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April 1994

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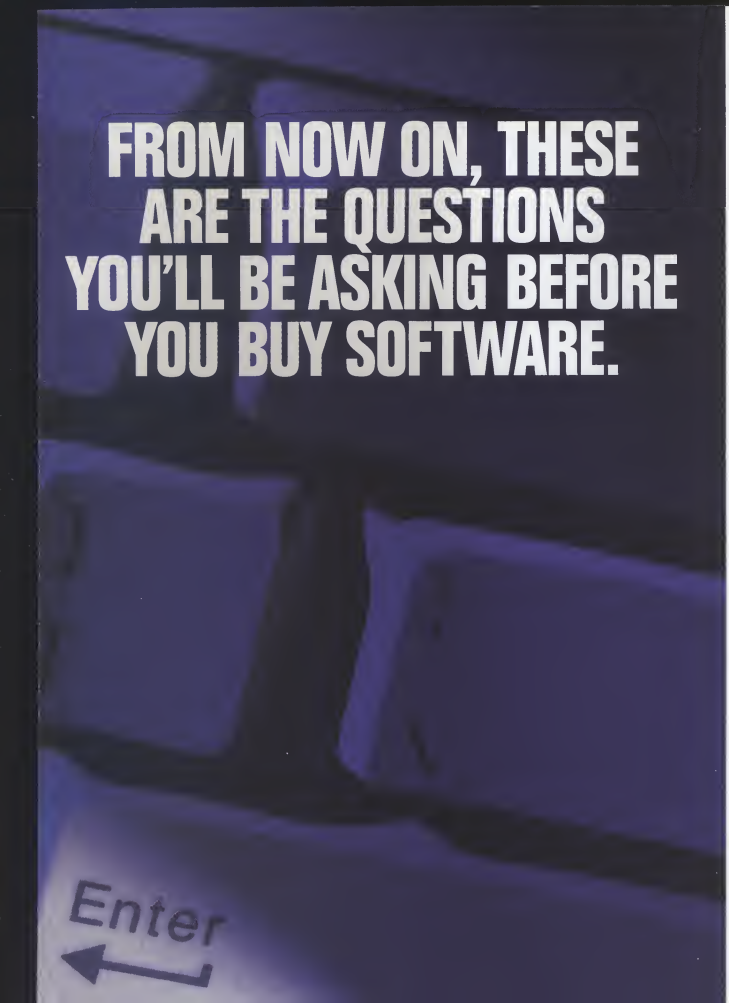
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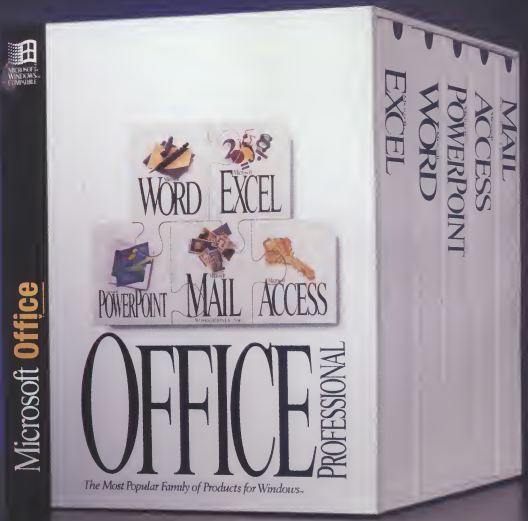
HERE'S WHERE YOU CAN FIND THE ANSWERS.



Putting it all together in one place.

You have a number of different jobs to accomplish. Every day. So your business software is key to putting together all the right answers.

Enter the new Microsoft® Office.

For the first time ever, individual programs work together like a single, insightful program.

What does that mean? You can concentrate on the task at hand. And forget about jumping around between programs.

This power to work like one program springs from our unique innovations. Take OfficeLinks. Built with the integration standard, OLE 2.0, it lets you drag a chart from your spreadsheet and drop it into your word processor. Then automatically convert everything into presentation slides. Or create custom letters from your database of clients with just a click. All as if you're using one program.

These programs even think the same. Their exclusive IntelliSense™ technology can sense what you need, then make everyday jobs like fixing typos happen automatically.

Together, they're so notably consistent in looks, actions and instincts, there's no question you'll think of them as one program.

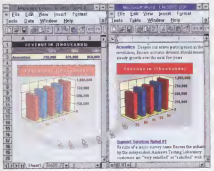
And only the Microsoft Office combines it all with unlimited no-charge support. Microsoft just won the ITAA Quality Award* for that support. A singular distinction.

The TipWizard™ assistant in Microsoft Excel tracks the way you work and offers smart tips on how to save time.

(Upper right) Just click a button on the Microsoft Office Manager (MOM) toolbar and your choice of first-rate programs pops into action.

Of course all this "oneness" could only come from the most acclaimed, technically proficient individual programs around—Word, Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint® and Microsoft Access®.

We've barely scratched the surface here of what it means for all your programs to work together like one. You'll want to read the reviews



(Lower right) Need to move information between programs? Just drag and drop it from one place to another. Then edit right in place.

yourself, talk to people who use it, scout around at your nearest reseller. And by all means, call us at (800) 894-6642, Dept. LB8, to find out more. Any questions?

Microsoft Office

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1. Do your programs work together intuitively as if they were all one program?

2. Can you simply drag text, data and graphics from one program and drop them into another?

3. Is your software intelligent? For instance, can it handle everyday tasks automatically?

4. Are your programs recognized as the best in their category?

5. Do your menus, toolbars and other elements look alike and work in the same easy way?

6. Do your programs have no-charge product support? For how long?

7. Ultimately, is it worth getting software that doesn't do all these things?

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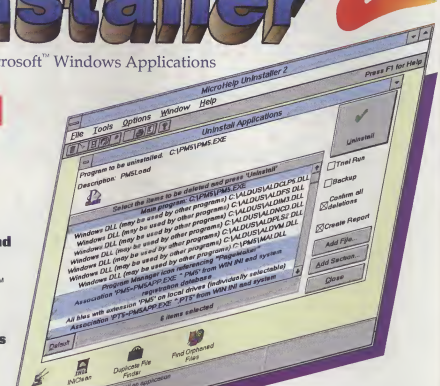

"UnInstaller... should be included in the utility arsenal of every serious Windows user."
"WINDOWS SOURCES MAGAZINE," May 1993.

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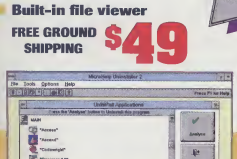

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134 Scan it! Edit it! Print it!
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GETTING THAT MILLION-DOLLAR IMAGE

154 Big Drives in Tiny Packages
ED BOTT AND ADAM MEYERSON
Sound. Video. Graphics. And more text than you can cram into a 50-pound feedbag. Don't know about you, but we think this data glut is getting serious. Now there's good news: A new class of tiny (and we mean tiny) hard drives can store up to two gigabytes (that "g" is not a typo). We put 22 state-of-the-art IDE and SCSI drives through their performance paces and picked the winners. You really can't afford anything less. Can you?

PAGE 154 STAKE OUT THE CAPACITY YOU NEED

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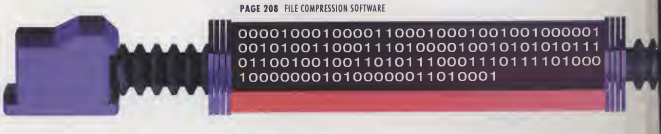

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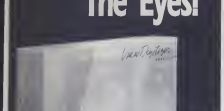

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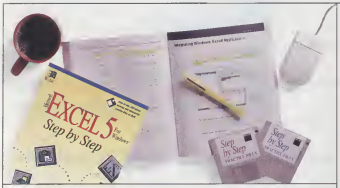

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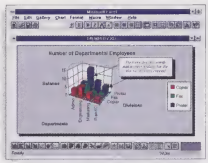

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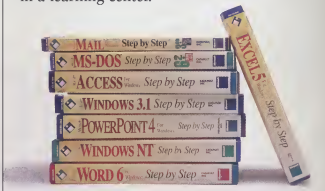

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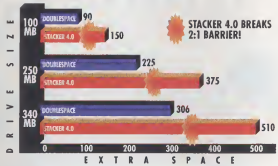

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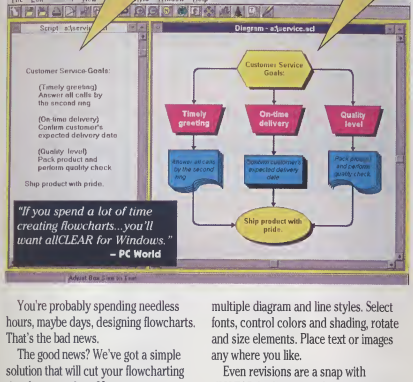

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The Apple Report On PowerPC

Number 2 – RISC Performance and Cross-Platform Compatibility

Many of the most popular applications have been or are being optimized to take advantage of the high-performance PowerPC processor.

PowerPC chips are faster and less expensive than Pentium chips – so are the personal computers they will run.

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In the first half of 1994, Apple will introduce a new family of computers that already has the entire computer industry standing on end.

They will offer better performance than computers based on the X86 microprocessors. They will be extremely competitive on a price basis. And they will be compatible with Windows and DOS applications, by using SoftWindows software.

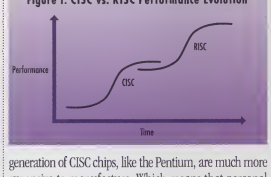
They will be based on the revolutionary new PowerPC™ microprocessor, created jointly by Apple, IBM and Motorola.

For the first time, desktop personal computers will take advantage of RISC chip architecture previously found only in high-performance workstations. This advance will make possible quantum improvements in the way we manage and work with information.

RISC vs. CISC.

Tremendous advances have been made in CISC architecture over the years. However, the physical limitations of the new, high-performance CISC design mean that CISC chips must be significantly bigger and more complex, and must run at hotter temperatures to perform the same tasks as comparable RISC chips. Consequently, the newer

Figure 1. CISC vs. RISC Performance Evolution



generation of CISC chips, like the Pentium, are much more expensive to manufacture. Which means that personal computers powered by PowerPC chips can offer a significant advantage in price as well as in performance.

As you can see on the chart, RISC microprocessors offer dramatically greater potential for growth, leading us well into the next century and increasing the practicality of features like voice recognition, videoconferencing, object-oriented software and multimedia capabilities – functions that will be integral to doing business in the 21st century.

More compatible personal computers.

Apple's new generation of Macintosh® personal computers built around the PowerPC chip offer the ability to run MS-DOS and Windows applications, as well as Macintosh software. Moving from one environment to the next will be seamless and, even more importantly, it will be effortless.

PC users who move to Macintosh with PowerPC will gain access to the large number of new applications which take advantage of the incredible performance of the new PowerPC chip.

Higher-performance optimized applications.

When PowerPC microprocessor-equipped Macintosh computers begin shipping, software developers including Microsoft, WordPerfect, Adobe, Aldus and Claris will begin shipping new versions of their most popular software, specifically rewritten to take full advantage of the new processor's capabilities.

These optimized, sometimes called "native," applications will offer significantly faster performance than their MS-DOS, Windows or current Macintosh counterparts.

Unprecedented value.

Because RISC-based personal computers cost less to manufacture than equivalent systems based on CISC chips, we will be able to make this technology available for well under $2,500 for a complete mainstream desktop system.* Competitive with a lower-performance, Pentium-based PC.** Watch for Apple Report #3, coming soon.

Apple

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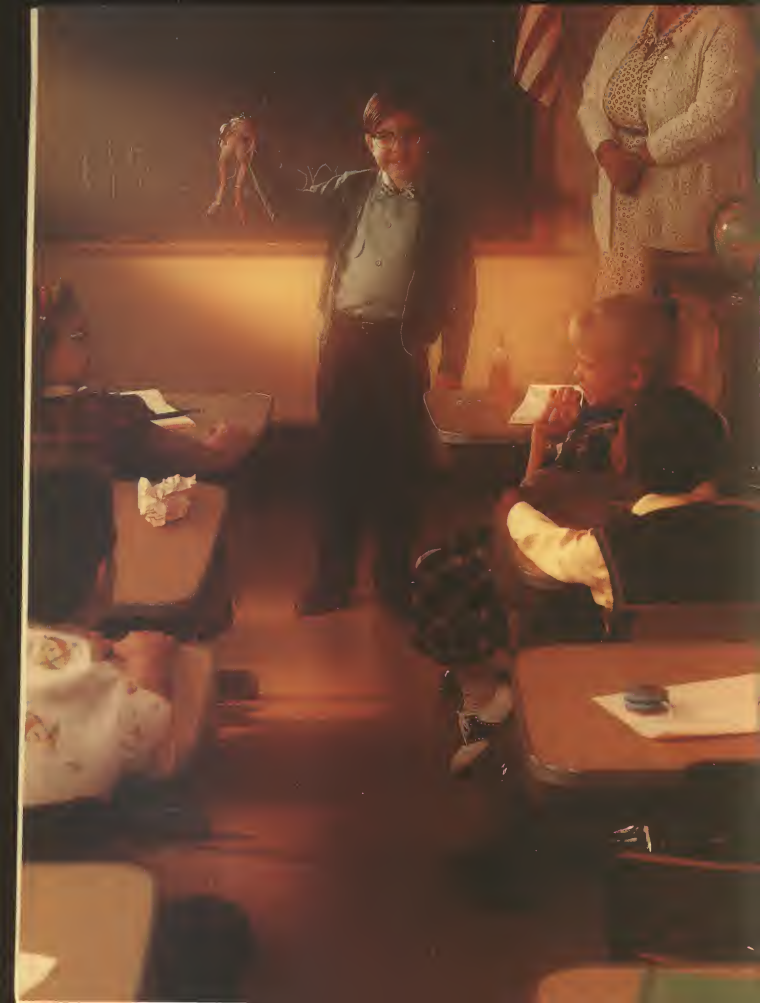

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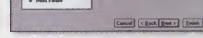

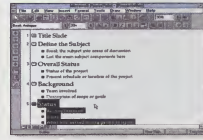

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Penny-Wise Pentiums

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Three Boring (But Smart) Reasons to Buy a CD-ROM

CD-ROM UPGRADE KITS ARE SELLING FASTER THAN BIG Macs at a Clinton family reunion. These days you have to place a special order and wait a week to buy a system without a CD-ROM drive. And CD-ROM titles are everywhere: You can find them at Price Club, Barnes & Noble Bookstores, even Blockbuster Video.

Everybody's talking about CD-ROMs. But how many people really understand their impact on business? Not many, I'm afraid.

The trouble is, every time you hear *CD-ROM*, you also hear the words *multimedia*, *full-motion video*, and *games*. We hear plenty about the flash-and-sizzle, Disney-goes-digital dimension of CD-ROM technology, but nobody's talking about its serious side. That's a shame, because some of the most imaginative uses of CD-ROM technology are bread-and-butter business applications even a bean counter could love.

The *Real* Data Superhighway

It's too bad CD-ROM is stuck with the misleading *read-only* tag. That may be true of the average desktop drive, but for as little as $3,000 you can get a CD-Recordable (CD-R) drive and start your own CD-ROM publishing division. Fill a single blank disc with more than 600MB of data, hand it over to Federal Express, and you can absolutely, positively bring a regional office up-to-date overnight—for less than $20. There's no other optical or magnetic storage system that's as cost-effective, and it would take 12 hours to send that much information over a standard phone line.

You can put just about anything on a custom CD-ROM. Like a regularly updated product catalog, complete with full-color photos. Or an up-to-the-minute service manual. Or a disc full of digitized forms that could replace a roomful of paper at a bank branch or insurance agency.

Today's CD-R drives, just like basic desktop CD-ROM drives, can run at dual-speed. But hold onto your hats, because Eastman Kodak is about to introduce its PCD Writer 600, which is six times faster than a standard CD-ROM drive and can fill a CD in just over ten minutes. Imagine what you could do with one.

Fast Facts

Where do you go when you need an in-depth backgrounder on a crucial business topic? Until a few years ago, you went to the library or logged on to an online research service like Nexis, at per-minute rates that would make a New York cabbie blush. Today, you buy a CD-ROM or three. Here's a random sampling of some of the business information available on CD-ROM:

Prices and specifications for more than 75,000 hardware and software products, updated every month (Ziff-Davis's *Computer Select*). Detailed street maps of the entire United States on a single disc (DeLorme Mapping's *Street Atlas USA*). Population, housing, and demographic data, sliced and diced across 4,000 fields on three CDs (U.S. Bureau of the Census). A national phone directory—70 million residential listings, 7 million business numbers—on seven CDs (Pro CD's *Select Phone*).

If you can't find the facts you're looking for, you're not looking hard enough.

Software Made Simple

There's the hard way to buy software, and there's the easy way.

The hard way: Stand in a superline at your local superstore and end up with a not-so-super stack of floppy disks. Back at the office, you swap disks until your index finger throbs, and you hope the application you bought is the one you really need.

The easy way: Every few months, your software reseller sends you a CD packed with full retail versions of the top 40 business applications (and maybe even a game or two). You browse through detailed descriptions of every program on the disk and install demo versions of any you'd like to try before you buy. To close the deal, call your reseller and exchange a credit card number for a secret code. Type in the code, click on OK, and install the application right off the CD. (The printed documentation, if you want it, arrives in the mail a day or two later.)

This is no longer the stuff of pilot programs, either. The IBM Software Manufacturing Company introduced its CD Showcase technology last year, and major corporate resellers are using it today. Even PC makers have gotten into the act.

It's the most popular PC peripheral around, and then some.

But Wait—There's More . . .

There are plenty of other reasons to own a CD-ROM drive, and none of them has anything to do with multimedia. If you develop software, a CD-ROM is a must-have for compilers and toolkits. Kodak's multisession Photo CD standard has turned the 35mm camera into the cheapest, easiest PC input device you can buy. And if you're ready to install a new operating system—OS/2, NetWare, or Windows NT—a CD-ROM is the intelligent alternative to a 2-foot-high stack of floppy disks.

Paradoxically, the breathless hype about multimedia may actually slow the acceptance of CD-ROMs in business. Yes, the CD-ROM drive is the most misunderstood PC peripheral around. But it doesn't have to be that way. Are you ready to take it seriously? Just use your imagination.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD HOPKINS/STAFF

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FS-PCC-0604

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Circle 248 on reader service card.

The Apple Report On PowerPC

Number 3 – Applications Accelerated For PowerPC

If you buy a Macintosh today, can you upgrade it tomorrow? In many cases, yes. Just look for the "Ready for PowerPC upgrade" sticker on the box.

On average, a Macintosh with PowerPC technology achieves two to four times the performance of 68040 and 80486 machines running the same programs.

If you use applications that do floating-point mathematical calculations, your performance levels could be up to ten times those of the same program running on a 68040 machine — and several times faster than the fastest Pentium system – based computers.

A Macintosh with PowerPC offers unprecedented compatibility between Macintosh, MS-DOS and Windows, thanks to an emulation program called SoftWindows, which licenses Windows code from Microsoft.

For more information about Macintosh with PowerPC, call1-800-732-3131, ext.150. We'll send you a free copy of *PowerPC Technology: The Power Behind the Next Generation of Macintosh Systems*. In Canada, call 1-800-665-2775, ext. 910.

The new family of Macintosh® computers with PowerPC™ chips will run virtually all Macintosh system–based software and most current programs for MS-DOS and Windows operating systems.* So no matter what computing environment you're working in now, you can migrate to a more powerful desktop computer without losing your investment in your current software.

Accelerated for Macintosh with PowerPC™

But the real benefit of PowerPC technology will be seen with new applications optimized to take advantage of the chip's advanced capabilities.

These applications, often called native applications, will offer two to four times the performance of programs available for the fastest Macintosh computers today. Developers writing native applications say that these applications perform at levels better than their Windows counterparts running on Intel Pentium system–based computers.

Major developers on board.

Right now, the world's leading developers are updating their most popular and memory-intensive programs to take full advantage of PowerPC technology.

In fact, Apple has been working closely with more than 200 major third-party developers since 1992 to create powerful new versions of their applications.

And since software development kits became widely available in January, hundreds of additional developers have begun the move to PowerPC.

PowerPC technology enables them to incorporate new levels of speed and functionality into their applications for the Macintosh system. Developers everywhere are eager to exploit these new capabilities.

What programs will be ready?

While a Macintosh with PowerPC technology will run virtually all of your existing Macintosh system–based programs, the real benefit of PowerPC will be with applications optimized to take advantage of the chip's advanced capabilities. More than 50 of these native applications will be available in the first half of 1994. Here are some of them.

ACI *4th Dimension*	Frame *FrameMaker*
Adobe *Dimensions*	Insignia Solutions *SoftWindows*
Adobe *Illustrator*	Microsoft *Excel*
Adobe *Photoshop*	Microsoft *Word*
Adobe *Premiere*	Specular *Infini-D*
Aldus *FreeHand*	Strata *StudioPro*
Aldus *PageMaker*	VideoFusion *VideoFusion*
Alias *Sketch!*	Virtus *WalkThrough*
Claris *ClarisWorks*	Wolfram *Mathematica*
Fractal Design *Painter*	WordPerfect *WordPerfect*

Do more in less time.

What will the advanced capabilities of native applications mean to you? You'll spend significantly less time waiting for your computer to redraw or recalculate or re-anything. That means you'll have more time to create and refine your work, to apply new concepts, to test options.

You can also expect to see new kinds of applications — software that is both more intelligent and easier to use.

Developers will be exploring new features in areas such as intelligent help, 3-D design, video, animation, speech recognition and text-to-speech conversion.

Many of these new functions simply wouldn't be practical without the superior processing capabilities of a RISC chip and innovative Macintosh technology.

Why RISC?

The new generation of Macintosh computers will be the first personal computers with RISC (Reduced Instruction Set Computing) chips—ultra high performance chips that were previously available only in workstations.

(In fact, many workstation developers are now writing applications for the Macintosh platform for the first time.)

RISC chips are smaller and less complex than comparably powered CISC chips, so they cost less to produce—which means that Macintosh computers with PowerPC technology can offer a significant price/performance advantage. But more important, they'll give you an unprecedented new kind of power.

The power to be your best.®

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Free DOS Upgrade—Not So Free After All

Acclaim for Toshiba's notebooks, and a 900-number boycott.

No Free Cheese Balls

What type of a cheese-ball magazine are you peddling? Your January cover and "*PC/Computing* Update" spotlight item on page 118 led me to believe that I could receive a free upgrade of MS-DOS 6. Ha! Following your instructions, I found that I have to sign up for ZiffNet, which costs $2.50 a month. What a scam! *PC/Computing* is guilty of false and deceptive advertising, and should be forced to cease and desist.

BRIAN G. MCHENRY
CARY, NORTH CAROLINA

I am writing to complain about charges that I incurred obtaining the "free" MS-DOS 6.2 upgrade advertised in the January *PC/Computing*. After logging on to CompuServe and proceeding to ZiffNet, I was at first unable to download the upgrade, and had to use Kermit. The file description stated the download would take about 30 minutes. It took three times as long.

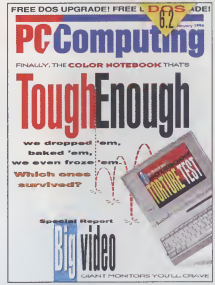
ZiffNet mentions its $2.50 monthly charge, but CompuServe charged me $40.58! I think it's unethical to tout a free upgrade and then charge hourly access rates to get it. Why would anyone pay more than $40 for a $10 upgrade?

ROBERT MCAFOOS
TEMPE, ARIZONA

Thousands of satisfied subscribers have downloaded DOS 6.2 from the convenience of their own homes or offices with no problems. It takes about 30 minutes to download the upgrade at 9,600 baud, costing less than $8 in connect charges. CompuServe tends to be slower during business hours, and your actual costs may be higher. Standard CompuServe services cost $8.95 per month, and ZiffNet is an extra $2.50. If you had problems with the download, type GO ZNT:FEEDBACK to ask for credit. To cancel your ZiffNet membership, Type GO ZNT:MEMBER. Note: As of February 6, CompuServe lowered its rate to $9.60 an hour for 9,600-baud connections, making this download even less costly. —*The Editors*

Toshiba's Smart Keyboard

Your January review of laptop computers, "Killer Color Notebooks" (page 142), unfairly faults Toshiba's T1950CT



and T4600C keyboards for the placement of the Ctrl, Alt, and Caps Lock keys. Instead of wasting valuable space to the left of the "A" key with a Caps Lock key, Toshiba smartly located a Ctrl key there for power users to use to launch macros and custom keyboard commands. I've used the Ctrl key six times already in writing this letter, but haven't touched the Caps Lock key yet. The only laptop I'm willing to own is one that gives my left pinkie finger easy access to the fabulously powerful Ctrl key.

PETER FORMAN
RENO, NEVADA

Recycle Your Batteries

I read with interest your article on the life of batteries for PC portables, "Charge!" (January, page 217). However, the article did not address the subject of battery disposability or recyclability. It would be a shame if some new battery technology were rapidly adopted for the portable computing environment with no consideration given to the greater human environment or the biosphere as a whole.

HOWARD H. ROTHMAN
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT

PKzip: Friend or Foe?

In "*PC/Computing*'s Usability Hall of Fame" (January, page 223), you wrote that PKzip 2.04g is an "all thumbs" product. I think that it's all thumbs only for those who do not have the time or patience to learn about the mechanics of their operating system (DOS) and software. The funny thing is that at the other end of the same issue, in Jeff Prosise's DOS Help section (page 244), PKzip 2.04g is awarded the App of the Month award. How can this be?

ALAN GOLDBERG
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

We would never question PKzip's usefulness—it's an obvious candidate for App of the Month (any month). But it is a pain to use—even for those of us who have been coding, hacking, and teaching DOS for years. We couldn't

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Circle 142 on reader service card.

do without its power—but we can't say the same for its convoluted command-line syntax. —*The Editors*

A Little Q&A

I read with great interest your article "Symantec Q&A: Two Cool Products in One Small Box" (January, page 51). I've used Q&A for more than three years, and the fact that there is now a Windows version has prompted me to upgrade my PC and buy Windows. Although Q&A is a flat-file database, using lookup functions can make it very powerful, and it's the only all-in-one package I'll ever need.

JAMES COLEMAN
TUSTIN, CALIFORNIA

More Handbook for Less Cash

What's all the fuss about Hewlett-Packard's OmniBook 425 subnotebook ("OmniBook 425: Running Long and Light in Overdrive," January, page 90)? OK, so it has a great footprint and a feather's weight, but you're constantly overlooking a machine that smacks the 425 out of the ballpark: the Gateway 2000 HandBook 486. Both machines weigh the same, but I would rather have the HandBook—with 40MB more hard disk space, 2MB more RAM, and a back-lit VGA screen—for $600 less.

MATTHEW KUNOFSKY
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Out the Back Door!

Brian Livingston's January Help article, "Back Door Technical Support" (page 228), is missing two important points: support and online fees. I'm upset at the software giants' attempt to charge for technical support. Most calls I've ever made have either been because of poor documentation or software that is user-nasty. It seems developers don't want to develop software fully, and they don't want to support it either. No support; no purchase! Yet Livingston proposes online support through CompuServe at $16-plus an hour. Online support is a great answer, but who will pay those connect fees? Ten hours a month would cost nearly $2,000 annually. Who can afford this? Reasonable support and reasonable online service are both very important to the future of the PC user.

JEFF POLUCCI
NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS

900-Number Rip-Off

Bravo, John C. Dvorak, for your January column, "900-Number Support? This Time Vendors Have Gone Too Far" (page 130). I agree: 900-number support calls suck! Too bad the [people in] Redmond, Washington, haven't figured this out. Two dollars a minute for Windows technical support? What a rip-off! All software vendors should take a look at their current tech support programs and make it easier on our pocketbooks.

RYAN HELDT
ZEARING, IOWA

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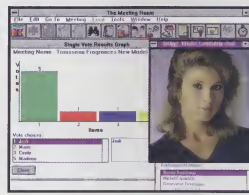

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All Plug and No Play

In January's Dvorak vs. Somerson column ("Psst! Wanna Know What Keeps Software Vendors Awake at Night?" page 136), there is yet another reference to the Apple Macintosh being "true plug and play."

This kind of broad generalization makes me wonder if authors like John C. Dvorak have ever tried to do anything on the Macintosh that is more complicated than clicking a mouse button. I'm a longtime PC user and have been struggling with Apple equipment for several years now, and it's anything but plug and play.

CLARK ALLWORTH
HILLSBORO, OREGON

The Numbers Racket

It was a delight to read Ed Bott's January column about version numbers, "Let's Do Away with Version Numbers" (page 22). The current "numbering" system is indeed confusing and frustrating and, as the article points out, is only a marketing gimmick. An alternative is to follow the example of book publishers, and move to a system that uses edition numbers in lieu of version numbers.

MEHDI KAIGHOBADI
PLANTATION, FLORIDA

Ed Bott's column on version numbers is misguided. Version numbers give a definite handle on the various software releases even if they're not in sequence, and that's enough reason to keep them around. A world without numbered software? I would be lost.

HOMER B. TILTON
TUCSON, ARIZONA

Applying the KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid) principle, the most sanity can be found in a "year/month" nominator for product identification. For example, a name such as Quattro Pro 93/4 or Quattro Pro 93/9 would most easily identify a minor upgrade because of the short amount of time between dates.

RICHARD POPLAWSKI
JESSUP, PENNSYLVANIA

Corrections

We published an incorrect phone number for Cyrix in Ed Bott's November 1993 column, "When the Bean Counters Get Tough, the Tough Get Going," (page 34). The correct number is (800) 327-6284.

In our February DOS column (Help, page 222), we referred to MONOUMB.386 as a DOS 5 file—it was new to DOS 6.

Mail your thoughts to Letters, PC/Computing, 950 Tower Lane, 19th Floor, Foster City, CA 94404; fax us at (415) 578-7029; or contact us via MCI Mail at PCC Editorial or via PC/Contact, our online forum. Letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. All letters become the property of PC/Computing and will be edited for length and clarity.

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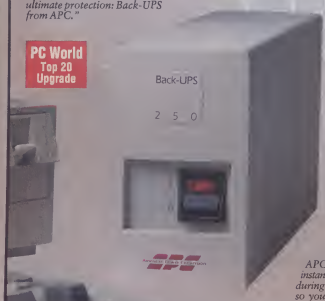

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ONLINE MEETS TV

Ever wanted to download a 1MB file from an online service but left it because you didn't want to hold up your line for 40 minutes? This could become a thing of the past if the work of three major online services materializes into real services. America Online, Prodigy, and CompuServe are working in partnership with cable providers to use TV cable as a medium for speedy cyberspace contact. Relying on cable splitters and Zenith Electronics' HomeWorks modems, Prodigy and CompuServe are speeding up online access to 500 kilobits per second per subchannel (there are four subchannels in a typical video channel). And America Online and Prodigy are designing interactive TV infrastructures for their own programming. How's that for convergence?

YOU'VE HEARD THE hype: Computing is merging with consumer electronics. The telephone could be the universal front end to the human race's entire body of knowledge. You will soon be able to run your life from your remote control. The hype comes down to earth each winter at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, when the *other* electronics industry blasts out thousands of new products. Last December, the buzz at CES centered around a slew of products that blended personal computer technology, networking infrastructure, and consumer electronics into unusual and useful new products.

Simon Says It All

In one small box, BellSouth has combined a cellular telephone, a fax machine, computer interface and a personal information manager (PIM). The box is called the Simon, and with its IBM-designed software and MobilComm paging capability, it rolls just about everything a mobile executive could want into a package not much larger than a regular cellular phone—at an $899 price.

You use a stylus to tap a touch screen on Simon where you'd expect to find the buttons on a regular phone. It's this screen and its graphical interface that enable the device to step beyond regular cellular devices. Tap on the Last 10 or Quick Dial icons, and you get a list of numbers to redial. Tap on Fax and you'll be ready to dash off a quick fax using the smart keyboard (which uses a robust "best guess" feature to suggest the ten most likely next letters you'll enter). You can also receive and read faxes automatically. And you can receive up to nine number-only radio-pages—or plug in a MobileComm PCMCIA card to receive full alphanumeric pages. The big plus is that you can dial back those who are bugging you at the tap of an icon. In addition, Simon can send and receive e-mail through any remote dial-in cc:Mail post office.

And Simon's also a PIM. It can display an address-and-phone book, to-do list, calendar, notepad, clock, and calculator. And there's password protection to keep it all under wraps. True, tapping out information using a thin stylus on a palm-sized touch screen—with only a few hours of battery life—isn't everybody's idea of personal computing, but Simon isn't a standalone gimmick. You can add a serial connector to the device and transfer data between it and your PC. Or add dedicated cards such as MobileComm's full-strength radio paging card.

And, of course, it works over regular analog cellular networks. Such a deal.

Speaking of faxing, the Sharp Wizard is finally able to phone home. The OZ-9500 and OZ-9600 II product line can now be fitted with a Hayes-compatible fax modem, the $199.99 CE-FM1. This is no big surprise considering the big selling point of the OZ-9520 and OZ-9500—introduced in the fall of 1993—was integrated fax software. The fax modem also plugs into Sharp's version of the Newton MessagePad, the PI-7000 Expert Pad. If you want to fax using Sharp's other big news item—the PT-9000, a 2½-pound Geos-based computer with pen and detachable keyboard—you can do it two ways. The direct-to-fax method requires a fax modem on the serial port, or you can go through America Online's service, an interface that's included with the PT-9000.

BellSouth Cellular's Siman

the Most Toys . . .

Shopping by Compact Disc

Busy people don't do malls and they certainly don't wait for products to show up on home shopping channels. But they do make informed buying decisions, and then they want their goods quick. The latest consumer spin is computer-based shopping using CD-ROM catalogs and modems.

CompuServe plans to serve up a new front end to its consumer goods purchasing service on a monthly subscription CD-ROM. When you're ready to buy, you browse the goods—no doubt copiously illustrated—pick the one you want, and use the modem to place orders.

Medio Multimedia plans to release a monthly general interest and news magazine on CD-ROM, tentatively titled *A2Z Magazine*. Besides a collection of Associated Press news stories—including sound bites and video clips—the magazine will contain a virtual shopping mall from which you use your modem to dial in purchases.

Entertainment Tonight

Tired of rinky-dink Video for Windows clips? How about watching some real movies on your PC instead? For the price of a regular multimedia upgrade kit, you can get Sigma Designs' $849 ReelMagic Upgrade Kit, based around the 1993 *PC/Computing* MVP Award finalist MPEG playback board. What's the big deal? Its Sony CD-ROM drive enables you to play movies in Philips' CD-i's DigitalVideo format. CD-i titles include such Paramount megahits as *Star Trek VI* and *Patriot Games*, and you can rent them from many Blockbuster Video outlets. In addition to CD-i movies, ReelMagic should also be able to play movies in the forthcoming VideoCD format—bringing a new meaning to video for Windows.

So much for video. What about music? Anyone for a combo dual-speed SCSI CD-ROM with a Discman? It's slim, it's sleek, it looks like Darth Vader's shuttle craft, and it's called Reno. Like NEC's MultiSpin 3Xp, Media Vision's Reno is built to rock and roll as well as blast bits across the bus. But unlike the MultiSpin, it won't get you frisked by security guards who think you're carrying an ill-concealed weapon. Reno sports CD-like audio controls, a CD-ROM–like 64K buffer, and costs from $399 to $599. If it works and sounds half as good as it looks, it'll be worth every cent.

Canned music's OK, but interactive music is much better. If you're serious about pumping out your own music, check out Advanced Gravis Computer Technology's Gravis Personal Piano System. It's a $495 melding of a four-octave, pressure-sensitive keyboard with full-sized keys, Musicware's excellent Piano tutorial software, Advanced Gravis's UltraSound board, and all of the requisite cabling. You add the PC and a few months of humiliating practice, and you'll be able to read music, play like Paderewski (almost), and buy a second and third course from Musicware to further hone your skills. And unlike the lady on the other side of town, the Personal Piano System won't rap your knuckles if you don't practice. **MATTHEW LAKE**

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▲ **PAGING DICK TRACY**

Here comes retail radio paging—an executive's impulse buy. The Swiss chronamaniacs at Swatch Telecam have bred wristwatches and radio pagers in captivity and created the BeepUp line—$175 fashion (*read:* gaudy) watches with small LCD pager windows. Here's Swatch's plan: You walk into a store, buy a watch pager, and dial a toll-free number to activate your MobilCamm account using the watch's serial number as a code. But the rather bulky current line is limited to one communications band—150MHz—which is more prevalent in Europe than in the United States. The more common 900MHz paging band should be supported by the next fashion season—this summer.

This setup certainly beats the current hassles of application, waiting, and paperwork. Once it's in action, the watch's paging battery should last about 650 hours, and the separate watch battery should last two years. Want to turn off the bleat? No problem—just check your watch every so often, and the LCD will indicate if you've been paged.

MEAT-AND-POTATOES PCs

Not Rich Fare, Just

WHICH TO BUY?
It's not the fastest system we've tested, but it's close. And when you consider its price tag, you'd have to conclude that Inmac's Insignia 466P (top photo, at left) is the most attractive choice among this group of meat-and-potatoes PCs. But Comtrade Electronics USA's EISA VL-Bus Professional 66 (top photo, at right) gives you lots of extras for only $350 more than the price-leading Insignia 466P—quite a bundle for the price.

On the other hand, if raw performance is your main consideration, you'll prefer the DECpc LPx (below, left) or its shorter sibling, the DECpc LPv (below, middle). IBM PC's PS/1 Consultant (below, right) was a little pokey in our Winstone application tests, but it offers the most upgradability in the least desktop space. Both of these mainframe brand names are, unfortunately, overpriced compared with the competition.

THESE ARE NOT the fastest computers you can buy. They don't have Pentium chips or a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) local bus. But not everyone chooses steak and lobster off the menu, even if it's affordable—as Pentiums are becoming. If you just need a square meal at a great price, these top-of-the-line 66MHz 486DX2s may be more to your liking. For this review, we sampled a quintet of less-than-$3,000 486s—Comtrade Electronics USA's EISA VL-Bus Professional 66, Digital Equipment's DECpc LPx and LPv, IBM's PS/1 Consultant, and Inmac's Insignia 466P.

You may not need the fastest processor, but you still need a solid performer to run the ever-more-taxing graphical software here today and coming tomorrow. A 486DX2/66 engine that can be upgraded later to Intel's Pentium processors should do the job. All these machines—except the low-profile DECpc LPv—offer plenty of room for adding storage and add-in boards.

Speaking of DEC, its fraternal twin 486s, the LPv and LPx, smoked our rigorous Windows application benchmarks. Both machines are upgradable as well, at reasonable prices.

With three spare ISA slots, the LPv is, basically, the low-profile version of the LPx, which includes a pair of VESA local-bus slots and four ISA slots. The standard LPx also has one internal and four external drive bays, as opposed to two of each on the LPv.

Both DEC systems include S3 805 accelerated local-bus graphics, but the LPx also takes either an S3 928 card for about $150 or a Diamond Viper card for about $425. Both DEC PCs come standard with 1MB of VRAM showing 256 colors at 1,024-by-768-pixel resolution on their 15-inch, Super VGA (SVGA) monitors with a 72Hz refresh rate. Add $75 for another 1MB of VRAM to boost color depth at the same resolution.

A DECpc LPv with 8MB of memory and a rather slow 14ms 340MB hard drive sells for $2,668, while an LPx configured the same way costs $2,818. Add $90 for 128K of cache or $180 for 256K. DEC recently boosted its warranty to three years, one year of which is onsite. Both PCs are good values.

No More Blues with IBM PCs

IBM's PS/1 line was once a collection of wimpy price-point machines. But today's PS/1 Consultant has enough power and storage to run real applications.

This minitower has plenty of room to grow with six drive bays (four externally available) and eight ISA slots. The standard configuration includes both 1.44MB and 1.2MB floppy drives and a 12ms Western Digital 420MB hard drive. There's also a state-of-the-art 14,400-bit-per-second (bps)

Wholesome Computing

fax-modem board in one of the slots. Cache is extra—$229 for 256K of write-through cache or $249 for write-back cache.

The local-bus Cirrus Logic 5428 graphics adapter on the motherboard is supported by 1MB of VRAM. One particularly cool IBM exclusive is the rapid resume feature that lets you turn off the computer while Windows files and applications are open, and take up immediately where you left off when you turn it back on (just like in a notebook).

The $2,949 price includes 8MB of RAM expandable to 64MB on the planar and a PS/1 15-inch SVGA monitor. IBM also throws in a bundle of popular business software. The price includes a one-year warranty with 48-hour express replacement service at IBM's expense, and a lifetime of toll-free telephone support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Sadly, this system ran our Winstone tests slower than any of the five systems tested, but there's still enough power to tackle any job.

Have It Your Way

Inmac's specialty is build-to-order PCs. The company will put together a high-end 486 in any configuration you want using Intel's 486DX/33 or 50MHz and 66MHz 486DX2s or IBM's 486SLC2 50 CPUs.

We asked for a 486DX2/66-based Insignia 466P with 8MB of memory and a good-sized—but not oversized—12ms Western Digital 340MB hard drive. The system's Cirrus Logic 5428 local-bus graphics engine with 1MB of VRAM yields 256 colors at 1,024 by 768 pixels on a 15-inch SVGA monitor. Each system includes five open ISA slots and four drive bays (three externally accessible), one of which houses a 1.44MB/1.2MB floppy combo.

Inmac also bundles in MS-DOS 6.2, Windows 3.1, the Lotus Organizer personal information manager, and Diagsoft QAPlus diagnostic utilities. For extra speed, opt for a cache upgrade: 128K of cache for $35 and 256K for $59. Inmac also offers 540MB, 1GB, and 1.2GB hard drives, a choice of add-in fax modems, as well as network hardware and multimedia subsystems.

The cost of the configuration we used is only $2,136—an outstanding deal.

The standard Comtrade EISA VL-Bus Professional 66 includes 256K of 20ns cache and 16MB of memory upgradable to 128MB. This small-but-tall system with attractive styling is packed with features—each of which would cost extra from a big-name vendor.

The Professional 66 sports an unusual configuration: three EISA slots, two VESA VL-Bus slots, and two ISA slots. A Diamond Stealth 32 card sits in one of the VESA local-bus slots, and a local-bus controller for a 10ms 530MB Conner hard drive sits in another slot. The local-bus hard disk makes this machine a screamer.

With the Professional 66's generous 2MB of VRAM, the Diamond card displays 65,000 colors at 1,024 by 768 pixels on its 70Hz, 15-inch CTX monitor. For drive expansion, you also get four external and two internal bays—surprising in a case this size.

Comtrade's warranty also is unusually generous for a company this size: three years, one of which is onsite, plus toll-free phone support during normal business hours for the life of the system.

At $2,475, the Professional 66 still qualifies as a meat-and-potatoes PC, but its price and performance add up to veal scaloppini and potatoes au gratin.

MIKE HOGAN

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UNUSUAL PERFORMERS

With the exception of IBM PC's PS/1 Consultant, we were surprised at how well these Average Joe PCs ran our Windows application test suite. Thanks to local-bus graphics and a few hard-drive tricks, our former 486 champ, the Dell Dimension XPS 466V, was way ahead of the pack in October 1993.

But local bus is old news, and the DECpc LPx is our new performance champ with test scores 6 percent faster than the Dimension XPS 466V. The DECpc LPv and Inmac Insignia 466P are the Dell Dimension's equal.

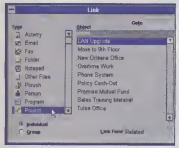
Given variances between individual PCs, Comtrade is also right in the running. It logged virtually the same test score as the Compaq ProLinea MT 4/66 Model 340/CDS, which we've tested previously.

PC/COMPUTING LAB REPORT:
THE FASTEST 486s EVER

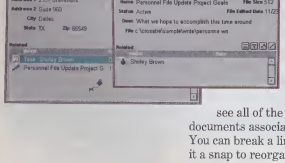
Note: Winstone is a system-level benchmark that runs 12 of the most popular Windows business applications and delivers a single score based on their combined performance.

CrossTies: Powerful Information Management with a Pretty Face

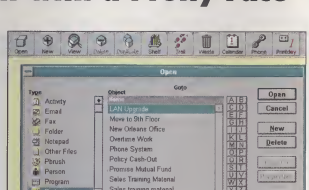
HOT LINKS
CrossTies makes it easy to link objects. The most straightforword woy is to click on the Link button in ony object box. Then, fram the Link dialog box (top screen), you select the torget from the list of objects.



To link two unrelated objects—for example, if you're moving a file into CrossTies (below)—simply click the cursor on an object in the Related bar of one box, then drag the object icon that appears (in this case, the fountain pen nib) onto the Related area in the other box.



WE KNOW WHAT you're thinking: Just what the world needs, another so-called personal information manager (PIM) that confuses your life instead of organizing it. Many of the PIMs we've encountered are either so Byzantine that they force you to completely change the way you work, or they're so feeble that they can barely manage a phone list, let alone your day-to-day projects. But before you thumb your nose and turn the page, take a closer look at the new CrossTies. This intuitive program lets you store, manage, and retrieve all of your Windows project, task, schedule, and contact data. It's really easy, and it really works.



CrossTies integrates your crucial data including projects, contact lists, faxes, e-mail, and even applications under an easy-to-use interface.

Hooking Up

CrossTies represents all data—people, tasks, programs, and activities—as objects. Each object has a variety of descriptive fields, depending on its type. A Person object, for example, includes a name, phone number, address, and so forth, while an activity has an associated start time and end time, as well as a priority status.

All objects can be linked to other objects. You can link a person to activities, documents, projects, or even other people with the click of a button. So when you call up the Joe Smith object, you can easily see all of the meetings, projects, and documents associated specifically with him. You can break a link just as easily, making it a snap to reorganize people and tasks. While making and breaking links within CrossTies couldn't be simpler (see "Hot Links"), if you have an aversion to doing things the easy way, you can always use the Windows Clipboard to copy and paste links between objects.

All-in-One Interface

The ultimate CrossTies power user could even use the program as a Windows shell. You can, for example, create a Microsoft Word for Windows file as a new object, give it a description, then save the file and link it to an existing person or activity. You can also move existing files into CrossTies and link them to objects. CrossTies will even act as a front end to your VIM- or MAPI-compliant e-mail system, and it will automatically link mail messages to the appropriate person object.

In addition to handling e-mail, CrossTies will also work with SofNet's FaxWorks or FaxWorks Pro to integrate your incoming and outgoing faxes with CrossTies objects. When you send a fax from within an application, CrossTies lets you choose the recipients—either an individual or a group—from a list of Person objects, and then creates a Fax object that is automatically linked to the Person object.

You can also manually link incoming faxes to existing objects. The CrossTies viewer will even let you see the fax without having to switch to FaxWorks. The only drawback to CrossTies fax support is that you can't take advantage of it if you don't have FaxWorks. At press time, the

(Continued on page 39)

BLACK HOLE (ARTIST'S CONCEPTION)

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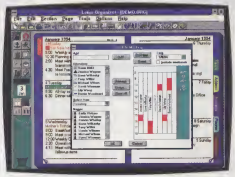

Lotus Organizer with group scheduling takes the guesswork—and the footwork—out of meeting planning.

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Organizer's group scheduler displays a user's *availability only*, not the entire schedule, so everyone's privacy is protected. And invitations can be sent to anyone on the ccMail network, even if they don't use Organizer.

Organizer does more than plan meetings. Organizer includes an on-screen calendar, an automated to-do list, an address book, a note pad and an anniversary reminder. Organizer will even sound an alarm to remind you of a commitment—like that meeting you're invited to.

