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**Computing Solutions
Built for Business™**

Traded: Nasdaq: CDWC

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April 24, 2000

**CDW COMPUTER CENTERS, INC. REPORTS
60 PERCENT GROWTH IN SALES,
76 PERCENT GROWTH IN EPS AND EXPANSION OF EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

First Quarter Highlights:

- ◆ Twenty-seventh consecutive quarter of sequential sales growth as a public company
- ◆ 60 percent growth in net sales
- ◆ Direct Web sales increase 155 percent to \$72 million
- ◆ Commercial sales grow 67 percent to \$817 million
- ◆ Net income increases 79 percent
- ◆ EPS increases 76 percent
- ◆ Sales account managers grow 30 percent to 820
- ◆ No. 560 in the Fortune 1000 ranking

Financial & Operating Data	Quarter Ended		Percent Change
	3/31/00	3/31/99	
Net Sales (000's)	\$863,988	\$539,406	60%
Income from Operations (000's)	\$ 56,848	\$ 31,685	79%
Net Income (000's)	\$ 35,291	\$ 19,698	79%
Basic Earnings Per Share	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.46	78%
Diluted Earnings Per Share	\$ 0.79	\$ 0.45	76%
<u>Operating Data</u>			
Number of Invoices Processed	920,082	677,653	36%
Average Invoice Size	\$ 987	\$ 840	18%
Number of Account Managers	820	630	30%
Commercial Customers Serviced	140,869	116,884	21%
Commercial Customers Serviced – Trailing 12 Months	294,861	269,449	9%
% of Sales to Commercial Customers	95%	91%	4%

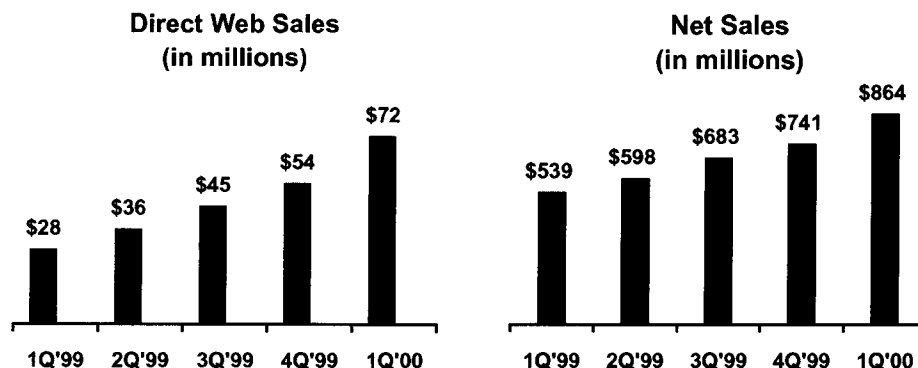
"Our first quarter results prove that our accelerated growth strategies are working and our profitable business model continues to improve. Our "clicks and people" strategy is successfully expanding customer relationships and driving growth. Strategic initiatives in the coming months include plans to expand our sales force, broaden our product line, increase our e-Business activities and enhance our marketing programs. Consistent with our core philosophy that 'Success Means Never Being Satisfied,' we intend to hire a new Chief Executive Officer to expand our management team and position CDW for long term growth. Our systems, infrastructure and management team are better positioned for growth than at any time in our history, which makes this an opportune time to select a new CEO with the experience, leadership and motivation necessary to lead our next growth phase. I look forward to continuing my responsibilities as CEO until the transition is complete. At that time, as Chairman, I will focus my energy on future vision and maintaining the CDW culture and core philosophies of success." Michael P. Krasny, Chairman and CEO

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Vernon Hills, Illinois, April 24, 2000 --- CDW Computer Centers, Inc. (Nasdaq: CDWC) today announced record sales and earnings for the first quarter ended March 31, 2000. Additionally, the Company announced that it has commenced a search for a new Chief Executive Officer to expand its management team and position the Company for long term growth.

