

For such a revolutionary system, the Tandem/16 has made a surprisingly small impression on the industry and design of modern machines. Much of the functionality is now more readily available—mirrored disks, network file systems, the client-server model, or hot-pluggable hardware—but it’s difficult to see anything that suggests that they happened by following Tandem’s lead. This may be because the T/16 was so different from most systems, and of course the purely commercial environment in which it was developed didn’t help either.

Further Reading

Hewlett-Packard has a number of papers on its website; start looking at the Tandem Technical reports at <http://www.hpl.hp.com/techreports/tandem/>. In particular:

Bartlett, Joel. “A NonStop Kernel,” June 1981. http://www.hpl.hp.com/techreports/tandem/TR-81.4.html?jumpid=reg_R1002_USEN. (Gives more information about the operating system environment.)

Bartlett, Joel, et al. “Fault tolerance in Tandem computer systems,” May 1990. <http://www.hpl.hp.com/techreports/tandem/TR-90.5.html>. (Describes the hardware in more detail.)

Gray, Jim. “The cost of messages,” March 1988. <http://www.hpl.hp.com/techreports/tandem/TR-88.4.html>. (Describes some of the performance issues from a theoretical point of view.)

Horst, Robert, and Tim Chou. “The hardware architecture and linear expansion of Tandem nonstop systems,” April 1985. <http://www.hpl.hp.com/techreports/tandem/TR-85.3.html>.