

# All in one server

# RAQ

# BEATER



**Network appliances seem to be the coming thing at the moment. The new Omni Server from RainbowCyber aims to solve many problems in a simple box.**

## Network Appliance

The new Omni Server is available in three flavours. The first being the Standard model with a 533 processor and 64MB Ram and 20GB hard drive. The second is the professional model which is boosted up to a 667 processor, 128MB Ram and 40GB hard disk with the top of the range Enterprise model having twin 667MHz processors.

The test model was a small footprint (290x350x92mm WDH) incorporating a 24x CD drive and a CF IDE expansion slot on the front. Various LEDs and a power switch. The back reveals the usual keyboard, mouse and monitor connections and the main selling point the onboard 8 point hub. The test model did not have the smart card reader attached but the internal COM2 port header

allowed us to test this for the usual card reader from Towitoko once we downloaded the drivers. Very similar to the Sun Blade 100 workstation for added security and authentication. Rather than a 533 it came with a 550 Cryix. Memory is via 168 pin DIMM's with a maximum of 512MB supported.

On connecting power and starting the unit it loads the Trustix linux. This is preconfigured to act as a full web hosting device with Apache and as a firewall. Administration of the unit is either via connecting a monitor, keyboard, mouse etc., or using a browser over a network and Webmin.

This latter option is probably the way most users will use the device enabling it to just be added to a network with power and network connections similar to Colbats Raq or Qube3. As a server appliance the Omni Server helps to intergrate all the necessary tools and applications to enable a company to quickly be on the web.

Via the printer module we quickly setup a printer onto the parallel port to then act as the office printer. This worked fine across the network.

The main selling point has to be the inclusion of a eight port hub. On closer inspection this turns out to be seven ports to connect to ( the eighth being used by the omni itself) and a seperate connector for a 2 port Davicom LAN card (again one port being used by the server) running at 10/100. By including the two networks a good firewall can be made



Webmin is a good choice to ship with the server and during the tests we ran worked flawlessly. We successfully used ssh to connect and as security was good failed to Telnet in.

The installed software was Trustix Secure Linux 1.1 although 1.2 is now available and is also fully webmin compliant. Squid for caching was also included.

The Samba module worked and having a 20GB drive meant that a MySQL database had plenty of room to act as a web catalog. All the software ran first time as expected and as its motherboard is fitted with an Award BIOS it acts as any server you choose.

Opening up the unit showed spare connectors for a floppy disk (it will boot from floppy if needed) as well as secondary IDE connector. Two PCI slots give room to expand for items such as an ADSL modem or other network cards.

As a test we set up the unit to act as a webpage hosting server, connect to the rest of our office network and handle the mail traffic in twenty minutes. Not bad when we actually wasted some



time trying to connect with DHCP running rather than just using the IP address.

Admin was done by connecting with a RedHat box though we also got it working with a Windows box (well it was lying around and I wanted to see Webmin running on IE) and any browser would do. Support for the unit is provided by LinuxSure.

Overall a nice simple to use server. This would suit any company that is short of space or just wants to do away with the hassle. The ability to administrate remotely opens up lots of possibilities and I can already see them being installing at many sites to allow a single knowledgeable consultant/engineer to look after.

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#### Info:

<http://www.omniserver.co.uk>  
Rainbow Cyber Services Ltd,  
0208 994 0053

<http://www.linuxsure.com>  
Cost £850 for the standard  
model, £1175 for the  
Professional model.

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