

Technical Specifications

Minimum System Requirements

The following contains the recommended minimum requirements for your system.

- Hardware - Minimum of a Pentium II processor with a speed of at least 400 megahertz (MHz), and 128 megabytes (MB) of SDRAM.
- Modem - It is recommended that you use a high capacity line such as cable modem, DSL, or T1. However the platform is designed to function effectively on modems as low as 28.8kps modem.
- Hard Drive - Available hard disk space should be no less than 1MB. We recommend at least a 4MB Video Card and a full size monitor- at least 17".
- Operating System - For optimal performance, we recommend Windows 2000 or Windows XP. We will also support the following Windows platforms beginning with Windows NT, Windows Professional, Win98 and Win98SE. No other operating systems are supported (Mac, Linux, Unix, etc).

Reliability

The network powering our trading platforms was built to deliver the speed and reliability critical for direct access professional trading. Redundancy and scalability were built in to all areas that affect performance. The server environment was built to support mission critical operations, complete with climate-controlled rooms in a secured building.

Independent Collocation

The servers for PeakAccess are housed in the UUNET Mega-Hub in Dallas, Texas and on the ATT backbone in Chicago, Illinois. These servers are attached directly to the Internet's backbone providing unsurpassed reliability in connectivity and resulting in virtually unlimited bandwidth on demand. We also provide further redundant connectivity through the Savvis network.

Redundancy

The servers that comprise the trading farms are designed with multiple back-up systems. A status monitor constantly watches every server in the network, checking for stable connectivity. In the event of failure of any one server, orders will be routed to another server in the network. All lines to data servers, ECNs and exchanges are also redundant with load balancing technology designed to manage traffic and avoid points of failure.

Security

Security is one of the most important aspects in the electronic trading industry. Heavy emphasis has been placed on the ability to prevent security breaches as well as to provide virtually uninterrupted trading ability in the event of technical or natural disasters.

Application Security for the sever farm is facilitated using Triple DES (DATA Encryption Standard) Encryption for all back office and Portfolio Window functionality. This level is currently the highest level of encryption available to US corporations on a commercial basis. Additionally, our server farm does not employ IIS, FTP, or HTTP, therefore, preventing Internet-based viruses from reaching our servers.

Disaster Recovery

In the event of a system error, which could result in a catastrophic failure of hardware or the application, there are full contingency, back up and disaster provisions. All drives are mirrored for uninterrupted service in case of failure. Most trading platforms have servers that are overworked due to the multitasking forced upon them. When performance is

compromised in these situations, the norm is to add servers after troubles arise. Our no-tolerance policy is such that servers are on-demand and ready to be added at the slightest increase from normal activity.