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ENCOMPASS ANNOUNCES
HP TECHNOLOGY FORUM,
CONFERENCE FOR IT BUSINESS, TECHNICAL PROFESSIONALS

CHICAGO, IL, August 12, 2004 – Encompass, an HP User Group, today announced details of its agreement to participate in the new **HP Technology Forum**, HP's new technical conference taking place in New Orleans, LA on September 12-15, 2005. The HP Technology Forum will bring together the combined resources, talent, and knowledge from HP and its user group community to deliver a comprehensive training program.

"Encompass' mission is to provide technical training and networking for HP customers and partners," said Kristi Browder, Encompass President. "Our collaboration with HP only strengthens this effort to do what is most useful for the technical audience and the HP customer base. By Encompass teaming with HP in the new HP Technology Forum, our members and attendees will benefit from the significant amount of technical resources available to deliver quality education...approximately ten times more than you'll see at any competing event."

While Encompass maintains its independence as a user-run organization, the benefits of this strategic collaboration will be most readily realized by the new comprehensive training strategy which will span all of HP's enterprise product lines. Encompass will continue to be a part of the content development process, and looks forward to planning user-driven sessions as well as incorporating the onsite networking activities its members have come to expect from previous conferences.

The HP Technology Forum will deliver insightful tips, technical product and solution information, and user experiences for technical IT professionals. Teams of user group members and other HP customers will be working together with HP to determine the content required for the sessions. The lineup is to combine classroom-style education with other, equally valuable learning venues to include:

- The latest information on the breadth and depth of HP technology

- Detailed technical information about HP technologies, solutions, and platforms

- Presentations from well-known engineers, IT leaders, and senior executives from HP

- Extensive access to HP developers and experts

- Onsite Special Interest Groups (SIG)

- Outstanding peer networking opportunities

- An exposition focused on HP and complementary product and technology solutions.

To further demonstrate its level of commitment to the conference, HP announced it would use the HP Technology Forum venue to train its presales technical support professionals and HP Certified Professionals – underscoring the breadth of technical resources that will be available onsite to network and consult with customers.

To stay informed on the latest conference information or become an exhibitor, please visit www.encompassUS.org or call Encompass headquarters at +1.877.354.9887.

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About Encompass
Encompass is a community of IT professionals who deliver information technology solutions for complex and multi-system computing environments, focusing on the HP (and legacy Compaq and Digital) technologies, including HP-UX, Enterprise Storage, Enterprise Unix, OpenVMS, Linux, and Windows. The organization promotes the unimpeded exchange of information by providing members with professional development programs, technical training, information exchanges, advocacy programs and networking opportunities. Encompass is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, USA. To learn more about Encompass, visit www.encompassUS.org.