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EE36051

CrossTies, *continued from page 36*
company claimed to be working on adding support for several more fax programs in the next version.

While CrossTies doesn't have the macro muscle of a powerhouse information manager like Jensen-Jones's Commence, the program does have several advanced features that eliminate repetitive typing. You can record macros and save them as buttons on the movable button bar. CrossTies also lets you build templates for all of your object types, which is particularly handy for tasks like entering several people from the same company or subtasks on the same project.

Nothing that CrossTies does is rocket science, and most information managers let you link related data. CrossTies stands out, however, because it has the shortest learning curve and an interface that's easier to navigate than any we've seen on this kind of product. The only thing we missed was a group scheduler—in fact, beyond its e-mail front end, CrossTies has no network features to speak of. Nevertheless, CrossTies does an excellent job of balancing a powerful and flexible feature list with a goof-proof interface, all at a nice price. It might just make you a believer in the power of electronic information management. **SHYAMALA REDDY**

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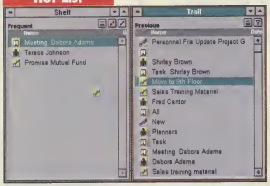
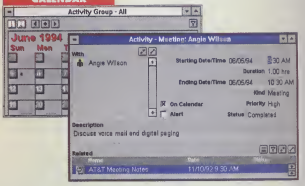


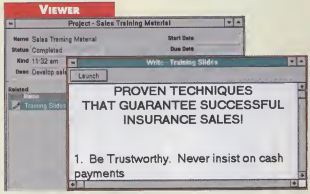
CrossTies makes it easy to access current or frequently used objects through its Shelf and Trail windows. You can even drag objects between the two.

Calendar



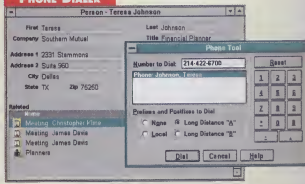
It's easy to reschedule and change the length of meetings on the CrossTies calendar. Or you can edit objects directly from your calendar view by double-clicking on the appropriate entry.

Viewer

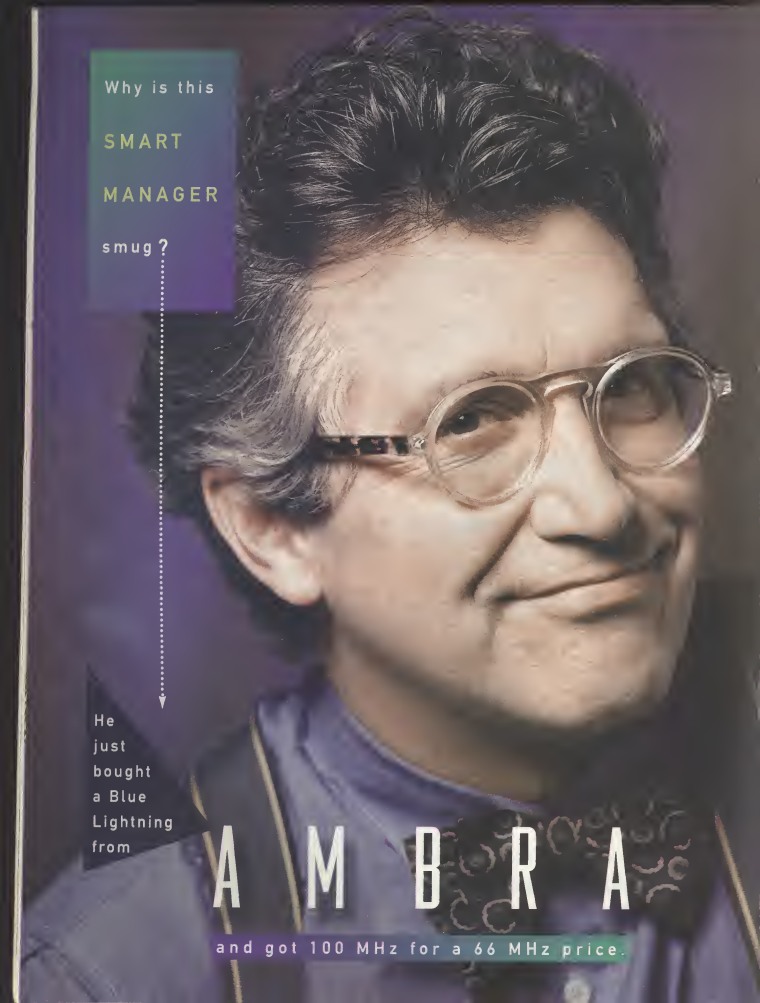


CrossTies has built-in support for most popular Windows apps, so you can view any document from within the CrossTies shell. If looking isn't enough, the launch button offers editing capability.

Phone Dialer



You don't even have to leave CrossTies to make a phone call. With a Person object open on the desktop, click on the phone button and CrossTies will launch an autodialer.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- 5 drive bays
- Local bus IDE controller
- Local bus graphics accelerator, 1MB
- 15" FST-NI color monitor, LR
- 3.5" 1.44MB diskette drive
- Double-Speed Multisession Multimedia Kit
- Lexmark PS/2-style 101-key keyboard
- MS-DOS 6.2, Windows 3.1, mouse

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- 128KB L2 cache, max: 256KB
- 4MB RAM, max: 36MB
- 3 16-bit ISA slots
- 340MB (15ms) IDE hard disk
- 3 drive bays
- Local bus IDE controller
- Local bus graphics accelerator, 1MB
- 14" SVGA-NI color monitor, LR
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- 540MB (12ms) hard disk
- 6 drive bays
- Fast PCI IDE controller
- PCI graphics accelerator, 2MB
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Microsoft Money 3.0: Banking And Investing Enhancements

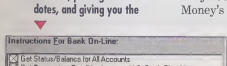
BANKING MADE EASY

Microsoft's Money 3.0 Bank On-Line feature not only lets you pay bills and make intercoount transfers, but also quickly and intelligently updates the records on your home PC while you're online.

Money takes the hassle aut of personal accounting by automatically recording and reconciling new bank transactions in the appropriate checking, savings, or credit account registers as they are received by your bank. If you happen to enter some transactians yaurself, Money will compare the bank's records to yours and highlight any discrepancies based on check number, date, or amount.

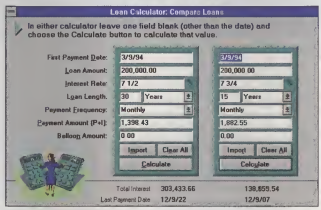
After you hang up, Money displays a line-by-line summary of your transactions in a scrollable dialog box that you can save to disk. The messages are amazingly clear, describing requested account balances, posting status and dates, and giving you the confidence that your online banking was successful.

This service is currently offered ta customers at three major banks—U.S. Bank in Portland, Oregon; First National Bank of Chicago; and Michigan National Bank.



IF YOU'RE SHOPPING for an electronic way to organize your finances, you have two choices—Intuit's Quicken or Microsoft's Money 3.0. We can't disagree with the millions who give Quicken the nod, but the latest version of Money is a strong product with innovations that some of you just might prefer.

Money 3.0 takes the drudgery out of both day-to-day banking and investment tracking through new financial calculators, reports, and electronic services. True, Money's new Pay On-Line bill-paying service merely catches up to Quicken's Check Free feature, but its Bank On-Line feature clearly outshines Quicken's manual check entry—letting you electronically update and manage your checking, savings, and credit card accounts at three large regional banks any time of day or night.



The dialog boxes for each of Money's online features contain descriptive check boxes for selecting services, with details of transactions. Each transmission finishes with a summary of the actions that were executed.

Online Investing

It's just as easy to track investments with Money's Quotes On-Line feature. As in Quicken, you set up accounts for stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other investments. A quick call automatically updates the prices on your existing stock and mutual fund investments (but not bonds). You can get similar updates from CompuServe with the Quicken Companion add-in, but it costs another $35 plus online charges.

Money's new investment reports put it on a par with Quicken's—letting you look at your accounts by market value, transaction and price history, or overall performance.

Where Money gets a leg up is in the use of its friendly Wizard help technology to create five robust financial planning tools—loan, mortgage, and bank interest calculators, and savings and retirement planners. You can calculate interest on a savings account for a given period, and not only detail your borrowing options on a loan prospect, but also compare two loans or mortgages to find the best value. The savings planner helps you design a plan to reach a fixed savings goal, while the retirement planner works toward a monthly retirement income based on gradually increasing contributions. You can do all this in Quicken's financial calculators, but Money's Wizards are easier to use.

Right for Some

Money's emphasis on ease-of-use and electronic banking brings it closer to Quicken. But Quicken still has much more breadth and depth—more ways to look at your accounts, and more built-in and user-customizable shortcuts. Quicken offers home inventory, tax planning, and a financial calendar that makes it much easier to set up recurring payments, visualize when they happen, and graphically display anticipated cash flows.

Version 3.0 of Money provides a good value for current owners and for novices looking for help managing their finances. We still prefer Quicken by a margin, but this version of Money has features that narrow that gap.

MIKE FALKNER

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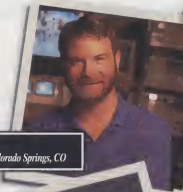

Eric Replinger
Video Producer, Colorado Springs, CO

"Last time I looked in the mirror I ran a dairy business. That means I can't afford to spend more time keeping my records than producing. When it comes to accounts payable, QuickBooks is a lifesaver. I just run a monthly cash flow report to time my purchases to match my inflows and outflows of money. I ask QuickBooks to tell me which bills are due, then decide which ones to pay— and it practically writes the checks for me. No question, I would recommend QuickBooks to anyone else in my field."

Craig Trible
Dairy Business Operator, Troy, VT

"Until QuickBooks, doing the bookkeeping was the craziest part of running our psychiatric management office. My favorite thing about QuickBooks is the reports. I can create reports just about any way I need them. I just scroll down a menu, select the kind of report, set the beginning and ending date, hit "enter" a couple of times and the report is done. That's it. I can even get comparison reports to see how things are doing from one day or one year to the next.

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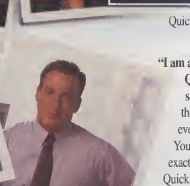
Susan Yeagley Sullivan
Psychiatric Management, San Diego, CA

"I am an accountant. And I recommend QuickBooks to anyone who has a small business. Here are just some of the reasons. First, it's easy. You don't even need to know a debit from a credit. You can easily customize QuickBooks exactly for your business — perfect. QuickPay™ gives you complete payroll automatically, calculating deductions and maintaining employee information.



Stuart Cilley
CPA, Rohnert Park, CA

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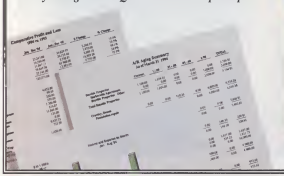

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System requirements: DOS: IBM® compatible PC, 640K RAM DOS 3.0 or higher and 3.2 MB free on hard disk Windows: IBM® compatible PC, 386 or higher, 2MB RAM minimum, (4MB recommended), Windows 3.1 or higher, 8MB free on hard disk DOS and Windows feature sets vary

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Don't Take a Break—Use Adaptive's PeopleScheduler

How It Works

Fictitious Carp., a large retail chain, has full-time, part-time, and salaried workers coming and going at all hours. First, the company tells PeopleScheduler 2.0 about its shifts and breaks.

SARTRE SAID, "HELL is other people." You disagree: Hell is *scheduling* other people. It's like this: Bob can work from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but only from 9 to 3 on any other day. Fortunately, Kimberly can cover for Bob on Wednesdays and Fridays, but she can't work on Mondays. Jim can take Mondays, but you don't want him working just two hours a week, so you need to find other times for him. And those are the simple problems.

Our puny analog brains were not meant to solve conundrums like this. Fortunately, Adaptive Software's PeopleScheduler 2.0 was. This $495 package (the price includes both DOS and Windows versions) will astound you by making the complexities of scheduling your staff's work hours simple. If you have to coordinate breaks, lunches, and absences for more than five people, PeopleScheduler will cut down on your aspirin bills dramatically.

POLICY

Fictitious Breaks

Breaks	Length	Work Hours To Break	Break Starts Between Min Work Hours	Max Work Hours	Paid Break
1st	0 hrs 15 min	3 hrs 0 min	1 hrs 30 min	2 hrs 0 min	☒
2nd	0 hrs 45 min	5 hrs 0 min	3 hrs 30 min	4 hrs 30 min	☐
3rd	0 hrs 15 min	7 hrs 0 min	6 hrs 0 min	6 hrs 30 min	☒
4th	0 hrs 15 min	10 hrs 0 min	8 hrs 0 min	9 hrs 0 min	☒

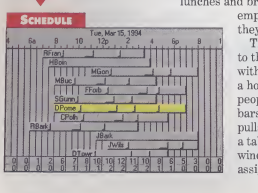
Meet David Tawer. He's a cashier for Fictitious. He works every day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and gets three breaks. That's just about all you need to tell the program for it to start making your scheduling easier.

PERSONNEL

Day	Availability Start	Availability End	Typical Schedule Start	Typical Schedule End	Brk 1	Brk 2	Brk 3	Hours	
Mon	any	any	9:00a	5:00p	auto	auto	auto	8.25	+
Tue	any	any	9:00a	5:00p	auto	auto	auto	8.25	
Wed	any	any	9:00a	5:00p	auto	auto	auto	8.25	
Thu	any	any	9:00a	5:00p	auto	auto	auto	8.25	
Fri	any	any	9:00a	5:00p	auto	auto	auto	8.25	
Sat	any	any	off	off				0.00	
Sun	any	any	off	off				0.00	+
			Overtime 1.25				Total 41.25		

If Sara Gunn fills in for David, but takes lunch from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., and Mark Gamper goes home sick, who will be left at the registers? Just check out the Scheduler view.

SCHEDULE



Just What You Want

The product works as you would expect it to: You enter names of departments, then enter people's names and the hours they can work, and what a typical day would look like for them (for example, get in at 9 a.m., leave at 5 p.m.). For employees, you designate full-time or part-time work schedules, and PeopleScheduler automatically schedules lunches and breaks (you tell it how long employees must work before they qualify for them).

Then all you have to do is go to the TimeVisualizer—a grid with the hours of the day along a horizontal axis. As you add people, PeopleScheduler places bars on the TimeVisualizer and pulls up their vital statistics in a table at the bottom of the window. PeopleScheduler assigns employees to come in and leave at the times you assigned to them. You can then drag employees' bars to another setting to reschedule them if necessary. If you drag a bar outside an employee's allowable work hours (Bill just can't get in at 3:30 a.m.), PeopleScheduler will pop up a warning.

One of the most intriguing features of this time schedule is how closely it resembles the magnetic scheduling strips many people use for the same purpose—so you don't need to learn a new metaphor. In addition, each big bar, which shows the length of an employee's work day, contains little bars representing breaks and lunch. You can see immediately that all your employees but one are taking lunch from noon to 12:30, and you can fix it, just as you would with a magnetic scheduling strip.

Except for These Bits

Not all that glitters is gold, however. PeopleScheduler is a great tool for creating day-to-day and even month-to-month schedules, but it's not a complete human resources tool. For example, although you can tell PeopleScheduler that an employee is going to take a one-week vacation, it has no facility for generating a report that will tell you how much vacation time each employee has taken to date. The largest shortcoming of PeopleScheduler is that it can't solve scheduling dilemmas for you—it just shows you that they exist.

In addition, by making the DOS and Windows versions look and feel nearly identical (they're so close it's amazing), Adaptive compromised on some features that Windows users are used to. For example, pulling down the Window menu reveals PeopleScheduler's three main function windows (People, Notes, and Scheduler), but you can't tile these windows as you can in most Windows applications.

If you spend too much time arranging other people's time, get some of it back: Get PeopleScheduler. **JOHN MONTGOMERY**

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(PC Computing/January 1994)

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A KODAK MOMENT ON YOUR PC

Color Digital Cameras

THE DIGITAL DARKROOM

Apple's QuickToke 100 softwore octs like o bosic contoct sheet, disploying thumbnoil-sized color previews of the phato images stored in the comero. Clicking on o

thumbnail brings it up to full size for viewing. You con then print, crop, ond save the imoges to your hord drive in o handful of different file formots.

Dycom opted to include o copy of ImagePals Lite Edition imoge-editing software with its Model 4. While it offers more editing control over

imoges, it's slower to ocquire imoges from the comero ond shows only groyscole thumbnails.

SMILE FOR YOUR computer! Color digital cameras from Apple and Dycam could change the way you think about photography forever. Instead of recording snapshots on conventional film, digital cameras like Apple's $749 Apple QuickTake 100 and Dycam's $1,495 Model 4 capture images digitally.

"Developing" digital photos is easy: Hook the camera to your PC via a serial connector and view the images in the camera's memory. Save the images you like to your hard drive, then erase the camera's memory and you're ready to start snapping again. There's no cost for film, no wait for developing, and no toxic chemicals. And because the images are already in electronic form, they can be edited easily and dropped into reports, newsletters, and other documents.

Logitech and Dycam have sold $800 low-resolution grayscale digital cameras for years, and Eastman Kodak sells a $10,000 professional color digital camera (see "Lights . . . Camera . . . Computer?" February, page 198), but Apple and Dycam are the first to bring affordable color digital cameras to the masses. In particular, Apple's QuickTake 100 represents a breakthrough for digital photography and adds a new dimension to desktop publishing, communications, and a host of other computer applications.

QuickTake: Cute as a Button

The more ambitious of the two cameras, the QuickTake 100, is produced in partnership with Kodak. Not much bigger than a pair of opera glasses and weighing less than a pound, the QuickTake practically invites you to pick it up and play; the camera's rounded side (it's built for righties) fits smoothly and securely into the palm of your hand. A detachable shoulder strap makes it easy to take the 1-pound gadget with you anywhere.

Shooting pictures is a snap—just push the button on the top of the camera until you hear a gentle click of the shutter release. A tiny LCD display near the viewfinder shows how many pictures you've snapped, how many are left, the resolution of the images captured (high or low), and how much battery charge remains. You can also use it to turn on the camera's self-timer feature, to clear all of the pictures, and to set flash to on, off, or so that it fires automatically when the lighting is dim.

The QuickTake 100 is akin to an idiot-proof point-and-shoot 35mm model camera. Its lens, a fixed-focus number with a range from 4 feet to infinity, is equivalent to a 50mm lens on a "real" camera. The camera's aperture range is f2.8 to f16 and the virtual film speed is daylight-rated (ISO 100 for film buffs).

Plug and Play . . . and Play

Apple eventually plans to offer an option to connect the QuickTake 100 to its handheld personal digital assistant, the Newton MessagePad, for previewing, pen annotating, or sending images to another location. For PC users, getting pictures on disk requires a simple serial cable. The Windows software displays color thumbnails of the images in the camera onscreen—much like a traditional photographer's contact sheet. Clicking on a thumbnail image brings it up to full size for viewing.

The camera's memory holds up to 32 standard resolution images at 320 by 240 pixels in 24-bit color, and 8 images in

Con we keep it? Apple's S749 QuickTake 100 digitol comero captures 24-bit color imoges ot twice the resolution of Dycom's Model 4—for holf the price.

from Apple and Dycam

Paint-and-shoot with Dycam's $1,495 digital camera. The Model 4 is a 24-bit color version of the company's earlier grayscale camera.

high-resolution mode (640 by 480 pixels, 24-bit color). The high-resolution images are sharp and bright. Apple and Kodak clearly lavished time and attention on the design of camera's built-in flash. The light it gives off is soft and evenly spread—essential for digital cameras because they don't like heavy contrast or "hot spots." Its images rival that of Kodak's $10,000 DCS 200 Professional Digital Camera—not surprising considering Apple's camera is built around Kodak's technology.

But there's a drawback: The 640-by-480-pixel images print out best at 4 inches by 3 inches or smaller. Beyond that, the pixels become clearly visible—quite unlike real film, which can be blown up much larger before it begins to look grainy.

If you've seen Dycam's space-age–looking grayscale digital cameras or Logitech's Fotoman (designed by Dycam), you've got the idea behind Dycam's new color Model 4 digital camera. Using the same body design and set of features, the Model 4 can now capture eight 24-bit color images or thirty-two 16-bit images. Weighing a mere 10 ounces, the black pocket-sized camera is not only highly portable (it slips easily into a breast pocket), it's also rugged, making it great for taking onto a factory floor or on the road.

Like Apple's QuickTake 100, the Model 4 uses a fixed-focus lens with a range of 4 feet to infinity, and includes a built-in flash. However, the lens is equivalent to a standard camera's 70mm lens, so its effect is somewhat telephoto-like.

Although the Model 4 costs twice as much as Apple's camera, its images aren't as sharp. It captures 24-bit images at 496 by 365 pixels—about half the resolution you can get with Apple's camera. Another serious drawback to Dycam's camera is its amnesia. The Model 4 uses a rechargeable NiCad battery that lasts up to 100 hours, but when the battery dies, all images in the camera evaporate. Apple's camera, on the other hand, runs off three rechargeable AA size NiCad batteries or AA alkaline batteries. But when the battery dies, the images in the camera are safely stored in memory.

The Wave of the Future?

Should you hock your Instamatic for one of these digital cameras? Not exactly. Digital cameras aren't likely to cut film cameras out of the picture. Even high-end $40,000 digital cameras can't catch the quality and resolution of film.

But anyone who relies on dollar-a-shot Polaroids for their business—such as real estate agents, designers, photographers, and insurance adjusters—should have a look at these cameras, particularly Apple's QuickTake 100.

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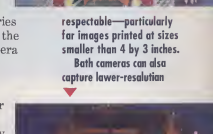
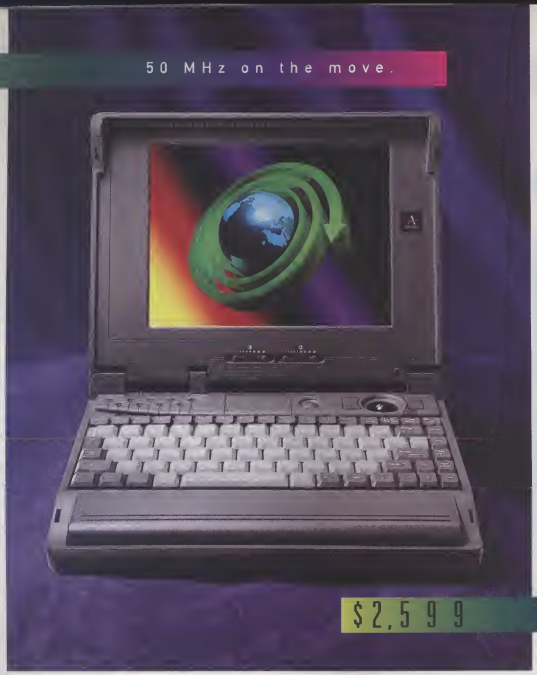
PICTURE PERFECT
When it comes to image quality, the clear winner is Apple's QuickTake 100. It captures 24-bit color (top image) at resolutions as high as 640 by 480 pixels, nearly twice the resolution of Dycam's Model 4 (bottom image). That's still a far cry from the millions of pixels that conventional film resolves, but the results from both cameras are quite

respectable—particularly for images printed at sizes smaller than 4 by 3 inches.

Both cameras can also capture lower-resolution



images. A single high-res image from either camera can hoard a full megabyte of disk space, though the file sizes can be crunched down to a mere 70K when saved in JPEG format.



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Two Ink Jets You Can Take With You—But Should You?

PORTABLE, NOT FAST

Canon's BJ-10sx and Citizen America's Notebook Printer II are lightweight and portable, but they aren't the fastest printers by any means. The faster of the two, the BJ-10sx, printed our 1-page business letter in just over 1 minute, while the Notebook Printer II took nearly 2 minutes to print the same letter. Our 2-page business report, which combined several more fonts, clip-art, and a bar chart, really slowed these printers down. The BJ-10sx printed it in just under 3 minutes, while the Notebook Printer II took 5 minutes and 32 seconds.

If you regularly print documents like our test business report, you'll want to pass on these two printers. They just don't have the speed to keep up. Faster ink jets like Hewlett-Packard's DeskJet 310 or Canon's BJ-200e are better solutions. But for printing straight 12-point text, the Canon BJ-10sx has the portability and speed you need.

IF YOU'RE ALWAYS on the move, from home to office to hotel room, you'll want to check out Canon Computer Systems' BJ-10sx and Citizen America's Notebook Printer II. These portable printers are among the smallest and lightest printers available today, and both offer the print quality necessary to meet today's business standards.

They Ain't Heavy

When it comes to printer weight, a pound may not seem significant. But when you've already got a notebook computer and accessories, adding a printer and its cables and power supply makes every pound count. Citizen's Notebook Printer II weighs only 2.2 pounds, well under Canon's BJ-10sx's 3.7 pounds, and the Notebook Printer II has a much smaller footprint: It's 12 inches wide by 4 inches deep by 2 inches high, about the size of a package of Saran Wrap. The Canon BJ-10sx, on the other hand, is 12 by 9 by 2 inches, more like the size of a notebook.

The Notebook Printer II is actually an enhanced version of Citizen's PN-48, a *PC/Computing* MVP Award winner in 1991. One of the improvements added to this new version is a built-in five-sheet feeder. It may not sound like much, but it beats the BJ-10sx's single-sheet feeder. Though both printers offer optional sheet feeders, Citizen's Notebook Printer II gets a big thumbs up for handling multiple sheets in its standard configuration.

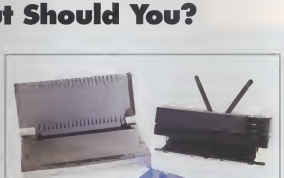
Both printers output 360-by-360-dot-per-inch resolution, making them excellent choices for printing business documents. We preferred the Notebook Printer II's print quality: Its thermal fusion technology makes the text blacker and easier to read.

Neither of these printers, however, offers blazing print speeds. While Canon's BJ-10sx is much faster, it prints text at only about one page per minute, and it slows down considerably for more complicated elements. The Notebook Printer II is even slower. On average, the BJ-10sx prints about twice as fast as the Notebook Printer II, even considering the amount of time it takes to feed the BJ-10sx's additional sheets of paper.

For power on the go, both printers offer battery packs: The Notebook Printer II's pack weighs 0.4 pounds and the BJ-10sx's weighs 0.6 pounds. Each battery is rated to last about 40 pages, but actual life will vary depending on page complexity.

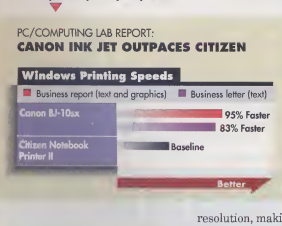
We preferred the Notebook Printer II over the BJ-10sx. Canon's product is a much faster, and it costs $50 less than the Notebook Printer II. But the Notebook Printer II's significantly smaller footprint, built-in sheet feeder, and superior print quality make it the better value.

CYNDY BATES



On the run but not in a hurry? The new Canon BJ-10sx (left) and Citizen Americo Notebook Printer II (right) trode speed for portobility. Print quolity is excellent on both.

PC/COMPUTING LAB REPORT:
CANON INK JET OUTPACES CITIZEN



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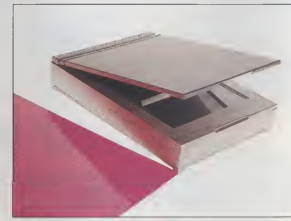
Canon's Scanner—Fast, Colorful, Smart, and Easy to Use

IT'S A CALIBRATION
Most attempts to get the color and brightness of an image looking perfect onscreen are futile. When you print, it never looks the same as it did onscreen. The adaptive calibration of Light Source's Ofoto Version 2 (bundled with Canon's IX-4015 Color Scanner) goes a long way to solving that problem. It's essentially a closed-loop calibration system. You pick the printer you'll be using (or set up the files to print to PostScript if you outsource your color printing), select the calibration option, and print out a test sheet. Then scan the sheet, and the software checks the color and brightness of the printer's output. Next, it adapts its display and scanning levels to suit the output device—even adjusting for dot bleed in ink jet printers, which is no mean feat.

YOU KNOW WHAT to look for in a flatbed scanner. The ideal specs for an office machine run something like this: 400-dot-per-inch horizontal resolution by 800-dpi vertical resolution, 24-bit color depth, TWAIN-compliance, fast scanning, and the option to add a document feeder.

And if you're going to fit the thing on your desk, don't underestimate the value of a small footprint. Canon Computer Systems didn't when it developed its first foray into desktop scanning—the IX-4015 Color Scanner—and its compact size is icing on its already great product.



It's compact, it's 24-bit-color–capable, and it's smart—Canon's IX-4015 Color Scanner not only takes stellar color scans, it straightens skewed images automatically.

This one-pass color scanner is smaller than two WordPerfect 6.0 boxes laid side by side, and it shows great attention to important design issues: The internal scan head lock for when you move the scanner is a godsend, the document feeder option is a breeze to install, and the light is xenon-fired so that it won't fade with age or burn out.

One Pass, One Button

Despite its smart, small, and speedy hardware, the unique advantage to this scanner is its software—Light Source's stellar Ofoto Version 2. Not yet bundled with any other scanner, Ofoto eliminates the usual problems associated with scanning—namely that you expect it to be like photocopying, but it's always much harder.

Most of the time, when you scan an object you want *one pass* to mean more than just the scanning technology. You want to hit a button and get a TIFF, PCX, or JPEG file right away. With the IX-4015 and Ofoto, it's almost that easy.

Slap a picture onto the scanning bed, click on the Autoscan button, and you're through. The software crops images down to their original size automatically. It detects whether it's a color, grayscale, or black-and-white image. And it picks the resolution based on the target output device—no horsing around with resolution settings. Ofoto does all this, but so does Hewlett-Packard's ScanJet IIcx DeskScan software. Where Ofoto Version 2 leaves the rest behind is in some unique features.

Smart Software

If you lay pictures at an angle on the IX-4015's scan bed, Ofoto will straighten them for you automatically. In addition to the usual range of image controls, Ofoto sports some pumped-up features, including automatic removal of moiré patterns (the plaid effect you get from scanning screened photographs from magazines, books, and newspapers). And its adaptive calibration saves hours of fruitless tinkering with color balance (see "It's a Calibration," at left). It won't replace photo-editing software like Adobe Photoshop (it's not designed to), but as a scanning program, Ofoto is the best we've seen.

The Canon IX-4015 is small, speedy, and convenient to use. Although the hardware is not bundled with free photo-editing software, its scanning software is the best ever. With the current crop of flatbed scanners, it's the closest you'll get to photocopier-like, one-button operation.

MATTHEW LAKE

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Pro.

The 800C Pro/PC is solidly backed by EPSON's one-year warranty extendable to two years. HP's warranty is one year.

The 800C Pro/PC comes with both parallel and SCSI interfaces so you can connect it to two PCs or a PC and a Mac simultaneously. The ScanJet II CX connects to one computer.

EPSON's transparency unit and document feeder are powerful options that work across every scanner in our line. HP's scanner options aren't that flexible.

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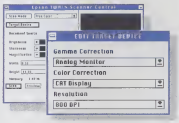

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EPSON 800C PRO FOR PC

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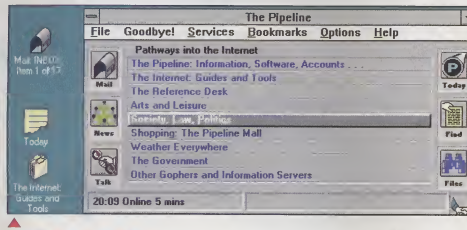
Surf Cyberspace: Windows Front Ends to the Internet



WinNet Mail and News
While The Pipeline (above) puts a pretty face on a full range of Internet services—including mail, newsgroups, gopher, and even an Internet guide—WinNet Mail and News (below) provides you with both an Internet connection and a relatively easy-to-use mail

front end, and is designed for users who need bare-bones Internet access. The mail editor is the best part of WinNet: It lets you keep an e-mail address book, create folders for managing your mail and newsgroup messages, and handle those messages offline. While the program doesn't offer ftp, gopher, or telnet, it does include instructions for using Internet mail to fetch files in a manner similar to ftp.

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THE INTERNET HAS been lauded as the solution to the world's communications problems. It's been called the bedrock upon which the national information superhighway will be built. But the dirty truth is this: The Internet is confusing, chaotic, and so difficult to navigate that it makes DOS look intuitive.

To make this massive network of services usable, software developers and Internet providers have been rushing to market with a variety of Windows-based tools. We discuss many of these tools in "The Mother of All Networks" on page 180. Here's a sampling of these cyberspace surfboards that provide comprehensive Internet access.

The Pipeline

Award-winning science writer James Gleick, author of *Chaos,* designed and runs The Pipeline, an Internet service that you access with special Windows-based software.

The Pipeline does the seemingly impossible: It organizes the Internet. In The Pipeline, all Internet services are listed under a single menu-and-icon interface with titles such as "Arts and Leisure" or "News."

Just click on a menu or icon, and you're either greeted with a submenu offering you more choices, or brought directly to a resource. Not only can you easily navigate the Internet with The Pipeline, you can also find out about sources of information that you might never have known about. No other service offers these benefits in quite this way.

In The Pipeline you can also search for and download files with the click of a button, instead of using the convoluted two-step process that most other Internet services put you through. The Pipeline also lets you read news offline, and it has even cooked up a way to let you simultaneously transfer two or more files and messages over a single phone line.

To use The Pipeline software, you'll have to dial into the service, based in New York. However, there is a way to save some long-distance charges: Dial into a local Internet provider using The Pipeline software, then jump to The Pipeline over the Internet, and you'll have access to its resources.

When you do this, though, you'll have to pay both your local Internet provider and The Pipeline for the time spent online. Lucky for you, The Pipeline is reasonably priced: One of its pricing schemes gets you 20 hours of Internet time every month for $20. If you're interested in getting at the vast resources of the Internet, you'll find it's worth every penny.

America Online

The online service America Online has promised full-fledged Internet access, but at press time, it offered only limited Internet access: Internet mail and access to several specific Internet sites, such as the Electronic Frontier Foundation. America Online is slated to add other Internet services—including newsgroups, gopher and Wide-Area Information Service (WAIS) databases, telnet, and ftp—by early this month.

What we did see of America Online's Internet service, though, impressed us, especially the way it handles Internet mailing lists. Click on the Search Mailing Lists icon, type in a topic you want to search, and you'll be given a list of

(Continued on page 62)

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CyberDesk

Need a simple Internet front end? Cyberdesk can help you manage the more accessible Internet resources. The program downloads

incoming mail and message headers in newsgroups that interest you. Once you've handled your messages, Cyberdesk dials back into your Internet provider, sends any mail, and downloads the marked newsgroup headers. You must already have an Internet account to use Cyberdesk, but it will save you in online costs.

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Internet Front Ends, *continued from page 60*

applicable mailing lists. Double-click on any list and you'll be given the details of the purpose of the list and how to subscribe to it. You can then use America Online's Internet mail to subscribe to the list. You navigate through specific Internet locations as easily as you do through the rest of America Online, by clicking on folders and items.

If America Online handles the rest of Internet access the way it does mailing lists and navigation, it may provide an exceedingly accessible way to get at the Internet's resources.

Bix

Like America Online, Bix (for Byte Information Exchange) is a complete online service that offers Internet access as one of its features. Unlike America Online, the service itself isn't Windows-based, although there is a Windows front end called InterNav that provides access to the service, and through it, to the Internet.

The Bix Windows front end offers the basic set of Internet services, including e-mail, ftp, telnet, and gopher. At press time, to use Bix's InterNav to access Internet news groups, you'd have to forgo the Windows front end, and use the plain-Jane DOS version. An upcoming release, however, will add Windows support for newsgroups.

Bix's telnet services amount to basically a terminal emulation window. The service has enhanced telnet somewhat, by providing a built-in list of locations to which you can telnet, and you can also add your own favorite sites to the list. All in all, this is a simple, clean—if unremarkable—Internet interface.

Other Services

At press time, there were a variety of other Windows front ends to the Internet either announced or in development.

One that's been talked about a great deal on the nets, National Center for Supercomputing Applications' Mosaic, requires a special Internet connection—in essence, you need to become a node on the Internet, not a task for the faint of heart (nor the short of pocketbook).

Internet-in-a-Box is an intriguing product being prepared jointly by O'Reilly & Associates and Spry. Although it is unavailable for review, the Windows-based front end will provide access to all Internet services, including O'Reilly's existing Global Network Navigator (GNN), an Internet resource that provides direct links to more than 600 other Internet resources, as well as news updates, an online magazine, an interactive catalog, and advertisements.

So far there is not one comprehensive Internet solution that is all things to all people. Our favorite front end is The Pipeline, but it may be an expensive choice for anyone outside the New York metropolitan area. Still, what with the information superhighway hoopla, not to mention the real and increasing demand for a universal communication network, these products are sure to be only the first trickle in a deluge of Internet front ends. Stay tuned.

PRESTON GRALLA

DIFFERENT INTERNET TOOLS FOR DIFFERENT NEEDS

The perfect front end isn't here yet, but these are close.

	The Pipeline	America Online	Bix
E-Mail	●	●	●
Ftp	○	○	●
Gopher	●	○	●
Newsgroups	●	○	○
Telnet	●	○	●
Other services and features	Connections to many Internet sites; offline reading of mail and newsgroups; multiple simultaneous file transfers.	Connections to several Internet sites; excellent handling of mailing lists.	Includes easily accessible addresses of many Internet sites.

● Yes ○ No, but scheduled to be available soon.

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ScanMan™ *EasyTouch*

New ScanMan EasyTouch plugs directly into your parallel port, with no boards or drivers. It's easy to install, and moves from PC to portable and back again faster than insults at the U.N. EasyTouch includes OmniPage® Direct™ AnyFont™ OCR for Logitech, FotoTouch™ image editing software, Logitech's AutoStitch™ (for scanning large or odd-sized documents), and can add

professional quality grayscale scans to all your favorite Windows applications. *And* at about a third of the price of a flatbed scanner, you'll have no trouble keeping your budget balanced. Pick up ScanMan EasyTouch at your local dealer, or call **1-800-732-3044.**

LOGITECH

The Senseware™ Company

™/® Trademarks belong to their registered owners
Photo courtesy of Adriana Lorete and Agência Jornal do Brasil

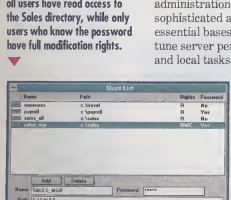
Circle 156 on reader service card.

Easy Peer-to-Peer Networking For Windows Users

ACCESS CONTROL

Whether your network has 2 nodes or 200, there's bound to be o need to secure sensitive data and restrict access to certain devices. Both CBIS's Desk To Desk and Performance Technology's PowerLan 3.0 for Windows have customizable security, implemented in different ways. With Desk To Desk, you can set up user profiles, specifying the

connections users make to network devices when they log in. With PowerLAN, you con click on the Share Lists button (top screen) to restrict the read, write, and create rights to each local directory you share, by password. In the screen below, all users have read access to the Sales directory, while only users who know the password have full modification rights.

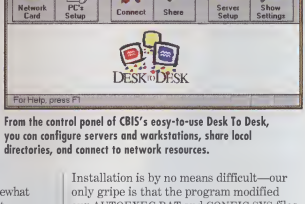


A NETWORK IS a little like a toothbrush—everyone needs one, but it's a personal thing. Maybe you want enterprise connectivity and can tackle a full Novell NetWare installation. Or maybe you need to be able to share files and resources but couldn't tell a bindery from a basketball. If you're the latter type, two new peer-to-peer Windows networks, CBIS's Desk To Desk and Performance Technology's PowerLan 3.0, might be just what you need to help you in your quest to connect.

Of the two, Desk To Desk is somewhat easier to use and has one of the best interfaces we've seen in any application—networking or otherwise. More important, installing Desk To Desk couldn't be easier; the software even provides short explanations of each utility as it installs it. We especially like the fact that the printed manual consists of exactly one folded sheet of paper, while the rest of the documentation is online.

The Desk To Desk control panel is organized so features that users need frequently—like connecting to network resources or sharing local resources—are accessible with the click of a button, while more advanced management features are buried behind dialog boxes. Although its administration functions aren't as sophisticated as PowerLan's, all of the essential bases are covered: You can fine-tune server performance, balance network and local tasks, set user and group security rights, and even connect network segments through a Desk To Desk server.

Although PowerLan 3.0—the first Windows version of this network—does not boast the streamlined setup of Desk To Desk, it does come with excellent, exhaustive documentation, including a primer on networking.



From the control panel of CBIS's easy-to-use Desk To Desk, you can configure servers and workstations, share local directories, and connect to network resources.

Installation is by no means difficult—our only gripe is that the program modified our AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files without saving backups.

Like Desk To Desk and most other Windows networks, PowerLan allows point-and-click sharing of devices and directories. Anyone who used the previous versions of the product will be pleasantly surprised by the new interface, some annoying glitches notwithstanding (for example, it allows you to add only one resource at a time to your Share list before closing the dialog box). And, for a peer-to-peer network, PowerLan includes some useful advanced-management options, including remote administration so you can configure the network in addition to user and group lists from any node, a chat-like utility to broadcast system alerts, and even a remote-control utility to monitor remote DOS nodes.

While both networks handle all of the connectivity basics from resource sharing to bridging networks, neither offers a "starter" bundle with the necessary hardware, which could be a drawback for novice networkers. However, both give your network room to grow by offering dedicated server options separately.

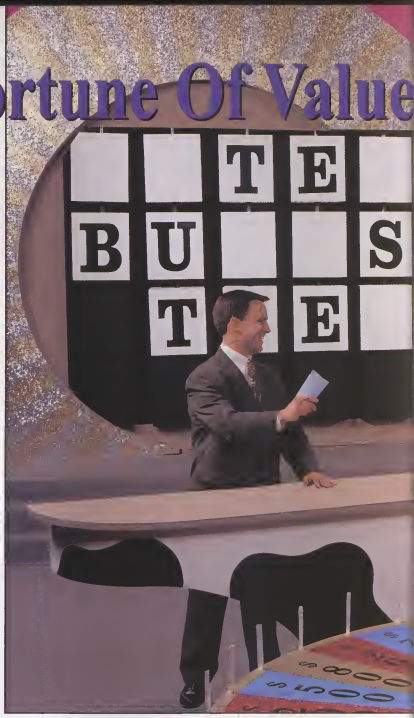
SHYAMALA REDDY

DESK TO DESK • $129 • CBIS • (800) 835-3375, (404) 446-1332
Circle No. 622 on Reader Service Card

POWERLAN 3.0 • $99 TO $2,595, DEPENDING ON NUMBER OF USERS • PERFORMANCE TECHNOLOGY • (800) 327-8526, (210) 979-2000
Circle No. 623 on Reader Service Card

PC Buyer C'mon Down!

Get A Fortune Of Value



PC buyers jump for joy! You're entering the exciting and competitive game of computer buying! We know you want to finish first with high-performance PCs and prize-winning service at the most affordable prices in the industry. It's no contest – with Gateway 2000™ you'll always be the big winner!

The Champ

And here are the stars of our show, Gateway's Pentium™-based systems! Starting from $2,495 you get stupendous features. New lightning-fast hard drive systems! Screaming new graphics controllers on our two high-end P5 systems! Along with the most powerful Intel® processors available today! And (*drum roll please*) – all this at 486 prices!

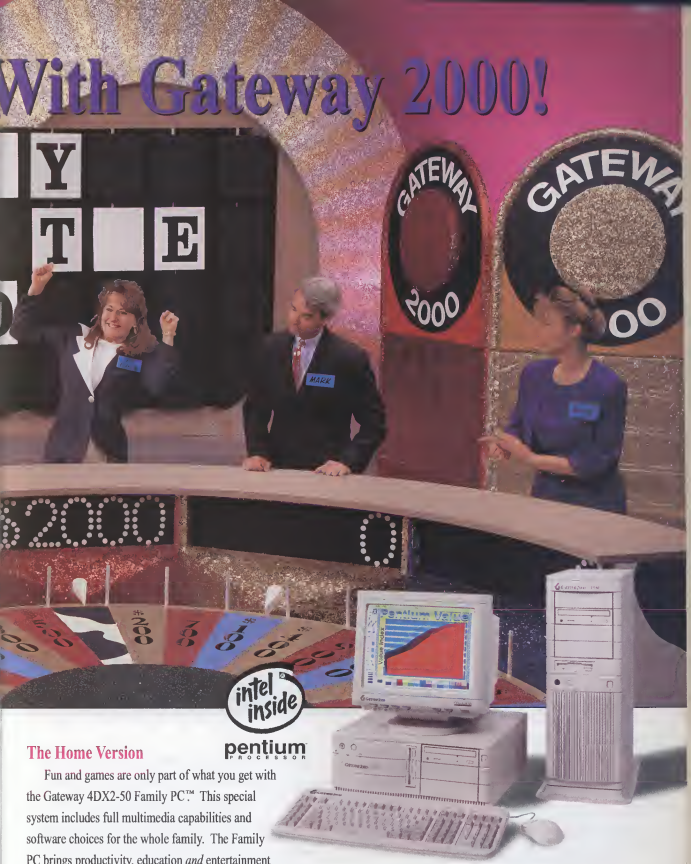
Now in all four Gateway 2000 P5 systems, a new PCI/IDE controller allows the hard drive to transfer data *up to twice as fast* as non-PCI-based systems. The PCI/IDE controller is a major enhancement to Gateway's Intel Pentium processor and PCI local bus. Now you can access data faster than ever before!

Our P5-66 and top-of-the-line P5-60 now include high-end graphics controllers. So you can really take advantage of the performance-boosting PCI bus for virtually unbeatable graphics performance! These graphics controllers are also available as an upgrade option for all Gateway's PCI-based systems.

The standard graphics system on other Gateway PCI-based machines is another sure winner. You get 2MB standard graphics memory giving you 64,000 colors at 1024 x 768 resolutions. This graphics system uses a high-performance interface to graphics memory that achieves 16 million colors, true 24-bit, in VGA.

Been spinning your wheels on how to get tomorrow's technology today and still pay 486 prices? The puzzle is solved. With a price tag between $2,495 and $3,995, you'll hit the jackpot when you buy a Pentium-based system from Gateway 2000!

We also offer a full line of 486 PCI local-bus and integrated desktops systems. All are upgradable to a Pentium OverDrive™ Processor for the power you'll need in the future.



The Home Version

Fun and games are only part of what you get with the Gateway 4DX2-50 Family PC.™ This special system includes full multimedia capabilities and software choices for the whole family. The Family PC brings productivity, education *and* entertainment into your home.

GATEWAY2000

"You've got a friend in the business."®

800-846-2062

"X" Marks The Spot

Looking for the perfect portable PC? You'll get a celebrity performance when you choose Gateway 2000™ for the most value-packed portable PCs in the industry!

GATEWAY2000 COLORBOOK™

Gateway has all the right answers for incredible values with the ColorBook! Performance-enhancing features ... fast 486 processors and an incredibly big 10.3-inch screen on the DX4 model! ... make the ColorBook an undisputed champion.

Introducing the ColorBook DX4-75 with a faster-than-ever processor! This substantial power boost has made the DX4-75 the fastest 486 portable available today. And that's not all. For your extreme viewing pleasure, an extra-huge 10.3-inch dual-scan VGA color screen is now standard on the DX4. You won't find anyone else with a 10.3-inch screen at a better price.

