

Internet Computing For SETI

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The SETI@home project uses the desktop computers of hundreds of thousands of volunteers as the analysis engine for a radio SETI project. Participants download a screen-saver type program from the Web, and data from the Arecibo radio telescope is distributed via the Internet to this program. The program analyzes the data, searching for narrow-band continuous and pulsed signals. Because of the tremendous amount of CPU power available, the analysis can use coherent integration to look for signals at a wide range of Doppler drift rates, and it uses multiple FFT windows to search a wide range of pulse durations and signal bandwidths. The SETI@home project will go on-line in April 1999 with over 200,000 users. We will report on the status and preliminary results of the project.