in very good shape. But the DAL server is central to success.

DISCUSSION -----

In regard to the DAL issue:

- Yes, the support for Informix OnLine (which a customer told us worked for him with the 1.3 release of the DAL for A/UX Server) is untested. Engineering did not have access to a copy of Informix OnLine and consequently QA was unable to test. To be frank, we were lucky that 1.3 of DAL worked with Informix OnLine. The data center which DAL Engineering uses is in the process of negotiating for a copy of Informix OnLine.
- It is unfortunate that APDA did not have sufficient information to tell you up-front that we only supported the Informix SE (Standard Engine) -- we haven't known all that long ourselves. We will notify APDA of this qualification.
- Interestingly, we checked with Informix (both Tech Support and Sales) and they DO NOT support either of the DBMS products (SE or OL) on an A/UX 3.0 system! They only support their Standard Engine 4.0 and OnLine 4.0 on A/UX 2.0.
- We spoke with DAL Product Marketing and they agree that support for Informix OnLine is important.

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