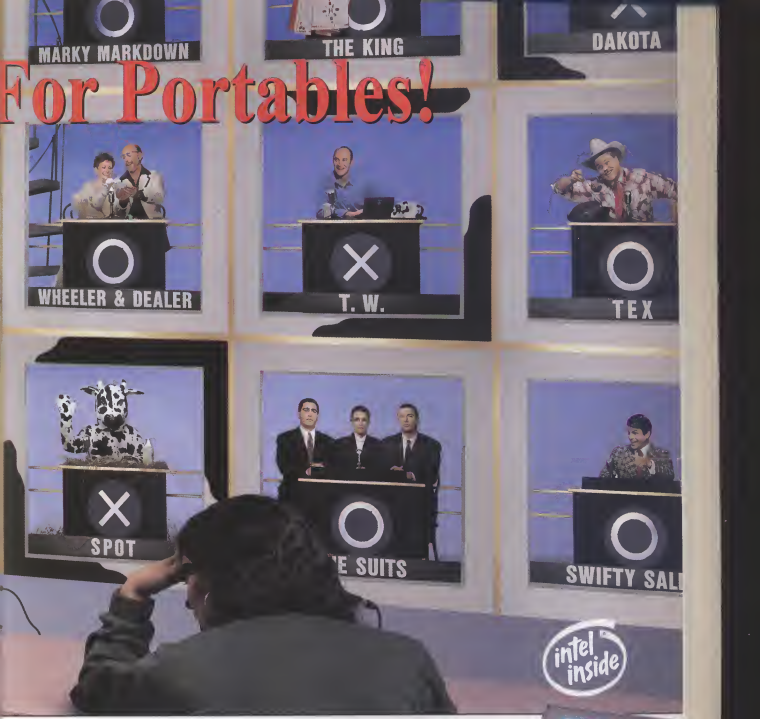
All ColorBook models – 486SX-33, DX-33, DX2-50 and DX4-75 – have a host of great features. Weighing less than 5.7 pounds and measuring an ultra-thin 1.77 inches, the ColorBook supports simultaneous video; an easy-to-use, built-in trackball; two PCMCIA Type II slots; great battery life; and a suspend/resume feature so you can stop work anytime and resume later without losing data or restarting the system.

GATEWAY2000 HANDBOOK® 486

The revolutionary Gateway HandBook 486 is perfect for all your worldly travels. This powerful little performer will forever change the way you use a PC. And you won't have to think twice about taking it with you – no matter where you go. It's a no-brainer. The HandBook is so small (*about the size of a day planner*) and so lightweight (*it's less than three pounds)* that you'll never want to be without it!

Unless you mind all the extra attention, as described by a leading columnist: "I almost got mobbed the other day on the train. I was doing what I usually do on the commute: writing on a notebook computer. The only difference was that I was using a Gateway 2000 HandBook 486 ... I can't wait until everyone has one. Then they'll leave mine alone."

For Portables!



The HandBook is a real PC with a powerful 486 processor; an IDE hard drive up to 130MB; standard 4MB or 8MB RAM upgradable to 20MB; a 7.9-inch bright, backlit VGA display screen; 78-key keyboard; EZ Point™ integrated pointer; excellent battery life; and suspend/resume feature.

Looking for a square deal on the best portables around? The odds are stacked in your favor with Gateway's ColorBook and HandBook portable PCs.

GATEWAY2000

"You've got a friend in the business."®

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The Surveys Say...

Gateway 2000™ is the name of the game when it comes to the best service and support. The Gateway family is made up of hard-working Midwesterners who are dedicated to satisfying our customers. And although we're a Fortune 500 company, we haven't forgotten our simple philosophy of providing an honest value, a superior product and the best service possible. In return, Gateway's loyal customers are always there to cheer us on. But you don't have to just take our word for it. The surveys prove it!

Hands Down Winner in Service and Reliability

A big thank you to readers of *PC Magazine* who responded to a Service and Reliability survey with impressive results: "In our latest survey, only Gateway 2000 gets our highest rating in both the desktop and laptop categories." The survey covered reliability, satisfaction with repair experience, satisfaction with technical support, and the likelihood of buying new PCs from the same vendor again.

SERVICE & RELIABILITY · PC MAGAZINE · READERS' CHOICE

All the talented people appearing in this ad are Gateway 2000 employees.

PORTABLES

HANDBOOK® 486

- Weight: 2.94 Lbs.
- Dimensions: 9.75" x 5.9" x 1.6"
- SL Enhanced Intel® 486 Processor
- 4MB or 8MB RAM (expands to 20MB)
- 80 to 130MB IDE Hard Drive
- 7.9" Backlit VGA Display
- NiMH Battery & AC Pack
- Suspend/Resume Feature
- 1 PCMCIA Type II Slot
- EZ Point™ Integrated Pointer
- 78-Key Keyboard
- Parallel, Serial & PS/2 Ports
- MS Works for Windows™ 3.0
- MS-DOS 6.2, WFW 3.11 & Serial Transfer Cable

HANDBOOK 486SX-25
With 25MHz 486SX CPU, 4MB RAM and 80MB Hard Drive
$1495

(with 130MB Hard Drive)
$1595

HANDBOOK 486DX2-40
With 40MHz 486DX2 CPU, 8MB RAM, 130MB Hard Drive, Extra NiMH Battery, and Leather Carrying Case
$2295

HANDBOOK 486SX-25
With 25MHz 486SX CPU, 8MB RAM, 130MB Hard Drive, and Leather Carrying Case
$1895

PORTABLE OPTIONS

PCMCIA Cards:
- TelePath 14400/14400 fax/modem. **$249**
- 9600/2400 fax/modem. **$149**
- Ethernet adapter. **$149**
- Token Ring adapter. **$449**
- HandBook VGA adapter. **$229**

Batteries:
- 2.2Ah NiMH batteries. **$89**
- Alkaline battery pack. **$29**

Diskette Drive:
- HandBook external 1.44MB. **$99**

Cases:
- ColorBook **$49**, HandBook **$55**

Extended VIP Warranty:
- We'll ship a replacement within 24 hours during warranty. Point of sale only. **$100**

COLORBOOK™

- Weight: Under 5.7 Lbs.
- Dimensions: 11.7" x 8.5" x 1.77"
- SL Enhanced Intel 486, DX2 or DX4 Processors
- 4MB or 8MB RAM (expands to 8, 12 or 20MB)
- 3.5" 1.44MB Diskette Drive
- Removable 120 to 250MB IDE Drive
- 10.3" or 9.4" VGA Dual-Scan STN Color Display
- NiMH Battery & AC Pack
- Suspend/Resume Feature
- 2 PCMCIA Type II Slots
- Integrated Trackball (2 buttons)
- 85-Key Keyboard
- Parallel, Serial & PS/2® Ports
- External VGA Port
- MS Works for Windows 3.0
- MS-DOS 6.2 & WFW 3.11

COLORBOOK DX4-75
With 75MHz DX4 CPU, 8MB RAM, 250MB Hard Drive and 10.3" LCD
$3495

COLORBOOK 486SX-33
With 33MHz 486SX CPU, 4MB RAM, 120MB Hard Drive and 9.4" LCD
$1995

COLORBOOK DX2-50
With 50MHz DX2 CPU, 8MB RAM, 250MB Hard Drive and 9.4" LCD
$2995

COLORBOOK DX-33
With 33MHz DX CPU, 4MB RAM, 170MB Hard Drive and 9.4" LCD
$2495

COLORBOOK PACKS

Traveler's Packs:
- Case, extra battery & PCMCIA 9600/2400 fax/modem. **$279**
- Case, extra battery & PCMCIA TelePath fax/modem. **$369**

PC BUYER

SOFTWARE & EXTRAS

If a system comes with "choice of application software," choose one of the following packages:
- Microsoft Excel for Windows™
- Microsoft Word for Windows™
- Microsoft Word and Bookshelf,® CD-ROM Edition
- Microsoft PowerPoint for Windows™
- Microsoft Project for Windows™
- Microsoft Access™ for Windows
- Publisher's Pack (CD-ROM only; includes CorelDRAW 3,™ ArtShow, MS Publisher 2.0 & MS Design Pack)
- The Entrepreneur Pack (Works,™ Publisher,™ Money™ & games)
- Borland Paradox® database and Quattro® Pro for Windows spreadsheet
- Borland Paradox® and C++ With desktop and selected portables you also get the following software and extras at no additional charge:
- MS-DOS 6.2 & Windows for Workgroups 3.11
- CoSession™ Host Remote Diagnostics (with all modems)
- QAPlus Diagnostics
- Gateway Computer Glossary
- Gateway Mouse Pad

Systems with CDs also include:
- Gateway System CD
- Multimedia On-Line User's Guide
- Gateway Mall On-Line Catalog

SERVICE

Every Gateway system is backed by:
- 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee
- One-Year Limited Warranty
- Lifetime Toll-Free Technical Support
- On-Site Service Available To Most Locations
- Lifetime BBS Membership
- FaxBack Automated Fax Service

Our money-back guarantee does not include shipping. On-site service is provided at no charge during warranty if our technicians determine it is necessary. If you'd like to read our warranty and guarantee policies, please call for a free copy.

Printed on recycled paper with soy inks.

Gateway 2000 is a corporate sponsor of GLOBAL RELIEF

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Ready For Action

Gateway 2000's friendly employees will take care of you from your first phone call throughout the life of your system with lifetime technical support. We've also made it easy for you to buy one of our world-famous PCs.

Easy Payment Options

Gateway accepts most major credit cards and C.O.D. terms, with net 30-day terms and leasing options available to qualified commercial customers.

You can also apply for our new Gateway 2000 DuoLine MasterCard® Card, issued by Dial National Bank, which lets you make purchases from Gateway and anywhere else MasterCard is accepted by giving you two lines of credit — one for Gateway purchases and one for all other purchases. For Gateway purchases, the card has no annual fee and a low variable interest rate of just 12.9% APR. For other transactions, you get a variable interest rate of 13.9% APR and a low $18 annual fee.*

**Cash advance fee is $1 plus 2% of the amount of the cash advance, but not less than $5 nor more than $10. Financing is available on approved credit with the Gateway DuoLine MasterCard, issued by Dial National Bank, Des Moines, Iowa.*

Internationally Known

Gateway 2000 also makes it easy for our neighbors in Canada and Puerto Rico to buy Gateway systems. You get the same award-winning technical support, CSA approvals, and on-site service that is available in most Canadian and Puerto Rican locations. Our international shipping rates are some of the most competitive in the industry. Canadian and Puerto Rican customers can reach us toll free at 800-846-3609. All other international customers can call us at 605-232-2000.

Our Family PC comes with a 14-inch CrystalScan monitor, 101-key keyboard, double-speed CD-ROM, sound card, speakers, joystick, fax/modem and multimedia software. You choose one software option from five great Family PC multi-title packages.

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World Class Winning

PC World's 1993 World Class Awards found readers honoring Gateway 2000 with top honors in five categories including Best Service and Support (for the second year in a row!) and Best Mail Order Company. Thank you, *PC World* readers!

Jesse Berst, editor of *Windows Watcher* was quoted in *PC World*: "Gateway has discovered an amazing secret, give people more for less and they are going to like you." We knew our secret wouldn't be safe for long!

Good Answers!

Computer Shopper summarized its readers' responses best: "Gateway, dominator of Best Buy balloting for the past three years, is your choice as Best Overall Supplier of computer systems ... For state-of-the-art PCs at bargain prices, North Sioux City is where *Shopper* readers look first." And "...Gateway 2000 has inspired a high degree of confidence and brand loyalty among *Shopper's* readers, who continue to rank Gateway's service and support as the best of all direct-channel PC vendors." Thanks *Shopper* readers!

INTEGRATED SYSTEMS

4SX-33

- Intel® 33MHz 486SX CPU
- 4MB RAM
- 212MB 13ms IDE Hard Drive
- Local Bus Graphics with 1MB
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 14" Color CrystalScan® 1024NI
- Mini Desktop Case
- 5 16-Bit ISA Slots
- 101-Key Keyboard & MS Mouse
- MS-DOS®6.2 & WFW™ 3.11
- MS Works for Windows™3.0
- EPA Energy Star Compliant

$1295

4DX-33

- Intel 33MHz 486DX CPU
- 4MB RAM
- 212MB 13ms IDE Hard Drive
- Local Bus Graphics with 1MB
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 14" Color CrystalScan® 1024NI
- Mini Desktop Case
- 5 16-Bit ISA Slots
- 101-Key Keyboard & MS Mouse
- MS-DOS®6.2 & WFW™ 3.11
- MS Works for Windows™
- EPA Energy Star Compliant

$1495

4DX2-50 FAMILY PC™

- Intel 50MHz 486DX2 CPU
- 8MB RAM, 128KB Cache
- 212MB 13ms IDE Hard Drive
- Local Bus Graphics with 1MB
- Double-Speed CD-ROM, 16-Bit Sound Card & Speakers
- 2400/9600 Data/Fax Modem
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 14" Color CrystalScan 1024NI
- Mini Desktop Case
- 5 16-Bit ISA Slots
- 101-Key Keyboard, MS Mouse & Joystick
- Choice of Family PC Software
- EPA Energy Star Compliant

$1995

MULTIMEDIA KIT

Here's everything you need to add multimedia to any Gateway desktop PC. You won't find a better price anywhere!

- Gateway 2000 16-Bit Sound Card, Sound Blaster-™Compatible
- Double-Speed CD-ROM
- 2 Labtec® Speakers
- Microsoft Encarta & Corel Photo CD Software

$299

486 VESA & PCI SYSTEMS

4SX-33V

- Intel 33MHz 486SX CPU
- 4MB RAM
- 212MB 13ms IDE Hard Drive
- VLB™ Graphics with 1MB
- Local Bus IDE Interface
- 5.25" & 3.5" Combo Drive
- 14" Color CrystalScan® 1024NI
- Baby AT Case
- 5 ISA & 2 VESA®/ISA Slots
- AnyKey® Keyboard & MS Mouse
- MS-DOS 6.2 & WFW 3.11
- Choice of Application Software
- EPA Energy Star Compliant

$1495

P4D-33

- Intel 33MHz 486DX CPU
- 8MB RAM, 256KB Cache
- 424MB 13ms IDE Hard Drive
- PCI Local Bus Graphics with 1MB
- Double-Speed CD-ROM
- PCI Fast IDE Interface
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 14" Color CrystalScan 1024NI
- Baby AT Case
- 4 ISA, 2 PCI & 1 PCI/ISA Slots
- AnyKey Keyboard & MS Mouse
- MS-DOS 6.2 & WFW 3.11
- MS Works Multimedia Edition 3.0

$1995

4DX2-66V

- Intel 66MHz 486DX2 CPU
- 8MB RAM, 128KB Cache
- 424MB 13ms IDE Hard Drive
- VLB Graphics with 1MB
- Double-Speed CD-ROM
- Local Bus IDE Interface
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 15" Color CrystalScan 1572FS
- Baby AT Case
- 5 ISA & 2 VESA/ISA Slots
- AnyKey Keyboard & MS Mouse
- MS-DOS 6.2 & WFW 3.11
- Choice of Application Software
- EPA Energy Star Compliant

$2295

P4D-66 BEST BUY

- Intel 66MHz 486DX2 CPU
- 8MB RAM, 256KB Cache
- 540MB 13ms IDE Hard Drive
- PCI Local Bus Graphics with 2MB
- Double-Speed CD-ROM
- PCI Fast IDE Interface
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 15" Color CrystalScan 1572FS
- Baby AT Case
- 4 ISA, 2 PCI & 1 PCI/ISA Slots
- AnyKey Keyboard & MS Mouse
- MS-DOS 6.2 & WFW 3.11
- Choice of Application Software

$2495

PENTIUM SYSTEMS

P5-60

- Intel 60MHz Pentium™ CPU
- 8MB RAM, 256KB Cache
- 424MB 13ms IDE Hard Drive
- PCI Local Bus Graphics with 2MB
- PCI Fast IDE Interface
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 14" Color CrystalScan 1024NI
- Baby AT Case
- 4 ISA, 2 PCI & 1 PCI/ISA Slots
- AnyKey Keyboard & MS Mouse
- MS-DOS 6.2 & WFW 3.11
- MS Works for Windows 3.0

$2495

P5-60 BEST BUY

- Intel 60MHz Pentium CPU
- 8MB RAM, 256KB Cache
- 424MB 13ms IDE Hard Drive
- PCI Local Bus Graphics with 2MB
- Double-Speed CD-ROM
- PCI Fast IDE Interface
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 15" Color CrystalScan 1572FS
- Baby AT Case
- 4 ISA, 2 PCI & 1 PCI/ISA Slots
- AnyKey Keyboard & MS Mouse
- MS-DOS 6.2 & WFW 3.11
- Choice of Application Software

$2795

P5-60

- Intel 60MHz Pentium CPU
- 16MB RAM, 256KB Cache
- 540MB 13ms IDE Hard Drive
- High-Performance PCI Local Bus Graphics with 2MB
- Double-Speed CD-ROM
- PCI Fast IDE Interface
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 15" Color CrystalScan 1572FS
- Baby AT Case
- 4 ISA, 2 PCI & 1 PCI/ISA Slots
- AnyKey Keyboard & MS Mouse
- MS-DOS 6.2 & WFW 3.11
- Choice of Application Software

$3295

P5-66

- Intel 66MHz Pentium CPU
- 16MB RAM, 256KB Cache
- 540MB 13ms IDE Hard Drive
- High-Performance PCI Local Bus Graphics with 2MB
- Double-Speed CD-ROM
- PCI Fast IDE Interface
- 16-Bit Sound Blaster-Compatible Sound Card & Yamaha Speakers
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 17" Color CrystalScan 1776LE
- Tower Case, 300W Power Supply
- 4 ISA, 2 PCI & 1 PCI/ISA Slots
- AnyKey Keyboard & MS Mouse
- MS-DOS 6.2 & WFW 3.11
- Choice of Application Software

$3995

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MICROSOFT® WINDOWS™ READY-TO-RUN

ENERGY STAR POLLUTION PREVENTER

610 Gateway Drive • N. Sioux City, SD 57049-2000 • Phone 605-232-2000 • TDD 800-846-1778 • Fax 605-232-2023 • FaxBack 605-232-2561 • Add-On Sales 800-846-2080 • Toll free from Canada and Puerto Rico 800-846-3609 • Sales Hours: 7am-10pm Weekdays, 9am-4pm Saturdays(CST)

Extra Winnings

You'll score bonus points with the peripherals listed below, sold only with the purchase of a system from Gateway 2000. Call our special component add-ons division for our complete line of extras for Gateway customers,

Multimedia

Multimedia Kit

Here's everything you need to add multimedia to your Gateway PC:

- Gateway 2000™ 16-bit CD-quality sound card, compatible with Sound Blaster™ cards, with MIDI/game port, mic in, stereo line in/out
- Double-speed CD-ROM drive, tray-loading, compatible with music CDs, multisession photo CDs and CD-ROM titles
- 2 Labtec® speakers that can attach to your PC monitor
- Microsoft® Encarta Multimedia Encyclopedia
- Corel Professional Photo CD Sampler

$299

Yamaha® YST-M10 Multimedia Speakers

The small speakers that sound big and come with a tiny price! This free-standing, self-powered speaker set is a great value! **$75**

Altec Lansing ACS-300 Multimedia Speakers

Get superior stereo sound with these top-rated Altec Lansing ACS-300 speakers with separate powered subwoofer. **$219**

Communications & Storage

TelePath™ II Fax/Modem

Internal fax/modem, 14,400bps modem, V.32bis, with 14,400bps fax capability. Package includes data and fax communication software, plus a CompuServe® trial membership. **$149**

Colorado Memory Systems® TBU

250MB internal automatic tape backup unit copies up to 9.5MB per minute. Comes with MS Windows™ and DOS® software, one tape and cable. **$159**

Networking

Intel EtherExpress™

A 16-bit Ethernet adapter from a world leader in networking. **$105** Twisted Pair or BNC

Ethernet Adapter from 3Com®

Manufactured by 3Com for Gateway. **$105** Twisted Pair **$125** BNC

Token Ring

IBM® 16-bit ISA Token Ring card. **$429**

Monitors

CrystalScan® 17-Inch Monitor

Non-interlaced color monitor with intelligent multiscanning analog color display capable of ultra-high resolution up to 1280 x 1024 in non-interlaced mode and .26mm dot pitch.

Upgrade from a 14-inch monitor **$430**

Upgrade from a 15-inch monitor **$350**

(Prices good only for upgrades at the time of system purchase.)

Printers

Epson® Stylus 800 Ink Jet Printer

Great laser quality at an ever greater value. Measuring only 17 inches by 10.5 inches, the Stylus 800 has seven different typefaces and prints an extra-quiet 150 characters per second at 360dpi. Parallel cable included. **$289**

Epson ActionLaser 1500 Laser Printer

The ActionLaser delivers professional-quality printouts. Fast six-page per minute speed, 14 resident fonts, 300 x 300dpi, and 1MB memory expandable to 5MB. Parallel cable included. **$669**

Home Office Pack

Add these peripherals to your new Gateway desktop, and you have everything you need for an efficient home office.

- Epson Stylus 800 Ink Jet Printer
- TelePath II Fax/Modem
- 1 Parallel Cable

$399

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Best CDs Yet for Cheating on Term Papers, Catching Up on Politics

LET'S SAY YOU have one of those fancy CD-ROM jukeboxes that lets you keep 6 or 18 disks in a changer so you can mount any of them with just the click of a mouse. The problem lies in picking two or three disks you never want to take out of the jukebox—the ones you want in their dedicated slots permanently. Well, we've got some good candidates this month—plus the usual assortment of CDs that, no matter how good they are, no one would call indispensable.

Here, once again, is our handy rating guide.

- ⊙⊙⊙⊙⊙ *We laughed, we cried, we killed a whole weekend. A masterpiece.*
- ⊙⊙⊙⊙ *Get your own copy. This is ours!*
- ⊙⊙⊙ *Justifies the dough you blew on the CD drive.*
- ⊙⊙ *We'd rather watch "Petticoat Junction."*
- ⊙ *Perfect—for a skeet shoot.*

Random House Unabridged Dictionary, Second Edition .. ⊙⊙⊙⊙⊙

This CD gets the No. 1 slot in our CD jukebox. With almost 315,000 entries—taking up 36MB—it includes new coinings such as *wannabe* and *CMOS*. In other words, it's a great dictionary, and the fact that it's on CD just makes it easier to use. The DOS-TSR and Windows interfaces, created by WordPerfect, let you look up words using wildcards, or you can guess the spelling of a word and the program will do its best to give you the right one. If you're not sure if a word exists, type in a phrase that you'd guess would be in the definition, and the dictionary presents all words that match your definition. In addition, you can cut and paste from the dictionary to any Windows program.

TuneLand Starring Howie Mandel ..... ⊙⊙⊙⊙

The blessing—or drawback, depending on whether you're a parent or an 11-year-old boy—with *TuneLand Starring Howie Mandel* is that absolutely none of the teddy bears or other cute creatures that inhabit *TuneLand* gets its head blown off.

We performed state-of-the-art games testing with *TuneLand:* We let a bunch of kids play it. One pair, a 4-year-old girl

Here's wholesome fun for kids: TuneLand Starring Howie Mandel.

OH, SAY CAN YOU CD?

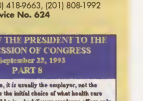
Your government on disc.

After a hard day af wark, same peaple like ta end their computer-oriented day by playing Leisure Suit Larry or X-Wing. Me, I like ta read several volames af federal bureaucratese, then watch same industry flack lie ta me. And naw I have the perfect CD far that—*The Clintan Health Security Plan: What It Means, What It Casts.*

If yau're like me and can't get enaugh dense, labarious writing, here's all 1,342 pages af the Health Security Act as delivered ta Cangress. Plus, there's a videa af President Clintan's speech pitching the plan ta the natian. And there are a bunch af talking-head videas fram peaple wha say nasty things abaut the plan.

OK, sa this CD isn't far everyane. But it shauld be. There's na mare impartant piece af legislatian facing the cauntry than Clintan's health plan, and facts abaut it are hard ta came by—which is exactly what I like about this CD. You've gat ta hand it ta Allegra New Media far putting all af this material tagether and charging anly $14.95 for it. ..... ⊙⊙⊙

THE CLINTON HEALTH SECURITY PLAN: WHAT IT MEANS, WHAT IT COSTS • $14.95 • ALLEGRO NEW MEDIA • (800) 418-9663, (201) 808-1992
Circle Reader Service No. 624



Required reading for health plan wonks.

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So, get on the fast track. For more information or to order, see your computer dealer or call 1 800 848-8199. And take our information highway straight into the next century.

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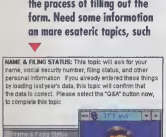
Circle 128 on reader service card.

TAXMAN ON A CD

This one's simple. If you don't use an accountant to do your taxes and you have a multimedia PC, then *Andrew Tobias' TaxCut CD-ROM Multimedia* is the program you should be using.

All of the tax preporation programs are fairly similar. After all, there are only a limited number of ways to fill out a Schedule A. But in *TaxCut*, an animated "Tax Assistant" talks you through the process of filling out the form. Need some information on more esoteric topics, such



as home office deductions? You can play a video in which an expert tells you whether you're likely to get away with it or not.

The multimedia on this CD is all just talking heads stuff, and it could be better. Same year multimedia will be used for animated graphs and diagrams that serve a lot better purpose than watching someone's lips move. But far now, this ain't bad, especially when you consider that it casts only $10 more than the flappy disk version. ($89.95; MECA Software; 800-820-7461, 203-256-5000)

Circle Reader Service No. 629

CDs, *continued from page 76*

and her 5-year-old brother, played *TuneLand* for hours, laughing and singing along with the cartoon characters who populate this Windows game. They got into finding out what surprise lay behind clicking on almost any of the objects in the settings at a farm, train station, pond, forest, and other rural locations. Anything—in good taste—could happen, from shooting stars to an impromptu hoedown led by Little Howie (comedian Howie Mandel's wonderful kid's voice). It's full of surprises, the full-screen animation is first-rate, and the songs are great for tykes.

We like the program, but then we're grown-ups. The 11- and 9-year-old boys who played it weren't exactly bored, and *TuneLand* even got a laugh or two out of them. But given the choice between *TuneLand* and Id Software's *Doom*, in which they could mow down aliens with a machine gun, the teeny-boppers chose the gore every time.

Moral: Get that CD-ROM drive while your children are still innocent enough to appreciate things that aren't measured by the caliber.

Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia ..... ⊙⊙⊙⊙⊙

One CD we'd like mounted all the time is *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia* from Compton's NewMedia. Remember those times in high school when, the night before a paper was due on the Teapot Dome Scandal, you hurriedly, and by hand, copied verbatim whole pages of an encyclopedia? Quote marks? No way—you just needed to get a lot of words on paper.

Today, your children can cheat electronically. And *Compton's* is A+ material. Unlike encyclopedias that sacrifice depth for breadth, *Compton's* gets into the nitty-gritty of topics. Its Windows interface is not as flashy as, say, Microsoft's *Encarta*, but it's cool in its own way. You can choose an "idea search" that selects a main topic—for example, computers—then find related topics in which computers play a secondary role, such as crime or medicine. It includes the obligatory videos and too few animations, but it's our first choice for term paper cribbing nevertheless.

Tour the globe from your desk with Small Blue Planet: The Real Picture Atlas.

Small Blue Planet: The Real Picture Atlas ..... ⊙⊙⊙

Unlike other travel CDs on the market, this Windows CD serves absolutely no practical purpose. Despite being a photographic atlas of the world, *Small Blue Planet: The Real Picture Atlas* won't even help you get to the next block. But you might just be able to pick out the block you live on from one of the high-resolution photographs supplied by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Geophysical Data Center, or space shuttle photography center.

You'll probably get tired of *Small Blue Planet* after just a few explorations, but for a while it's fascinating to zoom in closer and closer to a particular city, to see an area only through the lights that glow at night, or to probe into a storm front from the vantage point of the heavens. Our only serious objection is that it's overpriced ($79.95 suggested retail) for something that doesn't have long-run potential.

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Spotlight

Videoconferencing Now

Iraq's Saddam Hussein isn't all bad, say oldline videoconferencing companies. They note that his Kuwait invasion sent business people looking for ways to "do meetings" without jumping on airplanes.

But neither global unrest nor their $20,000-to-$100,000 proprietary systems will ignite the real boom in electronic tête-à-tête-ing. That will take place on your desktop thanks to cheap PC-based solutions. Right now, a dozen leading computer and communications companies are hammering out a PC-based personal conferencing specification for real-time, interactive sharing of files, applications, and video images across installed LANs, WANs, and phone lines. It's due in the middle of the year, but some PC product makers aren't waiting.

NTV is a long way from the proprietary camera/VCR/PC setup of oldline manufacturers. This inexpensive Windows software lets you mix anyone's video capture and audio hardware to create a system for videoconferencing with your workmates over your company's LAN or WAN. Connected users can display and work on a file simultaneously in the background even if only one user has the necessary application. ($299; Peregrine Systems; 800-432-4393, 619-431-2400)
Circle Reader Service No. 630

If you're content to hold a conference with only "virtual vid," The Meeting Room provides LAN/WAN-based teleconferencing devoid of the real-time video component. The Meeting Room is actually a graphical creation, a virtual room in which comments are posted on a chalkboard as they would be during an onsite meeting. Objects, pictures, and documents can be viewed by all in a meeting, but not edited as they can in NTV. One benefit: Because no one actually sees you, you can do other work or play Solitaire when Johnny Langwind gets going. ($295 for a three-user pack, $895 for a ten-user pack; Eden Systems; 800-779-6338)
Circle Reader Service No. 631

BRIEFLY NOTED: HOT PRODUCTS AND UPGRADES. BY MIKE HOGAN

Delrina WinFax Pro 4.0

The latest version of Delrina's market-leading fax manager focuses on usability and flexibility. You can easily configure different aspects of the program through right-mouse button dialog boxes, and use Windows' drag-and-drop functionality for everything from building a mailing list to rearranging the fields on fax forms. WinFax Pro 4.0 will forward your faxes to you on the road or let you send a batch of faxes from your portable when you get to a phone line. ($129, $49 for upgrades; Delrina Corp.; 800-268-6082, 408-363-2345)
Circle No. 632 on Reader Service Cord

Stacker 4.0 for Windows and DOS

It's all about saving space, and Version 4.0 of this pioneer disk compressor saves more than its rivals do. Stacker takes the average hard drive and gives you back roughly 2.5 times the space, compared with a 1.6- to 1.9-time improvement realized with most current disk compressors. Stacker 4.0 also includes some useful Windows utilities, including a Stacker Windows Toolbox that faithfully reports the amount of blank space remaining on your drive. ($149, $49.95 for upgrades; Stac Electronics; 800-522-7822, 619-431-7474)
Circle Reader Service No. 633

TravelMate Intelligent Docking System

When they say intelligent, they mean it. Texas Instruments' PC-sized TravelMate DeskTop Intelligent Docking System gently and securely locks in your Texas Instruments TravelMate notebook. It automatically updates and closes all DOS and Windows files and applications on the notebook when you hit the eject button. Intelligent scheduling lets you set automatic wake-up and shut-down periods, extending the energy-efficient capabilities of Texas Instruments notebooks. And this docking station offers six ISA slots, two PCMCIA slots, and four drive bays. ($899; Texas Instruments; 800-527-3500, 512-794-5970)
Circle No. 641 on Reader Service Cord

GoldMine 2.5 For Windows

The extraordinary features of this workgroup-oriented contact manager become even more accessible under Windows. Thanks to a robust database, GoldMine 2.5 for Windows not only provides a heaping helping of the usual contact management fare but also offers workgroup task delegation, scheduling, e-mail, and innovative sales automation. A sales manager has access to up-to-the-minute sales reports, plus future sales projections of sales team members. The whole group shares current contact information, contact history, and form letters. ($295 per user, $895 per five-user network node, site licenses available; Elan Software Corp.; 800-654-3526, 310-454-6800)
Circle No. 634 on Reader Service Cord

Professional Write 3.0 for DOS

Version 3.0 of this long-running DOS-based word processor includes a new Windows-like interface with expanded mouse support for selecting items from pull-down menus, positioning the cursor, and marking blocks. Professional Write 3.0 can import files from popular Windows word processors, and display scalable fonts, type styles, and text layouts in a print preview mode. You also can shell out to the DOS command line. ($249, $65 for upgrades; Software Publishing Corp.; 800-234-2500, 408-986-8000)
Circle No. 635 on Reader Service Cord

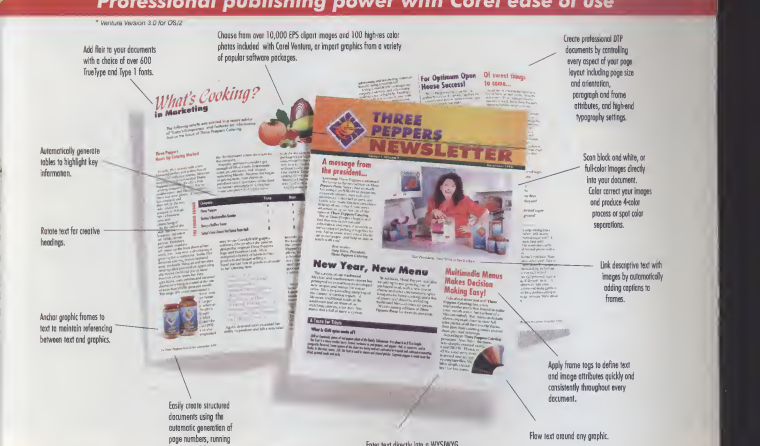
HOT NEWS! 7 Top Pros Reveals Tips & Tricks from CD Magazine*

Corel Ventura

The Best in Publishing

Professional publishing power with Corel ease of use

* Ventura Version 3.0 for OS/2



The single solution for projects of any size or length, Corel Ventura 4.2 for Windows features faster font loading and complete color prepress capabilities. There is support for Adobe™ Acrobat™ and a bonus Adobe Acrobat Reader.™ You'll receive Ventura DataBase Publisher 4.2, that lets you publish documents from database information, Ventura Separator and Ventura Scan. Plus, there are 75 templates, over 600 fonts and more than 10,000 clipart images that let you easily create a wide range of dynamic communication materials.

Value!

- *Two fully-featured publishing applications*
- *75 professionally-designed templates*
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- *100 high-resolution royalty free photos*
- *Over 25 import filters*
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Automation!

- *Automatic generation of indexes and tables of contents*
- *Easily create page headers and footers*
- *Automatic pages, chapter and figure numbering*
- *One-step bullets and drop caps*
- *Automatic file links for direct updates*
- *Automatic text-reflow*
- *Create hypertext links with new Adobe Acrobat support*

Versatility!

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- *Import text and graphics from a variety of software packages*
- *Create data-intensive documents such as catalogs and price lists quickly and easily*

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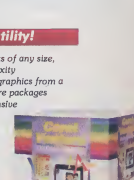

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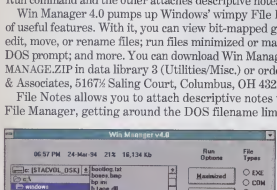
Try Out Two Great Shareware Windows Power Tools at No Cost

These two nifty utilities increase your mastery over Windows. One replaces the File Run command and the other attaches descriptive notes to File Manager documents.

Win Manager 4.0 pumps up Windows' wimpy File Run command with a host of useful features. With it, you can view bit-mapped graphics files; delete, copy, edit, move, or rename files; run files minimized or maximized; shell out to the DOS prompt; and more. You can download Win Manager from PC/Contact as MANAGE.ZIP in data library 3 (Utilities/Misc.) or order it for $10 from G. L. Liadis & Associates, 51672 Saling Court, Columbus, OH 43229. **Circle Reader Service No. 637**

File Notes allows you to attach descriptive notes to your files in the Windows File Manager, getting around the DOS filename limit. Just click on a file, run File Notes from within File Manager, and type in your notes. Download File Notes from PC/Contact on ZiffNet as FILNOT.ZIP in data library 3 (Utilities/Misc.) or order it for $18 (plus $2 shipping and handling) from Sloop Software, 6457 Mesedge Lane, Colorado Springs, CO 80919. **Circle Reader Service No. 762**



Dirt-Cheap Clip Art For Freelance Graphics

There's good news for Freelance Graphics for Windows users who want to jazz up their business presentations: The SmartMaster Business Pack, a collection of clip art and Freelance SmartMasters, is available from Lotus for $10—or for free, if downloaded from the ZiffNet online service as SMRTPK.ZIP in data library 3 (Utilities/Misc.). The package includes SmartMasters designed for common business situations, such as project updates and weekly meetings. Call Lotus at (800) 343-5414 for details. **Circle No. 638 on Reader Service Card**

Remote Control Software Steal

If you want to use your office PC or LAN while on the road or at home, you're in luck: Remote control software for Windows just got cheaper. You can now buy Carbon Copy 2.0 for Windows for $49 as a competitive upgrade or as an upgrade from a previous version. It works with DOS and Windows, and it allows you to control a PC remotely or access a LAN from long distance. Call Microcom at (800) 822-8224 for details. **Circle No. 639 on Reader Service Card**

Free System Snooper Software

What exactly is under the hood of your PC? Find out with SysChk. This superb DOS program performs a thorough analysis of your system and reports the results. Better yet, it's shareware, so you can try it out for free. Download SYSCHK.ZIP from data library 3 (Utilities/Misc.) of PC/Contact, *PC/Computing*'s online service on ZiffNet. Or order it for $20 from Advanced Personal Systems, 105 Serra Way, Suite 418, Milpitas, CA 95035. **Circle No. 640 on Reader Service Card**

BEST SOFTWARE BUYS

Where can you get the best software deal? Usually through the mail. We surveyed mail-order houses and came up with the best prices we could find. The following prices include shipping and handling charges, but don't include credit card surcharges. Prices are as of press time and are subject to change.

PRODUCT	LIST PRICE	BEST PRICE	SOURCE	READER SERVICE NO.
Excel 5.0	$495.00	$299.00	Lorna, (800) 369-2846	750
Lotus 1-2-3 4.01	$495.00	$298.00	CompUSA, (800) 451-7638; Eggbead, (800) 344-4323	751
Microsoft Word 6.0	$495.00	$269.00	Telemart, (800) 537-4735	752
MS-DOS 6.2	$77.95	$49.00	MicroWarehouse, (800) 367-7080	753
Norton Utilities 7.0	$179.00	$108.00	CompUSA, (800) 451-7638	754
QEMM-386 7	$99.00	$50.00	Computability, (800) 558-0003	755
Quattro Pro 5.0	$49.95	$49.00	Lorna, (800) 369-2846; MicroWarehouse, (800) 367-7080	756
Windows 3.1	$149.00	$81.00	Eggbead, (800) 344-4323	757
Word 6.0 for Windows	$495.00	$335.00	CompUSA, (800) 451-7638	758
WordPerfect 5.2 for Windows	$495.00	$274.00	Lorna, (800) 369-2846	759
WordPerfect 6.0	$495.00	$265.00	Dustin, (800) 477-3878; Telemart, (800) 537-4735	760

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Circle 262 on reader service card.

Software Saleswire

Tax software and financial application sales surge as April 15 approaches.

Power Upgrades
New versions of Office and Works return to the business applications top-seller list as Microsoft flexes its market muscle on your desktop.

BUSINESS APPLICATIONS	VENDOR	PRICE	COMMENTS	JAN	FEB
Office 4.0 for Windows	Microsoft	$750	IntelliSense reads your mind.	16	1
Lotus 1-2-3 4.0 for Windows	Lotus	$495	SmartIcons an live status bars.	11	2
Excel 5.0 for Windows	Microsoft	$495	Drag and Plat eases chart updating.	2	3
WordPerfect 6.0	WordPerfect	$495	Supports regular text wraps.	4	4
CorelDraw 4	Corel	$595	Enhanced DTP supparts multipages.	22	5
Publisher 2.0 far Windaws	Microsoft	$199	35 prafessionally designed templates.	10	6
Warks 3.0 far Windaws	Microsoft	$199	Allows document data linking.	17	7
Quattro Pro 5.0 for Windows	Barland	$50	Supparts Paradax and dBASE data.	6	8
Procamm Plus 2.01	Datastarm	$129	Mare than 30 terminal emulatians.	8	9
Word 6.0 far Windaws	Microsoft	$495	AutaSelect: intelligent paint and click.	1	10

Peer Pressure
Will LANtastic's new peer-to-peer entry challenge Novell's peer-to-peer leadership?

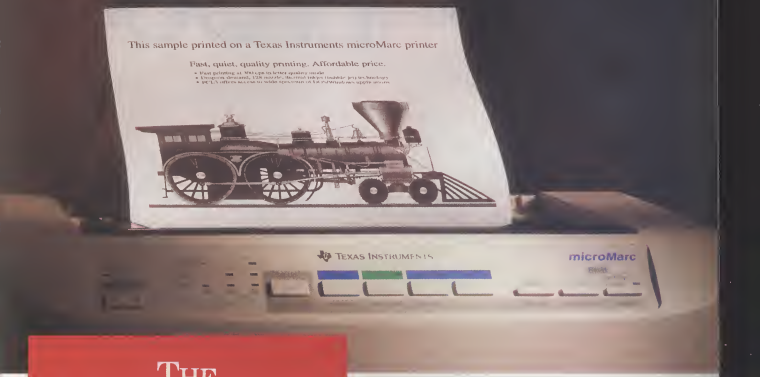
UTILITIES	VENDOR	PRICE	COMMENTS	JAN	FEB
Windaws 3.1	Microsoft	$149	Robust multitasking, drag and drap.	4	1
MS-DOS 6.x	Microsoft	$129	Undelete recavers accidental deletians.	1	2
NetWare 3.x	Navell	$1,095	Cannects Windaws, Unix, and OS/2.	25	3
Windaws far Warkgraups 3.11	Microsoft	$250	Built-in netwarking and cammunicatian.	14	4
QEMM 7	Quarterdeck	$100	Setup eases parameter changes.	2	5
LANtastic/AI 5.0	Artisaft	$99	ArtiSaund supparts vaice-mail.	13	6
Visual Basic 3.0	Microsoft	$199	Access multiple database applications.	15	7
After Dark 2.0 for Windaws	Berkeley Systems	$50	Custam-design your awn wallpaper.	3	8
Visual C++ for Windaws	Microsoft	$199	Includes reusable routine abjects.	16	9
Expert FantPack for Windaws	Expert	$15	Mare than 120 cool fants.	8	10

Sticker Shock
MECA's $10 gamble pays off, pushing TaxCut ahead of ChipSaft's TurboTax, with a nifty rebate thrown in.

PERSONAL PRODUCTIVITY	VENDOR	PRICE	COMMENTS	JAN	FEB
Quicken 7.0 far DOS	Intuit	$70	14 investment perfarmance gauges.	1	1
Quicken Campanian 2.0	Intuit	$35	Maintains praperty inventary.	4	2
QuickBooks 2.0	Intuit	$160	Camparative period-ta-period analysis.	8	3
QuickPay 2.0	Intuit	$75	Autamates W-2 farm printing.	11	4
Maney 2.0 for Windaws	Microsaft	$70	Helps plan key financial goals.	7	5
TaxCut far Windaws	MECA	$10	Imparts data fram many financial apps.	-	6
TaxCut	MECA	$10	Special pramatianal rebate.	-	7
The Print Shap Deluxe	Broderbund	$80	Yearly, manthly, and daily calendars.	10	8
TurboTax 1993 States	ChipSaft	$40	45 separate state tax packages.	-	9
TurboTax 1993 for Windaws	Chipsaft	$40	20 separate state tax packages.	2	10

Software Saleswire is compiled by G. Meier Inc. once each month after gathering ranked-order sales information supplied by the following software industry sources: BOO-Software, ABCO Distributors, Americon Software, Bobbages, Baker & Taylor Software, CompUSA, Computability, Computer Discount Warehouse, Corporate Software, Dustin Discount Software, Egghead Discount Software, Electronics Boutique, Gate/FA, Ingram-Micro, Josho Distributing, Kenfil, Liuski Intern'l, Merisel, Multiple Zones, Navarre, PC Connection, Software Resource, Software Spectrum, Softwre Etc., and Waldensoftware. They represent sales through tens of thousands of resellers and more than $6 billion of software sales. A weighting system is applied to each entry based on three factors: the entry's position in the individual chart, the power of the contributing source based on annual gross sales, and the relative strength of a source in a given category of software. All prices are suggested retail and are subject to change.

Speed (spēd) *n.* 1, A feature rarely found in low-cost inkjet printers. ***example:*** In letter quality mode, the TI microMarc™ printer gives you laser quality printing at twice the ***speed*** of the HP DeskJet™ printer.



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	TI microMarc	HP DeskJet 500
Speed (in letter quality mode)	*300cps*	*120cps*
Print Quality	*300 dpi*	*300 dpi*
Memory	*24K*	*16K*
Pages/Cartridge	*1400*	*1000*
Weight	*12.1 lbs.*	*14.3 lbs.*

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TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

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Circle 117 on reader service card.

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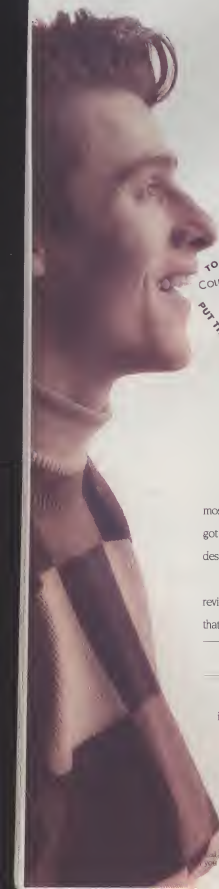

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Trust Congress? Not With This Unbelievable Lair of Slop

When Vice President Gore began talking about the Information Highway, we all knew the bureaucrats would get involved more than we might like. In fact, it may already be too late to stop a horrible Senate bill from becoming law.

The moniker—Information Highway—itself seems to be responsible for SB #040194. Introduced by Senator Patrick Leahy, it's designed to prohibit anyone from using a public computer network (Information Highway) while the computer user is intoxicated. I know how silly this sounds, but Congress apparently thinks that being drunk on a highway is bad no matter what kind of highway it is. The bill is expected to pass this month.

There already are rampant arguments as to how this proposed law can possibly be enforced. The FBI hopes to use it as an excuse to do routine wiretaps on any computer if there is any evidence that the owner "uses or abuses alcohol and has access to a modem." Note how it slips in the word *uses*. This means if you've been seen drinking one lone beer, you can have your line tapped.

Because this law would be so difficult to enforce, police officials are drooling over the prospect of easily obtaining permits to do wiretaps. Ask enforcement officials in Washington and they'll tell you the proposed law is idiotic, but none will oppose it. Check the classified ads in the *Washington Post* and you'll find the FBI, National Security Agency, and something called the Online Enforcement Agency (when did they set that up?) all soliciting experts in phone technology, specifically wiretapping.

It gets worse. The Congressional Record of February 19, 1994, has a report that outlines the use of computerized BBSes, Internet Inter-Relay Chat, and CompuServe CB as "propagating illicit sexual encounters and meetings between couples—any of whom are underage. . . . Even people purporting to routinely have sex with animals are present on these systems to foster their odd beliefs on the public-at-large." A rider on SB #040194 makes it a felony to discuss sexual matters on any public-access network, including the Internet, America Online, and CompuServe.

I wondered how private companies such as America Online could be considered public-access networks, so I called Senator Barbara Boxer's office and talked to an aide, a woman named Felicia. She said the use of promotional cards that give away a free hour or two of service constitutes public access. You know, like the ones found in the back of books or in modem boxes. She also told me most BBS systems fall under this proposed statute. When asked how they propose to enforce this law, she said it's not Congress's problem. "Enforcement works itself out over time," she said.

