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SMART STORAGE SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY BACKGROUND

Smart Storage Inc. is the market leader in providing innovative CD-ROM and CD-Recordable (CD-R) based mass storage solutions. The SMARTCD line of products consists of two types of software solutions: SMARTCD Archive is for CD-R mass storage, and SMARTCD Library is for access to collections of published CDs. And for CD-Recording, Smart Storage offers SMARTWRITE CD software for high or low-volume CD production over a network, or in a stand-alone environment. All of the companys products reflect the companys committment to CD-ROM technology and to creating software that will lead the market into the 21st century.

CD-Recordable and Mass Storage

CD-ROM has established itself as the preferred medium for distributing large commercially published data sets. But with the advent of CD-Recordable (CD-R) technology, CDs are fast becoming a superior digital alternative for in-house mass data storage and archival applications. The introduction of affordable desktop CD-Recorders and blank CD-R media in 1992 dramatically enlarged the scope of CD-ROM to include smaller internal publishing applications. Businesses of any size could now consider CD-Recordable technology (CD-R) for custom desktop CD-ROM production and data distribution. Smart Storage offers software for every aspect of CD-ROM and CD-R production and access. SMARTCD Archive™ software from Smart Storage extends the power of CD-R for these applications by creating a storage structure in which information stored on multiple CD-ROMs can be directly accessed by multiple users, across multiple operating platforms.

The advent of CD-R has dramatically accelerated the velocity of information--the rate at which even small enterprises can create and distribute information. In turn, the increased availability of both in-house and commercially published CD-ROM based data has spurred user demand for shared access to information that can often span many volumes and involve different data structures, file sizes, and devices. As the installed base of CD-R media and devices grows, so does the need for data management and access tools that can leverage the value of CD-R storage by optimizing performance for both single-user and enterprise-wide applications.

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The Smart Storage Product Line

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SMARTCD Archive--An Electronic File Cabinet for the Digital Age

In 1992, Smart Storage focused its software development efforts on creating an intelligent "electronic file cabinet," a software technology that enables CD-R to assume a new role in mass data storage and archiving. The result was SMARTCD Archive, a critical technological breakthrough in CD-R data storage and archiving systems. Like its physical counterpart, the SMARTCD Archive "file cabinet" provides logical information management and straightforward access, but for unprecedented volumes of digitized information--ranging from a few gigabytes to several terabytes and spanning many volumes--delivered to single or multiple physical locations.

SMARTCD Archive is a ground-breaking achievement in data management and shared access for CD-R mass storage. It overcomes the access and performance limitations of the single-user/single-CD/single drive letter orientation of MSCDEX and other device drivers. SMARTCD Archive sees large groups of CDs as single logical volumes, which is critical for applications using large data sets (like image data sets) that may span hundreds of CD-ROMs. In effect, the software creates a virtually unlimited digital space for creating a single storage structure. Multiple volumes of in-house and commercially published CD-ROM data can be directly accessed by multiple users across multiple operating platforms.

SMARTCD Archive leverages CD-R standards for mass and archival data storage by supporting the open architectural paradigm that makes CD-R uniquely suited to meet changing user access requirements. The software's standards-based architectural paradigm creates flexible storage structures that ensure:

- *Straightforward scalability*. SMARTCD Archive combines any mix of SCSI CD drives and jukeboxes which, when added incrementally, can support terabytes of stored data, spanning multiple devices.
- *High-performance access*. SMARTCD Archive provides asynchronous access to shared data resources and a multi-tiered caching scheme that improves access time.
- *Application independence*. SMARTCD Archive can be accessed by any application knowing only the path and filename of the data to be accessed.
- *Multiple network protocol support*. SMARTCD Archive services user requests across a variety of network operating systems.

In less than two years, CD-R technology and SMARTCD Archive have together established a new standard for performance and maintainability for digital mass storage and archival systems.

SMARTCD Library--A Library and a Launchpad

In 1995, Smart Storage released its first CD networking product, SMARTCD Library. This product was the first of its kind to bring CD jukebox libraries into the mainstream of stand-alone and network access to published CD-ROM collections. The network versions offer powerful administrative tools to manage and control access to CDs.

The SMARTWRITE CD Product

SMARTWRITE CD is advanced, Windows-based, CD pre-mastering software for the Kodak PCD Writer 200 and 600 series recorders that provides CD creation in as little as ten minutes. SMARTWRITE CD-HV features high speed CD-Recording with automated CD-loading capabilities. The result is high-volume, automated disc production for up to 75 discs at a time. SMARTWRITE CD-LV is also available for low-volume CD production over a network, and SMARTWRITE CD-SA is for desktop CD-Recording.

The Future: Bringing Mass Storage into the Digital Mainstream

As CD-R evolves into the mass storage and archival technology of choice, standards are already being created that will result in a revolutionary point of convergence in CD-R technology for archival storage--a read and write CD-R drive. This development will give users the capability to write, store, and disseminate information in a single device on their operating system of choice.

Smart Storage software will continue to evolve, supporting advances in incremental writing to disk and providing full multi-media support and performance enhancements for CD-R devices, operating systems, processing platforms, and new media standards.

For more information, contact Smart Storage Inc., 100 Burtt Road, Andover, MA 01810 (phone: 508/623-3300, fax: 508/623-3310). In Europe, contact Smart Storage Inc., Luisenstrasse 66, 80798 Munich, Germany (phone/fax: 49-89-271-18-17).

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