New server brings easy 'blade' approach to small business

June 15 2007

Small businesses can now easily enjoy the advantages of blade servers thanks to a new offering from IBM. Blade computers integrate servers, storage, networking and applications into one system.

IBM's new BladeCenter "S" is designed to help smaller firms simplify managing technology needed to operate a small business -- from servers to phone systems and antivirus applications -- in a single system.

Small enough to fit on a desktop, IBM BladeCenter S plugs into a standard 110 volt power outlet and manages storage and up to six blade servers at a time. Designed to integrate applications most commonly used for business -- such as antivirus/firewall, voice over internet protocol, email, collaboration and back-up -- the new system is intended to run in a typical office environment.

IBM BladeCenter S has also been designed to minimize administration. The system can be configured using a "wizard-based" installation interface. A user can plug the blade servers into the system, plug the system into a power outlet, and launch a management tool. For businesses with branch offices, IT administrators at headquarters can easily pre-configure hundreds of blade systems ready for a branch office employee to simply plug a system in and power it up.

"IBM's introduction of a purpose built BladeCenter for small offices and distributed locations will now help smaller firms get the simplification and integration that the biggest companies have been getting from

blades, in a package that is optimized for their business," said Alex Yost, vice president and business line executive, IBM BladeCenter. "IBM BladeCenter is the right choice for customers looking for open, green and easy IT integration."

Source: IBM