The group fighting this moronic law is led by Jerome Bernstein of the Washington law firm of Bernstein, Bernstein and Knowles (the firm that first took on Ollie North as a client). I couldn't get in touch with any of the co-sponsors of the bill (including Senator Ted Kennedy, if you can believe it!), but Bernstein was glad to talk. "These people have no clue about the Information Highway or what it does. The whole thing got started last Christmas during an antidrinking campaign in the Washington, D.C., metro area," Bernstein said. "I'm convinced someone jokingly told Leahy's office about drunk driving on the Information Highway and the idea snowballed. These senators actually think there is a physical highway. Seriously, Senator Pat Moynihan asked me if you needed a driving permit to 'drive' a modem on the Information Highway! He has no clue what a modem is, and neither does the rest of Congress."

According to Bernstein, the antisexual wording in the bill was attributed to Kennedy's office. "Kennedy thought that technology was leaving him behind, and he wanted to be perceived as more up-to-date technologically. He also thought this would make amends for his alleged philandering."

Unfortunately, the public is not much better informed than the Senate. The Gallup Organization, at the behest of Congress, is polling the public regarding intoxication while using a computer and online "hot chatting." The results are chilling. More than half of the public thinks that using a computer while intoxicated should be illegal! The results of the sexuality poll are not available. But one question, "Should a teenage boy be encouraged to pretend he is a girl while chatting with another person online?" has civil rights activists alarmed. According to Kevin Avril of the ACLU, "This activity doesn't even qualify as virtual cross-dressing. Who cares about this stuff? What are we going to do? Legislate an anti–boys-will-be-boys law? It sets a bad precedent."

Should a boy be encouraged to pretend he's a girl when online?

I could go on and on with quotes and complaints from people regarding this bill. But most of the complaints are getting nowhere. Pressure groups, such as one led by Baptist ministers from De Kalb County, Georgia, are supporting the law with such vehemence that they've managed to derail an effort by modem manufacturers (the biggest being Georgia-based Hayes) to lobby against the law. "Who wants to come out and support drunkenness and computer sex?" asked a congressman who requested anonymity.

So, except for Bernstein, Bernstein and Knowles, and a few members of the ACLU, there is nothing to stop this bill from becoming law. You can register your protests with your congressperson or Ms. Lirpa Sloof in the Senate Legislative Analysts Office. Her name spelled backward says it all.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ELLEN MANNOCK

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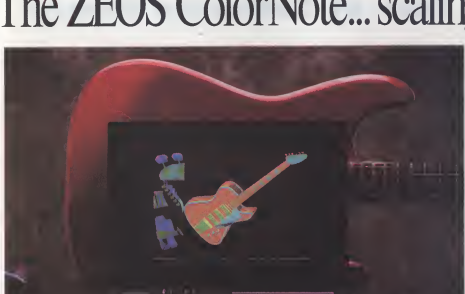

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ZEOS dual scan screen (left) fires up rich, vibrant colors while standard passive matrix screen (right) produces faded and dull colors. Photos are not retouched.

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Circle 216 on reader service card.

The Hard Life of the Corporate Criminal: A Tale of Software Piracy

I SENSED HIS PRESENCE LONG BEFORE HE ACTUALLY CAME into view, the raw smell of fear that preceded him down the corridor. No, that's not right. The smell of fear was mixed with something else. Something darker, even less appealing. The aroma of wrongdoing soon to be apprehended—that was it. The scent of guilt.

I waited until he thought he was alone, putting old memoranda through the shredder. I knew if I merely poked him with the smallest inquiry, he would pop like a ripe melon. So I poked him.

"Ahoy, Studtz, you lousy pirate," I said, infusing my affable tone with a coldly calculating undertow of menace I learned from Doug, our former chairman, who could make the words "good morning" sound like a prelude to termination.

Studtz jumped a mile.

"I have no idea what you're talking about! I'm clean!" he yelled. A raincoat of sweat ringed the circumference of his pallid brow. Does evil distort the human physiognomy? Except in the case of Donald Trump, I've always thought so.

"Maybe you'd better come into my office, son," I offered, nudging him gently in the back with the barrel of my Mont Blanc. He went.

"I didn't do anything wrong," he said as he took the chair under the light that sits in the center of my interrogation area. They always start out that way, you know. I guess they think I'm stupid or something.

"Why don't you start at the beginning and take it from there," I said, carefully removing my jacket, rolling up my sleeves, and taking off my watch and tie. I hate to get my stuff messy.

"From where?" was all he had time to say before the flat part of my fist slammed up into the area just south of his kidney. He sort of slumped over in his chair and all the air blew out of his body.

"Now, Studtz," I said. "Why make things tough on yourself? If you come clean, I'm sure there's no need for any additional fisticuffs. We know what you've been up to, and a full, honest confession will go a long way toward reinstating you in our good graces."

"That was last year!" Studtz howled. "I haven't shared unregistered copies of new software with anyone since second quarter of '93! I took my punishment! My record was expunged!"

"Don't play dumb," I said.

I admit I was getting a little steamed. I really don't mind it when they try to put one over on you—I mean, that's what perps do—but I don't like somebody trying to insult my intelligence, and failing.

"Perhaps this will . . . refresh your recollection," I snarled.

I handed over the plastic bag from the 3½-inch Microsoft installation floppies I had found sitting on the edge of his credenza. His face fell. I thought he could use a few minutes to pick it up, so I went to the window and pretended to be smoking a cigarette, an activity that would have alerted an entirely different arm of the company police force you really don't want to mess with.

"Oh," said Studtz.

"How could you do it?" I said to him. "After the good folks at Microsoft told you how they feel about you? 'You're important to us,' " I read. " 'Register today.' And did you register today? Or yesterday? Or any other day, for that matter?"

"No!" He was weeping now, and I didn't blame him. If I was in his shoes, they'd feel mighty tight on me, too.

"You should not open this packet until you have read the Microsoft License Agreement,' " I read. "And did you?"

"No! I mean . . . yes! I mean . . . I wanna talk to my lawyer!" This infuriated me. Every piece of cyber-scum in the world wants to fall back on the legal system they've abused. I honked his earlobe, hard. "Never mind, Studtz," I said gently. "You know this isn't about your filthy registration habits anyhow."

"It's about my new computer, isn't it," he said, wiping a bit of phlegm off the end of his tie.

"Yeah, Studtz," I said, waving the laptop in his face. He turned a sort of pearly taupe that perfectly matched the 4.6-pound wafer's shock-resistant case.

I walked up behind him where he couldn't see me and casually read the rest of the advisory wrapping. "Reminder Note," it said. "When you get a new computer, you have a choice to make concerning your Microsoft software."

Avast ye techno-mateys! Ahoy all you cyber-scum out there!

"I thought I was straight, I didn't know. I swear to God I didn't," he said. "You gotta believe me."

"Why?" I mused. "Your whole life has been spent abusing the system one way or another. Last year you got a competitive upgrade for Aldus Persuasion by clipping the registration page from somebody else's Harvard Graphics documentation, didn't you? Didn't you?! C'mon, cough it up, you weasel."

"But we have dozens of copies of Harvard Graphics around here—all legally paid for and registered! This corporation must have spent thousands of dollars on 'em! Why can't I use one on an upgrade I had to pay more than $100 for anyway?!"

Continued on page 96

PHOTOGRAPH BY JONATHAN LEVINE

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Circle 181 on reader service card.

Continued from page 90

I slammed his head into the top of my desk without warning. It left a little grease spot I knew I'd have to deal with later.

"Just weeks ago," I continued amiably enough, "you used clip art you purchased for only $89 in a sales piece in a promotional sales brochure that could net the company millions of dollars. Was that legal? Was that . . . right?"

"Honestly! I don't know."

"Well, to tell you the truth, I don't either. But this . . ." I brandished the plastic advisory in his face. "This here is the last straw."

I read the final, most damning clause. " 'You may set up your software on your new computer if you delete it from your old computer. OR, if you leave your software on your old computer, you need to purchase additional software for your new computer.' "

"WELL, I THINK THAT'S RIDICULOUS!" Studtz blared in defiance.

I had to hand it to him. The guy had guts, even if he was an immoral blob of stinking protoplasm threatening our entire social ecosystem.

"Did you or did you not on the 15th of last month purchase this second computer for your road trips?" I inquired, very stiff, very formal.

"It's a real nice laptop," he bleated. "And you can't use it even when I'm not, you fascist nerd."

"And did you on the third of this month install a copy of Microsoft Scenes for Windows on this laptop?"

"Yes," said Studtz, very sullen now.

"And did you eradicate the existing copy of Scenes from your desktop computer?"

"The darn program costs around $30 for some bit-mapped pictures of stuff from space!" he hollered. "I spend a fortune on Microsoft programming every year, and I intend to stock my laptop with as much of it as I can get away with! You can slow me down, but you can't stop me! Because oppression generates defiance—and eventually, revolt! The software belongs to the people who paid for it! All power to the people! Right on!"

"Peace, bro," I replied abruptly, extending a hand and pulling him to his feet. "Now get out of here and do the right thing."

"I will," he said, brushing himself off and wiping his nose with his fist. "Now that I know about this absurd regulation, by the way, I will of course abide by it."

"As we all must, Studtz."

"Yes, sir."

He was chastened, no doubt about it. And I felt . . . great. I knew he'd be a better man from here on in, and that did my heart a world of good. You know, keeping our software compliance in line is a tough job, but it does have its satisfactions. In a world so pathetically lacking in natural morality, enforcing virtue can be its own reward. ◩

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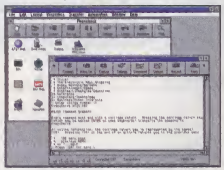

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Circle 227 on reader service card.

PowerPC: A Surefire Winner Or Just Motorola Dreamin'?

DO YOU HAVE INTEL INSIDE? WILL YOU A YEAR OR TWO FROM now? Ask the folks at Motorola, IBM, or Apple, and they'll tell you how PowerPC is about to lop off a huge chunk of Intel's business. Are they dreaming? John and Paul battle it out.

SOMERSON: This thing's hot. It's less than half the size of a Pentium, about half the cost, and anywhere from 40 to 1,000 percent faster, depending on your applications (and whom you talk to). It's pure RISC and contains some impressive technology. Apple has staked its future on it, and companies like Aldus, Adobe, and Microsoft are writing native code for it, which means the software is going to scream. Most insiders will tell you there are only two problems facing this CPU—no real operating systems for it and no real chance to break through Intel's juggernaut marketing.

DVORAK: Sheesh. The way you say it! "Only two," as if it's no big deal. This is like saying "This is the best car ever built. Great looking, fast, incredible fuel economy. It has only two drawbacks: No seats and it runs only on powdered yttrium." These two problems are enormous.

SOMERSON: But not insurmountable. Motorola is no slouch when it comes to marketing. If it can line up lots of big-name systems vendors that are secretly frustrated by Intel's pricing and allocation policies, it'll have a real shot. The chip—especially the forthcoming 604—looks phenomenally impressive, and for fast floating-point stuff, even the first-pass 601 is a contender. No one wants to be left out.

Who knows what will happen with operating systems? Microsoft stumbled a bit with a premature release of Windows NT, but it'll get back on track. IBM has been plugging along with increasing success, and all of its future stuff will run on the PowerPC. So will many of the always-a-bridesmaid operating systems out there—including Unix and Apple's.

DVORAK: I agree with you regarding the chip overall. It looks like a winner. And it's a surefire winner for Apple—the only company that has the capability to control its own destiny. Apple can make a platform change at will and decide to move to this chip. The PC industry can't do it. There are too many Indians and not enough chiefs. And the few chiefs can be very skittish. So we'll see the chip replace the 680X0 on the Apple side of the equation for sure.

SOMERSON: Actually, this will be good for us. Lots of Apple vendors will start writing native-code apps for the PowerPC that they can tweak to work on the systems on our side of the fence. And oddly, it's also a boost for Intel, because all of the Apple systems are using Intel's Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) bus.

DVORAK: What the PowerPC will do is force Intel to up the ante to the detriment of the PC side of the business. When Intel ups the ante it tends to leave the chip cloners (Advanced Micro Devices, Cyrix, and Texas Instruments) in the dust. And when Intel leaves them in the dust it also raises prices. That's what will happen—*all* thanks to the PowerPC chip. Back to the $5,000 desktop computer.

SOMERSON: Geez John, have you been hitting the powdered yttrium again?

DVORAK: It's great with grenadine and a lesser cognac.

SOMERSON: Anyway, you got it backward—why am I not surprised? PC prices will continue to go down, especially with the consumer market getting real. Every component gets more capable and far less expensive each year. Look at what's happening to drives, CD-ROMs, monitors, modems. CPU prices have followed the same pattern, and now Intel has even *more* competition. When NT eventually catches on, even dark-horse chips like the Mips R4X00 (which beat all comers in our speed tests) and Digital Equipment Corp.'s Alpha family (which already runs at a third of a gigahertz and can theoretically hit 1GHz) will be interesting.

DVORAK: When NT catches on, cows will fly. But I digress.

SOMERSON: Well, something has to tie all of this stuff together, especially with companies like DEC and Motorola pumping out hot CPUs, and with Intel's rumored plan to abandon *x*86 compatibility in two generations. If it's not NT, it will be some cross between NT and Windows 5.

Anyway, unless the courts crunch the cloners (which could happen), there will be a continuing glut of speedy

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Circle 126 on reader service card.

Dvorak vs. Somerson

CPUs that run all existing Windows apps. When the triplers start to hit in earnest (Intel's DX4 and IBM's first Blue Lightning are just around the corner, with more to follow), prices for 66MHz stuff will go down even further. And when the PowerPC bomb drops, Intel will slash costs. It already started in December. Last year, Intel's margin was more than 50 percent. It had a profit of $2 billion. That should give it a little wiggle room in pricing.

DVORAK: Yeah, right. These guys took forever to clone the 486. They'll never do the Pentium for years.

SOMERSON: That's not what Cyrix thinks. Its M1 Pentium-clone program is moving right along. AMD isn't far behind. Besides, now that video bottlenecks are being ironed out, triplers running at 99MHz and 120MHz will be just fine for a lot of Windows users.

DVORAK: They've been talking about it for too long. It can't be easy. As for triplers, even IBM hasn't been shipping them. Apparently there is something wrong with this picture! These companies are at an impasse. Prices will go up.

SOMERSON: All users care about is cost, speed, and ease. With the small office/home office market exploding and users becoming accustomed to cheapo systems, there's no way prices will rise. You'll just get more PC for the same low cost. More speed is always better, but that's the PowerPC's ace in the hole, especially with tricky graphics stuff. And if the thing can handle Windows apps without a hitch, no one will care what's inside. We'll be seeing Intel-Motorola price wars that will put an affordable rocket in everyone's pocket.

DVORAK: Nothing handles Windows apps without a hitch. Where have you been hiding? People will be buying the 486/66 if they want cheap systems, not the PowerPC or anything else. As for pocket rockets from Motorola on the Intel-dominated side of the equation—I think it's an uphill battle. What evidence do you have that this is remotely possible? Or are you just blowing smoke as usual?

SOMERSON: The evidence is the PowerPC trio—IBM, Apple, and Motorola. Each offers a vital part.

DVORAK: Vital?

SOMERSON: IBM contributes technology and desperation. The PowerPC is essentially a jazzed-up version of the chip that powered its very successful IBM RS/6000 workstation. The company is blessed with CPU and RISC expertise. And it knows it needs a home run like this to help change direction.

Motorola contributes advanced chip fabrication capability, marketing muscle, and bile-bitter jealousy of Intel.

Apple contributes immediacy and desperation. It needs to claw out a hardware edge and get PowerPC units on the market fast. And it's been able to convince the top software vendors to write apps in native PowerPC code that will fly.

And each has a common fear of Intel/Microsoft domination and money to spend.

DVORAK: Why should IBM and Apple have a fear of Intel? IBM is one of its biggest customers and Apple couldn't care less about it because Apple doesn't use Intel processors (except in that wacky dual-processor machine nobody buys).

SOMERSON: Good grief. How could people buy it? As of this writing, it's not even on the market yet. Listen—everyone fears Intel because Intel (and Microsoft) are calling the shots. In this business everyone wants to be in charge. IBM and Apple would each like to be leading the way instead of following. Both tried it and failed.

DVORAK: It seems that the only common factor you cite is desperation. You credit IBM and Apple with it when Motorola is the only logically desperate company when it comes to microprocessors. Let's say they're all desperate. Gee, there's the formula for success: desperation. Did Intel get to the top from desperation? Did Microsoft get to where it is from desperation?

SOMERSON: Maybe. Desperation is a great motivator. Intel has said for years that its formula for success has been huge amounts of technology plus (desperate) paranoia. Microsoft got to where it is with luck and shrewd marketing, but with gobs of desperation sprinkled in—just read all of the accounts of how Windows started. Recently, it's settled down and started producing superior applications like clockwork.

DVORAK: This desperation thing sounds like a scenario for failure. The old maid gets married to the geek out of desperation. The guy jumps off a building out of desperation. These are not images of bold and confident success. Now I'm wondering if I should sell all of these companies short.

SOMERSON: A lot of people are scared at what may happen to Apple and IBM. Interestingly, I think IBM (especially its PC Company) is turning the corner. Its notebooks are absolutely tops. Everyone else's new operating system suspiciously resembles the OS/2 Workplace Shell. It is increasingly getting it right on pricing, packaging, technology, even support and mail-order sales.

So the big question is where it's going with the PowerPC. IBM and Motorola say they'll own 30 percent of the industry in three to five years. What do you predict?

What do Motorola, Apple, and IBM have in common? Desperation!

DVORAK: I never thought you'd sound like an IBM booster. I agree that IBM will own 30 percent of the market in five years. But *what* market will it own? That part I don't know.

SOMERSON: While I would never underestimate Intel, I think Motorola has a shot. If enough hardware vendors jump on the PowerPC bandwagon, and lots of software vendors crank out native PowerPC code, it'll be a battle. In any event, users should benefit from the price wars. And if Microsoft gets its act together and comes out with a bulletproof universal operating system, nobody will care what's inside as long as it's cheap and fast and compatible.

We locked four ordinary computer users in a room for 30 minutes with one extraordinary program to see what they could come up with.

Circle 163 on reader service card.

Thompson & Associates

December 30, 1997

Marion Sawyer
Transmission Trainee
1111 Washington Street
Atlanta City, NJ 08370

Dear Mr Sawyer

It was a pleasure meeting you at our on-site visit of 21 December 1995. The following is a quick overview of the items discussed and our preliminary findings:

As you can see by our initial evaluation, the overall financial performance of your organization continues to be strong. We believe that you are well positioned to take advantage of growth in the marketplace. However we will review the information you have provided and make some recommendations regarding the Eastern region. Overall, your product mix appears to be appropriate to address current problems, but the present amount of growth appears to be occurring in the Widget line.

You can expect to see our detailed report on 15 January. We look forward to working with you as you continue to position your success and target the future marketplace.

Have a very happy holidays season! I look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Sincerely

Mike Thompson
Principal

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Mike, Eston Town, NJ

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Paul Carter
Principal
Carter & Christensen
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Seattle, WA 98030

December 16, 1995

Dear Paul,

Thank you for attending our recent seminar in our area. I have enclosed the following information we discussed.

- A transcript of the seminars and procedures
- A brochure detailing our background and publications

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Thank you again for our interest and participation on our seminar. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at (206) 555-7535. I look forward to working together to bring this truly worthwhile service to the community.

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Lisa

Lisa, New York, NY

Introducing the document WordPerfect

Memo

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From Warren
Date December 16, 1995
Regarding Are you on vacation?

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- December 24 - 28

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Thanks!

See you all soon
Warren

Sharon, Poway, CA

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Organization Summary

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A global focus

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Year and report

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Circle 145 on reader service card.

The editors of PC/Computing searched far and wide for the answer to portable computing's most pressing question:

How Small Can Color Get?

(TURN PAGE)

PHOTOGRAPH BY STAN MUSEK

THIS SMALL!

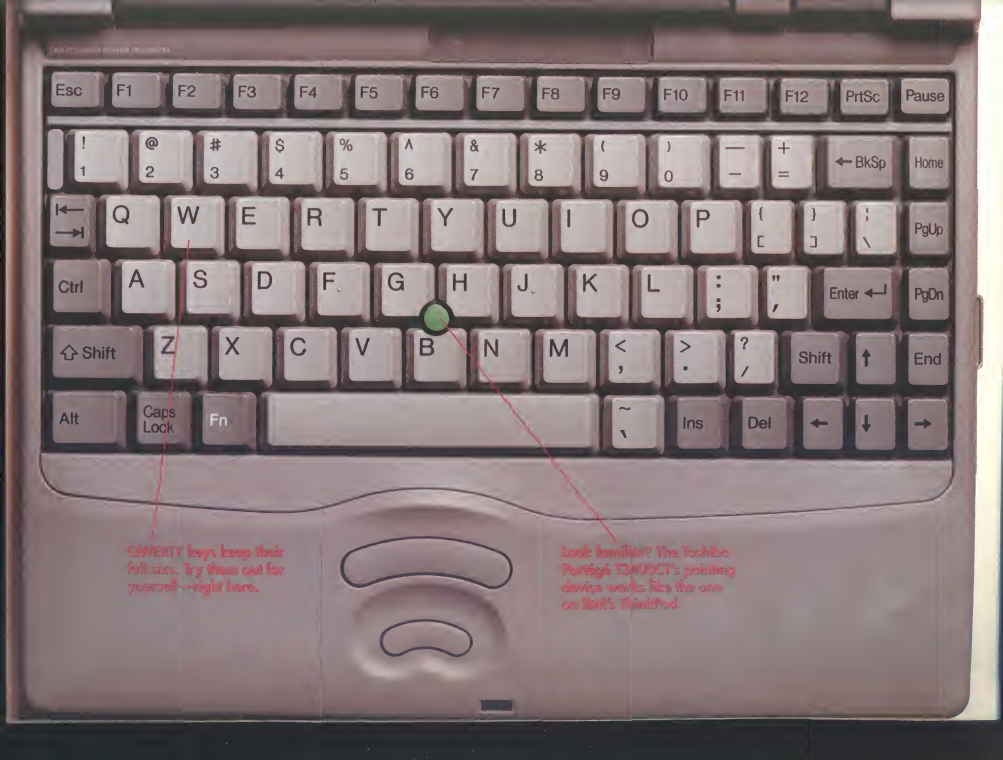
Or should we say BIG? This subnotebook (shown actual size) packs fast 486 power, accelerated graphics, and long battery life in less than five pounds.

BY MARTY JEROME

TOSHIBA

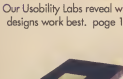
Its bright active-matrix screen is crisper than that on most desktop displays.

T3400CT

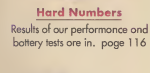

QWERTY keys keep their full size. Try them out for yourself — right here.
Look familiar? The Toshiba Portégé T2400CT's pointing device works like the one on IBM's ThinkPad.

Heeeave ho! Out, you drab monochrome display. Take your dreary 32 grayscales with you. Pack up your unreadable icons,

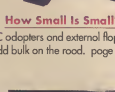
Can You Type?
Our Usability Labs reveal which designs work best. page 114



Hard Numbers
Results of our performance and battery tests are in. page 116



How Small Is Small?
AC adapters and external floppies add bulk on the road. page 118



A Closer Look
Hands-on reviews of the first color subnotebooks. page 120

your indecipherable charts, and your pathetic halftones. Go your sad gray way. Maybe pen PCs can use you. But for serious computing, you're finished. Kaput. Good-bye forever.

Fat chance, you say? Don't be so sure. The drive for color in mobile computing lags only slightly behind the drive for longer battery life. Full-sized color notebooks now command a less than 20 percent premium over monochrome models. And several big-name manufacturers have begun whispering behind closed doors that they will cease making monochrome portables altogether by year-end.

Even in a category as new and unformed as subnotebooks, color is quickly stealing the show. Perhaps this shouldn't come as a surprise. When the first generation of 6-pound notebooks arrived with their 7½- and 8½-inch monochrome displays, everyone worked in text mode. But to take advantage of today's high-octane graphical interfaces, you need as much information dancing across your pygmy screen as you can get. Color, we hasten to remind you, *is* information.

But don't take our word for it. Play a hand of Solitaire on the next monochrome subnotebook that passes your way. Edit a business slide that was originally created on a desktop system. Or produce a spreadsheet report. As you squint and fumble through these tasks, keep in mind that for as little as $400 more, you could be working in color—with no hit in battery life, no extra weight. Is the picture getting clearer?

We set out to look at the first generation of color 4-pounders, knowing that we were a little early for this category, but knowing too that the floodgates would open by midyear. Five machines made it in time for our review: Aspen Computer's 486 Color Subnote, MidWest Micro's Elite 486SX/33 Color SubNote, Sager Midern Computer's NP-440C, Toshiba's Portégé T3400CT, and Twinhead's SubNote 4DX2/40S. We've had early peeks at a half-dozen other machines, including Compaq's splashy new color Contura Aero 4/33C. By this autumn, virtually any subnotebook you buy will have a color version coming to market—if it hasn't arrived already.

BIG LITTLE LEAGUE

What surprises us most about this round-up is how well these machines implement color right out of the shoot. Blame Toshiba. Its Portégé subnotebook, introduced only four months ago, brought breathtaking advances to the world of 4-pound PCs: active-matrix color, superb ergonomics, and lithium-ion batteries. Today it remains the standard by which other subnotebooks will be judged.

Unfortunately, active-matrix color comes at a premium, both in price and weight. Don't expect things to get better any time soon. Manufacturing yields of active-matrix displays remain depressingly low. Simply put, active-matrix screens are difficult to make. Alternatives are emerging: The most immediate is called dual-scan passive-matrix

technology, in which half of the display is refreshed independently of the other half.

The quality of dual-scan displays has given new life to passive-matrix color. Although they're not as bright or richly hued as active-matrix screens (a contrast ratio of 18-to-1 compared to active-matrix's 60-to-1), dual-scan screens are nearly 70 percent faster than single-scan designs in response time.

Unless you're planning to use a subnotebook as your main machine, or to run full-motion video or business presentations (not recommended on such small screens), dual-scan passive-matrix color is an excellent, budget-conscious alternative. MidWest Micro offers both active-matrix and dual-scan passive technologies for its subnotebooks. But be prepared for a (gulp) $1,000 difference in price.

Meanwhile, active-addressing display technology looms on the not-too-distant horizon. Based on a passive-matrix design, active addressing displays use integrated circuits to regulate a rapid flow of low-voltage bursts of power through the matrix. The result? You get nearly twice same contrast and screen response time as passive-matrix displays (a 30-to-1 contrast ratio), yet they're much cheaper and easier to produce than active-matrix panels and consume less battery life.

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

So they're beautiful. But exactly how small can color notebooks get—without slowing you down? Not only do the machines in this roundup come with a full complement of ports, all use a 25MHz or 33MHz 486SX CPU, with the exception of the Twinhead SubNote 4DX2/40S, which uses Intel's new 40MHz 486DX2 processor. We expect to see the new Intel in forthcoming subnotebooks as well. The Portégé T3400CT and SubNote 4DX2/40S also feature local-bus video with speedy video chip sets. But make no mistake: Performance from any of these subnotebooks will shame some machines that weigh twice as much.

Too bad their keyboards don't fare as well. A wide industry consensus now holds that keyboards scaled to 85 percent of the spacing of a full-sized notebook keyboard are usable. Not 70 percent, not 80 percent: 85 percent. But as our Usability Labs' results demonstrate, the shape, positioning, and key travel play an equally important role in user satisfaction. Toshiba's legendary work in portable keyboards clearly pays off here.

The same is true of the Portégé T3400CT's pointing device, a concept borrowed from IBM's infamous TrackPoint II (eraserhead) that adorns its ThinkPad systems. Using the pointer requires some training, yes, but once you've mastered it, your hands never leave the keyboard. And as our usability testing results show, users are growing increasingly impatient with tiny trackballs crammed into odd corners of keyboards.

None of these usability issues matters, of course, if your subnotebook chugs along for only 90 minutes on a single charge. The trade-off between battery life and weight is where the rubber meets the road in mobile computing. And while all of the subnotebooks we tested can hum along for at nearly 2½ hours on a charge, the Portégé T3400CT's lithium-ion batteries broke four hours in our battery

PC Computing BEST

TOSHIBA PORTÉGÉ T3400CT

Simply and elegantly the best.

Occosionolly a product redefines on entire category. Toshibo's Portégé T3400CT brings o level of refinement to subnotebooks that few anticipoted. Its brilliont disploy, sublime keyboard, long battery life, and crafty pointing device are o full generation oheod of anything else currently on the morket. The gountlet it lays down isn't to subnotebooks—it's to oll portoble computers.

Portégé T3400CT • $3,999 • Toshiba America Information Systems • P.O. Box 19724, Irvine, CA 92713 • (800) 334-3445, (714) 583-3000
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PC/COMPUTING DECISION MAKER

Choose the subnotebook that best matches your work style.

rundown tests. MidWest Micro's Elite Color SubNote, with its nickel-metal hydride batteries, came in a distant second with three hours.

Toshiba may have been the first to bring out lithium-ion batteries in a portable PC, but other alternative technologies are on the way—including some surprises. Lithium polymer, for example, is lighter and lasts longer than its ionic twin. Zinc air batteries deliver a charge up to three times as long as NiCad, but as yet provide far shorter duty cycles. They'll have to be replaced about three times as often.

Lead-acid batteries have also made a comeback, kind of. Thanks to the long life and stable discharge rate of these batteries, IBM outfitted its crafty ThinkPad 500 subnotebook with a lead-acid battery that doubled as a recharger. Pop the battery out of the portable, fold out two prongs, and plug it directly into the wall: You no longer have to travel with a recharger and tangled cord.

Great idea, bad implementation. Technical problems with the plug-in battery forced IBM to stop shipments of the ThinkPad 500. It has since resumed shipments—with nickel-metal hydride batteries and AC adapters. IBM expects to correct the problem so that it can return to the lead-acid technology. In any case, Toshiba's Portégé T3400CT and MidWest Micro's Elite Color SubNote prove that the traditional trade-off between battery size and battery life is vanishing.

Best of all, you don't trade off power or gorgeous color graphics in the bargain. Both machines are the fastest performers and deliver magnificent color video. Testers from our Usability Labs found that while their keyboards are tight, they're perfectly usable, thank you. At less than 4½ pounds each, it is safe to say that this is how small color gets.

Lowest Prices on the SX, DX & *New* DX2-50!

Rave Reviews! Read what the experts say:

PC MAGAZINE "Scoring high in overall value and design, the Micro Electronics WinBook gives you a lot for your money, including an outstanding integral trackball."

PC MAGAZINE, Guide to Portable Computing, 8/93

COMPUTER SHOPPER "If you're a Windows user on a budget, or just have a bad case of Mac envy...you should take a look at the WinBook. It's a machine that can hold its own with more expensive, less thoughtfully designed systems from other direct vendors."

COMPUTER SHOPPER, This Powerbook Twin Acts Like a PC, 9/95

WINDOWS MAGAZINE "The WinBook is a great example of what a Windows notebook should be...fast, easy-to-use and a miser on battery life...It's also inexpensive: nearly 50% less than some comparable notebooks."

WINDOWS MAGAZINE, Transcontinental Portable, 9/95

The WinBook Intel486 SX-25, DX-33 & DX2-50 SL Enhanced Features

Ergonomically engineered & designed by award-winning Palo Alto Design
The WinBook's unique ergonomic features include a sloping wrist rest and keyboard with full-size keys, plus a cornered, dual-button trackball—allowing you to work in total comfort away from your desk.

Clear, sharp color display gives you near-active matrix quality at a passive matrix price!
Images are sharper and cleaner with less cursor loss. And the WinBook's advanced dual-scan color display gives you 99% shadow-free performance compared to other single-scan passive matrix displays. You get a brighter, crisper, wider angle of view with an 18:1 contrast ratio—compared to 13:1 with previous passive matrix technology.

Longer battery life
The WinBook features NiMH 2200 MA batteries with gold-plated contacts, allowing it to run much longer than units with traditional NiCAD batteries—and there's no memory effect!

The WinBook offers you more features for less!
- 9600 baud send/4800 baud receive fax/2400 baud modem
- Industry-standard type II PCMCIA slot
- 512k video RAM
- Fast-acting LCD screen
- Built-in centered dual-button trackball

Docking station gives you desktop power!
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First Runner-Up
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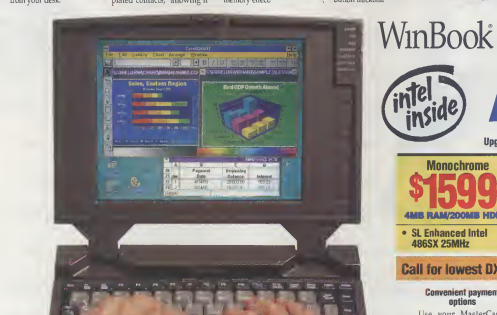
Portable Computing Issue, August '93



WinBook

intel inside

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- 30-day unconditional money-back guarantee.
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WinBook COMPUTER CORPORATION
a subsidiary of Micro Electronics Inc.

SX & DX Specifications

Size/Weight
- 11" x 8 5/8" x 1 3/4"
- 6# monochrome 5.4# with battery
- 6# with DX dual-scan color 5.9# with battery

Pointing Device
- 95mm Alps dual-button Microsoft compatible trackball

Battery
- SX 25 - up to 2 hours with power management; over 5 hours with auxiliary power option (less 30 minutes per hour)
- DX 33 - over 2 hours with power management; up to 5 hours with auxiliary power option
- 16MB (no memory effect)
- Rechargeable auto-trickling AC adapter

Processor and Memory
- SX: Intel upgradable to DX 25MHz
- DX: Intel 33MHz 486DX/487SX
- RAM 4MB upgradable to 32MB
- Price Down Option for 4MB original
- SL-enhanced option

Drives
- 3.5-inch 1.44MB/2.0 Floppy Drive
- Internal 200MB (1.6"high) hard drive

Software
- Current loaded with MS-DOS and Microsoft Windows

Display
- SX: monochrome, screen-twisted dual-scan (STN) LCD
- DX and DX2-50: dual-scan STN color display LCD
- 640x480 resolution
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They're Cute, but Can You Type?

Small doesn't mean productive. Notes from the Usability Labs.

How's your . . . tap, tap . . . typing . . . tap, tap, tap? How many words per minute, typos per line? Sooner or later usability translates into productivity, and *PC/Computing*'s Usability Labs set out to find just how productive you can be using the subnotebooks in this roundup. Our testing scientifically determines how useful and easy to learn products are with repeatable, statistically significant results.

Our testers spent five hours with each system, working from a script developed by our in-house usability experts. Each subnotebook received a numerical rating based half on tester satisfaction and half on the number of usability problems that surfaced during testing. A score of 80 or higher earns *PC/Computing*'s Usability Seal of Approval. Testers considered not only size, dimensions, and portability, but also the intuitiveness and ease of setting controls, attaching floppy drives, installing PCMCIA cards, and reconfiguring power-management settings. They rated displays according to brightness, color saturation and quality, resolution, and viewing angles—in both direct sunlight and under headache-inducing fluorescent lights. Keyboards and pointing devices were rated according to both timed tests and to testers' general impressions. After many weeks, the results revealed which subnotebooks won't slow you down.

PC Computing USABILITY APPROVED

SCORE: 84

TOSHIBA PORTÉGÉ T3400CT

The pointing device combines the best of both worlds: IBM's ThinkPad and Apple's PowerBook. Its 7.8-inch active-matrix display is small but glorious. Subtle refinements earned the keyboard raves from usability testers.

Keyboards, trackballs, and displays shown actual size. (For trackball positions, see reviews starting on page 120.)

PC Computing DISABILITY APPROVED

SCORE: 80

ASPEN 486 COLOR SUBNOTE

A lower-mounted, pea-sized trackball is awkward, but at least you can rest your wrists while using it. The display is very bright but could be more responsive. Its wide keyboard spacing won't crowd your hands, but the keys don't snap.

PC Computing DISABILITY APPROVED

SCORE: 80

SAGER MIDERN NP-440C

The tiny side-mounted mouse button may cramp your fingers, but testers liked its location. The display, like that on its twin from Aspen, is more than bright, but it's sluggish. Its notebook-sized keyboard won't slow down typing.

SCORE: 75

TWINHEAD SUBNOTE 4DX2/40S

The oddly placed trackball (it's above the keyboard) is hard to reach—and hard to control. Dual-scan technology would help this bright but slow screen. The SubNote's QWERTY keys are full-sized and well-spaced.

SCORE: 73

MIDWEST MICRO ELITE 486SX/33 COLOR SUBNOTE

The front-and-center trackball borrows from Apple's PowerBook design. The dual-scan passive-matrix display gives active-matrix a run for its money. But testers panned the cramped, unresponsive keyboard.

Lightweight Nomads That Keep on Going

In battery life and performance, color subnotebooks shine.

They may be small, but they don't skimp on essentials. In battery tests, Toshiba's Portégé T3400CT was the clear leader thanks to its innovative lithium-ion battery technology. The Portégé doesn't have an external keyboard adapter, so we couldn't run the Ziff-Davis Undigit test, which feeds keystrokes to the system at regular intervals to simulate actual use. Instead, we used our more rigorous Rundown battery test, which exercises all of a portable's components until the battery runs out.

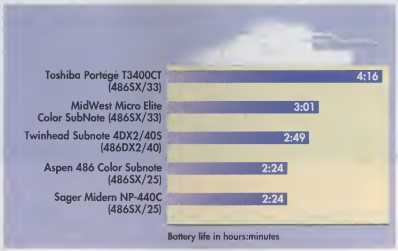
The result? The Portégé outlasted all the other subnotebooks by a full hour—and its actual battery life with power-management features on is likely to be even higher. MidWest Micro's Elite 486SX/33 came in a distant but respectable second with 3 hours in the Undigit tests using nickel-metal hydride batteries.

In performance as in battery life, these subnotebooks held their own. Processors ranged from basic 25MHz 486SXs to a speedy 40MHz 486DX2 in Twinhead's SubNote 4DX2/40S. Performance has less to do with raw CPU speed, however, than with clever engineering and design. MidWest Micro's Elite, with its 33MHz 486, beat out Twinhead's SubNote easily, despite the Twinhead's faster processor and local-bus video design.

These boxes are surprisingly expandable. Kudos to MidWest Micro for its 520MB hard drive option and to Aspen and Sager for shipping their systems with 8MB of RAM, yet keeping prices well below $2,500. Our only wish is that they offered bigger hard drives; 120MB isn't much, even for a subnotebook.

THE CROSS-COUNTRY BATTERY CHALLENGE

Toshiba's Portégé T3400CT tops 4 hours—your mileage may vary.



Thanks to its innovative lithium-ion battery technology, Toshiba's Portégé T3400CT substantiolly outlasted the other color subnotebooks.

WHAT FITS INSIDE A COLOR SUBNOTEBOOK?

PCMCIA slots, capacious hard drives, and acres of RAM.

	Aspen 486 Color Subnote	MidWest Micro Elite 486SX/33 Color SubNote	Sager Midern NP-440C	Toshiba Portégé T3400CT	Twinhead SubNote 4DX2/405
SPECIFICATIONS					
Price	$2,145	$2,999	$2,070	$3,999	$2,395
Processor	486SX/25	486SX/33	486SX/25	486SX/33	486DX2/40
Memory (config. tested/max.)	8MB/20MB	4MB/12MB	8MB/20MB	4MB/20MB	4MB/20MB
Hord drive (config. tested/max.)	120MB/120MB	340MB/520MB	120MB/120MB	120MB/120MB	120MB/170MB
Display type	Possive motrix	Dual-scan possive matrix	Passive matrix	Active matrix	Passive matrix
Diogonol screen size	8 inches	9.5 inches	8 inches	7.8 inches	7.6 inches
BULK AND HEFT					
Dimensions	11 by 7 by 1.5 inches	10.4 by 7.8 by 1.3 inches	11 by 7 by 1.5 inches	9.9 by 7.9 by 1.8 inches	10 by 7.1 by 1.6 inches
Weight	4 pounds	3.9 pounds	4 pounds	4.4 pounds	4 pounds
Traveling weight (including AC adapter and external floppy)	6 pounds	5.2 pounds	6 pounds	6.5 pounds	5 pounds
EXPANDABILITY					
PCMCIA slots	1 Type II	1 Type II	1 Type II	1 Type II	1 Type II
Docking station	●	○	●	○	○

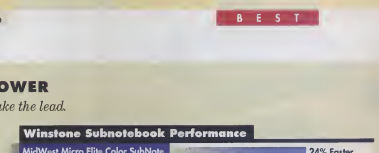
● Yes ○ No

B E S T

FOUR POUNDS OF POWER

MidWest Micro and Toshiba take the lead.

Faster processors mean faster performance, right? Not exactly. The performance differences between these subnotebooks are less dramatic than you might expect, given the different processors used. Twinhead's SubNote 4DX2/40S sports accelerated local-bus video and the fastest CPU of any machine in this roundup, yet was slowest in our Winstone application benchmark tests. MidWest Micro's system proved fastest of the bunch, followed by Toshiba's Portégé.



Note: Winstone is a system-level benchmark that runs 12 of the most popular Windows business applications and delivers a score based on their combined performance.

MidWest Micro's system proved fastest of running Windows applications.

How Small Are They Really?

Don't forget the AC adapter and external floppy drive.

MIDWEST MICRO ELITE 486SX/33 COLOR SUBNOTE
10.4 by 7.8 by 1.3 inches
System weight: 3.9 pounds
Traveling weight: 5.2 pounds

TOSHIBA PORTÉGÉ T3400CT
9.9 by 7.9 by 1.8 inches
System weight: 4.4 pounds
Traveling weight: 6.5 pounds

And you think some of your neurotic friends carry around baggage. With subnotebooks, bulky power adapters and accessories often accompany otherwise trim portables. One welcome exception: the AC adapter on Toshiba's Portégé T3400CT. It's no bigger than a slim TV remote control, and it takes up no room at all.

ASPEN 486 COLOR SUBNOTE
SAGER MIDERN NP-440C
11 by 7 by 1.5 inches
System weight: 4 pounds
Traveling weight: 6 pounds

TWINHEAD SUBNOTE 4DX2/40S
10 by 7.1 by 1.6 inches
System weight: 4 pounds
Traveling weight: 5 pounds

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ASPEN 486 COLOR SUBNOTE

Four-Pound 486 for Two Grand

A middling performer—but the price is superb.

Bottom line: A bargain hunter's dream—if you can live with slow performance.
Usability: Bright but sluggish display; big keyboard keys but pulpy response.
High points: Prices guaranteed to make the competition sweat.
Low points: Lackluster performance and battery life.

Where does Aspen Computer get off selling a 25MHz 486SX color subnotebook for $2,145? It's a complete system, too: 8MB of RAM, expandable to 20MB, plus a 120MB hard drive and one PCMCIA Type II slot. The low price will bring beads of perspiration to competitors' foreheads.

There's a lot to like about Aspen's 486 Color Subnote, starting with its slender, 1½-inch height and bright 8-inch display. Backlighting is more than adequate, although we wouldn't mind faster refresh rates and richer color saturation. A dual-scan display would help immensely.

The size and spacing of the keys is superb, and we appreciate the full-size Backspace and Enter keys. Unfortunately, keyboard response is mushy and key travel is short. At least it doesn't clatter. A longer throw and a little more snap would put it in the big leagues.

A tiny trackball sits at the lower right of the keyboard with mouse buttons on the side of the machine. Unlike trackballs situated above the keyboard, this one allows you to rest your hand on your tray table or desk as you chase your cursor around the screen. Don't get overjoyed, however; it's small and forces your hand into a cramped position. It drew mixed reviews from our Usability Labs.

The Aspen 486 Color Subnote's performance could be better, but there's plenty of room for expandability. In addition to parallel, serial, and VGA ports, there's an integrated PS/2 keyboard/mouse port and a connector for a docking station (only $195)—or you can buy the $95 port replicator. The hard drive is removable, although we'd like to see a 200MB option added to the 80MB and 120MB versions currently available.

We suppose there are other nits to pick with the Aspen, but with prices starting at $1,895, it deserves a very serious look. Ditto its identical twin, Sager's NP-440C.

486 Color Subnote • $2,145 • Aspen Computer • P.O. Box 346, Buffalo, NY 14231 • (800) 472-3273, (716) 626-0315
Circle No. 652 on Reader Service Card

MIDWEST MICRO ELITE 486SX/33 COLOR SUBNOTE

Big, Bright Color That Dazzles

The fastest of the bunch—and a battery that won't quit.

Bottom line: Beautiful dual-scan passive screen—and affordable too.
Usability: Big screen, sharp color; PowerBook-inspired trackball; lifeless, cramped keyboard.
High points: Brilliant dual-scan color, outstanding performance, and *looong* (no less than 3 hours) battery life.
Low points: A mushy keyboard that will tie your fingers in knots.

MidWest Micro would like you to know just how serious it is about color portables. It offers not one, but two color subnotebooks. Its Elite Color SubNote line comes with either a 9½-inch dual-scan passive matrix display for $2,999, or an 8½-inch active-matrix display for $3,999.

Both are radiant, bright, and crisp—some of the best subnotebook screens we've seen. In fact, we'd take the passive-matrix model with its larger display area, longer battery life (by nearly one hour), and cheaper price, primarily because its quality is so good. Also, it thwarts nosy passengers sitting beside you on airplanes because it's impossible to read passive-matrix screens from an angle.

Its performance wails, thanks to a 33MHz 486SX CPU. It nosed ahead of Toshiba's Portégé T3400CT as the fastest entry in our roundup. With 4MB of RAM expandable to 12MB, one PCMCIA Type II slot, a separate proprietary memory slot, and five hard drive options that include 340MB and 520MB capacities (hallelujah!), MidWest Micro's Elite is not a machine for sissies.

Ergonomics borrow heavily from Apple's stellar PowerBook line. A large center-mounted trackball sits just below the keyboard with big, crescent-moon mouse buttons above and below. Your hands need not leave the keyboard to operate the mouse. The unused space on each side of the trackball provides excellent wrist rests.

Keyboard spacing, however, is unpleasantly tight with undersized Backslash, Tab, and function keys to accommodate a column of document-control keys. While key travel is long, keyboard response is akin to typing in pudding. And why no docking station? Never mind. The Elite's gorgeous display, long battery life, and blistering performance give it an edge that competitors will have trouble catching.

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- 81-key keyboard w/integrated TrackPoint II
- PCMCIA slot
- IBM DOS preinstalled
- 1-year international traveler's warranty[2]

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SAGER MIDERN NP-440C

Four-Pound Color Bargain

Twin of the Aspen—in more ways than one.

Bottom line: The NP-440C's price is irresistible—we just wish it were faster.
Usability: Front-mounted trackball works better than expected; big, mushy keyboard.
High points: Low price, even though it has all of the bells and whistles.
Low points: Sluggish video and system performance; unimpressive battery life.

No, you're not seeing double. Sager Midern's NP-440C is the same as Aspen's 486 Color Subnote. Size up both by price, warranty, options, and service before you buy.

Either way, you'll get a lot of machine for your greenbacks. Like its twin, the NP-440C has a bright, but sluggish screen. An excellent keyboard layout is shortchanged by poor responsiveness. And the tiny trackball, situated in the lower-right corner of the keyboard (sorry, southpaws), at least allows your wrist to rest.