Net sales for the first quarter increased 60 percent to \$864.0 million from \$539.4 million in the same period of 1999. Net income for the quarter rose 79 percent to \$35.3 million from \$19.7 million in the first quarter of 1999. Diluted earnings per share increased 76 percent to \$0.79 in the first quarter of 2000 from \$0.45 in the same period of 1999. All earnings per share amounts reflect the 2-for-1 stock split effected in the form of a stock dividend, which was paid on May 19, 1999.

“Demand was exceptional throughout the quarter, with no post Y2K slowdown,” said Michael P. Krasny, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. “Our growth and consistent demand is evidence of the fact that our commercial customers buy mission critical computing solutions from CDW. Commercial customer sales now comprise 95% of total sales. The build out of the infrastructure to support the Internet economy positively impacts our business as customers source server, network, communication, workstation and other products from CDW. We believe that our “clicks and people” strategy, combined with an extraordinary e-commerce platform, drives our strong customer relationships.”



Add-on boards/memory, notebooks, data storage devices, video, networking and communication products were the fastest-growing product categories, all with sales growth rates exceeding 64 percent. Notebook computers, which remained the largest product category at 22 percent of net sales, increased 93 percent in net sales dollars compared to the first quarter of 1999. Desktop computers, which include servers, increased over 52 percent. “Sales of mid-range to high end notebooks were particularly strong,” said Gregory Zeman, CDW’s president.

Zeman added, “Our account managers are expanding relationships with their customers and gaining productivity. We are on target to increase our sales force to approximately 1,100 account managers at the end of the year. We opened our new downtown Chicago sales office on April 1st and are pleased with the initial results.”

“Our e-commerce strategy and initiatives are an integral part of our business model and an extension of our account managers’ relationships with customers. In the first quarter, direct Web sales of \$72.4 million grew 155 percent over the first quarter of 1999 and 35 percent over the fourth quarter of 2000. “We implemented aggressive marketing activities to drive customers to CDW@workTM, our customized customer Web site program,” said Zeman.

Gross profit margin of 12.6 percent of net sales in the first quarter of 2000, was consistent with the prior year quarter. The Company's gross profit as a percentage of net sales may vary on a quarterly basis based upon vendor support programs, including inventory price protection policies, product mix, pricing strategies, market conditions and other factors. As a result, there is no certainty that the Company will be able to sustain the gross profit margin levels achieved in recent quarters.

Selling and administrative expenses, as a percentage of net sales, decreased to 6.1 percent in the first quarter of 2000 from 6.7 percent in the same period of 1999. The primary reasons for the decrease were a reduction of net advertising expense, as we gain productivity from our marketing efforts, and reduced payroll and other costs, as we leverage our cost base with accelerated sales growth. On a forward-looking basis, selling and administrative costs may increase as a percentage of net sales due to investments in new sales account managers, marketing initiatives and new facilities.

Annualized inventory turnover decreased to approximately 23 times for the quarter, versus 26 in the first quarter of 1999. Working capital as of March 31, 2000 was \$416.8 million, including approximately \$84.6 million in cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities.

The Company also today announced that Krasny and Zeman decided, with the full support of the Board of Directors, to expand the depth of the Company's management team and have commenced a search to hire a new Chief Executive Officer. Upon hiring and after transitioning the new CEO, Michael P. Krasny will retain his role as Chairman of the Board and concentrate his activities on future vision and corporate culture. Gregory Zeman, President and Director, will become Vice Chairman after the transition and focus on managing strategic vendor relationships. CDW has retained the Chicago office of Russell Reynolds Associates to conduct the search.

"Greg and I are very proud of what we've accomplished over the past sixteen years and excited about the Company's dynamic future," said Krasny. "We have grown a home-based business into a multi-billion dollar organization that is rapidly approaching Fortune 500 status. We have successfully and profitably integrated e-commerce into our core business. We continue to set new records in growth and profitability. More importantly, we have created a winning culture for our dedicated people, achieving recognition for two consecutive years by Fortune Magazine on their list of 'The 100 Best Companies to Work for In America.' Our management team is stronger than ever. We want to strengthen and complement it with a new leader, with a proven track record, who can enhance our long term strategy and contribute to CDW's continued growth, profitability and success far into the millennium."

