Dell™ PowerEdge™ 500SC Systems

Information Update

Notes, Notices, and Cautions

NOTE: A NOTE indicates important information that helps you make better use of your computer.

NOTICE: A NOTICE indicates either potential damage to hardware or loss of data and tells you how to avoid the problem.

CAUTION: A CAUTION indicates a potential for property damage, personal injury, or death.

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This document updates information in your Dell™ PowerEdge™ 500SC system documentation. It describes the following features:

- Tested operating systems
- Setting the BIOS to support ATA-100
- Setting the secondary IDE channel to DMA mode
- Using the *Dell OpenManage Server Assistant* CD

The Intel® Celeron™ microprocessor with a speed of at least 800 MHz with an external bus speed of 100 MHz and a 128 KB level 2 cache is available for your system.

Tested Operating Systems

Dell has tested the following operating systems with this system:

- Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Server (Service Pack 2 [SP2] or later)
- Microsoft Windows NT® 4.0 Server (SP5 or later)
- Red Hat Linux 7.1 (with the 2.4.3-12.i686.rpm kernel or later installed)
- Novell® NetWare® version 5.1 (SP2a or later)

NOTE: To run Microsoft Windows 2000 Server, Red Hat Linux 7.1, or Novell NetWare 5.1, your system must have a minimum of 128 MB of RAM.

Setting the BIOS to Support ATA-100

The PowerEdge 500SC uses an IDE interface that includes support for the following Ultra Direct Memory Access (UDMA) modes:

- UDMA mode 2 (ATA-33)
- UDMA mode 4 (ATA-66)
- UDMA mode 5 (ATA-100)

Your system is shipped with the BIOS set to support UDMA mode 2 (ATA-33). You can significantly increase your system's IDE performance by setting the BIOS to support UDMA mode 5 (ATA-100).

You can enable UDMA on your system when running one of the following operating systems:

- Microsoft Windows 2000 Server (SP2 or later)
- Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 Server (SP5 or later)
- Novell NetWare 5.1 (SP2a or later)
- Red Hat Linux 7.1 (with 2.4.3-12.i686.rpm kernel or later installed)

NOTE: Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 only supports UDMA after running the **dmacheck.exe** file. This utility is located in the **\support\utils\i386** directory on the *Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 Service Pack 6a* CD.

NOTE: See your operating system documentation for information about installing the required service packs, drivers, or kernels. See also any applicable **readme** files on the *Dell OpenManage Server Assistant* CD for the latest product information.

To set your system BIOS to support ATA-100 for supported operating systems, perform the following steps.

NOTE: If your system was shipped without an operating system installed, you must first install your operating system and the most recent service packs, drivers, or kernels before resetting the BIOS support to ATA-100. See your operating system documentation for installation instructions.

1. Enter the System Setup program as follows:
   a. Turn on your system.

      If your system is already on, shut it down, and then turn it on again.

   b. Press <F2> immediately after you see the following message:

      ```
      Press <F2> for System Setup
      ```

      If you wait too long and your operating system begins to load into memory, allow the system to complete the load operation, then shut down the system and try again.

      NOTE: To ensure an orderly system shutdown, see the documentation that accompanied your operating system.

      NOTE: For help using the System Setup program, press <F1>.

2. Navigate to the **Maximum UDMA Mode** field on the main **System Setup** screen. Use the down-arrow key to move to the next field and the up-arrow key to move to a previous field.

3 Select **ATA-100** as the maximum UDMA mode using the left- or right-arrow key.

4 Press <Esc> to exit the System Setup program and reboot the system.

Setting the Secondary IDE Channel to DMA Mode

If you did not use the *Dell OpenManage Server Assistant* CD to set up your system for loading Microsoft Windows 2000 Server, you must perform the following steps after logging on to your system the first time:

1 Right-click **My Computer** and select **Manage** to open the **Computer Management** window.

2 From the **Computer Management** window, click **Device Manager**.

After clicking **Device Manager**, the devices appear in the right pane of the **Computer Management** window.

3 In the right pane, expand **IDE ATA/ATAPI Controllers** by clicking the + sign.

4 Right-click the **Secondary IDE Channel** option and then click **Properties** to open the **Secondary IDE Channel Properties** window.

5 From the **Secondary IDE Channel Properties** window, click the **Advanced Settings** tab.

NOTE: The default for the device 0 and device 1 Transfer Mode field is `PIO mode only`.

6 Click the down arrow next to the **Transfer Mode** field and click the **DMA if available** option for both device 0 and device 1.

7 Click **OK**.

8 Reboot your system.

Using the Dell OpenManage Server Assistant CD

To use the *Dell OpenManage Server Assistant* CD, your system must have at least 128 MB of RAM.

For systems with 64 MB of RAM, operating system drivers contained on the *Dell OpenManage Server Assistant* CD can be accessed by creating a set of diskettes from the CD on a workstation running Microsoft Windows NT or Windows 2000, or on a Dell system that has a minimum of 128 MB of RAM. To create a set of diskettes from the *Dell OpenManage Server Assistant* CD, follow the instructions on the **Dell OpenManage Server Assistant** menu to access the drivers and save them onto one or more diskettes. You can then load the drivers onto your system from the diskette(s).