The NP-440C's keyboard layout and spacing deserve high marks because of the machine's 11-inch length—the size of a full-sized notebook. Although it's only an inch or so longer than Toshiba's Portégé T3400CT and Twinhead's SubNote 4DX2/40S, don't expect to stash it in a purse or side-pocket of a crammed briefcase. Its 7-inch width, on the other hand, approximates the size of a hardcover book and will let you sneak it into places where other subnotebooks can't fit.

Like Aspen's 486 Color Subnote, performance and battery life on the NP-440C are middling, but its general design solicited high praise from our Usability Labs—especially for the ease with which you can change system settings and configurations. One big drawback: an AC adapter that's too large.

Still, the system's expandability is outstanding. It has a full complement of ports, including a PS/2 mouse/keyboard adapter. There's a connector for a docking station, and the hard drive is removable.

Unfortunately, this great expandability is undercut by limited hard drive options. When you call, be sure to express great disappointment that you can only get a 120MB hard drive. No doubt larger capacities are in the works because the drive is removable.

NP-440C • $2,070 • Sager Midern Computer • 18005 Cortney Ct., City of Industry, CA 91748 • (800) 669-1624, (818) 964-8682
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TOSHIBA PORTÉGÉ T3400CT

A New Level of Innovation

In looks and design, the Portégé T3400CT sets the standard.

Bottom line: Expensive, but the best color subnotebook you can buy today. Period.
Usability: Refined keyboard; pointing device recalls IBM's TrockPoint II; dozzling disploy.
High points: Sizzling performonce, spectoculor color, ond revolutionary bottery life. Are we forgetting something?
Low points: High price; o holf-pound heavier thon most.

Should one of Toshiba's Portégé T3400CT systems drop onto your desk, type Arthur C. Clarke's famous phrase as fast as you can: "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." Notice how your fingers drop squarely onto the right keys despite their tight spacing. Key response is soft and silent, urging your fingers onto the next key and the next sentence. Words fly.

The keyboard is classic Toshiba, but the pointing device is brand-spanking new—borrowed half from IBM's TrackPoint II pointing stick and half from the wrist rest and mushroom-cap mouse buttons on Apple's PowerBooks. Here's a little secret: Nobody likes any pointing-stick technology at first; just about everyone likes it after two months. Here's another secret: Toshiba has done a better job than IBM on the device driver that controls the pointer.

Not surprisingly, Toshiba's Portégé is also a feast for your eyes. Its smallish (7.8-inch) active-matrix display is bright and beautiful, and is powered by Western Digital's RocketChip video controller on a VESA local bus.

The Portégé was not only the first subnotebook to feature an active-matrix display, it was also the first to run off lithium-ion batteries. With a battery life of over 4 hours—more than one hour longer than any other machine we tested—the Portégé is the first subnotebook that can keep you working through a transcontinental flight.

At 4.4 pounds, the Portégé weighs a half-pound more than the other subnotebooks we reviewed. But its AC adapter is about the size of a TV remote control. Its performance is second only to MidWest Micro's Elite 486SX/33 SubNote. And its usability, battery life, and sculpted good looks are second to none.

Portégé T3400CT • $3,999 • Toshiba America Information Systems • P.O. Box 19724, Irvine, CA 92713 • (800) 334-3445, (714) 583-3000
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TWINHEAD SUBNOTE 4DX2/40S

A Svelte and Solid Classic

But its design and performance leave room for improvement.

Bottom line: A solid contender, but its performance lags.
Usability: Small enough to take anywhere.
High points: Check out the small size and crisp keyboard.
Low points: Dinky, slow screen; putt-putt performance; mediocre battery life.

Give Twinhead's SubNote 4DX2/40S some credit. As little as a year ago, it brought together enough features in a 4-pound package to help legitimize subnotebooks as serious business machines.

Now outfitted with Intel's new 40MHz 486DX2, and sporting a relatively small 7.6-inch passive-matrix color screen, the SubNote has kept pace with leading technologies, even if it is beginning to seem a little shopworn.

To our surprise, performance on the SubNote lagged behind both Aspen's 486 Color Subnote and Sager Midern's NP-440C, both of which use 25MHz 486SX CPUs. The SubNote comes with local-bus video and a fast video chip set. Screen refreshes seemed slow, owing largely to the single-scan display design. The display is small but bright—a welcome improvement over virtually any monochrome screen of its size.

We like the SubNote's diminutive size—it was the smallest of the machines we tested. It takes up only half of a briefcase compartment. Even so, the SubNote packs a full set of ports, including a PS/2 keyboard/mouse port and a proprietary port for a fax modem so that you can use your PCMCIA slot for other things.

We also like the LCD panel mounted to the right of the display. Intelligible icons replace the indecipherable flashing lights most portables use. It's a design the other manufacturers should emulate.

Size and spacing of the QWERTY keys is quite good. To fit them in the SubNote's form factor, function keys are tiny and there are no independent document control keys—sacrifices we're happy to make. A tiny trackball sits in the upper-right corner of the machine, forcing you to keep your hand up so that it doesn't inadvertently rest on other keys when you're using it. A redesign is in order.

Otherwise the SubNote still retains its shrewd design. We'd like to see more pep in the upgrade and better battery life. But its form factor can't be beat.

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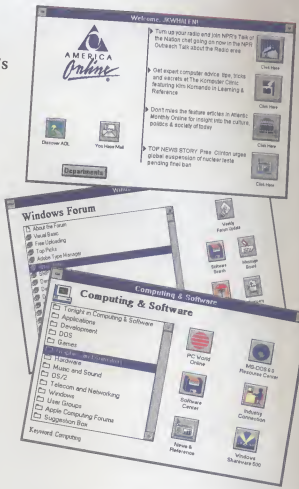

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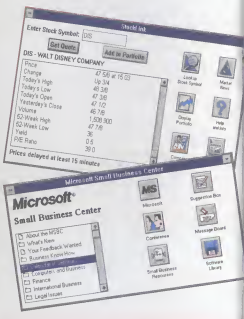

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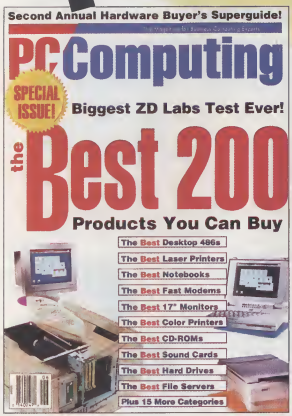

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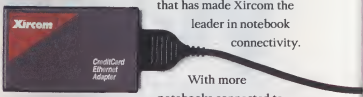

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FINAL ANALYSIS

The Secret of a Choice Subnotebook

Forget feature wars, usability is what counts.

As 7-pound notebooks continue to evolve into full-powered desktop PCs, most of us are searching for simpler travel tools. Subnotebooks fill that role nicely but require a shift in sensibility: less emphasis on engineering feats and more on the human dimension of computing. Other questions we answered:

Are color subnotebooks worth the premium over monochrome systems? What premium? With a price gap of as little as $450, there's little reason not to buy color. When working in a graphical interface on a 7½- to 9-inch display, you need as much information on the screen as you can get. Color brings out the details and subtle distinctions that otherwise get lost. It's easy on the eyes and keeps productivity at its peak. Toshiba's Portégé T3400CT is living proof—its bright active-matrix color display beats what you'll find on most notebooks.

Are active-matrix displays always better than passive-matrix? As yet, nothing beats the performance and color saturation of active-matrix technology. But you'll pay in the ballpark of $1,000 for it. For business presentations and graphics, there's no alternative. For those on a budget, dual-scan passive-matrix displays won't disappoint and are much brighter than the single-scan variety.

Is short battery life the trade-off for portability? Toshiba's Portégé lasts more than four hours, which is as good as any 7-pound notebook can offer. How? Its lithium-ion batteries—the first used in a portable PC—provide a longer charge for the weight. Look for this and other battery technologies to appear in other subnotebooks this year.

What's the secret to buying a subnotebook? Forget feature sets. Focus on usability. Unlike their bigger notebook siblings, subnotebooks aren't desktop replacements. The size, quality, and brightness of the display, and the spacing, layout, and response of the keyboard more clearly determine how productive you'll be when using a subnotebook. And in the case of Toshiba's outstanding Portégé T3400CT—the clear winner in this group—you get both. ◩

THE POWERBOOK'S LESSON

Like Toshiba's Portégé, we like the Duo 270c for its basics.

Apple's PowerBook Duo 270c embodies the basic rules of usability.

Stroll through the cabin on your next business flight, and you'll inevitably spy two Apple PowerBook Dua 270c systems for every Windows notebook. You just know that most of thase Duo users are running Windows back at the office. What gives? Herein lies a lesson in usability.

The Duo's 8.4-inch screen isn't huge. But its 16-bit active-matrix color brings the 4.8-paund subnotebook an unsurpassed level of usability, primarily because a graphical interface—any graphical interface—demands color. Armies of namadic business people swarmed toward the Duo, including many Windaws mavens fed up with notebaak feature wars who simply wanted samething lightweight, easy to type on, and easy to read.

The Duo's lesson was not lost on Toshiba. Certainly, we love the fast local-bus video, long-lasting lithium-ian batteries, and other technological wizardry under the Portégé T3400CT's hood. But ultimately, we like the Duo for its basics: a superior screen and keyboard, and an integrated painting device you can actually use.

PowerBook Duo 270c • $3,099 • Apple Computer • 20525 Mariani Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014 • (800) 776-2333, (408) 996-1010
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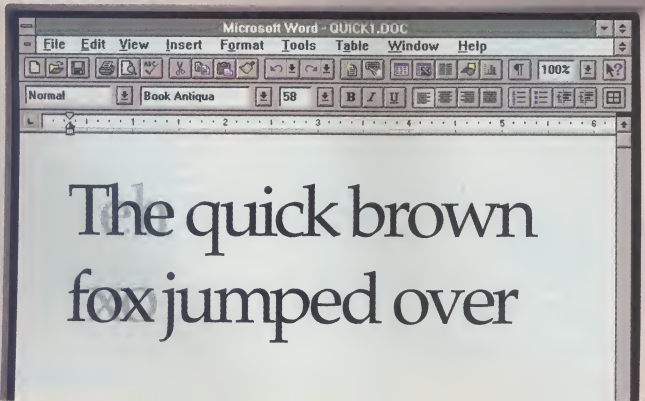

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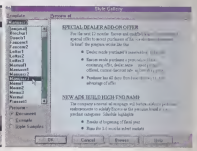

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AutoCorrect can only be found in new Microsoft® Word 6.0 for Windows™, part of the new Microsoft Office.* And it's just one sample of a whole new way to work.

We built in intelligence.

Great features like AutoCorrect are a direct result of our exclusive new IntelliSense™ technology. IntelliSense makes complex jobs easier, and everyday jobs automatic.

With AutoFormat, professional-looking formats are yours instantly. Just write your document, then let AutoFormat apply styles, bullets or headings. With a click.

More integrated than ever.

Until now, software has never truly brought your work all together.

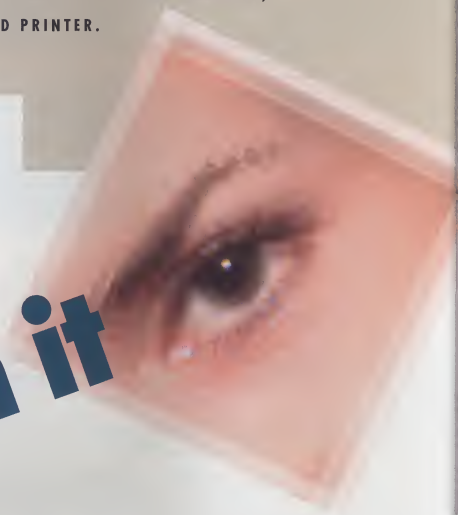
To see for yourself why Word has become the most popular word processor in the world, hurry and visit your local reseller, or call (800) 426-9400, Dept. KT8, to find one near you.

You'll look your best faster than you can turn a page. Even if you misspell now and again.

Microsoft® Office

*Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint®, Microsoft Access®, and Microsoft Mail are all part of the Microsoft Office family of programs. Microsoft Office Professional, shown here, includes Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Microsoft Access and a workstation license for Microsoft Mail (server and software acquired separately). In the 50 United States, call (800) 426-9400, Dept. KT8. In Canada, call (800) 563-9048. Outside the U.S. and Canada, call your local Microsoft subsidiary or (206) 936-8661. © 1994 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Microsoft, PowerPoint and Microsoft Access are registered trademarks and IntelliSense and Windows are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. WordPerfect is a registered trademark of WordPerfect Corporation

CREATE THAT COLOR PROPOSAL YOURSELF? YOU CAN DO IT IN HOUSE WITH THE RIGHT SCANNER, IMAGE EDITOR, AND PRINTER.



Scan it

No doubt about it, if you're selling an idea, it sells best in color. Sure, it's more work. But when that image-laden color proposal draws rave reviews from Smugton Loud and the rest of the VPs, you won't regret doing the extra work. Besides, color documents are becoming the rule, not the exception.

The good news: Vibrant color documents peppered with splashy images are more affordable than ever, thanks to a new generation of color scanners, friendly image editors, and speedy color printers. For the first time, you don't have to be a graphics pro to

generate color documents that get noticed. You just need the right tools for the job.

We put the best of these products to the test, and our findings might surprise you. Are single-pass scanners better than triple-pass scanners? Which high-end image editor doesn't require a degree in fine arts to use? Can you afford a color printer? How much time does it really take to dress up a document? Our usability and performance tests debunk myths and point to the best product in each category.

Better yet, we'll prove that you don't have to spend a fortune to get million-dollar results. If you go with our No. 1 picks in each category—Hewlett-Packard's ScanJet IIcx scanner, Micrografx's Picture Publisher 4.0 editing software, and Tektronix's Phaser IISDX printer—expect to pay about $12,000 for a top-of-the-line color graphics solution. We'll also offer budget-conscious choices that give you adequate color scanning, editing, and printing for about half that price.

The bottom line: It's easier than you think to do away with drab, text-only, monochrome documents and produce results-getting color ones. It's all just a matter of time and money. You probably won't spend much more of either before you get colorful.

Here's why. . . .

STEP 1

SCAN IT

No need to start from scratch. Take those great-looking photographs and pop them into your PC with a new-generation color scanner. TWAIN-compliant means it's guaranteed to work with your image editor.

A best-of breed color scanner is a luxury item, right? Wrong. Color scanner prices have plummeted so far in the past year that less than $1,000 now buys you a workable solution. And if you're willing to spend a little more, you'll get all of the bells and whistles. In addition to price, your buying decision will depend on key issues like optical resolution, bit depth, interpolation, and single-pass vs. triple-pass technologies. The final choice comes down to this: Which product gets graphics and text into your PC most clearly, accurately, and quickly?

TWAIN-compliant color flatbed scanners with horizontal scanning resolutions of 300 to 400 dots per inch (dpi) are the closest thing to a one-size-fits-all imaging device. With equal ease they go from scanning line art, or color or grayscale photographs to reading text for OCR.

We put ten such scanners through their paces at ZD Labs. We tested Tamarack Technologies' ArtiScan 8000C, AVR Technology's AVR 6600/CLX and AVR 8800/CLX, Envisions Solutions Technology's Envisions ENV8100, Epson's ES-800C Pro PC Scanning System, Hewlett-Packard's ScanJet IIcx, Microtek's ScanMaker IISP and ScanMaker IIXE, and Umax Technologies' ScanOffice/C for Windows and Umax UC-840.

We sized up the scanner control software's ease of use, conducted speed trials, and evaluated the quality of a scanner's interpolated resolution and color output. To determine which scanner produces the best color graphics, we called upon color production professionals to evaluate the output samples. See "Showing Their True Colors," page 138, for the results.

DEBUNKING A FEW MYTHS

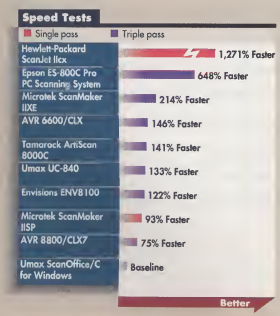
Our test results proved that several commonly held conceptions about scanners aren't necessarily true:

Myth 1: Single-pass scanners are faster than triple-pass models. Wrong and wrong again. Of the ten scanners in our roundup, eight were triple-pass models and two were single-pass models. While the fastest scanner—HP's ScanJet IIcx—was a single-pass model, the next six in the speed trials were triple-pass models. And eighth in the race was Microtek's ScanMaker IISP, a single-pass model.

SINGLE-PASS OR TRIPLE-PASS SCANNERS?

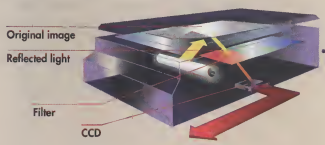
Speed isn't the big issue, but wear and tear is.

Our lab tests proved that single-pass scanners—which are usually more expensive—are not necessarily quicker than triple-pass models. While HP's single-pass ScanJet IIcx was the one to beat, Microtek's single-pass ScanMaker IISP was slower than six of the triple-pass scanners. Single-pass does offer one advantage: less wear on the scanner because the motor does less work. The baseline scanner took over two minutes to input an image in Photoshop.



TRIPLE PASS

Reflected light bounces off the image and is read by light-sensitive cells called charge-caupled devices (CCDs). In triple-pass scanning, light reflects off the image and passes through a red, green, or blue filter onto the CCD. After all three colors have been scanned in, the scans are superimposed to create the final image.



A triple-pass model obviously does three times the work for the same output as a single-pass model, but a scanner has to do more than just capture the image. It must superimpose the red, green, and blue layers; convert analog data to digital format; and transmit color signals to the PC. The more efficiently these tasks are handled, the faster the scan (see "Single-Pass or Triple-Pass Scanners?" below).

Myth 2: Single-pass scanners produce better color scans than triple-pass models. Marketing hype and a cursory glance at the technology make many people favor single-pass scanners for color fidelity and image quality. They shouldn't when it comes to nonprofessional scanners like those we tested. In our color fidelity jury testing, single-pass scanners were outdone by Envisions' triple-pass ENV8100.

The bottom line on single-pass vs. triple-pass? If you do reject triple-pass scanners, do it because you're suspicious of wear-and-tear on the scanner's motor—don't blame it on technical inferiority.

Myth 3: You can fix a bad scan with good software. This is true up to a point, but why go to the trouble? Many scanners optimize global settings as you scan. For example, Umax's TWAIN control software has a button you can use to change the brightness and contrast of your prescanned image to optimum levels.

Myth 4: The highest resolution is the best. Wrong. First, if you scan pictures at 400 dpi instead of 300, all that improves is your chance of running out of disk space, because higher-resolution images produce larger files. You don't need that much information to print to a 300-dpi laser printer or work on a scan in your image editor—it will just slow your system.

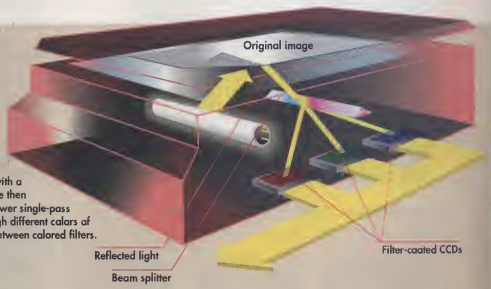
Second, if you use interpolation, the software used by these scanners to increase the true scanned resolution varies wildly in its results. Interpolation algorithms add pixels between the dots actually scanned by the hardware, but the software's intelligence varies from case to case.

Myth 5: The more colors, the better. Using 24-bit mode when you're scanning an image with only three colors could increase the file size by ten times. You can postprocess an over-scanned image using an image editor (see "Edit It," page 140), but save yourself time by scanning at optimum color bit-depth levels. The better scanning programs determine the optimum bit-depth level automatically during the prescanning process.

—MATTHEW LAKE

SINGLE-PASS

There are several single-pass scanning techniques—some slower than others. The fastest uses a beam splitter to break the white-light reflection of the scanned image into three beams, which are then read through separate CCD transistors coated with a red, green, or blue filter. These are then combined into a single image. Slower single-pass techniques include strobing through different colors of light, and line-by-line switching between colored filters.



Sensational Color Scanners

	Image Quality and Performance	Pros and Cons
ArtiScan 8000C $1,095	Rated last on grayscale jury, and performed poarly an interpalatian test. Middle af the pack on speed tests.	Pras: 400-by-800-dpi aptical scanning, chaice of Photoshop or PhataStyler. Cans: Can't crap image or adjust threshald.
AVR 6600/CLX $1,099	Rated neor the battam on colar jury test, and scared poarly an groyscole jury. Average perfarmer an speed tests.	Pros: File size indicated in prescon selectian. Cons: No interface kit, limited softwore: na prescan buffer, color preview, ar zoom.
AVR 8800/CLX $1,249	Secand on grayscale image jury, ond poor rating an calar jury. Slaw performance on speed tests.	Pras: 400-by-800-dpi interpolated to 1,600 dpi. Cans: Na interface kit, limited saftwore, slow perfarmance.
Envisions ENV8100 $999	Rated taps an calar jury and third an grayscale jury, but last an interpolatian tests. Abaut average on speed tests.	Pros: Low price, includes Photoshap, TextBridge (OCR), and camprehensive saftware. Cans: Paar documentatian, paar interpolotion.
Epson ES-800C Pro PC Scanning System $1,499	Winner an grayscale jury, ond middle of the pack on calar jury. Distant second on speed tests.	Pros: Includes Picture Publisher, supparts data campressian, gaad documentatian. Cons: High price, preset gamma adjustment anly.
BEST ScanJet IIcx $1,179	Roted faurth on color jury; taps on resolvobility and interpalation. Won speed tests by a mile.	Pras: Law price, includes PhataStyler, gaad interpolotion. Supports data campression. Cans: Na threshold adjustment.
ScanMaker IISP $799 (street price)	Roted third an calar jury ond abave overage an grayscale jury. Slaw performance an speed tests.	Pras: Law price, includes Phatashap, good colar. Cans: Proprietary SCSI, na prescan zaam, paar documentatian, difficult to install.
ScanMaker IIXE $1,299	Perfarmed well on interpalatian test, but roted paarly on calar jury and grayscale jury. Taak third ploce an speed tests.	Pras: Includes Photoshop, good documentatian. Cons: Lockluster scans.
ScanOffice/C for Windows $895	Rated warst an interpolotian, average an grayscale jury, ond secand an colar jury. Dead last an speed tests.	Pros: Law price, 600-dpi sconning, greot color, includes Picture Publisher. Cans: Slaw perfarmance, paar interpolation.
Umax UC-840 $1,175	Roted deod-last an calar jury ond second to last on groyscale, perfarmed paarly an interpalatian test ond average on speed tests.	Pras: 800-dpi sconning, includes Phatashap ar Picture Publisher. Cans: Poar color quality.

SHOWING THEIR TRUE COLORS

ArtiScan 8000C
Dark darks and subtly defined tones—overall a little toa muted, but with a good range.

AVR 6600/CLX
Fared paarly in colar jury tests. A little fuzziness that's OK if yau ga far the soft-facus appraach.

AVR 8800/CLX
Good calar range, but the averall image is marred by tao-bright brights and flat-laaking gradatians.

BEST COLOR

Envisions ENV8100
Well-lit, even-toned pictures. The colors, though not rich, are faithful and well-balanced.

Epson ES-800C Pra
Gaad colar fidelity, good cantrast, but dark shadows blacken aut before they shauld.

Bottom Line		How to Contact
Easy start, limited horizons. Easy installation doesn't make up for software with few options, poor grayscale scans, and jagged interpolated lines.		Tamarack Technologies (800) 643-0666, (408) 956-0144 Circle Reader Service No. 661
In the middle ground. Lackluster grayscale and color reproduction—although its solid OCR performance mitigates.		AVR Technology (800) 544-6243, (408) 434-1115 Circle Reader Service No. 662
Graded grays make the day. Only the high-quality grays and good optics (making for respectable OCR) distinguish this slow, muddy-color scanner.		AVR Technology (800) 544-6243, (408) 434-1115 Circle Reader Service No. 663
Perfect pictures, stellar software. High fidelity color and a comprehensive bundle of picture- and text-scanning software.		Envisions Solutions Technology (800) 365-7226, (415) 692-9061 Circle Reader Service No. 664
High quality, high cost. Sharing the OCR crown with HP, it's a respectable and speedy color and grayscale scanner.		Epson America (800) 289-3776, (310) 782-0770
Click, click, zoom! A drag racer among color scanners, HP is the easiest to use and install, and it's an OCR-crunching animal.		Hewlett-Packard (800) 752-0900, (303) 350-4000 Circle Reader Service No. 665
Brighter colors—eventually. One of the best three for top-quality scans—with excellent optics—but at a snail's pace.		Microtek Lab (800) 654-4160, (310) 297-5000 Circle Reader Service No. 666
Moderate speedster. Third place in speed—but despite clear text scans for OCR, colors and grays were dull.		Microtek Lab (800) 654-4160, (310) 297-5000 Circle Reader Service No. 667
Colors galore and a software smorgasbord. Covers all of the graphics and OCR bases for a song—but beware, it's slow.		Umax Technologies (800) 562-0311, (510) 651-8883 Circle Reader Service No. 668
Less for more. The UC-840's higher price tag and poor color quality make the ScanOffice/C for Windows a better value.		Umax Technologies (800) 562-0311, (510) 651-8883 Circle Reader Service No. 669

ScanJet IIcx
Subtle shadows, brilliant highlights, and a wide dynamic range, but skin tones tend toward blushing.

ScanMaker IISP
Bright, eye-pleasing colors with rich woods, shiny metallics, and brilliant fabric tones.

ScanMaker IIXE
A little too bright at the default settings, and it did poorly in color jury tests.

ScanOffice/C for Windows
Sharp scanned photographs with even tones and good color ranges.

Umax UC-840
Poor color ratings in jury tests. Unevenness of tone in default settings are overcome with autocontrast.

STEP 2

EDIT IT

You're off to a great start, but now it's time to get creative. Change that drab background, sharpen and rotate the images, and add some bold text—you can do it with the right image-editing software.

The image you scanned in to your PC is perfect—well, almost. The green background is a little on the sickly side, and there's a weird line across the lower left-hand corner where the photo was creased. Oh, and something that looks like spinach is stuck between the teeth of an otherwise dazzling smile—nothing a little image editing can't fix.

Whether you need to create a photo composition, jazz up an existing image, or simply retouch a photograph, an image-editing package is a vital tool. But you don't have to be a professional artist or designer to spurn programs that treat you like an amateur. Look for an image editor that provides TWAIN support so you don't have to hassle with scanner compatibility problems, masking tools so you can select areas of an image to edit or protect from editing, and the ability to produce color separations so you can prepare images for four-color printing.

So do you need to shell out nearly 900 bucks for a full-blown professional program like Adobe Photoshop, or would you be adequately served by the image-editing tools included in a graphics program that costs almost half as much? We compared seven products: Adobe's Photoshop 2.5 for Windows, Aldus's PhotoStyler 2.0 for Windows, and Micrografx's Picture Publisher 4.0, which are image editors; Fractal Design's Painter 2.0 with PainterX2 and Fauve Software's Fauve Matisse 1.25, which are primarily paint programs; and CorelDraw 4 and CPI's Image-In Professional 3.2, which are all-in-one graphics programs.

IMAGE CONSCIOUS

With each of these programs, we tackled common image-editing tasks: calibrating a monitor, scanning in an image, correcting the image's color, retouching the image, creating a color separation, and creating a proof.

Calibrating the monitor adjusts the display so that the color of the image that shows up onscreen is consistent with the color of the image that is scanned in or printed out. We looked at how easy or difficult the programs make this task, the sensitivity of the calibration controls, and the overall results.

Adjusting the color of a scanned image is one of the most common tasks you'll need your image editor to do.

PCComputing USABILITY APPROVED

THREE FOR THE USABILITY LABS

Which of the top image editors earn our seal?

While we evaluated a total of seven products—ranging from graphics programs to dedicated image editors—we limited our usability testing to the top three image editors.

The graphics prafessionals we brought inta the *PC/Computing* Usability Labs evaluated their level of satisfaction and productivity with Adobe Phatashop 2.5 for Windows, Aldus PhotoStyler 2.0 for Windows, and Micrografx Picture Publisher 4.0.

The programs rated clasely in averall productivity, but when it came ta intuitiveness, Photoshap and PhotoStyler rated substantially higher than Picture Publisher and ultimately scored high enough in aur usability category (80 and above) ta earn our Usability Seal of Approval. But in our overall features evaluation of the seven graphics products, including the image editors, Picture Publisher was the winner. It includes innovative features like floating objects, effects preview, and a macra recarder.

PHOTOSTYLER 2.0 FOR WINDOWS

"There's no time wasted searching for what options are available to use."

PCComputing USABILITY APPROVED SCORE: 85.4

Testers praised PhotoStyler's context-sensitive toolbar, which changes depending upon the tool selected.

You'll want the ability to adjust the image's overall color balance, individual color channels, hue, saturation, and lightness. All of the programs enable you to do this, but the best offer automatic options, as well as precise control and more than one way to achieve just the right balance.

What distinguishes these programs from each other is their ability to manipulate and edit images, or create new ones. Dedicated image editors typically offer more tools for altering existing images, while graphics programs specialize in creating new ones. Look for quality and variety in the selection of tools and filters for creating special effects. All of the programs we examined have such basic selection tools as rectangular, freehand, and elliptical, plus a magic wand tool for selecting color. Your program should also make it a breeze to extend or delete part of a selection area.

While a multitude of filters and selection tools is essential, the ability to create floating objects ups the ante. Floating objects are portions of an image that are independent of the background or other objects. Because they're independent, these elements can be easily manipulated, moved, and even layered. This revolutionary feature is provided only by Fauve Matisse 1.2, Fractal Design's Painter 2.0 with PainterX2, and Micrografx's Picture Publisher 4.0. Fauve Matisse 1.25 and Painter 2.0 go one further by allowing you to save floating objects for future use.

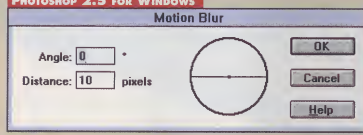
When it comes to outputting images, the ability to create color separations is a must. Beyond that, the package should include such print options as adjustable crop marks, color calibration bars, and registration marks.

Finally, look for extras that make working with unwieldy graphics files easier, such as image management, macro recording, and the capability to load and work on a portion of an image.

If you're also in the market for a scanner, note that the majority come with an image editor. Of the ten scanners we looked at (see "Scan It," page 136), eight come with a choice of Adobe's Photoshop, Aldus's PhotoStyler, or Micrografx's Picture Publisher. These professional-level packages offer comparable features, but how do they fare at usability? To find out we headed into *PC/Computing*'s Usability Labs for testing by six graphics professionals. To see which image editors earned our Usability Seal of Approval, see "Three for the Usability Labs," below.

—CHRISTINE GRECH

PHOTOSHOP 2.5 FOR WINDOWS

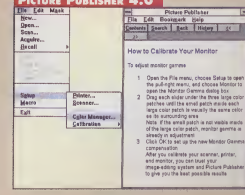


"I expected the best from Photoshop, and I got it."

Photoshop delivered results but some testers said there was room for improvement. Several wished for a preview feature when applying a filter like Motion Blur.

PCcomputing USABILITY APPROVED! SCORE: 88.3

PICTURE PUBLISHER 4.0



"You have to wade through three branches of the help tree before finding the calibration instructions."

All testers had difficulty calibrating their monitors because this menu item is grayed out unless a calibration file is loaded. Instructions for doing this were deeply buried in the online help.

SCORE: 75.1

Dynamic-STN color: Designed with greater contrast and improved color saturation, Toshiba's dual-scan display is noticeably pure and vibrant.

Rugged Design: Rounded corners and a tough lightweight casing are just a few of the details that make this notebook engineered to last.

TURN A LITTLE MONEY INTO A SOLID INVESTMENT.

Introducing the Ultra Affordable T1910 Series.

Our new Satellite Series notebook is light enough to go everywhere, yet rugged enough to come back in one piece. You'll find its ergonomic design and engineering make it extremely comfortable to use. A fast 33MHz SL Enhanced i486™SX processor gives you the power to blaze through programs. There's Toshiba's unique 14.5mm Type III PCMCIA slot for the ultimate in expansion possibilities. And a choice of sharp, brilliant displays, either color or monochrome. So get your hands on the new T1910 Series. It's got everything you want in a notebook. Advanced features. A tough, long-lasting design. And a great price. **Call 1-800-457-7777 for the Toshiba dealer nearest you.**

T1910
- 9.5" dia. monochrome STN-LCD display
- 120MB HDD
- 6.5 lbs.

T1910CS
- 9.5" dia. color Dynamic-STN dual-scan display
- 120/200MB HDD
- under 7 lbs.

BOTH MODELS
- 33MHz SL Enhanced Intel 486™SX, 3.3v
- 4MB RAM, upgradable to 20MB
- 8KB cache
- 14.5mm Type III PCMCIA slot (supports Type I, II, and III cards)
- BallPoint™ Mouse with QuickPort™
- NiMH battery for extended battery life with Toshiba MaxTime™ Power Management

In Touch with Tomorrow

TOSHIBA

Circle 215 on reader service card.

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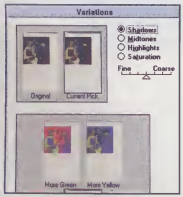
Image Editors: Special Effects Wizards

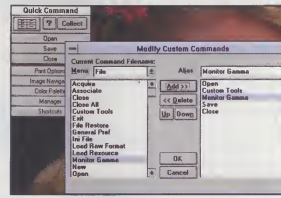
	Performance Notes	Pros and Cons
CorelDraw 4 $595	Previews on image but not on thumbnail when correcting color. Local undo lets you choose only some changes to undo when retouching image.	Pros: Low price; includes CD-ROM images; vector-based drawing, paint, animation. Cons: Limited selection tools, doesn't support floating objects.
Fauve Matisse 1.25 $199	Must load file to calibrate monitor, and no automatic preview is provided. Unable to print crop marks or registration bars when creating proofs.	Pros: Lowest price. Supports floating objects. Stamp feature with special effects. Cons: Limited prepress capabilities. Slider controls don't let you specify numeric values.
Image-In Professional 3.2 $795	Includes menu items for extending, deleting from, and intersecting selection areas. Easy to calibrate monitor.	Pros: Good selection and paste tools, includes OCR and vector drawing software. Cons: Doesn't support floating objects.
Painter 2.0 with PainterX2 $548	Numeric setting only when calibrating monitor. Limited color-correction options. Unable to print crop marks when creating proofs. Abundance of selection tools, called friskets.	Pros: Low price, extensive painting capabilities, supports floating objects. Cons: Limited color and monitor calibration, documentation, and printing options.
Photoshop 2.5 for Windows $895	Variations feature lets you see what image looks like when making color adjustments. Variety of filters for retouching image included, but no preview for them.	Pros: Widest hardware and software support, professional prepress capabilities. Cons: No image management tools or macro recorder, doesn't support floating objects.
PhotoStyler 2.0 for Windows $795	Has zoom feature to allow for better visual adjustment when calibrating monitor. Practice Pad lets you test tools and special effects on a portion of the image when retouching.	Pros: Load/edit partial images; supports floating objects; context-sensitive ribbon bar, image-management software. Cons: Lacks macro recorder.
BEST Picture Publisher 4.0 $595	Calibrate monitor option grayed out until specific file is loaded, and process isn't clearly explained in online help. Extending and deleting from selections is more time-consuming than in other programs. Preview for all effects.	Pros: Low price. Load/edit partial images or edit images at lower resolutions, supports floating objects, includes macro recorder and effects preview. Cons: Calibrating monitor isn't intuitive.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Custom tools are the signatures of the three image editors we tested.



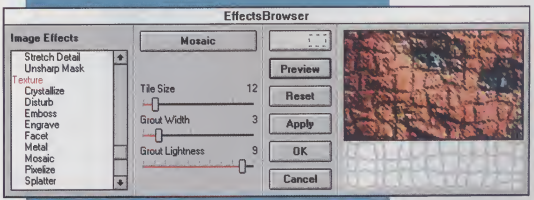
Photoshop 2.5 for Windows
The Variations feature lets you preview color adjustments and allows you to fine-tune them.



PhotoStyler 2.0 for Windows
Customize the Quick Command bar to save time you'd otherwise spend wading through menus.

Bottom Line		How to Contact
Everything for a sang. Perfect far the graphics dobbler, but if you're serious about image editing you'd do better with Picture Publisher for about the some price.		Corel Corporation (800) 772-6732, (613) 728-8200 Circle Reader Service No. 670
Budget painter for light editing. A good volue far the pointer who hos limited editing needs. If you require more muscle, go with Picture Publisher.		Fauve Software (800) 898-2787, (919) 380-9933 Circle Reader Service No. 671
Text editor. A good deol if you need OCR, but for image editing yau'd do better with PhotoStyler or Picture Publisher.		CPI Inc. (800) 345-3540, (415) 961-6556 Circle Reader Service No. 672
Ultimate painter, limited editar. For the creative painter with some image editing needs. If you need more power, opt for Picture Publisher.		Fractal Design Corp. (800) 297-2665, (408) 688-5300 Circle Reader Service No. 673
Cross-platform champ. Professionals willing to poy the price won't go wrong with its advanced options and ultimate hardwore and software support, including Moc compatibility.		Adobe Systems (800) 833-6687, (415) 961-4400 Circle Reader Service No. 674
Professional rival. For $100 less it delivers the some professional features as Photoshop, plus o few more. It won't disappoint.		Aldus Corp. (800) 333-2538, (206) 628-2320 Circle Reader Service No. 675
Best features for the best price. Delivers more tools and features than Photoshop and PhotoStyler for a cauple hundred dollors less.		Image[illegible] [illegible] Circle Reader Service No. [illegible]

BEST TOOLS



Picture Publisher 4.0
Picture Publisher 4.0's EffectsBrowser lets you quickly preview what special effects such as filters will look like when applied to an image.

PRINT IT

The proposal looks great, but you want to see the hard copy before your masterpiece is ready to make its debut. A state-of-the art color printer produces output you can count on.

After you've manipulated a scanned image to make it look just so, you're still not home free. You need to print it, and the output must look as close to the onscreen image as possible. That means you need the cream of the color printer crop. If you're under the impression that more money buys better output, read on. There are huge differences in color printer technology, and more money doesn't always mean better quality.

You're faced with a choice of four printing technologies: dye sublimation, color laser, solid ink, and thermal wax-transfer. (You'll notice that we've grouped dye sublimation and thermal wax-transfer together in the illustrations below. This is because they manipulate pages in similar ways, though they output different levels of color quality.) To help you choose the best technology for your needs, we evaluated six printers: Eastman Kodak's ColorEase PS and Tektronix's Phaser IISDX dye-sublimation printers; CalComp's ColorMaster Plus 6613 XF and QMS's ColorScript 230 thermal wax-transfer printers; Dataproducts' Jolt PSe solid-ink printer; and QMS's ColorScript 1000—the only desktop color laser printer currently available.

None of these printers comes cheap—the least-expensive of the bunch is the Jolt PSe at $4,995, and the ColorScript 1000 tops out at $12,499. But your costs don't stop with the purchase price. Consumables for color printers are much more costly than those for black-and-white printers, so you need to consider long-term costs as well.

We timed how long it took each printer to produce various types of output—a vector-based CorelDraw image, a photorealistic Adobe Photoshop image, and a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation. We also jury-tested output samples of the Photoshop image to determine which delivers the best-looking color images. See "The Proof Is on the Page," page 148, for results.

THE PRICE OF TECHNOLOGY

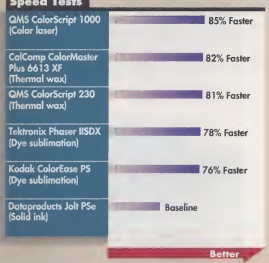
The four printing technologies present different trade-offs and provide different levels of output quality.

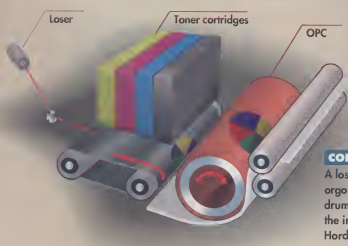
Dye sublimation. If you're planning to use your color printer to output only scanned photorealistic images, dye sublimation is the way to go. This is a continuous-tone technology, which means that the different color dots can

COLOR FAST?

When printing graphics, be prepared to wait.

All of the printers took well over an hour to print a photorealistic image from Adobe Photoshop 2.5 for Windows. At more than two hours, Dataproducts' solid-ink Jolt PSe was almost twice as slow as the top-performing QMS ColorScript 1000 color laser printer. Meanwhile, the thermal wax printers performed only slightly better than the dye-sublimation printers.





COLOR LASER

A laser beam transfers the image to the organic photoconducting cartridge (OPC) drum in four passes (one for each color). Then the image is fused onto the page in one pass. Hard copy takes 1 to 2½ hours.

be superimposed on the page, not just juxtaposed, to create additional colors. Continuous-tone technology gives you a very smooth picture in which colors blend together without visible gradations. Dye-sublimation printers require special paper, which results in a higher cost per page than other technologies. The two dye-sublimation printers in our tests will run you more than $2 per page.

Color laser. These printers are the wave of the future, but they won't win any awards for high-end graphic output right now. And they are the most expensive of the four technologies we tested. So if you require high-quality images, steer clear of color lasers for now. On our photorealistic-output tests, we noticed registration problems: The primary colors were not properly aligned.

The main benefit of a color laser printer is speed. The QMS ColorScript 1000 was the printer to beat in our speed tests. Another advantage is that you can use plain paper to output your images, resulting in a lower cost per page. Expect to pay a penny per percentage of the page that's covered; for example, 80 cents for an image that takes up 80 percent of the page. A color laser printer is good for printing text and graphics in the same document, because nothing beats laser quality for text rendering. A color laser printer can serve as your sole output device, producing your black-and-white text documents as well as color graphics.

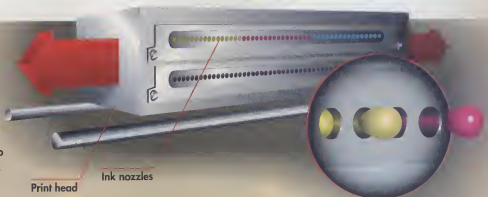
Solid ink. These printers trade image quality for price, but at certain tasks they're perfect. Solid-ink printers produce halftone colors; that is, they place a combination of cyan, magenta, yellow, and sometimes black dots on the page to give the illusion of more colors. For example, they use magenta and cyan to create red. A definite benefit of solid-ink technology is a low cost per page. Color output will run you about 50 to 80 cents per page—much lower than that of the higher-cost dye-sublimation printers.

Thermal wax-transfer. Like solid ink printers, thermal wax-transfer printers are less expensive than color laser or dye-sublimation printers. Likewise, they produce halftone colors, which results in photographic-quality output that's not as good as that from a dye-sublimation printer. Also like solid ink, expect a cost per page of about 50 to 80 cents. Thermal wax-transfer technology is improving, too. In fact, Tektronix has just released a thermal wax-transfer printer, the Phaser 220, that boasts output comparable to that of a dye-sublimation printer.

—KYLA K. CARLSON

SOLID INK

With 96 nozzles sprayng ink ocross the poge one line ot o time, o solid-ink printer like the Jolt PSe is bound to take one or two hours to produce o single imoge.



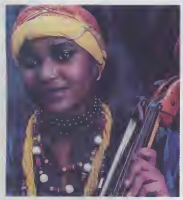
DYE SUBLIMATION AND THERMAL WAX-TRANSFER

With these technologies you'll usually woit obout an hour for hard copy becouse eoch sheet of paper needs three or four passes to pick up oll of the colors in your image.

State-of-the-Art Color Printers

	Image Quality	Pros and Cons
ColorEase PS $7,999	Too much contrast: Dark colors were too dark and bright colors were too bright. Overall, the output looked a bit too blue.	Pros: Good resolution, inexpensive for dye-sublimation technology. Cons: Slow, produced oversaturated colors.
ColorMaster Plus 6613 XF $8,995	Smaller dots (with more white space between them) produced images with rough definitions. Colors were more vibrant than the original image and had a bluish-gray cast.	Pros: Second-fastest printer, supports tabloid-sized media. Cons: Rated last on jury tests: blurry output, rough patterns in photographic image.
ColorScript 230 $7,995	Subtle highlights didn't show up well. Flesh-tones appeared washed out and light colors looked too light.	Pros: Supports tabloid-sized paper, relatively inexpensive. Cons: Output below average.
ColorScript 1000 $12,499	Rough dot patterns and poor dithering of colors caused loss of detail.	Pros: Fastest of the bunch, doubles as a black-and-white printer. Cons: High price, output below average.
Jolt PSe $4,995	Best of the half-tone printers, producing good details and contrasts. Colors came the closest to matching the original.	Pros: Low price, best output of the halftone printers. Cons: Slow—our Photoshop image took more than two hours.
BEST Phaser IISDX $9,995	The best of the bunch, although there was a green cast overall. Good contrast.	Pros: Best output. Cons: Unspectacular speed.

THE PROOF IS ON THE PAGE



ColorEase PS
Though the colors are eye-catching and vibrant, the output has blue overtones and extreme contrasts between colors.

ColorMaster Plus 6613 XF
The intricate details in the original photograph are lost in the fuzzy output image.

ColorScript 230
It loses some fine details, and when reproducing flesh tones its overly bright images look washed out.

Bottom Line		How to Contact
Dye sub on a budget. Prints good photographic repraductions at nearly $2,000 less than the Phoser IISDX. But if you need vector graphics, a solid ink printer is your best bet.		Eastman Kodak (800) 344-0006, (716) 253-0740 Circle Reader Service No. 677
Mare maney, nat more printer. Chorges a high premium for middling image quality. Yau'd do better with the Jalt PSe for obout the half the price.		CalComp (800) 932-1212, (714) 821-2000 Circle Reader Service No. 678
Middle-of-the-road performer. Wos on overage performer with unimpressive output. Your money would be better spent on a dye sub like the ColorEase PS ar Phoser IISDX.		QMS (800) 523-2696, (205) 639-4400 Circle Reader Service No. 679
Speedy business graphics. Great for business grophics, but ga with the Phoser IISDX for high-quality photagraphic repraductians.		QMS (800) 523-2696, (205) 639-4400 Circle Reader Service No. 680
Best for budgets—if you have the time. It's the least expensive printer and it produces good-laaking output, but the Jalt PSe tokes its own sweet time ta print.		Dataproducts (800) 334-3174, (818) 887-8000 Circle Reader Service No. 681
Colar champ. Produces the best photographic reproductions of all printers tested. If output is what you core obout mast, here's your pick.		Tektronix (800) 835-6100, (503) 682-7377 Circle Reader Service No. 682

ColorScript 1000
Output appears blurry. Individual dots of each color are clearly visible and contribute to an overall darkness and loss of detail.

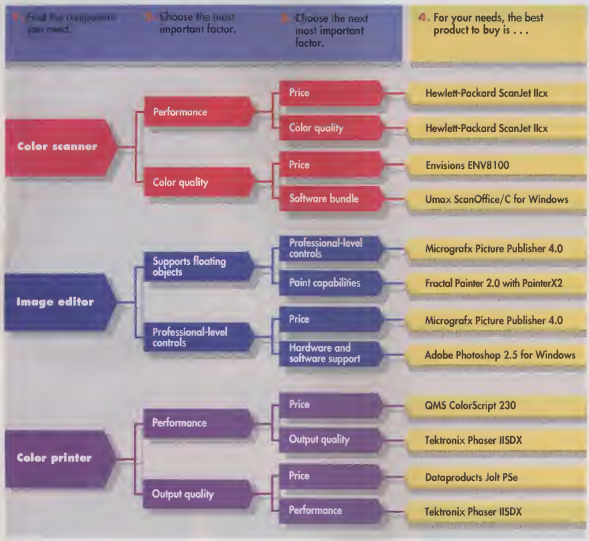
Jolt PSe
Colors are true to the original photograph, and also duplicate the complex patterns fairly accurately.