"Given the current strength of our business, this is an opportune time to search for someone to take the Company to the next level," said Zeman. "Because of our high regard for our co-workers and our significant personal investments in the Company, Michael and I are committed to helping the Board find the right person for the job, effecting a seamless transition, and contributing in our new roles."

The statements in this release concerning the Company's gross margin percentage and selling and administrative costs and other statements of a non-historical basis (including statements regarding implementing strategies for future growth, the ability of the Company to sustain its model of profitable growth and the expected benefits of the Company's e-Business strategy) are forward-looking statements that involve certain risks and uncertainties. Such risks and uncertainties include the continued acceptance of the Company's distribution channel by vendors and customers, the timely availability and acceptance of new products, continuation of key vendor relationships and support programs and the ability of the Company to hire and retain qualified account managers.

About CDW Computer Centers, Inc.

CDW® (Nasdaq: CDWC), a FORTUNE 1000 company, is a leading direct solutions provider, offering complete, customized computing solutions for businesses and consumers nationwide. With competitive prices on a selection of thousands of brand name computer products, CDW is the No. 1 authorized direct source of Compaq, Computer Associates, IBM, Microsoft, Toshiba and other top name brands. Founded in 1984 as a home-based business, CDW today employs more than 2,000 coworkers. CDW's pioneering direct model offers personalized expertise through one-on-one relationships with highly-trained, knowledgeable account managers; telephone and online purchasing;

custom configured solutions; next day shipping; and lifetime phone and online technical support, with more than 70 factory-trained and A+ certified technicians on staff.

About cdw.com

With more than 97,000 unique visitors each day on its award-winning Web site -- www.cdw.com --CDW brings online commerce to new heights with real-time pricing and availability, sophisticated search capabilities, company favorites, detailed order status, innovative promotions and weekly e-mail newsletters. More than 51,000 computer products -- with detailed specifications for more than 35,000 -- are available to search and order online, making the Company's Web site an integral component of its business.

For more information about CDW:

Visit CDW on the Internet at <http://www.cdw.com>

Contact CDW Investor Relations via the Internet at shserv@cdw.com

Or by telephone at 847-419-8234.

-TABLES FOLLOW-

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CDW COMPUTER CENTERS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
(in thousands, except per share data)
(unaudited)

	Three Months Ended March 31,	
	2000	1999
Net sales	\$ 863,988	\$ 539,406
Cost of sales	754,775	471,500
Gross profit	109,213	67,906
Selling and administrative expenses	52,365	36,221
Income from operations	56,848	31,685
Interest income	1,755	1,042
Other expense	(175)	(113)
Income before income taxes	58,428	32,614
Income tax provision	23,137	12,916
Net income	\$ 35,291	\$ 19,698
Earnings per share		
Basic	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.46
Diluted	\$ 0.79	\$ 0.45
Weighted average number of common shares outstanding		
Basic	43,287	43,069
Diluted	44,726	43,882

**CDW COMPUTER CENTERS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

**(in thousands)
(unaudited)**

	<u>March 31, 2000</u>	<u>December 31, 1999</u>
ASSETS		
Current assets :		
Cash, cash equivalents and marketable securities	\$ 84,572	\$ 82,975
Accounts receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$4,450 and \$4,300, respectively	284,818	230,190
Merchandise inventory	133,932	126,217
Prepaid income taxes	23,712	-
Miscellaneous receivables	9,684	7,589
Deferred income taxes	6,702	6,702
Prepaid expenses	<u>1,690</u>	<u>1,375</u>
 Total current assets	 545,110	 455,048
 Property and equipment, net	 42,931	 39,429
Investment in and advances to subsidiary	9,244	6,499
Deferred income taxes and other assets	<u>4,011</u>	<u>4,939</u>
 Total assets	 <u>\$ 601,296</u>	 <u>\$ 505,915</u>
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current liabilities :		
Accounts payable	\$ 100,607	\$ 65,657
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	25,477	47,055
Accrued exit costs	<u>2,274</u>	<u>2,219</u>
 Total current liabilities	 128,358	 114,931
 Shareholders' equity	 <u>472,938</u>	 <u>390,984</u>
 Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	 <u>\$ 601,296</u>	 <u>\$ 505,915</u>

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