

Christmas; A Time of Giving

I can't think of any other season where giving becomes so natural. It's this time of year that many of us dig deep into our pockets or volunteer our time to help those less fortunate. What if you don't have the time or money to contribute but still want to make a difference in the world? No problem, simply volunteer your computer's time on a Grid network.

Grid computing is not a new idea; it has been around for a few years and has helped scientists solve problems such as analyzing potential smallpox treatments. IBM and United Devices are trying to top all other projects however by putting together the largest grid yet utilizing over 10 million individual computers. This grid was set up as a non-profit organization to help solve humanitarian problems. The first project will center on unraveling the mystery contained in proteins that make up the Human Proteome. This type of research is instrumental in finding links between these proteins and disease in humans. The organization is currently accepting proposals from researchers interested in using the grid for their projects.

The capabilities of a grid computer of this size can outperform some of the largest supercomputers on the planet. A grid can achieve this kind of processing power by linking together standard every day computers systems using special peer-to-peer network software. This software is downloadable by going to www.worldcommunitygrid.org. Once this software is installed your computer will request a small task from the server. After your computer completes it's task it will send the results back to the server and your computer will request another task. The processing of your task will only take place while your computer is idle. During the day while your using the system the software will remain idle, however if you go out for lunch or leave your computer system on over night you could be helping to solve the worlds problems.

While making your list of charities to give to this year, don't forget to give back to the world. Log on to the above website and allow your computer to make a difference. Have a Merry Christmas from all of us at Computer Depot.