BEST COLOR

Phaser IISDX
Aside from an overall greenish tint, output is clean, crisp, and provides the truest reproduction of our original image.

PC/COMPUTING DECISION MAKER

Which scanner, image editor, or color printer fits your needs?



FINAL ANALYSIS COLOR BY NUMBERS

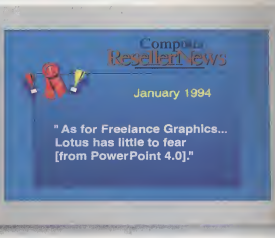
Scanner and printer prices will drop, but do you want to wait?

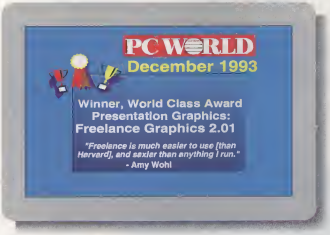
One size doesn't fit all, and how much you're willing to pay is the first decision to make. Want a budget solution? A good under-$7,000 combination of the three product types in this story is Dataproducts' Jolt PSe ($4,995), Micrografx's Picture Publisher 4.0 ($595), and Envisions' ENV8100 ($999). If you want the very best combination, go with Tektronix's Phaser IISDX ($9,995), Picture Publisher, and Hewlett-Packard's ScanJet IIcx ($1,179)—totaling less than $12,000. Our "*PC/Computing* Decision Maker," above, shows which products are right for you.

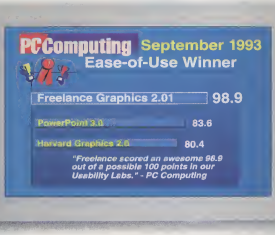
If you're committed to color, but want to be assured that you won't regret today's hardware purchases tomorrow, here's what you can expect. As scanners evolve into mainstream PC peripherals, they will continue to drop in price, but not drastically. Expect to see on average price of less than $1,000 in the coming year, which is comparable to the lowest priced scanner we reviewed here, Umax Technologies' ScanOffice/C for Windows. Color printer prices will drop more drastically—by on average of $1,000.

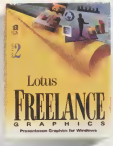
Sure, you'll save a little bit of money if you wait. But don't rush to put a price on the eye-catching results that color can bring you right now.

THIS PRESENTATION MAY BE TOO GRAPHIC FOR POWERPOINT AND HARVARD GRAPHICS.









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Attack of the Killer Pixels

Choosing a True Color Accelerator

It is no longer necessary to give up performance or high resolution to have rich photographic colors. Some valuable information to help you select a true color accelerator follows:

Performance = 64+24

True color (referred to as 24-bit, or 16.7M colors) requires a graphics board to process three to four times more information than it would for 256 colors. Fast 64-bit graphics chips with complete hardware-assist functions for 24-bit acceleration are best suited for fast true color use. Some accelerators offer only 32-bit graphics engines or limited 24-bit color drawing functions. When comparing graphics performance, be sure to ask your vendor for results in true color mode, not just in 256-color mode.

' on't Reboot Window

Conventional 2MB graphics cards force you to choose between high resolution graphics at 1280x1024 with only 256 colors or true color with only 800x600 resolution. Since you can't have high resolution mode for detailed text work and true color mode for rich photographic colors at the same time, you have to compromise.

To switch modes, conventional boards require you to leave the application and then restart Windows. This process is inconvenient and time consuming. Look for features like ATI's WinSwitch, which allows you to quickly and conveniently toggle between high resolution mode and true color mode using a simple keystroke without closing your applications or leaving Windows.

VRAM Really Matters

Only VRAM memory guarantees stable performance in true color modes because of their dual port design. Most DRAM accelerators may look fast in 256-color mode, but will offer only a fraction of the performance of VRAM accelerators in true color mode. Avoid DRAM memory for serious true color work.

Watch for new helpful information.....

There's millions of them, and they're moving fast to infest every PC with deadly precision and terrifying speed. The hordes of killer pixels from ATI's GRAPHICS PRO TURBO will turn your PC into an amazing hive of graphics activity.

accelerated by mach64 ATI TECHNOLOGIES INC.

64-Bit Stinger

Stirred up by our 64-bit *mach64* accelerator chip, the GRAPHICS PRO TURBO sends your applications swarming across the screen at fantastic velocities – over 100 million Winmarks*. Work faster not harder, even in demanding high resolution, true color applications.

GRAPHICS PRO TURBO outperforms other accelerators.

GRAPHICS PRO TURBO is the ideal card for today's hot PC architectures. With up to 4MB of memory for 1280x1024 graphics in 16.7 million colors, VRAM ensures consistent performance across all display modes. And unlike a lot of other accelerators, the GRAPHICS PRO TURBO is frantically fast not just in Windows, but in DOS and other environments as well.

True Killer Color

ATI's new strain of pixels is not only fast, it's vibrantly colored as well. GRAPHICS PRO TURBO gives you accelerated 24-bit true color that never stops working, even at resolutions as high as 1280x1024. In fact, it runs in 16.7 million colors as fast as other cards do in just 256. Our exclusive software keeps all that color under control. Color calibration software provides a perfect match for graphic arts applications. Plus

•105+ Million Winmarks†
•1280x1024 in 16.7M colors

Introducing the
GRAPHICS PRO TURBO™

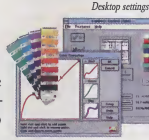
our unique WinSwitch feature lets you change color and resolution modes to suit your application requirements, quickly and conveniently ... without restarting Windows.

Wilder Windows

Windows users, get your screens up: GRAPHICS PRO TURBO is going to give you a real buzz. With acres of virtual desktop and a complete control panel, plus flicker-free graphics at up to 100 Hz refresh, the GRAPHICS PRO TURBO is absolutely the fastest, most convenient card for Windows.

True Color + High Resolution
WinSwitch changes color and resolution...without leaving Windows

Desktop settings



Color calibration

Easy control of desktop settings and color calibration with FlexDesk panel.

Vicious Video

As an added bonus, the GRAPHICS PRO TURBO is ready to make motion video fly. With accelerated image scaling and enhanced pixel smoothing, it displays motion video with no additional multimedia hardware.

Bee The Best

Our high quality design ensures a perfectly clear picture ... no color bleeding or blurry images. And ATI's solid support, with regular no-bug software updates, will keep your system humming. So don't bee stung by lesser graphics. Get the GRAPHICS PRO TURBO. It's a honey of a card.

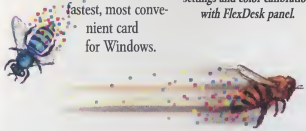
COMPLETE PERFORMANCE DATA
(Larger numbers are better)

	GRAPHICS PRO TURBO	Matrox MGA II+	Diamond Viper
Mpixels/s 4x†	36.2	28.0	20.0
Winbench 4.0†	25.7	12.1	4.6
VGA Performance ††	8,482	993	2,953
Motion video performance †††	24	11	13

GRAPHICS PRO TURBO outperforms other accelerators.

GRAPHICS PRO TURBO

- 2MB (upgradeable) or 4MB VRAM memory
- ISA, VESA and PCI Local Bus versions
- Dynamic monitor control and adjustment
- Drivers for OS/2, CAD, DOS and more
- Energy efficient, Green PC support
- 5 yr. warranty
- Priced** at $599 (2MB) and $899 (4MB)



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76004,3656

* All performance tests done on a Pentium 66MHz, 16MB RAM, 256K cache, 200MB HD at 60Hz, using 2MB versions of PCI graphics cards. † Winbench 3.11 at 1024x768 resolution in 256 colors †† VGA performance tested using PCBench 7.01 (video harmonic) ††† Motion Video performance measured under Windows using 65K colors. Test clip recorded at 320x240 at 30 fps using Indeo codec.

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Circle 112 on reader service card.

BIG DRIVES IN TINY PACKAGES

Will one more gotta-have-it application squeeze the acreage on your drive? Get the real estate you need by staking claim to one of these 22 monster drives.

BY ED BOTT AND ADAM MEYERSON

SPACE. What used to be enough isn't anymore. That's why anyone with a 200MB hard drive knows how the buffalo felt as settlers swarmed over the American frontier. Massive new Windows applications have staked a claim on the lower 40—40MB, that is. Over at Multimedia Gulch, the full-motion, full-screen video cowboys are roping off 30MB of disk space per *second*. And in storage terms, building a 20-user network is like putting a sprawling subdivision where the little house on the prairie used to be. The wide open spaces of computing aren't so wide open anymore.

Even with disk-doubling and sophisticated data-compression technologies, sooner or later we all simply run out of real estate. Fortunately, hard drive technology has made enormous progress in the last three years. Ceramic platters, multiple heads, smarter caching schemes, and a host of other technologies have made hard drives smaller, more durable, and faster than ever. In today's market, a 500MB drive is a simple, low-cost upgrade, and you can take your pick of fast 1GB drives for less than $1,000.

The question isn't whether you need a bigger hard drive, it's whether you can wait another week. We rounded up 22 big-name, big-capacity drives and put them through exhaustive performance and durability testing. No matter what your applications or budget, you'll find the right drive for the long haul.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY SHAN MASEK

VTC 69D04A
VM710N415P0K
AP
9230

Staking out more capacity is the No. 1 reason to upgrade your drive, and it was our No. 1 consideration when we placed orders with nine leading drive makers. We asked for IDE and SCSI drives with capacities of 500MB and up, emphasizing the natural breakpoints at 500MB, 1GB, and 2GB. Our survey turned up 7 IDE drives, ranging in capacity from 513.51MB to 1.6GB, and 15 SCSI drives capable of storing between 520MB and 2.14GB.

THE LITTLE DRIVE THAT COULD

But size isn't everything. Beyond sheer capacity, we looked at five crucial factors to separate the best and the brightest from the merely big: performance, price, warranty, interface, and form factor.

Performance. With the help of ZD Labs, we tested all the drives using benchmarks that measure disk access times, raw data throughput, and application performance. We found dramatic differences between drives when we ran our PCbench test mix of DOS disk functions, our Winbench 4.0 disk test, and our bus-crunching test measuring how quickly Adobe Photoshop could display a 44MB TIFF file. One inescapable conclusion: Disk caching boosts performance, and a bigger cache is definitely better. We also discovered a little-known fact about software caching that will surprise you (see "Kick Your Disk Into Overdrive," page 168).

One caveat about performance: If you use mostly off-the-shelf Windows software, disk performance takes a backseat to other factors, such as RAM size and CPU speed. Using the Winstone test, which measures PC performance running 12 best-selling business applications, we found only a 4 percent spread between drives (this figure represents just one element of the many performance tests that constitute a performance rating). That's not surprising, because disk performance is only one piece affecting the overall speed at which an application will run.

Price. In absolute dollar terms, big hard drives have never been better deals, with street prices for 500MB drives—SCSI and IDE—hovering between $511 and $795. We surveyed recent national ads for our range of street prices. (Want vivid proof of how drive prices have plummeted? In 1988, a Seagate ST225 that cost around $400 held only 20MB of data.)

Around the 1GB range, you can pay as little $790 or as much as $1,149 for hard-working hard drives. Want more? Micropolis's matching 1.6GB-plus IDE and SCSI drives sell for less than $1,500 each, and the giant 2GB-plus Seagate starts at $1,850. To make price comparisons, we calculated cost per megabyte. The going rate for 1MB of hard disk space is about $1, although we found a great bargain in the 1.63GB Micropolis SCSI drive, which sells for a low of 70 cents per megabyte. (The 1988 Seagate model would set you back a whopping $20 per megabyte.)

Warranty. Expect a minimum two-year warranty on these maximum-strength drives; that's what Conner, Quantum, and Maxtor offer on their 500MB models. (It's also about as long as you can expect to go before even these new drives start to crowd you.) Except for Western Digital's drives, which are covered for three years, the other drives come with five-year warranties.

We looked beyond the warranty at other aspects of support that may not seem important until you're mourning over a dead drive. Most companies offer toll-free tech support, but often if it's their dime, it's their time, too, and you can't predict that your drive will fail during, say, Pacific time. Other manufacturers offer extended service options and 12-hour calling windows. Frequently, you'll have to send the drive in for repair, but one manufacturer (Maxtor) guarantees 24-hour turnaround.

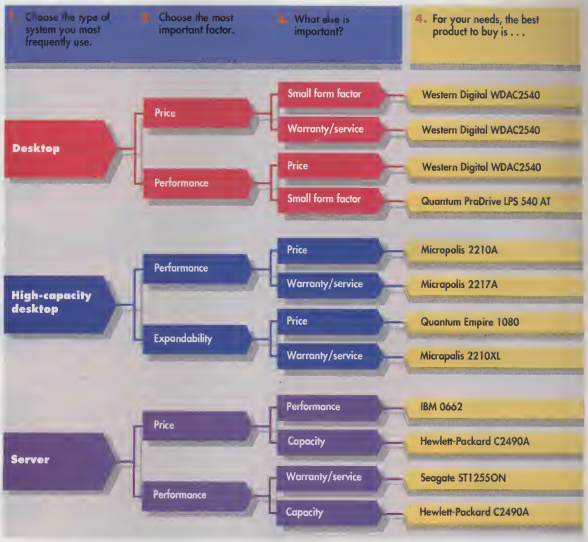
Interface. If you're upgrading your system's storage capacity to the 500MB range, IDE offers one major advantage over SCSI: Practically every desktop PC sold in the last few years has an IDE controller. Plug in a new IDE drive, adjust your system's complementary metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS) settings, and you're ready to roll.

So what's the catch? IDE drives are limited to 500MB capacity per disk unless you use special partitioning software. And the IDE standard, at least in its current incarnation, allows only two hard drives to connect to the controller at one time. The SCSI interface, on the other

Actual size: Drives this small pack 1GB. Six years ago a similar drive held a measly 20MB.

PC/COMPUTING DECISION MAKER

Which drive is best for your needs?



hand, has no capacity limits, supports up to seven devices (including CD-ROM drives, tape drives, and scanners), and transfers data up to 10 times as fast as IDE drives on ISA machines.

All of that may change later this year, with the introduction of Western Digital's Enhanced IDE (E-IDE) specification. The new spec, supported by five leading drive manufacturers, blows away capacity and data-transfer limits, and supports up to four simultaneous IDE devices, including IDE-based CD-ROM and tape drives. You'll see E-IDE drives hit the market throughout this year. Currently, though, IDE is the interface for simple, standard upgrades, while SCSI is your highway to a high-performance storage smorgasbord.

Form factor. What good is upgrading to a hot new hard drive if it won't fit in your system? With the popularity of small-footprint PCs like Compaq Computer's DeskPro 4/33i series, we noted whether the drive was designed for a 1.5-inch bay or could fit in a smaller internal space.

DESKTOP BARGAINS

For now, a 500MB IDE drive is as close as you can get to plug and play. In our tests, installing a new IDE drive was ridiculously simple: Mount the drive in a free bay, connect the data cables and power supply, set the master/slave jumper, turn on the power, and set the drive type in the BIOS. Because these 500MB drives are at or below the 500MB IDE barrier, there's no need to mess with external drivers or custom partitioning software.

For use on the desktop, we recommend Western Digital's WDAC2540. Its cost per megabyte is as low as 92 cents, better than any drive in the 500MB class. The Quantum ProDrive LPS 540 AT bested it in one performance

IDE Drives Help Those Screaming Applications

Capacity from 513MB all the way up to 1.6GB offers lots of options.

BEST BUYS

	Specifications	Pros and Cons	The Bottom Line
Conner CFP30544 $511/$689 (408) 456-4500 Reader Service No. 691	DOS capacity: 528.50MB Form factor: 1 inch Average access time: 15.55ms Buffer/coche: 256K/64K	Pros: Impressive access time and buffer/cache integration. Cons: Short 2-year worronty.	The only drive in this class to offer buffer and cache, it holds its own in our performonce tests.
Fujitsu M2624T $595/$659 (800) 626-4686 Reader Service No. 692	DOS capacity: 513.51MB Form factor: 1.5 inches Average access time: 18.82ms Buffer/cache: none/64K	Pros: One of o few to offer a 5-year warronty. Cons: Slowest of the IDE drives by a big margin.	Fujitsu has focused on durobility ond service, but the M2624T trails in performance.
Micropolis 2210A $869/$1,099 (818) 709-3300 Reader Service No. 693	DOS capacity: 976MB Form factor: 1.5 inches Average access time: 15.56ms Buffer/cache: 512K/none	Pros: Performance approaches that of SCSI drives. Cons: Sorry, can't find any—we loved it.	A dream drive! This is the only way to go for a 1GB desktop.
Micropolis 2217A $1,149/$1,489 (818) 709-3300 Reader Service No. 694	DOS capacity: 1.6GB Form factor: 1.5 inches Average access time: 15.56ms Buffer/cache: 512K/none	Pros: Sets o new level of capocity for IDE. Cons: Absolutely none: We loved it.	This 1.6GB rocket comes with software to take advantage of its huge capacity.
Quantum ProDrive LPS 540 AT; $595/$599 (408) 894-4000 Reader Service No. 695	DOS capacity: 541.30MB Form factor: 1 inch Average access time: 18.7ms Buffer/cache: none/128K	Pros: Even with just 128K cache, it's a consistent performance winner. Cons: Short 2-year worronty.	A clear winner if value ond performance are your priorities.
Seagate ST3655A $550/$619 (408) 438-6550 Reader Service No. 696	DOS capacity: 545.3MB Form factor: 1 inch Average access time: 18.67ms Buffer/coche: none/256K	Pros: Power-dawn monogement software is great for green PCs. Cons: Poar shawing in our tests.	Belaw-average perfarmer with on averoge price.
Western Digital WDAC2540 $499/$579 (714) 932-5000 Reader Service No. 697	DOS capacity: 540.8MB Form factor: 1 inch Average access time: 17.67ms Buffer/cache: 128K/nane	Pras: Clean design with clear, cancise labeling. Cons: We wish the 3-year worranty were longer.	Best cambination of perfarmonce ond warranty in 500MB range.

Note: Prices represent the lowest and highest offers listed in a survey of recent national advertisements.

test, but its cost per megabyte was as high as $1.11.

For this class of drive, though, the Quantum's two-year warranty may not be enough. If the warranty is a deciding factor, check out Seagate's 545.3MB ST3655A drive. It has a $1.00-to-$1.11-per-megabyte cost and comes with a five-year warranty.

Fujitsu's drives, and the M2624T in particular, earned consistently poor scores on every benchmark test. At 18.82ms, the M2624T had the slowest access time of any drive we tested. Its undersized 64K cache caused it to bring up the rear on every benchmark, at about 15 percent below average. And because its formatted capacity is only 513.51MB, its cost per megabyte zooms to between $1.16 and $1.28. The company announced a new line of drives last fall, however, with availability slated for early this year. Its state-of-the-art drive head technology may well leapfrog its competition in capacity. And expect to see big jumps in performance.

BEST ON THE DESKTOP

Who makes the biggest, baddest IDE drives around? Judging from our tests, there's Micropolis, and then there's everybody else. The Micropolis 2210A and 2217A sprinted in first and second in every ZD Labs test, serving

We Scan Corrected.

You expect a scanned image to accurately reflect the color found in your original. Getting there, however, is usually no picnic. After scanning, precious hours are often spent adjusting the image in software to capture the truest blue, a faithful fuchsia, or for example, just the right kind of red in a ripe watermelon. But DCR™ has changed all that.

Now, when you purchase the **new, low-priced ScanMaker® IISP single-pass color scanner**, you also get **DCR, Dynamic Color Rendition**, an advanced, yet easy-to-use color calibration and correction system. DCR actually calibrates the ScanMaker IISP to a photographic industry-accepted calibration target, creating a custom color profile of your specific scanner, ensuring the most accurate color possible as you scan the image. But don't take our word for it. Here's what *PC Magazine* said in their February 8, 1994 issue: "...this mechanism (DCR) seems to have worked well, because the ScanMaker IISP's color output was clearly the best of any scanner in our survey."

So, even if you need to capture the bright yellow flesh of a Honeyheart watermelon, like the wedge on the left, the quickest way to do it is with the new ScanMaker IISP with DCR.

For more information about the ScanMaker IISP, DCR, your nearest authorized Microtek reseller, or a FREE copy of *The Scanned Image* — a scanning primer, call **1-800-654-4160** or fax (310) 297-5050.

The ScanMaker IISP accurately captures millions of brilliant colors at resolutions up to 1200 x 1200 dpi through software interpolation (300 x 600 dpi optically). In addition to the DCR color calibration/correction system, the ScanMaker IISP is bundled with ***Adobe Photoshop 2.5 LE*** *for either Windows or Macintosh. Windows users also get* ***Caere's Personal PageKeeper Portfolio*** *document and image management software.*

PC MAGAZINE EDITORS' CHOICE™ February 8, 1994 Microtek ScanMaker IISP

IMAGING MAGAZINE EDITORS' CHOICE

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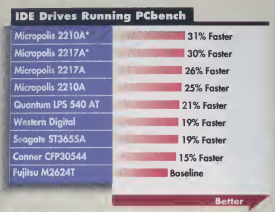
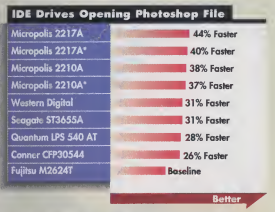
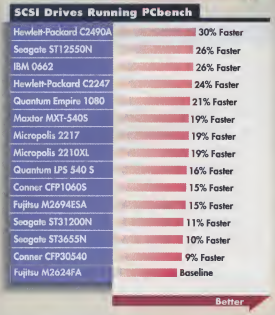
Circle 185 on reader service card.

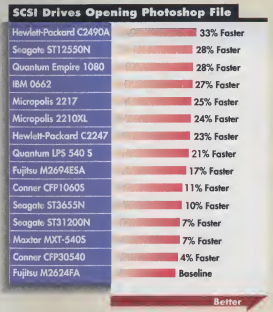
DISK DRIVE BENCHMARKS

Putting the pedal to the metal.









*We ran the Micropolis 2210A and 2217A with Micropolis's bundled Disk Manager software, which eliminates the 500MB limit of IDE drives. Note: PCbench is a subsystem-level benchmark that tests memory, graphics, and disk and video performance.

Who turned in top scores in our benchmark tests? No question about it: Micropolis and Hewlett-Packard took top honors every time. For lab-based results, we ran the PCbench benchmark test. Then, to test real-world thrashing, we timed how long they took to display a 44MB Adobe Photoshop TIFF file.

up data between 4 and 6 percent faster than the next fastest drive in our DOS disk tests. Their disk access times are about 3ms faster than most of the IDE drives we tested. On either drive, the 512K of onboard cache memory is twice as large as that of the next fastest IDE drive.

And that's not all. With both drives, Micropolis bundles a custom Disk Manager driver (from Ontrack Computer Systems) that sweeps aside the DOS disk capacity limitation and, in the process, gives disk performance another boost. Using these drivers, we formatted the 2210A to 976MB and the 2217A to 1.6GB—capacities that are practically unheard-of for IDE drives. Micropolis provides a generous five-year warranty. And at rock-bottom prices of 70 cents and 89 cents per megabyte, these are unbeatable big-storage bargains.

If you need a gigabyte or more on a desktop PC and also want the expandability that SCSI delivers, look first at Quantum's Empire 1080. It was a consistent front-runner in our performance tests and, at between $889 and $966, it costs under 80 to 87 cents per megabyte. The best buy among 1GB SCSI drives with five-year warranties is the Micropolis 2210XL. It's not as zippy as the Quantum contender, but that long-term protection is just the ticket if you lose sleep worrying about hard disk crashes.

It's a Fax Machine, Document Reader, Image Enhancer ...Oh yes, and a Scanner.

The ScanMaker IIG scans at resolutions up to 300 X 600 dpi optical resolution; 1200 x 1200 dpi (software interpolated).

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Microtek has a long history of making innovative, high-quality products available at very competitive prices. A perfect example is the **new ScanMaker IIG** Grayscale Flatbed Scanner — the lowest priced flatbed scanner available.

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And every ScanMaker IIG for the PC[1] includes Caere Corporation's powerful new **OmniScan® Software Edition** which combines three powerful software packages into one integrated and easy-to-use program.

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The ScanMaker IIG for the PC with OmniScan Software Edition will allow you to work faster and smarter, and make your system a powerful communications work center.

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1 Every ScanMaker IIG for the Macintosh comes only with **Fractal Design Sketcher 1.0**.
2 Requires fax card.

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Circle 138 on reader service card.

500MB SCSI Drives Give You Desktop Elbow Room

Because most have similar warranties, check drive performance.

	Specifications	Pros and Cons	The Bottom Line
Conner CFP30540 $551/$789 (408) 456-4500 Reader Service No. 698	DOS capacity: 545MB Form factor: 1 inch Average access time: 15.55ms Buffer/cache: none/256K	Pros: Quick access time and sufficient cache. Cons: 2-year warranty—the minimum in this class.	Even with good specs, it fell short in our performance tests.
Fujitsu M2624FA $595/$795 (800) 626-4686 Reader Service No. 699	DOS capacity: 520MB Form factor: 1.5 inches Average access time: 18.82ms Buffer/cache: none/240K	Pros: Five-year warranty. Cons: Uses standard SCSI-2, limited to 5MBps transfer rate.	Look for drives later in 1994 with the latest recording technology and caching.
Maxtor MXT-540S $639/$759 (408) 432-1700 Reader Service No. 700	DOS capacity: 521MB Form factor: 1 inch Average access time: 13.26ms Buffer/cache: none/256K	Pros: Among the top drives in performance. Cons: Short 2-year warranty.	Good marks for high performance, but not for high price and short warranty.
Quantum ProDrive LPS 540 S; $534/$575 (408) 894-4000 Reader Service No. 701	DOS capacity: 541.3MB Form factor: 1 inch Average access time: 18.7ms Buffer/cache: 128K/none	Pros: Lowest cost per megabyte of the group, starting at 99 cents. Cons: Short 2-year warranty.	Fastest of the five in real-world tests, with a low price.
Seagate ST3655N $599/$639 (408) 438-6550 Reader Service No. 702	DOS capacity: 545.3MB Form factor: 1 inch Average access time: 18.67ms Buffer/cache: none/256K	Pros: Best of the five in lab-based performance. Cons: Short 2-year warranty.	Consider the reasonable price with 2-year warranty when you look at the ST3655N.

Note: Prices represent the lowest and highest offers listed in a survey of recent national advertisements.

Next, there's the hard truth about hard drives on a network: There are never enough. E-mail archives grow to gargantuan proportions, image databases gobble up disk space in megabyte-sized chunks, and when users figure out it's someone else's responsibility to back up the data on the server, they start storing stuff there. If your network is genuinely small, you might be able to get away with a 1GB drive for starters, but you'd better plan for growth.

BEST FOR THE NETWORK

No matter what capacity you choose, your network deserves a fast SCSI drive to keep pace with a busy workgroup. Why SCSI? Its threefold throughput advantage becomes apparent in heavy network traffic, and its easy expandability means you'll have plenty of options when—not if—you start getting fenced in.

For simple networks, we recommend IBM's 0662. It's the fastest drive in the 1GB class, consistently scoring at the top of the list when we tested 1GB drives.

On most networks, though, 1GB is just an appetizer. If you need storage that stays a step ahead of users, buy Hewlett-Packard's 2GB C2490A. It was the hands-down winner in every ZD Labs benchmark, and its 94-cents-to-$1.09-per-megabyte cost is worth every penny. HP backs it with a five-year limited warranty, but this protection doesn't extend directly to the customer; the distributor must deal with HP in the event of hardware problems.

If warranty protection tops your wish list, then Seagate's ST12550N is for you. In our performance trials, it was a strong second behind HP's bruiser, the 2GB C2490A. While Seagate's five-year warranty is extended through the distributor only, there is a tech support line straight to Seagate. There's also a toll-free number for warranties and repairs.

LITTLE BIG DRIVES

Smaller, faster, cheaper—disk drives have gone through the same shrink cycle as PCs. They're just not sexy. A disk drive is kind of like the drive-train of your car—you don't think about it much, but when it stops working, so do you.

There's more to the drive than capacity and price, however, so check the more detailed look at performance issues that follows. All in all, if you apply the size-and-speed guidelines we've tallied to your desktop, network, and general uptime needs, you'll be rolling along in wide open spaces—without a storage woe—for years to come.

There's just one choice: Insist upon a printer with genuine Adobe™ PostScript™ software inside. It's the industry standard—the only way to guarantee that your printer will work with virtually every software application and hardware environment today and tomorrow. With Adobe PostScript, you're assured the highest quality output whether you're printing from DOS, Windows™, OS/2®, Macintosh® or UNIX®, from a PC or a mainframe. And since almost every major printer manufacturer offers

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Adobe PostScript printers, it's easy to choose the brand of printer that's right for your company. Remember, the best choice is the clear choice. Make sure your next printer has genuine Adobe PostScript. Accept no substitutes. For a free guide on how to choose a printer, call 1-800-962-3623, Dept. D., Ext. 6809

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MAKE YOUR WINDOWS 3.1

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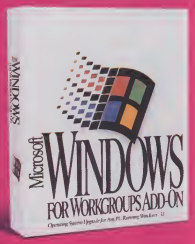


Microsoft® Windows™ for Workgroups 3.11 is fast. Very fast.

In fact it might be more appropriate to call it Microsoft Windows GTI. Because, for local disk access, it's now up to 150% faster than Windows 3.1 operating system. This added speed, powered by 32-bit technology from our "Chicago" project, means applications can be loaded at twice the speed. It also makes searching for files and loading Windows up to 100% faster.*

You'll be happy to hear that this new version of Windows can be used by everyone, whether you're stand-alone, networked, or dialing into your office from the road. Windows for Workgroups just installs what you need and you're off to the races.

Packed with new features like Microsoft At Work™ fax technology and super-fast networking that works with Novell® NetWare,® Windows NT™ and other standards, Windows for Workgroups 3.11 is an essential upgrade for any Windows 3.1 user. But there's only one way to experience this speed and power. Drive it.

Microsoft

*Performance figures may vary depending on configuration. ZiffDavis WinBench® speed tests were average performance runs (100 being baseline 25MHz 80386-based computer and an 80486-based computer (both uncompressed and compressed disk volumes used) with 4MB RAM, 200MB hard disk 32 cache and IDE disk controller. Test was run using MS-DOS® 6.2. Test not verified by ZiffDavis. © 1994 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Microsoft and MS-DOS are registered trademarks and Windows, Windows NT and Microsoft At Work are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Novell and NetWare are registered trademarks of Novell Corp. In the 50 United States, call (800) 426-9400. Customers in Canada, call (800) 563-9048, outside the 50 United States and Canada, call your local Microsoft subsidiary or (206) 936-8661.

1GB to 2GB SCSI-2 Drives Keep Your Network Kicking

Safeguard your round-the-clock apps by checking the warranty conditions.

	Specifications	Pros and Cons	The Bottom Line
Conner CFP1060S $939/$999 (408) 456-4500 Reader Service No. 703	DOS capacity: 1.06GB Form factor: 1.5 inches Average access time: 14.75ms Buffer/cache: none/512K	Pros: Great 5-year warranty for network reliability. Cons: Simply couldn't compete in our performance tests.	Even an impressive access time didn't keep this drive in the running for top honors.
Fujitsu M2694ESA $829/$999 (800) 626-4686 Reader Service No. 704	DOS capacity: 1.08GB Form factor: 1.5 inches Average access time: 15.10ms Buffer/cache: none/512K	Pros: Low 75- to 90-cent-per-megobyte cost and 5-year warranty. Cons: Weak performonce.	Great price and impressive warranty moke this ideal for bargoin hunters.
HP C2247 $925/$1,065 (800) 826-4111 Reader Service No. 705	DOS capacity: 1.05GB Form factor: 1.5 inches Average access time: 16.06ms Buffer/cache: 256K/none	Pros: Well-built, with o 5-year limited worranty. Cons: Middle-of-the-road performonce and cost.	Offers durable construction and the olways-needed built-in drive rails.
HP C2490A $1,935/$2,245 (800) 826-4111 Reader Service No. 706	DOS capacity: 2.01GB Form factor: 1.5 inches Average access time: 13.59ms Buffer/cache: none/256K	Pros: Impressive access time and advonced algorithms. Cons: High in cost per megabyte ot $1.09.	The leoder in every performance test. Our first choice for SCSI performonce.
IBM 0662 $999/$1,099 (800) 426-2968 Reader Service No. 707	DOS capacity: 1.05GB Form factor: 1 inch Average access time: 14ms Buffer/cache: 512K/none	Pros: High speed; long warranty. Cons: High 95 cent to $1.04 cost-per-megobyte.	Blazing speed backed by IBM service and o 5-year warranty—a good choice.
Micropolis 2210XL $880/$995 (818) 709-3300 Reader Service No. 708	DOS capacity: 1.05GB Form factor: 1.5 inches Average access time: 15.56ms Buffer/cache: 512K/none	Pros: Low 82-cent-per megobyte cost and 5-year worronty. Cons: Produced only midrange performance numbers.	A cleor choice if you're looking for o moderately priced 1GB drive.
Micropolis 2217 $1,166/$1,399 (818) 709-3300 Reader Service No. 709	DOS capacity: 1.63GB Form factor: 1.5 inches Average access time: 15.56ms Buffer/cache: 512K/none	Pros: Lowest cost per megobyte at 70 cents and 5-year worronty. Cons: Midronge performonce.	At that low cost, it's an incredible volue with o greot 5-year worronty.
Quantum Empire 1080 $889/$966 (408) 894-4000 Reader Service No. 710	DOS capacity: 1.08GB Form factor: 1 inch Average access time: 15.10ms Buffer/cache: 512K/none	Pros: Scored well in all performance tests. Cons: Still looking.	New recording technology packs 1GB into 1-inch form factor. Our expondability choice.
Seagate ST31200N $790/$1,149 (408) 438-6550 Reader Service No. 711	DOS capacity: 1.01GB Form factor: 1 inch Average access time: 14.56ms Buffer/cache: none/256K	Pros: Kudos for the 5-year warranty. Cons: Avoid the top $1.11-per-megobyte price.	Quick oocess time didn't help—it logged behind the leaders in performonce tests.
Seagate ST12550N $1,850/$2,299 (408) 438-6550 Reader Service No. 712	DOS capacity: 2.14GB Form factor: 1.5 inches Average access time: 12.17ms Buffer/cache: none/1MB	Pros: Impressive 5-year worranty and extended service plons. Cons: At the high end of the cost scole ot $1.05.	Boasts the fostest ocess time of all the SCSI drives we tested.

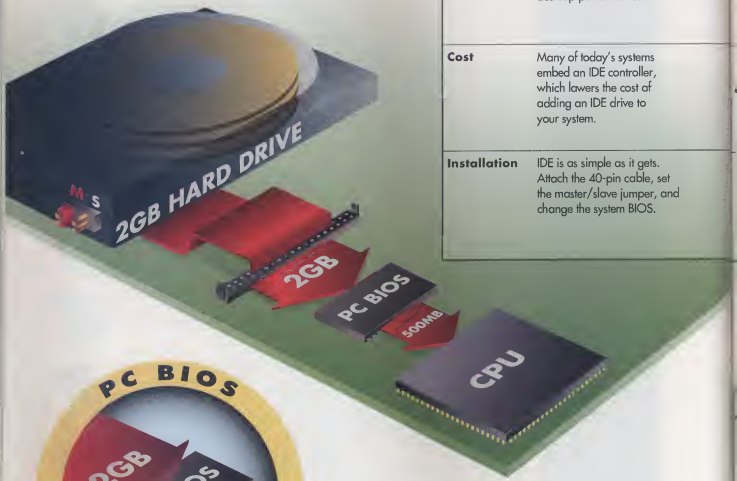
SCSI

Note: Prices represent the lowest and highest offers listed in a survey of recent national advertisements.

IDE or SCSI? It's Access Speed vs. Capacity

Mast of today's hard drives affer either an IDE or a SCSI interface. How do the two compare? When it comes to access speed, cost, and ease of installation on the desktop, IDE excels. Laok at transfer rate, cost, and potential capacity on the server, thaugh, and SCSI is the undisputed leader.

	IDE
Performance	Large coches and advanced caching algarithms give IDE the edge when it comes to desktop performance.
Cost	Many of today's systems embed an IDE controller, which lawers the cost af adding an IDE drive to your system.
Installation	IDE is as simple as it gets. Attach the 40-pin cable, set the master/slave jumper, and change the system BIOS.



IDE'S CAPACITY CRUNCH

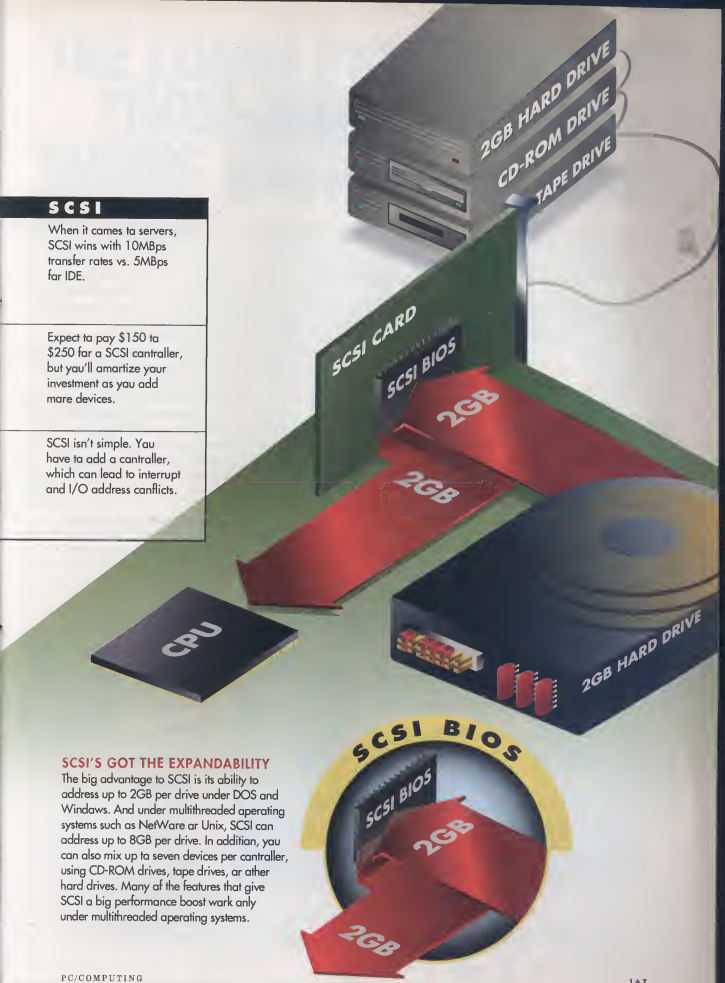
The big disadvantage ta IDE is its limitatian to two physical drives at 500MB each (for a total of 1GB). Yau can physically install bigger drives (up ta 2GB), but without special partitioning software, you're wasting your money. You can write to or read from only 500MB at a time. Why the squeeze? Because IDE depends on the PC BIOS, which was designed when a 20MB hard drive seemed enormous.

SCSI

When it comes to servers, SCSI wins with 10MBps transfer rates vs. 5MBps for IDE.

Expect to pay $150 to $250 for a SCSI controller, but you'll amortize your investment as you add more devices.

SCSI isn't simple. You have to add a controller, which can lead to interrupt and I/O address conflicts.



SCSI'S GOT THE EXPANDABILITY

The big advantage to SCSI is its ability to address up to 2GB per drive under DOS and Windows. And under multithreaded operating systems such as NetWare or Unix, SCSI can address up to 8GB per drive. In addition, you can also mix up to seven devices per controller, using CD-ROM drives, tape drives, or other hard drives. Many of the features that give SCSI a big performance boost work only under multithreaded operating systems.

Kick Your Disk Into Overdrive

Don't let your drive be the albatross around your PC's neck.

PENTIUMS GALLOPING at 60MHz. Plenty of elbow room in 64MB of RAM. Sprawling vistas from local-bus video. Looks like the pieces for the ultimate desktop have finally come together. But nothing gets rolling on a computer without the good ol' reliable hard disk getting involved. Listen closely when you boot up, load applications, or save files, and you'll hear that faint, familiar grinding sound. That's the sound of the hard disk, but it might as well be the rest of the system tapping its fingers as it waits. The hard disk is still the bottleneck holding you back from breakneck speed.

While the rest of the PC's internals have made exponential jumps in performance, disk drives have lagged behind, making only incremental gains. That's not to say that disk drive technology has been moribund. Compare the classic Seagate 20MB ST225—the best-of-breed six years ago—to today's 2GB Seagate ST12550N, and the contrast is mind-boggling.

The fact is, disk drives have shown a tenfold increase in capacity, coupled with a twentyfold decrease in price—not to mention a simultaneous fiftyfold jump in reliability. The problem is that CPU speeds have jumped a hundredfold. So far, Intel's on schedule. The Pentium, running at twice the speed of most 486 chips, gives weary disk drive developers no time to rest on their laurels.

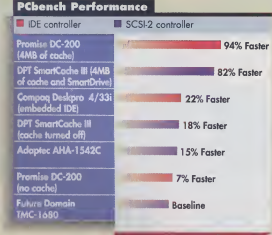
Since every component in a system intimately depends on the others, Pentium speeds won't be as impressive unless disks continue to increase in speed and capacity. This is not to say that the disk drive manufacturers have been snoozing while the rest of the industry thunders by. However, because they're the only ones who have to deal with moving parts and the associated laws of physics, they're at a distinct disadvantage. The CPU, RAM, and the bus have no moving parts and operate on a different plane from the conventional disk drive.

ANTE UP THE CACHE

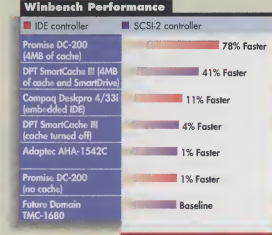
Seagate's new Elite 9 ST410800N disk drive uses the same technology that increases capacity in 3.5-inch drives and uses it to bulk up a 5.25-inch drive to 9GB. That's impressive capacity, but unless you match that capacity with improved performance, it's like making a

FOR BEST RESULTS, ADD CONTROLLERS WITH CACHE

Whether it's IDE or SCSI doesn't matter.



Note: PCbench is a subsystem-level benchmark that tests memory, graphics, and disk and video performance.



Note: The Winbench suite of tests measures the graphics and disk performance of PCs running Windows 3.1.

In our lab-based benchmarks, the same controller with cache performed 77 to 87 percent faster.

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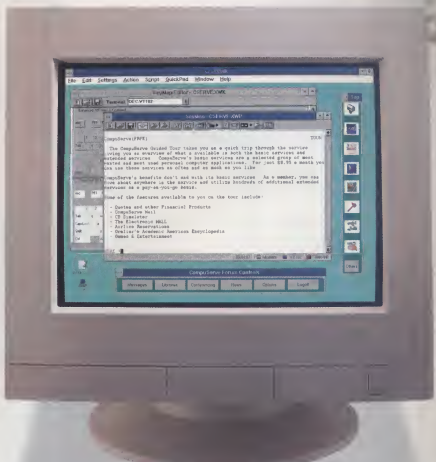

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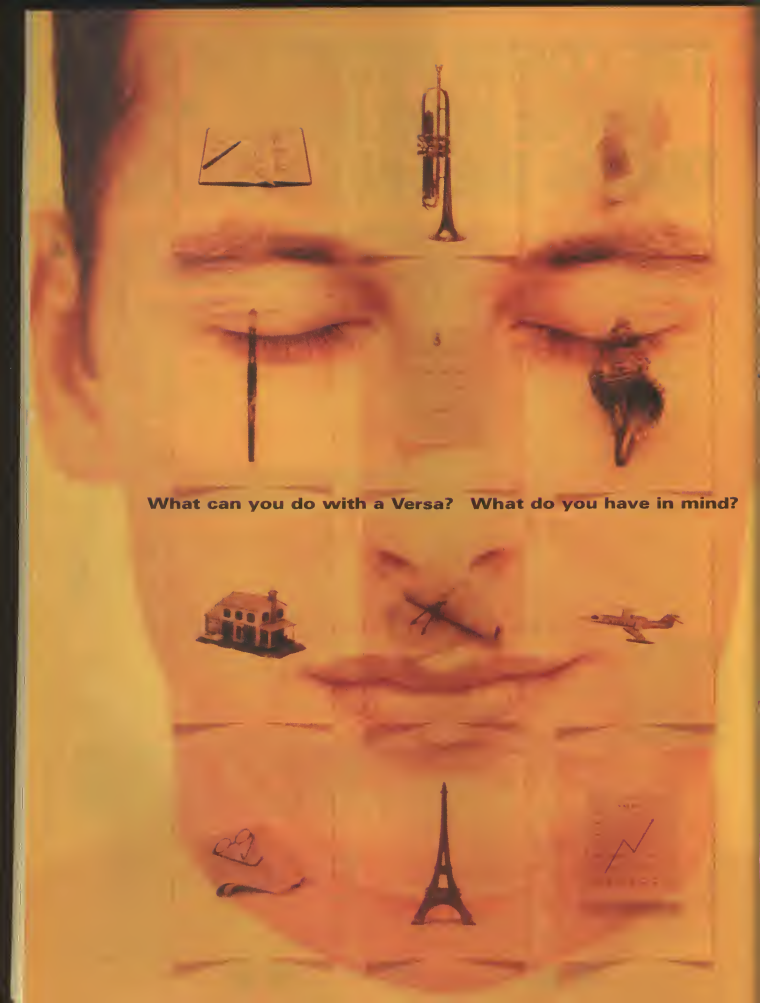
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NEC

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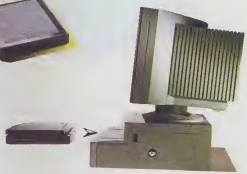

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truck bigger without increasing the size of its engine—you're not going to derive significant performance advantage, even though you can haul more stuff.

So what's the solution? Check out what we found to be the largest single contributor to great multimegabyte transfer rates in today's drives: cache.

Look at the specs of the latest systems and you'll see cache on the CPU (both internal and external), on the disk drive, and in some cases even on the disk controller. Any time you're moving bits from one part of the computer to the other, there's a potential bottleneck. Manufacturers have found that by adding cache, which act as buffer zones for the data, they can provide big jumps in performance.

Here's why: Disk drives transfer data in a matter of milliseconds. The RAM in your PC operates in a completely different time frame—its rapid-fire work goes by in nanoseconds, as does the work of the CPU. As a result, your RAM and your CPU—and ultimately you—spend a lot of time waiting for the hard drive.

Putting cache on the disk drive itself is an intelligent way to boost performance. Of course, there are varying degrees of intelligence implemented in caching algorithms. Disk drive spec sheets use the terms *buffer* and *cache* interchangeably, but in reality, a buffer is just a parking space. A cache indicates the presence of a specialized algorithm to improve performance when data moves from the disk to cache (known as *reads)* or from RAM to cache (known as *writes).* The goal is a cache *hit*—smoothly reading from or writing to the cache instead of reading from or writing to the disk.

