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INTERFLORA AUSTRALIA RELIES ON STRATUS TO DELIVER 'FLOWERS IN HOURS' FOR MOTHER'S DAY

Busiest Season of the Year Demands Continuously Available Order Processing

MELBOURNE, Vic., AUSTRALIA and MAYNARD, Mass., USA., May 6, 2002 –

For the 1,250 member floral shops of Interflora Australia, the Friday before Mother's Day is the busiest of the year -- beating out even St. Valentines Day -- with order volume on its network increasing 800 percent over an average day. Knowing that the excuse "Sorry Mum, I planned to send flowers, but the server was down," wouldn't play well with customers, the company recently made an investment to ensure 24 x 7 availability of its network. Wanting the most reliable technology available in the industry, Interflora Australia installed a Stratus® ftServer™ 3200 fault-tolerant system. The new server now processes all flower orders, including traffic from member florists, customers on the Web, and more than 75 data-entry call centers.

"Interflora's Web site is the fourth most active Internet shopping site in Australia, and on a normal day we'll process 3,000 to 4,000 orders from anywhere in the world," said Peter Roderick, CIO. "That surges to 24,000 orders just before Mother's Day. A system failure, or even a minute or two of downtime, is never a good thing but it would be especially disruptive and costly this time of year."

Late last year, Interflora Australia began switching its members off of an older, proprietary fault-tolerant system to a new Microsoft® Windows® 2000-based application hosted on a standard PC server. However it didn't take long to realize that server reliability and application availability would be an issue. Mr. Roderick quickly decided to purchase the ftServer unit. The application and member florists' accounts were moved over just four days after the server was delivered.

New Technology for Mainstream Computing

The ftServer system is designed to eliminate single points of failure by duplicating central processors, components and subsystems. Essentially there are two physical computers functioning as one in the same box, doing exactly the same thing at precisely the same time. If one of the duplicated parts fails, it is automatically removed from service while the server and application continue to run normally with no service interruption.

Servers built with fault-tolerant technology are the most reliable systems available. What's different about this Stratus server is that it's built using Intel[®] processors and off-the-shelf components to run Windows 2000 software. The ftServer system is much less expensive to purchase and operate than previously available fault-tolerant computers, and costs about the same as less reliable, high availability clustered servers. This unique brand of fault-tolerant technology has been on the market for less than a year. Entry-level system pricing starts at around US\$18,000.

About Interflora

Interflora Australia is an affiliate of Interflora, Inc., the international association of florists. Orders are placed within Australia, or sent from Australia to anywhere in the world, through the Australian Unit Head Office in Melbourne. Known in some countries as FTD, Interflora, Inc., has a membership of 70,000 floral shops in 170 countries. With Mother's Day fast approaching, its network usage will be increasing significantly, especially in Italy, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, France, Australia and the U.S. where the day is always celebrated on the second Sunday in May.

About Stratus Technologies

Originally founded in 1980, Stratus Technologies International, S.à r.l., designs, sells, and supports fault-tolerant computer servers for operations where uninterrupted processing, business continuity, and reliability are important. Through its 24-7 Technologies Division, Stratus also licenses technology for continuous computing on Intel processor-based platforms to other global manufacturers. Stratus has been named by FORTUNE magazine as one of the 2002 "FORTUNE[®] 100 Best Companies to Work For." Stratus is a U.S. Microsoft Gold Certified Partner. For more information, visit www.stratus.com.

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