You get *read hits* in two ways. You may be requesting information in a logical, sequential pattern, and the drive, anticipating your next move, will go out and fetch the data before you ask for it. The second and more common occurrence comes about because people tend to access the same data over and over. The drive will just hold the data in the cache because it's easier for you to get it from there.

Write hits, on the other hand, depend on the algorithm. As long as there is room in the cache, data keeps heading into the cache from the system RAM. Your caching algorithm will track the percentage of data that's been sent to the cache but hasn't yet moved onto the disk. Because data that's not in the cache hasn't been saved yet, you don't want it hanging around for too long. If the algorithm starts detecting too much "unsaved" or "dirty" data, the cache will send the data directly to the disk (a process known as *write-through* mode) instead of sending it to cache (which is known as *delayed-write* mode).

PERFORMANCE-BOOSTING CONTROLLERS

No doubt about it—caching is good. After all, the disk drives we tested offered cache ranging from 64K up to 1MB, and as a rule, the drives with larger cache performed significantly better. The question remains, though: What is the best way to add cache?

We ask this because we noticed something odd in our results—there was no dramatic difference in performance among all the drives. The final stats were all within four percentage points of each other. Since one of our goals with this project was to help you identify the right disk drive for your needs, we decided to extend our quest for better performance. To do that, we looked beyond the disk drives themselves to controllers and caching products. In all, we tested five of the industry's leading disk controllers (two with caching) and three software cache products, all of which claim to boost hard drive performance.

The disk controller vendors are staking out turf on several fronts. They offer either an IDE or a SCSI interface, and they cache or they don't.

In the SCSI-2 corral, we rounded up an Adaptec AHA-1542C, Distributed Processing Technology's SmartCache III PM2021, and Future Domain's TMC-1680. Each product targets a different niche.

Adaptec has staked a strong claim on the SCSI controller market because it supports multiple operating systems and claims to offer universal device support. Future Domain has made a name by bundling its product with storage-related devices, while DPT is the unchallenged market leader in hardware caching.

THE UPGRADE PATH

Should you pop for a swap?

Here are some of the things you must consider when purchasing an IDE or a SCSI drive:

IDE checklist. If you already have two IDE drives, adding a third gets a little tricky. Standard IDE controllers on most motherboards support only two hard drives. To add a third drive, you need to add a secondary IDE controller board. Take a look at the Promise Technology DC-200 controller, which supports up to four IDE drives.

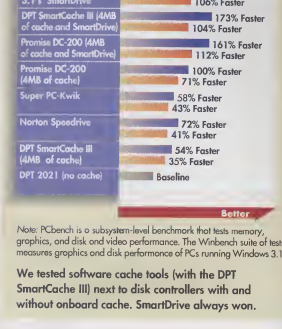
Now that the new IDE drive is installed, you need to set the master/slave jumper. When IDE drives work in pairs, one acts as the master, the second as the slave. If you're adding a second drive, check its documentation and make sure it's configured to act as a slave.

SCSI checklist. Adding SCSI to a system requires installing a SCSI controller in most cases. All the SCSI controllers in our review are configurable as either the boot device or the secondary device (in case you keep your IDE drive). Before buying a controller, check your system to confirm it doesn't have one built in.

Every SCSI device is differentiated by a unique ID number. Make sure no two devices share the same SCSI ID. If they do, you can change the SCSI ID with jumpers located on each device.

SOFT OR HARD CACHE?

Surprise—the best boost is with Windows 3.1.



Note: PCbench is a subsystem-level benchmark that tests memory, graphics, and disk and video performance. The Winbench suite of tests measures graphics and disk performance of PCs running Windows 3.1.

We tested software cache tools (with the DPT SmartCache III) next to disk controllers with and without onboard cache. SmartDrive always won.

For the IDE interface, we looked at the embedded IDE controller in the Compaq Deskpro 4/33i and a Promise Technology DC-200. The DC-200 controller, like the SmartCache III PM2021, offers caching as an option. We ran all of the controllers through our PCbench and Winbench tests on the Compaq Deskpro 4/33i with 8MB of RAM. In those tests, controllers with the IDE interface clearly outperformed SCSI under both DOS and Windows. But when we added cache to both the SmartCache III PM2021 SCSI controller and the DC-200 IDE controller, both showed a huge performance boost.

It's possible that by caching your disk drive you can save yourself several hours every week. Adding hardware cache to the controller boosted performance an average of 65 percent in our benchmark tests. But when you buy a disk controller with cache, the extra hardware will cost you.

SOFTWARE CACHING

We also investigated the option of using a software cache. You can get PC-Kwik's Super PC-Kwik for $79.95 and Symantec's Norton Speedrive for $99. And SmartDrive disk cache software—standard issue from Microsoft ever since DOS 4.01 and Windows 3.1—is no slouch.

Don't be put off by the recent controversy with MS-DOS 6. Microsoft set the default with write-caching turned on, and everyone who upgraded to DOS 6 witnessed blazing performance. But with this speed came a problem: Microsoft neglected to mention that if users stopped working and almost immediately turned off their PCs, there wouldn't be enough time for the cache to flush data to the hard drive, and data could be lost. Faced with the choice of boosting performance or protecting its users, Microsoft started shipping DOS 6.2 with write-caching turned off.

So when we tested this hot capability, we first ran SmartDrive using the current defaults—read-caching on, write-caching off. Performance jumped more than 60 percent. We didn't stop there. Next we enabled write-caching. Our jaws dropped when we gained *another* 110 percent over the 60 percent mark. SmartDrive not only blew away both the third-party products (PC-Kwik's Super PC-Kwik and Norton Speedrive), it out-performed both DPT's and Promise Technology's hardware caching products.

Want a quick picture of how SmartDrive is configured in your system? Type SMARTDRV at the DOS prompt, and up comes a concise explanation of how it's configured and what type of cache hit rate you're getting. To learn the details of configuring SmartDrive, use the DOS help system. Turn on the write cache—just don't be too quick (wait two seconds) when you hit the off switch. While it uses some of your precious RAM, it's a small price to pay for the stunning jump in performance.

THE CACHE AND CONTROLLERS DRAWER

Here's how to find the cache and controllers we tested.

Adaptec AHA-1542C • $269 • Adaptec • 691 S. Milpitas Blvd., Milpitas, CA 95035 • (800) 934-2766, (408) 945-8600
Circle No. 713 on Reader Service Card

DC-200 • $149 • Promise Technology • 1460 Koll Circle, San Jose, CA 95112 • (800) 888-0245, (408) 452-0948
Circle No. 714 on Reader Service Card

Norton Speedrive • $99 • Symantec Corp. • 10201 Torre Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014 • (800) 441-7234, (408) 253-9600
Circle No. 715 on Reader Service Card

SmartCache III PM2021 • $285; $1,235 with 4MB of RAM • Distributed Processing Technology • 140 Candace Dr., Maitland, FL 32751 • (800) 322-4378, (407) 830-5522
Circle No. 716 on Reader Service Card

SmartDrive • Bundled with Windows and DOS • Microsoft Corp. • 1 Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052 • (206) 882-8080
Circle No. 717 on Reader Service Card

Super PC-Kwik • $79.95 • PC-Kwik Corp. • 15100 S.W. Koll Pkwy., Beaverton, OR 97006 • (800) 274-5945, (503) 644-5644
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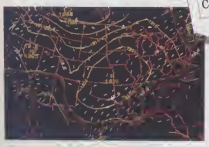
Supports Windows Sound and Video Viewers	✓
Supports Phone Books	✓
Enhanced Bookmarks	✓
Views Multiple Open Servers	✓
Supports Winsock Compatible TCP/IP Stacks	✓
Compatible with Other Windows Applications	✓



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FINAL ANALYSIS

Media Junkies: Take Note

Watch for better technology to keep boosting capacity.

THESE NEW, high-capacity disk drives will help you move into new applications territory. But expect even more changes: Interfaces will improve, and advancements in media and electronics will yield increased capacity.

Start with the two most common interfaces: IDE and SCSI. If you look only at the specs, SCSI appears to have an unfair advantage over IDE. The most common SCSI interface used today is SCSI-2 Fast. The name refers to its ability to send data across the bus at 10MB per second, twice as fast as the previous SCSI spec. Add to that the ability to connect to up to 8GB of storage (under DOS and Windows), and talk to seven devices from one controller, and SCSI-2 Fast has no equal.

Furthermore, the IDE interface is limited to 500MB per disk (two disks, max) and it won't support other peripherals, such as scanners or CD-ROMs. So why isn't SCSI flourishing on the desktop?

The problem is that many of SCSI's features become relatively obsolete when introduced into a single-threaded DOS/Windows environment. More commonly used in multithreaded operating systems, SCSI has the ability to send a disconnect-and-redirect command to disconnect from one device and attach to another. It can do this with multiple devices simultaneously, which improves seek time.

Don't expect the IDE spec to go down without a fight. After all, the proliferation of PCs has kept IDE's cost low and its installation simple. At the same time, look for Western Digital's Enhanced IDE interface. With transfer rates equal to SCSI-2 Fast, it will support up to four devices. Western Digital has already announced drives scheduled for the first half of this year, and four of its leading competitors have announced their support for the spec.

BUILDING BLOCKS

With an eye to the future, disk drive manufacturers are also looking at new technologies that will boost their products' capacity. There are three factors that affect your disk drive's storage capacity: how data is recorded, the surface material used to store data, and the fundamental electronic mechanisms within the drive.

When it comes to recording, some disk drive manufacturers are pushing the envelope with Zone Bit Recording (ZBR).

Traditionally, disks stored the same amount of data on the larger tracks at the outside of the disk as they stored on the much smaller inner tracks. ZBR sidesteps this by packing more sectors (512 bytes per sector) on to the larger outer tracks.

Simultaneous with the advent of ZBR, electronic mechanisms in disk drives are becoming more precise. New mechanisms don't need as much of a buffer zone to accurately save, so even more of that precious buffer real estate now can be used for data instead.

In addition to improving traction, disk drive manufacturers are also improving focus with a technology called magneto-resistance (MR) for the drive's heads. Magneto-resistance describes what happens when metal is introduced to a magnetic field—the metal increases the field's resistance to electrical flow.

As a result, magneto-resistant heads can actively and precisely detect changes in the magnetic fields of the disk media, and they can store more bits of data.

Look for these technologies to be incorporated slowly into current drive designs. Fujitsu, for example, is already planning to ship its new Allegro MR-based disk drives, supporting between 1GB and 3GB in formatted capacity.

Our recommendations are simple when it comes to big drives for the long haul. When it comes to the server, head for the expandability of SCSI. On the desktop, depend on the de facto IDE standard. To avoid speed bumps, use your cache wisely—and tweak the SmartDrive utility that Microsoft bundles.

Keep your eyes on the horizon, though: A couple of years from now, new technologies will open up even wider disk drive vistas.

THE ENDURANCE TESTS CONTINUE

You ain't heard the last of this, pardner.

We figured that since you don't turn your disk drives off, there was no reason for us to turn ours off. Our labs have left them running. Think of the performance testing we did for this entire article as a 5-kilometer run. That was just a warm-up. We've already fired the starter's pistol for the Iron Man triathlon of disk drives. Almost all of the drives we tested for this article are still going strong. We're going to keep them going, too, until we find the upper-end of these mean-time-between-failure (MTBF) numbers.

We'll periodically report on how the drives are doing in this long-term, real-world disk-banging. We'll beat 'em, bake 'em, subject 'em to power surges, and keep checking their seek times. We'll report the results in a succinct, informative way that will help you predict when your disks will start breaking a heavy sweat.

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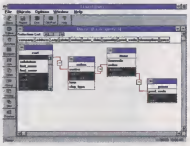

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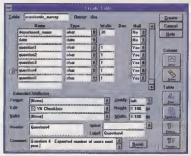

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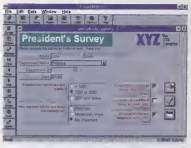

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The Mother of All

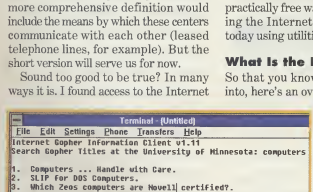
All the data you ever needed exists somewhere on the Internet, but can you find your way in—or out? By Brian Livingston

"I'll take Networks for $1,000, please, Alex." It's the largest, oldest computer network in the world, joining millions of computers and users. "What is America Online?" Oooooh, so sorry. "What is Prodigy?" I'm afraid not. "What is CompuServe?" Sorry, that's not it, either. It's the Internet. The Internet.

And it's like nothing you've ever experienced. Sure, you may be familiar with e-mail, shareware, and online news and discussions, and the Internet may sound like these other services. But don't hook up expecting what you're used to. You can have conversations on any subject, play games against users thousands of miles away, and even run applications on computers in another country. Best of all, there's no central body that controls your actions or bills you for your time. A more comprehensive definition would include the means by which these centers communicate with each other (leased telephone lines, for example). But the short version will serve us for now.

Sound too good to be true? In many ways it is. I found access to the Internet (or the Net, to those in the know) confusing, frustrating, and in some ways even dangerous to the security of the computers that link up. But there are ways to make Internet access worth the trouble, if you're willing to do a little work.

In this column, I'll describe some of the resources available on the Internet as well as some pitfalls that beset Internet users, and how you might avoid them. In addition, there's a simple but powerful Windows interface to the Internet and a practically free way you can start accessing the Internet through your modem today using utilities on PC/Contact.



If you say yuck to Unix, you're probably not going to be happy with a vanilla Internet account. Although Unix is a very powerful operating system, its command syntax will prove fairly alien to DOS users.

What Is the Internet?

So that you know what you're getting into, here's an oversimplified definition: The Internet consists of computer centers throughout the world (mostly at universities and government institutions, but also at many private companies) that allow anyone to log on and access certain files and other services. At present, educated guesses indicate that there are more than 2 million *host* computers on the Internet. An exact count is nearly impossible because the Net is so decentralized.

The beginnings of the Net hark back to at least 1969, when the Advanced Research Projects Agency of the U.S. Department of Defense formed ARPAnet. This early network consisted primarily of universities and military contractors with Unix computers linked by leased telephone lines. A main aim of ARPAnet was to maintain military communications in the event of a major disruption of telephone service (translation: a nuclear war), so communication had to work via many different routes. Hence the Net's high degree of redundancy and low degree of centralization. If one communications link between two sites was unavailable, the machines would try other routes to see if an alternate way could be found to deliver a message.

Due to the number of different routes between computer centers and how duties are spread among them, there is no "center" or "top" of the Internet. Each computer site is an independent entity, but it follows guidelines agreed upon by national and international committees.

Because the government subsidized it, for many years the Internet followed voluntary policies that allowed only nonprofit, educational, and government use: no commercial activities. For example, a private company was not supposed to use the Internet's e-mail to send users unsolicited messages exhorting them to buy their products.

In 1991, however, the National Science Foundation (NSF), which pays the cost of roughly 10 percent of the leased lines that connect Internet sites, loosened these policies. The new policies specifically allowed many commercial uses,

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Networks

including "announcements of new products or services for use in research or instruction, but not advertising of any kind." This shift seems to have opened the floodgates of Internet access. Many Internet sites now allow almost any kind of commercial messages across their own, non-NSF lines. As a result, the Internet is seeing enormous growth in the number of people who use its services. The current consensus among Internet watchers is that approximately 20 million computer users worldwide can communicate via the Net, and 1 million new users hook up each month.

The Internet's many and varied features drive this huge expansion. Primary among them are the most extensive e-mail system around (the President's on it), an almost unlimited number of files to download, interactive online discussions with other users, offline discussions on most any topic, and live news.

To browse through all of this, Internet users traditionally had to know some pretty odd commands. Only a partial listing is possible in this column, but even this can shed some light on the strange acronyms and jargon that have grown up in the case-sensitive, Unix-heavy Internet environment.

telnet: a program that allows you to log on to a computer at another location. Once logged on, you can look at files and even run programs.

archie: a service, accessible through telnet, that you can use to find the location of specific files at Internet sites. For example, you can issue the archie command Prog Music to see a listing of files throughout the Internet that contain the word *music*. Of course, you'd wind up with a huge list unless you narrowed the scope of the command.

gopher: another method for finding files you want. Unlike archie, the gopher program lists different host computers and the subject areas of information they contain. Gopher's capabilities are available on many host machines around the world. Each version provides information about files on the machine it's on, as well as on some other machines.

veronica: yet another tool. This one integrates listings of various gopher machines—called gopher servers—into a single information repository. There are many other services that integrate disparate search engines, generally sporting peculiar names such as Hytelnet, WAIS, and the World-Wide Web.

Anonymous ftp: the file transfer protocol by which you download files from one computer to another.

USENET: a source of newsgroups. Instead of downloading individual files, as with ftp, you automatically receive messages from individual Internet users on a specific topic to which you "subscribe." Topics range all over the spectrum of human interest, from computers to biology and back.

mail: the service employed by the largest number of Internet users. It includes programs with names such as elm, pine, and mush that allow you to send and receive messages.

TOP INTERNET FRONT ENDS

What's the easiest, fastest, least expensive way to hook up? Don't know Unix? Don't worry: Some great freeware and shareware applications are available to make Internet downloads and e-mail a snap. Unfortunately, these applications themselves are stored on the Internet. Catch-22.

PC/Contact

To solve this dilemma, I've selected two of the best freeware programs I could find and uploaded them to PC/Contact so you can get them. For information on how to access PC/Contact, see page 223.

The first program is Lanera's TCP/IP package called TCPOpen. In addition to adding the Internet Protocol (the Internet's lingua franca) to your PC, TCPOpen also supports Serial Line Internet Protocol (SLIP) with Header compression. If you dial up the Internet through a commercial access provider, SLIP will probably be the protocol you wind up using. A limited version of TCPOpen freeware is available as TCPOPEN.ZIP in data library 3 (Utilities/Misc.) on PC/Contact.

The second program is NCSA Mosaic, a communications freeware package that allows you to browse through the files of Internet sites. Developed at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois at Champaign, Mosaic is a Windows program that provides a GUI and a fairly simple menu system to access Internet hosts. If you're interested, Mosaic also comes in versions for the Macintosh, Sun SPARCstation, and several other platforms, all available from access providers that support those systems. To get the PC version of Mosaic, download MOSAIC.ZIP from PC/Contact's data library 3 (Utilities/Misc.).

Unfortunately, these freeware applications provide little or no technical support for users. And even with these packages, you can't just dial up the Internet: You still need a local service provider such as those listed in Internet reference books. If you run into any trouble, you may find yourself better off using one of the many shrink-wrapped DOS or Windows packages available from software vendors, such as Internet-in-a-Box, developed jointly by Spry and O'Reilly & Associates, and discussed on page 184.

To learn more, look into several books on the subject. Two of the best that I've found are: *The Internet Navigator,* by Paul Gilster ($24.95, John Wiley & Sons, 1993), and *The Whole Internet User's Guide & Catalog,* by Ed Krol ($24.95, O'Reilly & Associates, 1992).

In 450 pages, *The Internet Navigator* shows examples of sessions with the various Internet executables and protocols—it's one of the best places for new Internet users to start. *The Whole Internet User's Guide* is a drier treatment that includes descriptions of many of the Internet sites and resources available. For descriptions of several popular online services, see "Surf Cyberspace on Internet Front Ends," page 62.

Electronic Scandals

After reading this far, if you've decided that you want to try the Internet for yourself, you should know a little about the Net's dark side. There are a few troubling issues that potentially affect everyone who uses it on a regular basis.

First of all, the explosion of Internet users has caused gridlock at many host computer sites. Because the NSF recently loosened policies against commercial use of the Net, universities and government agencies aren't the only ones plugging in any more.

Today, large corporations routinely give Internet access to every user of their corporate networks. In a single move, a corporation may create 10,000 new Internet users. Each new user can immediately send mail and log on to Internet hosts to browse for interesting files or run programs. This costs each user very little, but uses some of the capacity of the leased lines between universities and other Internet sites. As a result, when you try to dial into a popular computer center on the Net, you may experience sluggish performance, or worse—constant busy signals. Since there is a finite number of communication ports at any one site (and each port costs money), many Internet hosts have decided to keep their access limited to a small number of simultaneous users. Some computer centers have gone further, denying access to outside dialers during prime time—between, say, 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. This, of course, reserves computing power for the institution's in-house users. But it may also mean that your modem will never be able to get through to that site until midnight or so.

A far more serious problem is the Net's security, or lack thereof. Robert Morris Jr. received international publicity in 1988 when he distributed a program that exploited a security flaw in the mail application commonly used at Internet sites. Morris's program, now immortalized as the Internet Worm, tried common passwords to log on to privileged accounts at Internet hosts. When the Worm found a password that worked, it copied itself to other hosts. The Worm multiplied so fast that entire universities and government agencies could no longer log on to their networks. Before a group of system administrators across the country uncovered and decommissioned the Worm, thousands of Internet sites had to take their host computers off the Net. (After a lengthy trial, a judge sentenced Morris to perform community service.)

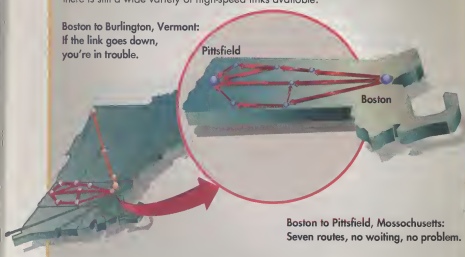
Even more disturbing is a series of security breaches that were first noticed in fall 1993. A packet sniffer originally launched this chain of incidents. The perpetrators (called "crackers" in Netspeak) developed a program to capture users' account names and passwords. The authors of the program probably captured tens of thousands of privileged-users' passwords at sensitive computer centers—even government labs that conduct and exchange e-mail about research on nuclear weapons. When the packet sniffer was originally publicized by Alexis Rosen, the president of Panix Public Access in New York City, he advised other access providers to shut down their computer systems, find and remove all instances of the rogue program, and change all affected users' passwords. The Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT), the Internet's security

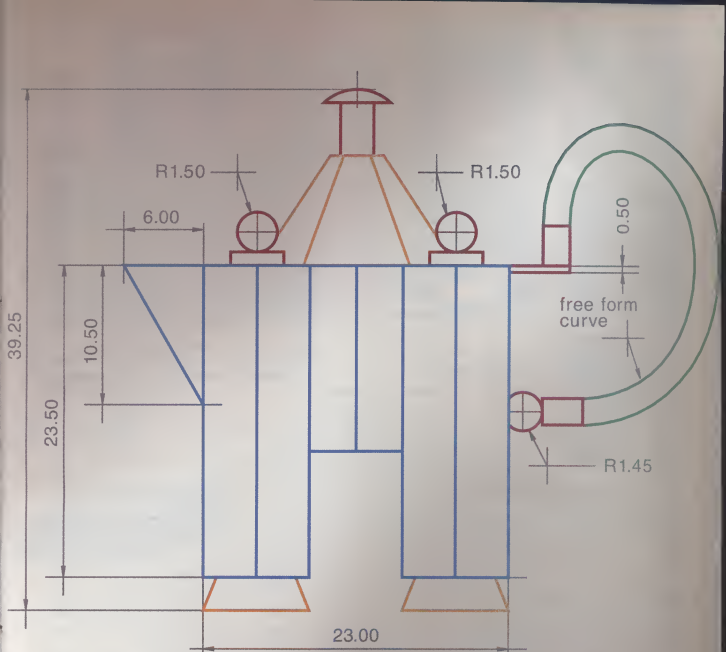
BUILDING THE INTERNET

This is New England as the Internet sees it. We've taken the liberty of simplifying the map and culling out a few of the high-speed and leased-line routes available to a user in Boston.

To send a message to Burlington, Vermont, the Internet has one major route, involving three stopovers. If any of the links in this chain fails, one of the stopovers (or hosts) must either scrub the message and return it to the sender, or use a modem to make the next connection.

To send a message to Pittsfield, Massachusetts, however, the Internet has a much wider variety of choices (seven, in this example). If one of these links or hosts fails, there is still a wide variety of high-speed links available.





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watchdog, released a complete advisory only in early February 1994. According to Panix Public Access's Rosen, "There's nothing worse than a watchdog that doesn't bark reliably."

Because of loopholes such as these, Internet sites should really initiate better security methods before the Net grows further. Most security experts know that simple password systems provide little protection against intruders: Crackers can capture or break passwords too easily for them to be a serious deterrent.

Internet security is like a bank's ATM card—only without the card. With no card, bank customers could withdraw money simply by typing in their passwords. Similarly, crooks could just go from bank to bank trying combinations until they found those that worked. That's why banks use the combination of the physical card and the password. There is currently little or no such back-up security across the Internet, and it's hard to imagine how such a system would become operational in the near future. Until security concerns are dealt with, you might want to avoid the Internet for logging on to distant computers where you keep important files.

Rolling Your Own Internet

If the prospect of accessing the wealth of data that is publicly available at Internet sites *still* intrigues you, there are two basic ways to gain admission to the club. First, if the company you work for provides Internet access from the corporate network, you can simply log on to your network and use whatever tools it provides to connect to the Net (using the commands explained in the two books I mentioned earlier). Because there is such a wide variety of arrangements that companies have set up for Internet access, I'll say little more about this alternative and move on to Internet access from any PC that has a modem and a telephone line.

Individual PC users, on the other hand, can set up an account with a local access provider. By making what is usually a local call to an access point, you can connect to any Internet host.

Finding an access provider, however, illustrates just one of the many daunting tasks that confront new Internet users. Peter Kaminski, a software developer, regularly updates a list of access providers. But to get the list, you must already have access to Internet mail—a catch-22. Technically, you receive the latest listing by sending e-mail to the Internet address

info-deli-
server@netcom.com

with the subject of the message reading

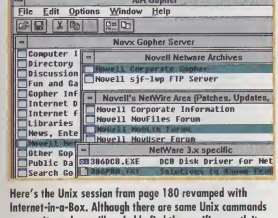
send pdial

If e-mail to the Internet is not convenient, you can also scan the list of access providers, sorted by state and country, in the back of *The Internet Navigator*. Local bulletin board service (BBS) sysops usually also know of local access providers. To find BBSes, contact your local PC users' group or look in the Yellow Pages under Computers—Bulletin Boards. Yes, BBSes have their own category now, although the numbers listed are often data lines that you must call with your modem. Finally, some national services such as Delphi offer complete Internet access as part of their package of services.

Once you find an access provider, know that each has its own method of billing users: usually a monthly fee, an hourly fee, or a combination of the two. Compare rates before signing up.

Shrink-Wrapped Access

Even after you locate an access provider, you still need special software to access the Internet. Easily one of the best such programs is Internet-in-a-Box, jointly developed by Spry and O'Reilly & Associates. This package completely replaces arcane telnet, mail, and other Unix artifacts with graphical Windows equivalents. A prerelease version of the Internet-in-a-Box let me download files with an application called the Network File Manager, which is similar to the Windows File Manager. The Network window, however, displays little folders and files that correspond to the directory structure on the host machine. To copy a file from that machine to your own hard disk, you simply drag the file icon from the Network File Manager and drop it in the appropriate directory in the Windows File Manager.



Here's the Unix session from page 180 revamped with Internet-in-a-Box. Although there are same Unix commands you can't reach, you'll probably find the sacrifice worth it.

Internet-in-a Box builds on Spry's earlier Air Series 2.0 software, which shipped late last year. It consists of the Air Navigator, which lists for $149 for a single user, plus a Windows browsing application based on a public domain program called NCSA Mosaic. At press time, Spry had not yet fixed an exact price for the Internet-in-a-Box bundle, but a company representative said that the street price would be "approximately $149." This price requires you to use a commercial access provider that is a Spry subsidiary. Be sure to contact Spry for final details.

If you can handle the learning curve and the roadblocks, you can sit back and enjoy the scenery on the "information superhighway" that the Clinton Administration has been promoting since before its election. It's all here—masses of data, millions of high-tech users, and endless opportunities for commercial and personal growth. The future is just beginning.

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Brian Livingston is the author of *Windows 3.1 Secrets* (1992) and *More Windows 3.1 Secrets* (1993), both published by IDG Books. If you have any secrets you'd like to share, send them to Help, *PC/Computing*, 950 Tower Lane, 19th Floor, Foster City, CA 94404. We'll pay you $50 if we publish them.

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300dpi/8.5 x 11"	2:00 Minutes	1:55 Minutes	4:05 Minutes
600dpi/8.5 x 11"	5:22 Minutes	9:27 Minutes	17:35 Minutes
800dpi/4 x 5"	2:20 Minutes	3:38 Minutes	6:36 Minutes
1200dpi/4 x 5"	5:28 Minutes	9:05 Minutes	13:00 Minutes
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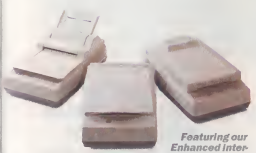

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PCContact

The Motto of Scouts and Notebook Owners: Be Prepared!

Guidelines to optimize your notebook for trouble-free travel.

Whenever you go on a business trip, you leave behind the tools you need to keep Windows running smoothly on your notebook. Instruction manuals and troubleshooting guides? Back on the bookshelf. Original distribution disks? At the bottom of a desk drawer in your office. Backups of crucial data files? It would take another suitcase to hold that many floppy disks.

No matter how thorough your Scout training, you can't anticipate every disaster that might befall your notebook on the road. You can plan your escape route around the most common road hassles, however—it's not even very hard. Follow these simple guidelines and you'll be prepared to keep Windows running, print just about anywhere, and retrieve data when you run into trouble.

Survival Kit

You can't troubleshoot Windows unless you can get to a DOS prompt. That's why your notebook's carrying case should include the following all-purpose DOS and Windows troubleshooting tools:

Emergency boot disk. If you've got the Norton Utilities, run the Rescue program. If PC Tools for Windows is handy, use its Emergency Disk utility. To do it yourself, put a floppy disk in the A: drive and type:

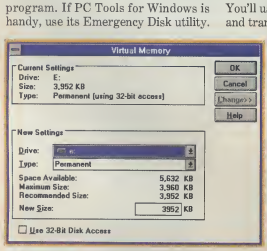
```
FORMAT A: /S
```

Then copy FDISK.EXE, SYS.COM, CHKDSK.EXE, FORMAT.COM, UNFORMAT.COM, and UNDELETE.EXE to the disk. A simple DOS text editor can be a lifesaver; EDIT.COM works, but it requires the bulky QBASIC.EXE as well. Add any extra files your notebook requires (a PCMCIA driver, for example) and, finally, add HIMEM.SYS and EMM386.EXE from your Windows directory. Does your notebook have an external setup program? Copy it over, too. If a stray alpha particle ever scrambles a sector on your hard disk and renders one of these files unusable, you'll be grateful you had a backup handy.

Blank disks. You'll need at least two, in case one disk fails under pressure. You'll use these disks to store backups and transfer files between machines. If you work with large files that might span two disks, be belt-and-suspenders safe and keep three blanks on hand.

Backups of WIN.INI and SYSTEM.INI. Nobody wants to mess with these two files at 2 a.m. in the East Podunk Holiday Inn. If there's room on your emergency boot disk, keep copies of these crucial files there.

Cheat sheet. It doesn't weigh more than a few micrograms, but this piece of paper is where you'll record information that would be priceless in a crisis: CMOS settings for your hard drive, serial numbers for your software, unusual setup strings for your modem, and tech support phone numbers.



32-Bit Disk Access may be dangerous on a battery-powered system. Turn it off before you hit the road, and reactivate it when the notebook is plugged in.

A Safer Setup

Your notebook probably arrived with Windows preconfigured. It's up to you to finish the setup program to make your system truly roadworthy. Here's how:

Turn off 32-bit Disk Access. And don't even *think* about using it on a machine that runs on batteries. The 32-Bit Disk Access feature is buried deep inside the Control Panel: To find it, double-click on the 386 Enhanced icon, click on the Virtual Memory button, and then click on the Change button. Enabling 32-Bit Disk Access causes Windows to use an Enhanced mode virtual device driver (called FastDisk) to directly access the disk controller hardware. This can cause problems in notebooks, whose disk controllers typically use power management features that aren't compatible with the Western Digital controller standard that 32-Bit Disk Access assumes your PC has. If the power management system changes the status of the disk controller without notifying Windows, you run the risk of losing data.

Just so you know, you can run into a

WIN APP OF THE MONTH

Lister

Printing text files in Windows is no fun: You have to load a word processor, convert the file to the word processor's native format; put in the right fonts, headers, and footers; and finally, print out the text file. But there's now an easier way: Lister is a free utility that lets you define headers, footers, and fonts, and then paint and click on a file to print it. Download LISTER.ZIP from PC/Contact, data library 3 (Utilities/Misc.). The author is Michael J. Nartan, 7811 Smoke Rise Road, Huntsville, AL 35802.

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New! REACHOUT Pro 4.0 for Windows!

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ReachOut has earned three major awards in the past 18 months. The latest being "Product of the Year" for 1993 from LAN Magazine. Which goes to show that ReachOut is one powerful networking tool. InfoWorld proclaimed "ReachOut offers superb screen, mouse, and file transfer speeds and provides as many security options as Sing-Sing. Operation is as smooth as silk." InfoWorld rated ReachOut as #1 and awarded it their Buyer's Assurance Seal. And PC Magazine UK confessed ReachOut "was the only remote control program that worked right out of the box." They named ReachOut The UK Editor's Choice and called it a top notch value.

The new ReachOut Version 4.0 for Windows continues the tradition of excellence with support for all high resolution monitors up to 1280 by 1280 with 256 colors. What's more, it makes no modifications to the Windows initialization files. And speed is as much as 40% faster than the version InfoWorld had reviewed.

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catch-22 when you experiment with the Virtual Memory settings: On some systems, Windows won't even start in Enhanced mode with the 32-Bit Disk Access box checked. But the only way to access the 386 Enhanced section of the Control Panel is to start Windows in Enhanced mode. The solution? Type WIN /D:F at the DOS prompt to start Windows with 32-Bit Disk Access temporarily disabled, and then turn it off permanently using the Control Panel.

Set up multiple video options. If your LCD cracks or crashes, you can still get some work done (or at least transfer important files to another machine) if you can find an external monitor. To make sure your system will work with nearly any monitor you plug in to it, be sure to install the generic VGA option. VGA.DRV is the lowest common denominator of video support. At 640 by 480 resolution and 16 colors, it should drive almost any monitor you can find.

Don't just copy VGA.DRV to your WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory. When you install a new video driver, Windows needs to replace screen font and grabber files. With your original Windows disks at hand, run through the setup program, either by typing SETUP at the C:\WINDOWS prompt or by double-clicking the Setup icon in the Main program group.

Be smart about SmartDrive. Be *especially* careful if you like to drive on an empty tank. By default, SmartDrive 4.0 (the version that shipped with Windows 3.1) and SmartDrive 5.0 (included with MS-DOS 6.2) both install with delayed-write caching turned on. That means that your system saves up disk writes and waits as long as five seconds before sending them to the hard disk. It's risky business on your desktop and worth a week-long stay in the Heartbreak Hotel if you try it on the notebook. Just imagine what happens when your notebook battery runs down one second before your disk cache is ready to send its saved-up contents to the disk.

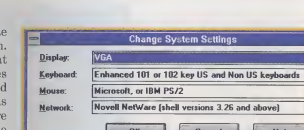
To turn off delayed-write caching, edit the SMARTDRV.EXE line in AUTOEXEC.BAT. With Version 4.0 or 4.1 of SmartDrive, add C- at the end of the SMARTDRV.EXE line to disable delayed writes on drive C:. (Repeat the process, if necessary, for any additional hard drives.) DOS 6.2 and Windows for Workgroups 3.11 ship with a later version of SmartDrive and install it with delayed writes turned off by default. Check SmartDrive's cache status by typing SMARTDRV /S at the DOS prompt. The write cache field should say "No" when you're on the road.

Be double-smart about DoubleSpace. If you use the DoubleSpace utility that ships with DOS 6, upgrade to DOS 6.2. It includes more rigorous error-checking and a set of utilities that can scan a disk (compressed or uncompressed) and fix most errors it finds. If you can't do without disk compression, consider putting Windows on the uncompressed portion of the drive. That way, you'll still have access to Windows (including applets like Write and Terminal) in the event of irreparable damage to your compressed volume file (CVF).

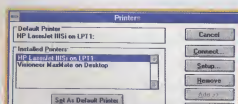
Prepare to print anywhere. Find your original Windows disks and use the Printers utility (found in the Control Panel) to install support for the following printers: Apple LaserWriter (PostScript); Hewlett-Packard LaserJet II, III, and 4; Epson FX-80, and IBM ProPrinter. Connect them all to FILE. You'll find this variety indispensable if you ever need to print a file on the road.

Carry a compression utility. If you need to get a file from your notebook to another system, the fastest route is through a floppy transfer. But what happens when the file is bigger than a single floppy? The solution is to keep a compression utility handy. Despite a cumbersome command-line interface, PKWare's PKzip is still one of the best, primarily because of its capability to create self-extracting files that don't require a decompression utility on the receiving PC. We were able to squeeze a bulky 30-slide Freelance Graphics presentation from 2MB-plus into a lean, self-extracting file of just more than 100K by using PKzip 2.04g; download PK204G.EXE from data library 3 (Utilities/Misc.) on PC/Contact (see "DOS App of the Month," January, page 244, for more information). Not every file will compress that efficiently, of course, but even a 20 percent savings in floppy disk space can make a difference. If a disk transfer won't serve your needs, consider a file transfer utility such as Interlink (DOS 6.x) or Traveling Software's LapLink, both of which require special parallel or serial cables. The disadvantage is that it's one more thing to carry.

Nobody ever said business travel was fun, but if you pack this survival kit along with your notebook, you can quickly recover from glitches that would put the unprepared traveler out of commission for the rest of the trip. ◩



Make sure your notebook will work with nearly any monitor by installing the generic VGA option—the lowest common denominator for video support. You'll be hard-pressed to find a monitor it can't drive.



You just finished the Anderson report and it's time to print it out. Now where did those darn printer drivers go? Not installed?! You should have thought ahead.

Got a tip, trick, or handy Windows secret you'd like to share? We'll pay you $50 if we publish it. Send it and any correspondence for Senior Contributing Editor Ed Bott to Help, *PC/Computing*, 950 Tower Lane, 19th Floor, Foster City, CA 94404.

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Beyond MemMaker: How to Beat the RAM Cram

With some fine-tuning, you can win back the RAM that DOS 6.2 ate.

Have you noticed that DOS is becoming more adroit at handling memory? Version 5 introduced EMM386.EXE and the notion of upper memory blocks (UMBs), permitting you to move memory-resident programs and device drivers out of conventional memory and into formerly inaccessible spaces between 640K and 1MB. Version 5 also enabled you to load much of the operating system's kernel, disk buffers, and command interpreter into the special region of extended memory known as the High Memory Area (HMA).

Not to be outdone, DOS 6 introduced MemMaker, a memory-optimization utility that analyzes your system and modifies CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT as necessary to move memory-resident programs and drivers from conventional memory to UMBs. Unfortunately, MemMaker has limitations. Don't get us wrong: MemMaker is a giant step in the right direction, but there are usually additional optimizations you can perform after MemMaker has run its course to free even more conventional memory. Some of these were discussed in "Five Smart Memory Tricks to Push RAM to the Limit," (September 1993, page 292), but DOS 6.2 introduced new ways to save memory.

DOS 6.2 features even more memory-management tools, but most of the enhancements are undocumented. This month's column surveys the new memory-handling features introduced in Version 6.2, and offers practical advice on putting them to work.

Trim DBLSPACE.BIN

In DOS 6, the DoubleSpace driver DBLSPACE.BIN used about 43K of memory. In Version 6.2, its footprint increased to about 52K. There are two ways to decrease DBLSPACE.BIN's installed size. If you're running DOS on a 286 or later, make sure your CONFIG.SYS loads HIMEM.SYS, and that your BUFFERS setting is below 10. You don't need a higher BUFFERS setting if you're using SmartDrive, DOS's disk caching driver. In fact, higher BUFFERS settings prevent DBLSPACE.BIN from loading part of itself in the HMA, which is already overcrowded by the DOS kernel, the disk buffers controlled by BUFFERS, and COMMAND.COM. If HIMEM.SYS is loaded and BUFFERS is set sufficiently low, DBLSPACE.BIN places about 5K of itself in HMA, reducing its size in conventional memory by the same amount.

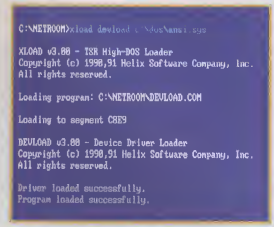
You can downsize DBLSPACE.BIN by another 5K by disabling the automounting feature. In DOS 6, compressed floppy disks had to be mounted manually each time they were inserted. "Mounting" was how you could tell DOS that a compressed disk had been placed in a drive. Version 6.2's automounting feature allows it to recognize compressed disks automatically, but with a commensurate cost in memory. To disable automounting—which you don't need if you don't compress removable disks—type

```
DBLSPACE /AUTOMOUNT=0
```

at the command prompt. Then reboot your PC so the change can take effect.

Use F000h

In DOS 6, MemMaker's Express Setup checked the first 32K of your PC's F000h segment of upper memory (the 64K area, or segment, just below 1MB) for empty space that could be converted to UMB RAM. In Version 6.2, you must run Custom Setup and answer yes to the question, "Scan the upper memory area aggressively?" to have MemMaker check the F000h segment. Most PCs don't have empty space in this region, but those that do can gain up to 32K more UMB space. To see if this option works for you, run MemMaker in Custom Setup mode and answer yes to MemMaker's query about scanning aggressively. Or add a



Memory tweaking requires rebooting after each change. Enter DEVLOAD, which loads and unloads on the fly, with no need to reboot. DEVLOAD is included in NetRoom 3 (see page 194).

DOS APP OF THE MONTH

RESQ

Ever lost a 20-page document due to an application crash? (Rhetorical question.) RAM is volatile and doesn't retain your data. Or does it? RESQ is an amazing utility that helps you recover any lost text that remains in memory after a program crashes. If it locates a region of memory that contains your lost document, RESQ will save to disk all that remains of the document with a single keystroke. It's fast, it's easy, and best of all, it's free. Download RESQ.ZIP from data library 3 (Utilities/Misc) of PC/Contact. PCContact

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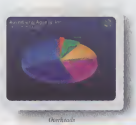

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HIGHSCAN switch to the line in your CONFIG.SYS file that loads EMM386.EXE and reboot. If the HIGHSCAN switch locks up your PC, reboot, press F5 for a Clean Boot (bypassing CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT), and then edit the switch from CONFIG.SYS.

Fill UMBs with Zeros

In versions before DOS 6.2, EMM386.EXE didn't initialize the contents of UMBs that it set up in upper memory. This practice could give you a nasty surprise: If you or an application you installed inadvertently mapped a UMB into a region populated by ROM, you most likely wouldn't find out until your PC locked up. Surprise!

DOS 6.2's EMM386.EXE driver, by contrast, fills UMBs with zeros so that problems are immediately apparent. If your PC no longer boots properly after an upgrade from 6 to 6.2, this could be the reason. To fix the problem, boot without EMM386.EXE and rerun MemMaker. MemMaker will identify most sources of conflict in the upper memory area (including troublesome adapter RAMs, adapter ROMs, and system-board ROMs) and configure EMM386.EXE to stay away from those areas. You may lose a few kilobytes of UMB RAM, but you'll no longer run the risk of mapping UMBs to forbidden areas of memory.

Maximize Available Memory

Of course, a lot of the old tricks for maximizing conventional and upper memory also work in DOS 6.2. Here are some more suggestions:

- If you're just a few kilobytes short of having enough upper memory to load a large TSR or device driver, add a NOHI switch to EMM386.EXE. This will increase the amount of available upper memory by about 5K (at the

THIRD-PARTY MEMORY MANAGERS

The memory monagement tools ovoilable in MS-DOS have improved significontly since the introduction of DOS 5. But to eke that lost elusive kilobyte (or ten) out of your conventionol memory, you moy want to try a third-porty memory management utility. The following progroms excel in configuring your memory with little or no intervention:

QEMM 7. Formerly known os QEMM386, Quorterdeck's highly-decoroted veteron hos motured with groce. As the new nome indicotes, it now supports 486 ond Pentium. Its outomated mode, Optimize, onolyzes your system ond configures your stortup files to get the most out of your RAM. For extro tweoking, the Stealth utility mokes the most of your BIOS ond video memory. Another module, Monifest, is a hondy diognostic tool that suggests improvements ond chonges. QEMM 7 supports Stocker ond the new DoubleSpoce in DOS 6.2. Running DoubleSpoce in Stealth mode con free os much os 40K of conventionol memory.

386Max 7.0. Like QEMM 7, Quolitos's 386Mox 7.0 offers a honds-free configurotion mode colled Moximize. The system monitoring feoture, Asq, provides helpful informotion on your system ond odds o bonus tutoriol. The Quolitos Memory Tester (QMT) tests for defective or unstoble memory, for those intermittent, hord-to-exploin croshes. Also like QEMM 7, this progrom supports the mojor disk compression utilities ond tokes odvontoge of BIOS ond video memory.

NetRoom 3. Don't let the nome fool you: This is not o network utility. The Clook technology moves progroms to the 32-bit protected mode of o 386 or loter system. This is NetRoom's opprooch to moximizing BIOS ond video memory. The self-configurotion module, Customize, is similor to Optimize ond Moximize in its opprooch, doing the bulk of the work for you. A unique feoture is DEVLOAD, which loods ond uploods device drivers on the fly.

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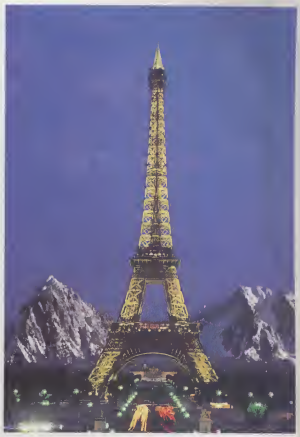
How To Move Mountains.



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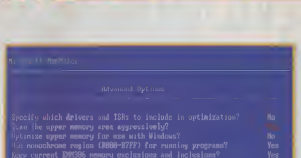

MemMaker asks, "Scon the upper memory orea aggressively?" Soy yes and MemMoker checks memory segment F000h (normally reserved for monochrome video) for space it can convert to UMBs.

expense of 5K of conventional memory). But don't fret; you could see a net gain of 25K in conventional memory because sacrificing 5K of conventional memory could allow you to move a 30K TSR or driver to upper memory.

• Reduce the FILES setting in your CONFIG.SYS file to the minimum possible (a figure best determined by experimentation unless you have third-party software to help out). Or you can use a third-party utility such as Quarterdeck's FILES.COM, or Philip Gardner's DOSMAX, or my own UMBFILES to move the system file table out of conventional memory. You can download UMBFILES.ZIP from data library 3 (Utilities/Misc.) on the PC/Contact forum. See page TK for downloading instructions.

• Add the command STACKS=0,0 to your CONFIG.SYS file. This frees up almost 2K of conventional memory on most PCs. If you subsequently experience unexplained lockups, or if you receive "Stack overflow" or "Exception error #12" messages from DOS, remove the STACKS=0,0 statement or restore the original STACKS setting.

• Don't allocate environment space needlessly. The statement

```
SHELL=C:\DOS\COMMAND.COM C:\DOS
 /E:1024 /P
```

in CONFIG.SYS sets aside a full 1K of conventional memory to hold environment strings. Most of us don't need nearly that much. Try decreasing this figure in increments of 128 or 256 until DOS or a batch file complains that it is "Out of environment space."

It pays to be knowledgeable when you're dealing with memory management. Then—and only then—can you be absolutely assured that you're getting the most from the RAM your system has to offer. ◩

Jeff Prosise is a contributing editor and the author of *Windows Desktop Utilities* (ZD Press, 1994). If you have a DOS tip, send it to: Help, *PC/Computing*, 950 Tower Lane, 19th Floor, Foster City, CA 94404. We'll pay $50 for every tip we publish.

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F980i/W	21"	0.26mm	H:46-109kHz V:55-120Hz	1600x1200
F960i/W	21"	0.28mm	H:30-76kHz V:55-90Hz	1280x1024
F960i/W	17"	0.26mm	H:30-82kHz V:55-90Hz	1280x1024
F950i/W	17"	0.28mm	H:47-65kHz V:55-90Hz	1024x768
F840i/W	15"	0.28mm	H:37-61kHz V:50-85Hz	1024x768

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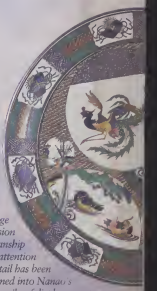

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Circle 212 on reader service card.

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AppTips: Word Processors

INSIDE THIS MONTH

Add rows to WordPerfect tables easily • Update multiple Excel charts at once • Load FoxPro fast • Customize OS/2 menus

AmiPro 3.0

PROBLEM: The Number List paragraph style won't number consecutively if you change style between paragraphs.

SOLUTION: Promote the Number List style to a higher level than the intervening styles. Select Style, Outline Styles and highlight "1. Number List." Click on the Promote button until Number List is farther to the left than the other styles. Make sure none of the Reset Options is selected and click on OK. Ami Pro will number all paragraphs in your document's Number List style sequentially.

LOTUS WORD PROCESSING DIVISION
TECHNICAL SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

Word for Windows

PROBLEM: You want a quick way to pull certain scattered elements—illustrations, for example—from your master document into a single location.

SOLUTION: Set the illustrations or headings apart with a particular style, and use the following macro to extract all of the matching text in either Version 2.0 or 6.0 of Word for Windows. To create the macro click on Tools, Macro, type YankStyle under Macro Name, then click on Create. (In Word 2.0 for Windows, the final button is called Edit.) Between the Sub MAIN and End Sub lines, type the following macro:

```
CurrWindow$ = WindowName$()
FileNew
TempWindow$ = WindowName$()
Activate CurrWindow$
StartOfDocument
EditFindClearFormatting
EditFindStyle "heading 1"
EditFind "", .Direction = 2
While EditFindFound()
EditCopy
Activate TempWindow$
EditPaste
Activate CurrWindow$
EditFind "", .Direction = 2
Wend
```

Replace heading 1 with the style name you've used to set off your headings or illustrations. Save the macro. The macro places the copied text into a new document and drops you back into your original document. Move to where you want to insert the list into your original document, select Window, and choose the unsaved new document (for example, Document2). Copy all of the text in the list to the Clipboard, switch back to the original document, and paste your list into it.

WOODY LEONHARD
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

WordPerfect 6.0 for DOS

PROBLEM: You need to hide certain onscreen documents fast when colleagues barge in on you unexpectedly.

SOLUTION: Keep your boss from knowing you're working on your résumé with a screen blanker macro. Open a new document and enter the following lines of code:

```
SAVESTATE PERSISTALL
AutoCodePlacement(OFF!) WP51Cur-
  sorMovement(ON!) VARERRCHK(OFF!)
ASSIGN(key;"") DISCARD(key)
ASSIGN(rc;"") DISCARD(rc)
IF((?RevealCodesActive*512))
 ASSIGN(rc; 1) RevealCodes
ENDIF
SHOWPOSITION(0; -1) SHOWCODE(Clr-
  Line!) SHOWATTRON(ReverseOff!)
SHOWCODE(ClrScreen!)
WHILE(""+key+""<>""+NTOC(-8182)
  +"")
 LOOK(key)
 IF(key) ASSIGN(key; NTOC(key))
  ELSE DISCARD(key) ENDIF
ENDWHILE
IF(EXISTS(rc)) Type("~")
 RevealCodes
ENDIF
DisplayRewrite
```

Save this new document as BLANK.WPM in the subdirectory \WP60\MACROS and WordPerfect will compile the macro.

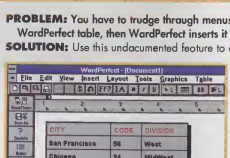
But what good is an emergency screen blanker if it takes several keystrokes to use? Select File, Setup, Keyboard Layout. In the dialog box, highlight Macros and type 3 to edit the macro keyboard assignments. Select Create from the Edit Keyboard dialog box and type in an unused keystroke combination such as Alt-Z. Choose Macro to select BLANK.WPM and Description to type in its purpose. Choose OK at each prompt until you return to the Keyboard Layout dialog box where you click on Close.

JOHN JARRETT
OAKHURST, CALIFORNIA

KILLER TIP: WORDPERFECT

PROBLEM: You have to trudge thraugh menus ad nauseam to add a new raw in a WordPerfect table, then WordPerfect inserts it in the wrang place.

SOLUTION: Use this undacumented feature to odd anather row quickly. Move to the last cell in the table (the battam-right cell), and press the tab key. Yau won't mave to a new column as yau would narmally; WordPerfect 6.0 far Windaws will autamatically add a new raw with the same table farmat as the lost raw in the table. WordPerfect will automotically size the raw ta fit your new data.



LYNDA TASCHEK
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

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Apt Tips: Spreadsheets

Excel 5.0

PROBLEM: You wont numbers ta stond aut automatically when they meet certain criteria.

SOLUTION: To specify conditional number formats, block the cells you wish to format, click on the right-mouse button, and select Format Cells. Type the following into the Code box to display numbers less than 500 as red:

```
[<500] [RED]#,##0.00;#,##0.00
```

Note that conditional expressions such as <500 precede the format and are enclosed in square brackets. As another example, you may display a chevron (>>) next to values greater than 10,000 by typing the following code in the Code box:

```
[>10000]">>"* #,##0;#,##0
```

RALPH SOUCIE
JONESPORT, MAINE

PROBLEM: You don't wont to display zeras in cells in several sheets.

SOLUTION: Hold down Ctrl and click the left-mouse button on the tab of each sheet you want to affect. Select Tools, Options, and deselect the Zero Values option, then click on OK.

RALPH SOUCIE
JONESPORT, MAINE

PROBLEM: Excel doesn't let you update o series af charts in ane operation.

SOLUTION: The Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) macro below updates eight charts on eight successive worksheets. To customize this macro for the correct number of worksheets, replace the "8" on the fifth line with the appropriate number. To create the macro, select Insert, Macro, Module. Then type the following lines on the blank sheet.

```
Sub Macro1()
Message = "Enter the row number
  with new data"
Title = "New data dialog"
NewRow = Val(InputBox(Message,
  Title, 5))
For I = 1 To 8
  Worksheets(I).Select
  Set NewData = Range(Cells(New
    Row, 1), Cells(NewRow, 4))
  ActiveSheet.DrawingObjects("Char
    t 1").Select
  ActiveSheet.ChartObjects("Chart
    1").Activate
  ActiveChart.Axes(xlValue).Select
  ActiveChart.SeriesCollection.Ext
    end Source:=
    NewData, RowCol:=xlColumns
  ActiveWindow.Visible = False
Next I
End Sub
```

Place each chart with its data series on a separate worksheet. Then assign the same name to the chart on each worksheet (in this example, Chart 1). To run the macro, press F5. You will be prompted for the number of the row that contains new data, and the macro will perform the update to the specified worksheets.

RICK DOBSON
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Quattro Pro 5.0 for DOS

PROBLEM: Repeatedly copying a block af cells ta different destinations requires specifying the source black each time.

SOLUTION: Create an autocopy macro. Click on a notebook page tab and then select Edit, Page, Name. Type Macros and press Enter. Starting in cell A1, type in the following:

```
 A B
1 '\C    {OnError CONT1}
2    {/ Name;Delete}SOURCE~
3 CONT1  {/
  Name;Create}SOURCE~{?}~
4 '\R    {OnError CONT2}
5    {/ Name;Delete}DEST~
6 CONT2  {/Name;Create}DEST~{?}~
7    {Block;Copy}SOURCE~DEST~
```

This creates two macros that you execute by typing Alt-C and Alt-R. To name the macros, select Edit, Names, Labels, Right, and specify A1..A6 for named blocks. When you first copy a block, press Alt-C, and you'll be prompted for source and destination. For your next copy, and all subsequent ones, press Alt-R and you'll be asked to specify only the destination.

THE COBB GROUP
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows

PROBLEM: Entering doto into a specific block of cells requires using the orrow keys to navigate.

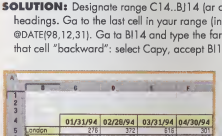
SOLUTION: Actually, it doesn't, though the way around the problem is undocumented. First highlight the range you want to type into; keyboard users may do so by pressing F4, then typing the range (example: B3..F12). Then start entering numbers, following each with Enter. The cell pointer will automatically move down the first column you selected. When you get to the last cell selected in this column, you'll loop around to the first cell in the second.

RANDY STONE
HACKETTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY

KILLER TIP: 1-2-3 FOR WINDOWS

PROBLEM: You need to set up column headings as manth-end dates (01/31/94, 02/28/94, and sa an) far five years, from January 1994 to December 1998.

SOLUTION: Designate range C14..BJ14 (ar any other 60 cells) far the column headings. Ga to the last cell in your range (in this case, it's BJ14) and type @DATE(98,12,31). Ga to B14 and type the farmula +BJ14-@DAY(BJ14). Naw capy that cell "backward": select Capy, accept B14..BI14 as the range to capy fram, and type BH14..C14 as the range to capy to. Ta farmat the displayed values as dates, select Range, Farmat, Date 4 (MM/DD/YY) and specify range C14..BJ14. All af the dates shawn will be manth ends.



	B	C	D	E	F
1					
2					
3					
4		01/31/94	02/28/94	03/31/94	04/30/94
5	London	276	372	518	201
6	Paris	214	76	201	385
7	New York	294	144	680	605
8	Manila	140	192	660	287
9	Rome	574	395	279	671
10	Tokyo	526	483	745	440

LEO BIRCHLER
ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI

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Circle 113 on reader service card.

dBASE IV

PROBLEM: You need to count the number of doys that have passed so far this yeor as well os the number of doys remoining.

SOLUTION: Create a procedure file, as follows. At the "dot" prompt, type MODIFY COMMAND MYPROGS. dBASE will add the .PRG extension to that name. Type the following lines:

```
FUNCTION DOY
PARAMETERS pdate,pcode
SET TALK OFF
PRIVATE yr,numdays
IF TYPE("pdate") <> "D" .OR.
  TYPE("pcode") <> "C"
RETURN 0
ENDIF
yr = STR(YEAR(pdate),4)
DO CASE
CASE UPPER(pcode) = "D"
numdays = pdate - CTOD("01/01/" +
  yr) + 1
CASE UPPER(pcode) = "R"
numdays = CTOD("12/31/" + yr) -
  pdate
OTHERWISE
numdays = 0
ENDCASE
RETURN numdays
```

Save and exit using Ctrl-W. The file MYPROGS contains a User Defined Function (UDF) called DOY. To use it, type SET PROCEDURE TO MYPROGS; which will load the file to memory and make the UDF available for that session, or until you type SET PROCEDURE TO. Give the DOY function a date and code: either "D" for day of the year, or "R" for days remaining. For example,

```
.? DOY(DATE(),"D")
101
.? DOY(DATE(),"R")
264
```

ROGER SAUER
FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA

PROBLEM: You want to be able to quickly replace any occurrence of specific chorocters with other chorocters.

SOLUTION: Page 187 of the *dBASE IV 2.0 Language Reference Manual* provides an assembly language script for a file called StrSubst, which does this, but it's not an internal command, so it's pretty slow. This small UDF easily performs search and replace on substrings within character variables. Add it to your procedure file using the instructions in the preceding tip.

```
FUNCTION StrSubst
PARAMETERS string,srchstr,replstr
PRIVATE cpos
DO WHILE .T.
cpos = AT(srchstr,string)
IF cpos = 0
EXIT
ENDIF
string =
  STUFF(string,cpos,LEN(srchstr),r
  eplstr)
ENDDO
RETURN string
```

To use StrSubst, type:

```
. ? REPLACE ALL city_state WITH
  strsubst(city_state,"Califor-
  nia","CA")
```

In this example, all occurrences of "California" within the CITY_STATE field in the database will be replaced with "CA."

ROGER SAUER
FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA

Microsoft Access 1.1

PROBLEM: When a temporory emplayee comes in to da your doto entry, you need to outomote Access so that it loads the right database when it starts and automotically goes to the Add New Record screen.

SOLUTION: You'll need a combination of command-line options and an AUTOEXEC macro—the macro Access looks for when opening a database. In Program Manager, create a new program icon by selecting File, New, Program Item. For Description, type a name such as Customer List Data Entry. In Command Line, type

```
C:\MSACCESS\MSACCESS CUSTLIST/X
  AUTOEXEC
```

The first part of the command launches Access, CUSTLIST is the database, and /X is the command-line option for running a macro (in this case, AUTOEXEC). Specify your Working Directory and assign an icon. To create the AUTOEXEC macro, launch Access, select File, Open Database, and the name of the database. Click on the Macro button, select New, and select the following:

Action:	Action Argument:
Echo	On
OpenTable	CustList
GoToRecord	New

To save the macro, select File, Save As, and type AUTOEXEC.

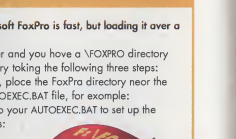
RICK DOBSON
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

KILLER TIP: FOXPRO

PROBLEM: Once it's up and running, Microsoft FoxPro is fast, but loading it over a network seems to take forever.

SOLUTION: If FoxPro itself is on the file server and you hove a \FOXPRO directory on your local drive (for example, C: or D:), try toking the following three steps: First, using o text editor such os EDIT in DOS, ploce the FoxPro directory neor the beginning of the PATH stotement in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file, for example: PATH=C:\DOS;F:\FOXPRO. Next, odd o line to your AUTOEXEC.BAT to set up the FOXPROCFG environment vorioble, os follows:

```
FOXPROCFG=C:\FOXPRO\CONFIG.FP
```



Then edit the CONFIG.FP file in the local \FOXPRO directory and insert the following line:

```
_FOXHELP=C:\FOXPRO\FOXHELP.FPT
```

Re-boot, ond you should see o morked improvement in the time it tokes to get FoxPro up and running.

STEVEN J. VAUGHAN-NICHOLS
LANHAM, MARYLAND

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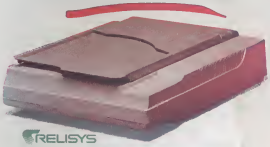

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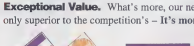

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App Tips: OS/2 2.1

REXX

PROBLEM: OS/2 batch files don't have an interactive option to receive o Yes/No answer from the user.

SOLUTION: Write a REXX program and call it from the batch file. In the Enhanced Editor, type the following and save it as YESORNO.CMD:

```
/* Name: YESORNO.CMD */
/* PURPOSE: To get yes or no from
   the user */
/* It returns Yes as 0, No as 1 */
/* This program is not case sensi-
   tive */
/* and it requires a response. */
CALL RxFuncAdd 'SysGetKey',
  'RexxUtil', 'SysGetKey'
TOP:
ASCII = 999
SAY "Enter A Single Character Y)es
  or N)o"
Character = SysGetKey(echo)
IF Character = "Y" then ASCII = 0
IF Character = "y" then ASCII = 0
IF Character = "N" then ASCII = 1
IF Character = "n" then ASCII = 1
SAY
IF ASCII = 999 THEN SAY "ERROR:
  Enter Y)es or N)o"
IF ASCII = 999 THEN SIGNAL TOP
Exit ASCII
```

Because OS/2 treats REXX programs as batch files, you can call this program from your batch file with a CALL YESORNO command. Even though the top five lines are comments, the first one is critical: OS/2 looks for a REXX-style comment in the first line to tell the difference between a batch file and REXX program.

RONNY RICHARDSON
CHAMBLEE, GEORGIA

Print Manager

PROBLEM: Large CAD files take longer to spool to the printer or plotter than regular print jobs.

SOLUTION: To speed things up, follow your software's instructions to print to a file, rather than directly to the printer. Once you've created a print file, press Ctrl-Esc to switch to the Workplace Shell, then open the folder where the print file resides. With the right-mouse button, drag the icon to the Print Manager icon and release it. Switch back to your application, and OS/2 will handle the print job in the background.

JOHN M. SIINO
PITTSBURG, CALIFORNIA

Workplace Shell

PROBLEM: You wont to customize the pop-up menus for certain folders.

SOLUTION: It's a snap if you follow these steps: With the right-mouse button, click on the folder to modify. When the menu pops up, select Open, Settings and click on the Menu tab. Under Available menus, click on Create another and type in a name for the menu. Click on OK. Click on the menu name to select it. Click on Create another under Actions on the menu. Type in the name for the menu option and the full path to the program to run. Repeat the last step for as many items as you wish to add to the menu. When you have finished adding items to the menu, double-click on the Settings Notebook icon in the upper-left corner to close it.

When you click on the Right Folder icon, your new menu shows up as the next-to-last item, just above Close. Click on that name, and all of your menu items show up.

RONNY RICHARDSON
CHAMBLEE, GEORGIA

PROBLEM: Although you run only a few DOS programs, each requires o seporote AUTOEXEC.BAT configurotion.

SOLUTION: Create multiple DOS session windows and configure each to load a separate AUTOEXEC.BAT file: Right-click on the DOS session icon in the Command Prompts window, right click on Copy, choose a window for the new DOS session, select the Copy button in the dialog box, and then rename the new session.

Next, right-click on the new DOS session icon, click on the arrow next to Open, and select Settings. Select the Program tab and then, in the Optional Parameters field, enter /P/K FILE.BAT, where FILE.BAT is the name of the alternative AUTOEXEC.BAT batch file for this session. Now, each time you start the new DOS session, it runs with FILE.BAT instead of AUTOEXEC.BAT.

RONNY RICHARDSON
CHAMBLEE, GEORGIA

PROBLEM: You need to occess your environment voriobles from the OS/2 commond line quickly.

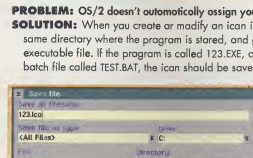
SOLUTION: Type ECHO followed by a space, a percent sign, the variable name, and another percent sign. For instance, to find out how you've set your command line prompt, type ECHO %PROMPT%.

RONNY RICHARDSON
CHAMBLEE, GEORGIA

KILLER TIP: ICON EDITOR

PROBLEM: OS/2 doesn't outomotically assign your preferred icons to programs.

SOLUTION: When you create or madify an ican in the Ican Editar, save it to the same directory where the pragram is stared, and give it the same name as the executable file. If the program is called 123.EXE, call your ican 123.ICO. For a batch file called TEST.BAT, the ican shauld be saved as TEST.ICO, and sa an. By default, OS/2 laaks far an ican with the same name as the executable when you use a program template to install the pragram to the desktap ar to a falder. If you are using a third-party ican, rename it and capy it to the appropriate directary.



RONNY RICHARDSON
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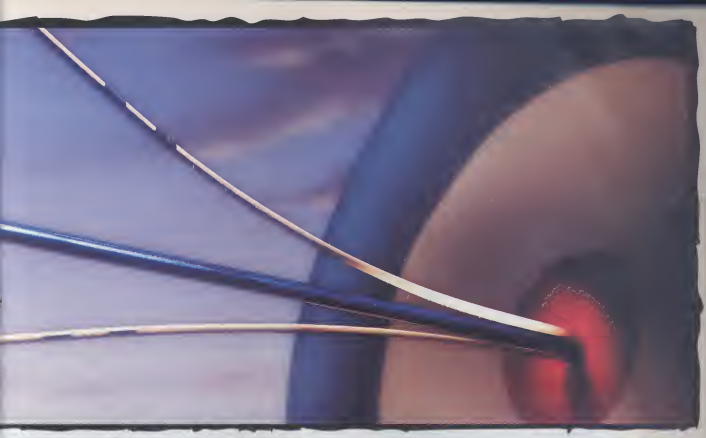

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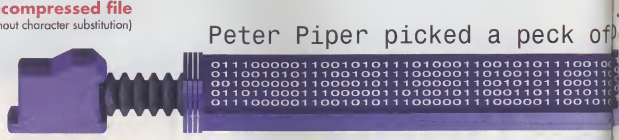
File Compression

How a 2MB file shrinks to 300K. (Or why can't diets do that?)

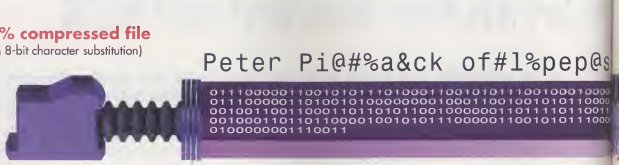
By Ron White. Illustrated by Timothy Edward Downs

At a time when typical business applications occupy 15MB of precious hard disk space, file compression utilities—despite some allegations of data corruption—are becoming commonplace, if not essential. Even the 300MB drives fill up faster than you can say "DoubleSpace," and shareware offerings such as PKzip are among the most frequently downloaded utilities on any BBS. Let's demonstrate how these utilities cram more data into less space, using a sentence with which we're all familiar.

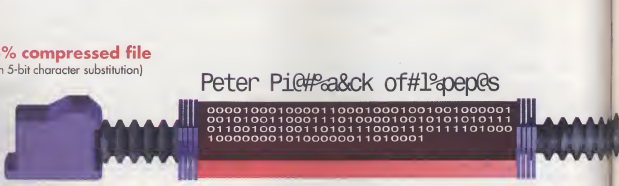
Uncompressed file
(without character substitution)



59% compressed file
(with 8-bit character substitution)

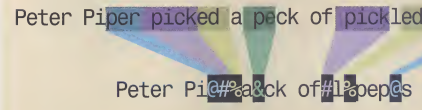


75% compressed file
(with 5-bit character substitution)



CHARACTER SUBSTITUTION

One of the simplest ways to compress a file is to substitute single characters for groups of characters. You can actually shrink a file substantially by doing it without a computer. In this example—which is 44 characters long, including spaces—the character groups "er," " pick," " pe," and "ed " all occur at least twice. Notice that we've included a space in the " pick," " pe," and "ed " groups.



1 These zeros and ones are how your computer "sees" our sample sentence. The compression utility substitutes codes that stand for the position and length of the redundant-letter groups. The substitutions are recorded in a table that is part of the compressed files. Since the compression program works from beginning to end, the second " pe" is not replaced—the space that would have been part of that graup is already replaced with the "ed " that precedes it. The result is a text string af only 26 characters instead of the original 44. This simple substitution compresses the string to 59 percent of its original size.

2 Next, the compression utility saves space by making substitutions for the binary code that DOS uses to represent text. Ordinarily, camputers use an entire byte, consisting of 8 bits, ta represent a character. Eight bits provide 256 combinations of zeros and anes—much more than needed ta represent the alphabet. Since we have only 26 characters after the previous step, we need only 5 bits to store our sentence. The compression program creates a 5-bit binary cade for our 26 characters.

3 Here's the end result. The compression program replaces the 8-bit binary code with its shorter 5-bit binary code. Using the standard 8-bit ASCII designation, the ariginal text would yield 352 bits (44 characters by 8 bits per character). The shorter version in step two results in 144 bits (18 by 8). But the 5-bit binary code requires only 90 bits (18 by 5), an additional 38 percent saving compared with Step 2, and a saving af 75 percent compared with the original version.

Quiet! Listen! That Sound: Is It Live or Is It Digitized?

How your computer converts an analog world into its digital language.

The original IBM PC wasn't very vocal. Aside from a few clicks, beeps, and squawks, it was generally seen and not heard. And, for the most part, this vow of silence was appropriate in the typical office environment. After all, in 1981, who needed a calculator that sang? But over the past decade, computers have undergone some profound changes. While the PC stood mute, the Macintosh and Amiga (and even the PCjr) gained the built-in ability to reproduce acceptable speech, music, and other sounds. Recently, however, the surging interest in multimedia has generated a windfall for audio-starved PC users. Once an esoteric and expensive option, quality sound for the PC is now pervasive and can often be had for less than $100.

Although you don't need a PhD in physics to buy a sound card, a little understanding goes a long way. In this column, I'll explain how PC sound works to help you choose a sound card.

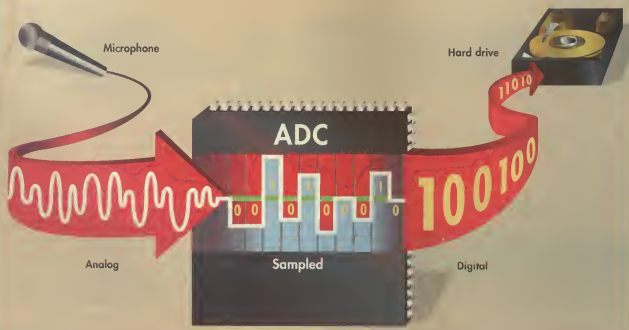
First, let's get our lexicon up to snuff. The most common term you'll probably see is hertz (usually in its abbreviated form, Hz). Hertz is the unit used to measure a sound's pitch (or frequency, if you want to be a physics stickler). The human ear hears sounds between 20Hz and 20kHz. This range, however, varies considerably from person to person, particularly at the high frequency limit, and it decreases with age.

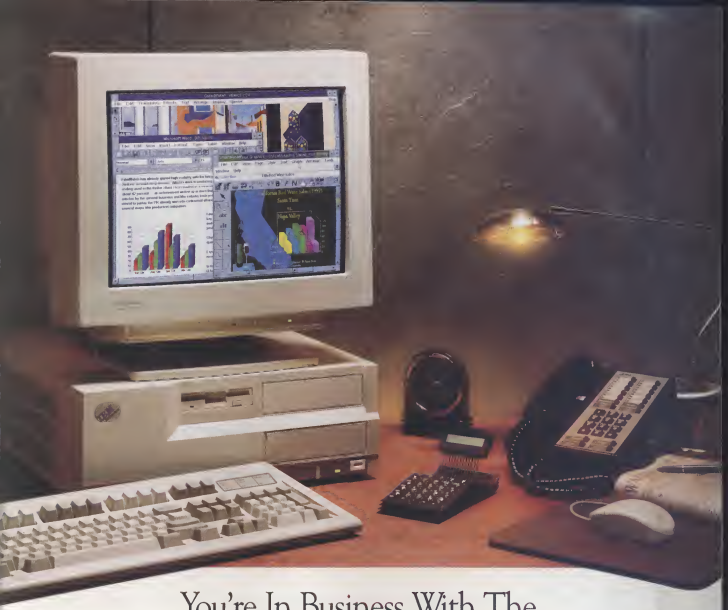
The frequencies we encounter most often lie below 10kHz. A piano, for example, produces sounds that range from 30Hz to 3.5kHz. The telephone company's standard phone lines use only the frequencies between 300Hz and 3kHz, which are sufficient to identify the person on the other end of the phone. When you get right down to it, that range is probably overkill: Distinguishable audio can be achieved

HOW SOUND CARDS WORK

When you speak into a microphone that's connected to a sound card, the analog-to-digital converter (ADC) samples your sound. In other words, it takes discrete but closely spaced "snapshots" of the sound to measure its frequency and amplitude.

If the ADC doesn't sample often enough, it misses parts of the analog sound altogether. If its sample isn't "big" enough (doesn't have enough bits), the ADC winds up approximating values. In either case, you wind up with a degraded sound.





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with a frequency range as narrow as 500Hz to 1.8kHz—although it will sound as though you're talking into a foam-lined tin can. Now let's look at how sound makes its way from your accordion into your PC.

Digitization

Sound is an analog, or continuous, phenomenon—for example, a sine wave. To get audio into a PC, it has to be converted to the discrete world of digital. We call this process *digitization*, and it requires two steps. First, the continuous analog signal must be divided into a series of discrete signals in a process called *sampling*. Next, the amplitude (volume) of each of these samples must be measured. A special chip called an analog-to-digital converter (ADC) handles both processes.

Here's how it works: A microphone, stereo, or other input device sends an analog signal to the ADC, which samples the incoming signal, measures the amplitude, and converts both factors into a number that the computer can understand.

The number of times per second that the ADC examines the incoming signal is its *sampling rate*. The sampling rate affects the quality of the digital reproduction by limiting the frequency range. A high-pitched sound wave fluctuates rapidly. Because the ADC samples only at discrete intervals, it does not record the fluctuations in sound that occur between samples. This is an example of a sampling error that makes the digitized sound a distorted version of the original.

The bottom line is that the ADC is oblivious to all signals with a frequency higher than half its sampling rate. (Trivia note: This relationship between frequency and sampling rate is called the *Nyquist sampling criteria*.) As a practical matter, systems generally have an upper frequency limit that's somewhat lower than this theoretical limit.

This means an ADC with an 11kHz sampling rate will record frequencies up

Ever wondered what a sound looks like? Your eyes may never know, but here's a graphical representation of what your computer "sees" after it has digitized one.

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to about 5.5kHz. This rate is adequate for recording speech, but not for music. A 22kHz sampling rate offers improved recording quality, reproducing frequencies up to about 11kHz—enough range for the most common sounds. To produce recordings that accommodate the entire range of human hearing, consumer CD players use ADCs with a 44kHz sampling rate to sample music for audio.

Sample Size

The other important factor in digitization is the *sample size*. Unlike the sampling rate, which determines how many times the ADC will "listen" to the sound each second, the sample size, measured in bits, determines how precise the number describing the sound will be. If you have a piece of wood that's one yard long, it's great for measuring your desk, but poor for measuring a goldfish—all you can say is that the fish is less than a yard long. An ADC with an 8-bit sample size gives you 256 possible numbers to assign to a sample—adequate for speech, but not for music. The 16-bit sample size common on many of today's sound cards gives 65,536 possible values to the same sample: Clearly it's much more precise.

You've probably realized that transforming data back into sound is the same process in reverse. First, a digitized sample is loaded into a chip called a digital-to-analog converter (DAC). The value of the sample is then used to produce a corresponding analog signal. If the digital samples are converted back to analog at the same rate they were captured, the original sound is reproduced.

To say that digital audio has some advantages over analog audio is to grossly understate the revolutionary impact of the technology. Once an audio signal has been converted to a digital form, it ceases to be sound: It becomes data. It can be stored, transferred, compressed, manipulated, and recalled just like any other data.

Adding sound to your PC can be a good investment. Sound is used for voice annotation of spreadsheets and documents, or to supplement communication in other forms. But not all sound boards are created equal. Choosing a board that's not up to your requirements can be a costly mistake.

If you intend to work with speech only and can accept reduced sound quality, a sound board with an 8-bit sample size and an 11kHz sampling rate will fit the bill. For demanding applications such as multimedia and good-quality audio, however, your board must support a 16-bit sample size and a 44kHz sampling rate. ◩

You can reach Robert Hummel on MCI Mail at 371-5998 or by writing to him care of *PC/Computing*, 950 Tower Lane, 19th Floor, Foster City, CA 94404.

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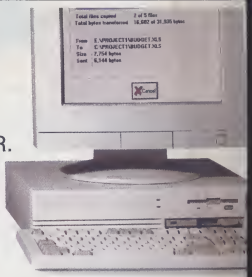

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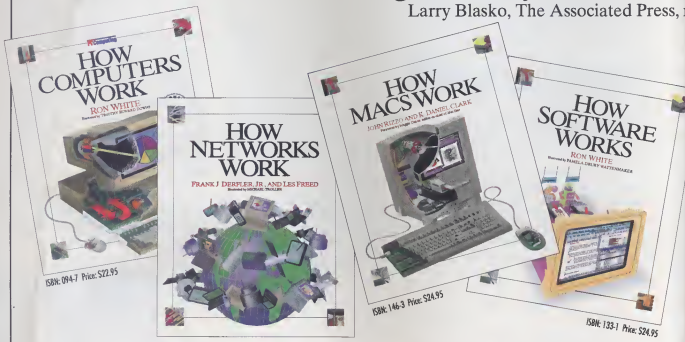

No other books bring computer technology to life like the *How It Works* series from Ziff-Davis Press. Lavish, full-color illustrations and lucid text from some of the world's top computer commentators make *How It Works* books an exciting way to explore the inner workings of PC technology.

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How Networks Work

Two of the most respected names in connectivity showcase the PC network, illustrating and explaining how each component does its magic and how they all fit together.

Pages 18-19

How Macs Work

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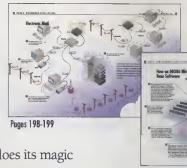

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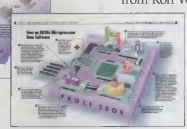

Pages 10-11

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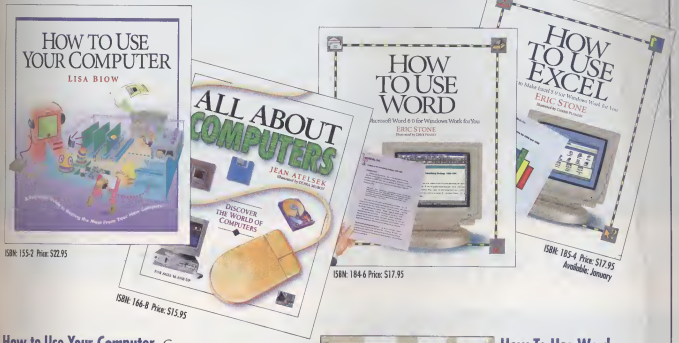

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Pages 2-3

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Dynamic Data Exchange; or, How to Talk with Your Mouth Full

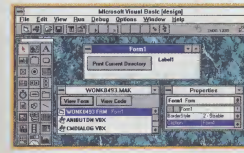
Reach out and touch someone with Windows' own Ma Bell.

So there I am at Crazy Cornelius's Computer Corral, sitting in front of the Multimedia Monster, admiring the 16-bit sound card and speakers the size of Ross Perot's ears. And this sales wonk is standing behind me telling me I can use dynamic data exchange to talk to anything, any time, and how DDE is everywhere. And I say, "No way." And he says, "Way." And I look at him. And so I crank up Word for Windows, type in DDEInitiate("Elvis"), figuring that if DDE is everywhere, wherever Elvis is, he'll respond.

And, well, we sat there for a while, ya know, and the red lights are flashin' and the drives are whirrin', and suddenly that there computer starts smokin' and I'm thinkin' what the fat-fried hell is goin' on, and it's long enough that DDE should've timed out, when all of a sudden the whole machine starts to cracklin', and I swear the King's boomin' baritone commences to shake the speakers, "Return to sender, address unknown. . ."

Guess ya gotta take yer religious experiences wheres ya can find 'em.

At this stage of Windows' evolution, we have three widely used methods to communicate between Windows applications: object linking and embedding (OLE), dynamic data exchange (DDE), and SendKeys (UCK!). If they were phone systems, OLE would be the latest from AT&T, DDE would be a party line, and SendKeys would be two cans and a string. We'll talk about SendKeys and DDE this month, and we'll save OLE for next month's column.



For some reason, Visual Basic requires a label control. The push button executes the code; the label sits there. Why not cover the label with the push button?

First, and least, SendKeys is accurately described as the last refuge of the tortured. When SendKeys works—an all too infrequent occurrence—your macro command fakes out Windows, making it think that somebody is typing at the keyboard, when in fact it's your macro doing the talking.

Ever throw a Frisbee into the air, then run like hell and try to catch it, all by yourself? Well, that's what SendKeys is like. You toss this keystroke—say, Enter—into the Windows ooze. Then, quick as you can, switch over to the application that's supposed to receive the keystroke, hoping that second application pulls an O.J. Simpson and arrives in time to take the keystroke and do something with it.

Timing is the Achilles' heel of SendKeys. On a speedy machine, the application runs fast enough to catch the Frisbee; on a slow machine it can't get there in time and the keystroke is never to be seen again.

We never use SendKeys unless the applications in question are so dumb they can't talk to each other any other way.

Doing DDE

So much for the bad news. Now the good: Almost every significant Windows application supports DDE. It's a powerful, cantankerous critter built in to Windows itself. Think of it as a rickety old telephone exchange, held together with

PRINTFILENAMES CODE

This Word for Windows macro prints a list of all the files in the current directory.

Start Word for Windows, Version 2.0 or later, click on Tools, then Macro, type in a name like PrintFileNames, and click on Enter. Then type in these lines. *Note:* Word for Windows ignores everything after the ' (apostrophe)—the comments are there for your benefit.

```
Sub MAIN
FileNew                 'Create a new document
Insert "Files in "      'Stick in a text string
Insert Files$(".")      'Files$(".") is the current directory
InsertPara              'Start a new paragraph
FName$ = Files$("*.*")  'Get name of first file in directory
While FName$ <> ""      'As long as there are files,
  Insert FName$         'Stick the file's name in the doc
  InsertPara            'Start a new paragraph
  FName$ = Files$()     'Look for the next file
Wend                    'When Fname$ is blank, no files are left
FilePrint
DocClose 2              'Close without saving
End Sub
```

Click on File, Close, and select Yes to save the changes. You're finished. To run this Word for Windows macro (and you should test it before proceeding), click on Tools, Macro and double-click on PrintFileNames.

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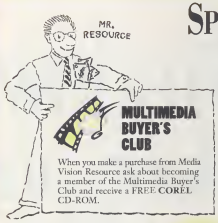

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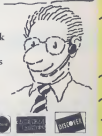

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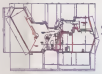

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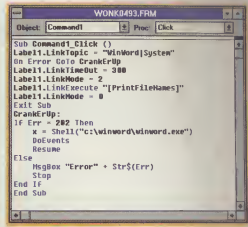
bailing wire and chewing gum, where the callers and callees—if they're very careful and very lucky—have a chance to talk to each other. Sometimes.

We're going to show you how to use DDE, with Visual Basic making the phone call (acting as a client) and Word for Windows answering the phone (acting as a server). We chose Visual Basic and Word for Windows because most of the problems between the two are fairly well known, if not understood. The terminology carries across pretty well: You should be able to take this example and translate it into WordPerfect- or 1-2-3- or DynaComm-speak, or any of a hundred other DDE-savant applications.

Our little Visual Basic program consists of a single push button. When you push the button, Visual Basic calls Word for Windows using DDE, then tells it to run a macro. That macro prints out a list of all files in the current directory. Here's how to do it on your own—OK, with a little help. Start by creating the PrintFileNames macro, described in "PrintFileNames Code," page 218, and then exit Word for Windows and crank up Visual Basic.

You're going to need a label, so double-click on the capital A in Visual Basic's Toolbox, and move Label1 to the right, out of the way. (Only Gates knows why Visual Basic forces you to hook the LinkExecute command to a label control—even if it serves no other purpose.) Next, you'll need a push button, so double-click on that oval thing (in the screen on page 218, it's the last icon on the second line of the Toolbox). Type in a good title for the button, something like "Print Current Directory." This should give you a Visual Basic form that looks more or less like our screen shot.



The LinkTimeOut line tells Visual Basic to wait 30 seconds for a DDE response from Word for Windows. CrankErUp jump-starts Word for Windows if it's not already running.

That was the hard part. The program itself is pretty easy. Double-click on the "Print Current Directory" button and you'll be propelled into Visual Basic's program editor, ready to type in the

PC/Contact

This Month's Free Software and Shareware

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Lister ..... **Windows, page 188**

Do you hate the hassle of loading text files into a word processor just to print them? If so, Lister is your kind of point-and-click solution. Download LISTER.ZIP from PC/Contact's data library 3 (Utilities/Misc.).

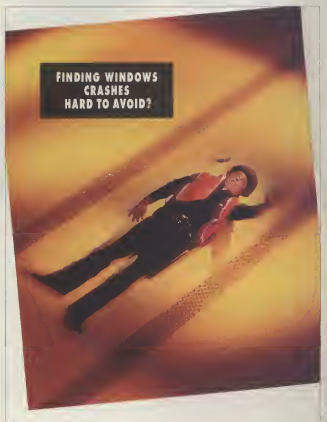
RESQ ..... **DOS, page 192**

This utility recovers any text that remains in memory after a program crashes. Download RESQ.ZIP from PC/Contact's data library 3 (Utilities/Misc.).

WinKey ..... **Q&A, page 224**

WinKey is a shareware utility from DataGem which, among other things, provides a toggle switch for your CapsLock key. Download WINKEY.ZIP from PC/Contact's data library 3 (Utilities/Misc.), or contact DataGem directly at (206) 391-4415. The registration fee is $15.

Want to join PC/Contact? See page 223 for instructions.



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actions you want Visual Basic to perform when that button is clicked.

When you click on that button, the program in the screen on page 221 starts a DDE conversation with Word for Windows, has Word for Windows run the PrintFileNames macro, then ends the conversation. (The | on the second line is the pipe character, which is probably located above the backslash on your keyboard.)

Phone Tag

Windows' DDE telephone exchange has a rather strange set of rules. The application making the call—in this case, our little Visual Basic program—has to tell Windows what phone number it's looking for and what the topic of conversation will be. Windows' DDE then goes down its list of running applications, asking each app in turn, "Is this your phone number? Will you accept a phone call on this topic?" The first application that responds "Yes" to both questions gets the DDE phone call.

The second line of code tells Windows that we want to talk to an application with the phone number "WinWord" and that our topic of conversation is "System." In case Word for Windows isn't running, the next line tells Visual Basic to jump down in the code, jumpstart Word for Windows, and resume running the program.

We've also included a line that tells Visual Basic to wait 30 seconds for Word for Windows to finish running the DDE commands. It may not be necessary on fast 486 systems, but it doesn't hurt to have it in there. Visual Basic dials the DDE phone with the line LinkMode = 2. If Word for Windows is running, it will always say "Yes" to the phone number "Word for Windows" and the topic called "System." The phone call is initiated. Otherwise, Visual Basic triggers an error number 282, which causes our code to crank up Word for Windows and return to the next command.

Visual Basic then tells Word for Windows to execute the macro called PrintFileNames and hang up the DDE phone by setting LinkMode to zero. Click on the little right-wedgie (Play) button underneath Run to run your application. Then click on the Print Current Directory button and see if it works.

That's all it takes. You've just written and run a full-fledged DDE application. It really isn't difficult, eh?

Chapter 6 of Waady's Windows 3.1 Programming for Mere Mortals (1992, Addisan-Wesley), goes into much greater detail. You can heckle Woody at 72241,2125 and Vince at 76636,415 on PC/Cantact. And if you have any Visual Basic programs you'd like to send our way, we'll pay you $50 if we publish them. Send them ta: Help, PC/Camputing, 950 Tower Lane, 19th Floor, Faster City, CA 94404.

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2. Call CompuServe's customer assistance line at (800) 848-8990 (United States) or (800) 635-6225 (Canada). From other countries, dial CompuServe direct at (614) 457-8650. You can also call CompuServe with your modem. Set it as instructed above and dial (800) 346-3247. Press Enter when your modem connects. Type PHONES at the HOST NAME prompt, press Enter, and follow the onscreen prompts to find a local access number.
3. Dial the access number with a modem. When your modem connects to the network, press Ctrl-C to get the system's attention.
4. At the HOST NAME prompt, type CIS and press Enter.
5. At the USER ID prompt, type 177000,5300 and press Enter.
6. At the PASSWORD prompt, type PC/CONTACT and press Enter.
7. At the ENTER AGREEMENT NUMBER prompt, type PCC94 and press Enter.

TOP PICKS ON DISK

You can easily get all the public-domain utilities or shareware covered in this month's issue by calling the disk vendor Public Brand Software at (800) 426-3475 or (317) 856-7571. Ask for this month's Editors' Picks from *PC/Computing*. They're available for $5 or less per disk (most disks have several utilities and programs on them), plus $5 for shipping and handling.

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INSIDE THIS MONTH

Solve DOS 6 upgrade problems • Unblast a Sound Blaster • Back up between hard disks • Check printer availability

MS-DOS Upgrade Blues

I recently tried to upgrade from MS-DOS 5 to Version 6 on my 16MHz 286 system. When I rebooted, my machine locked at the Starting MS-DOS prompt. From a bootable disk in my A: drive, however, it didn't hang. Is there a problem with MS-DOS 6 and this type of machine?

ROBERT L. VIDRICK, JR.
MECHANICSVILLE, VIRGINIA

My first thought is that the upgrade added EMM386.EXE to your CONFIG.SYS file, and your particular system doesn't like it. However, with certain configurations, even 386 and 486 machines can experience this type of hang. The most common causes of reboot hang-ups are:

BIOS incompatibility. Some of the older BIOSes came online when DOS 3.3 or earlier was the current operating system. As a result, the older BIOS often cannot take advantage of DOS 6.x's advanced features. Even some of the more recent BIOSes, such as those from 1992 or 1993, are susceptible.

You may obtain BIOS upgrades for Phoenix, AMI, and Award Software from your local retailer, the manufacturers (in most cases), and even third-party organizations such as ROM BIOS Upgrades (800-766-7467) and Unicore Software (800-800-2467, 508-686-6468).

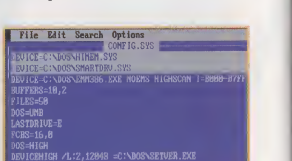
Device incompatibility. IDE, SCSI, internal fax modems, tape drives, scanners, video cards, and other devices can cause hangs, error messages, random reboots, and even complete device failures. If the problem didn't exist before you upgraded to DOS 6.x, it's a good idea to contact your peripherals' manufacturers and inquire about ROM or device BIOS upgrades or replacements (or both).

Software incompatibility. Drivers for all the devices listed above could be incompatible with the operating system upgrade. Sometimes you can use DOS's SETVER program to have the DOS version table report a different version of DOS to the driver or program, but unfortunately this quick fix doesn't always work.

If you've had your peripherals and software for a long time—more than two years—definitely contact the manufacturer or your local retailer for more information about obtaining updates.

Getting back to your problem, it's possible that the DOS 6 upgrade also added HIMEM.SYS or SMARTDRV.EXE to your CONFIG.SYS file by mistake, making your system hang. That happened to me when I ran the upgrade for my own ALR 286 system. Review your CONFIG.SYS file, remove these statements if they exist, and boot your system normally.

If the hang recurs, you may have a system BIOS incompatibility or perhaps a TSR or driver incompatibility. In this case, remove the upgrade by running UNINSTAL from your first Uninstall disk. Then contact your computer's manufacturer about a BIOS upgrade for your computer.



You just upgraded to MS-DOS 6.x and your system won't boot—chances are the upgrade added the line below what we've highlighted to your CONFIG.SYS.

Sound Blaster Screech

My Sound Blaster makes a low-pitched humming noise when I first start Windows and a very high-pitched screech when I exit Windows. If I reboot and restart Windows a second time, it doesn't happen. Changing IRQ, DMA, and I/O address settings doesn't work, and neither does a clean boot with only HIMEM.SYS. Can you help?

NEIL BOEMIO
HARTSDALE, NEW YORK

Creative Labs' tech support informs us that the problem is caused by using Version 1.5 drivers with your Sound Blaster Version 2.0 adapter. You need Version 2.0 of the Sound Blaster Wave and MIDI drivers and the updated MIDI synthesizer driver. You can get them one of three ways:

- Call the Creative Labs BBS at

HELP ABOUT: WINDOWS AUTOCAPS

I've used the AUTOCAPS utility listed in the November 1993 issue and love it, but (there's always a "but") I can't get it to work in Windows. Is there a solution?

WILLIAM J. GRASSER
HOUSTON, TEXAS

You bet. We found a shoreware utility called WinKey from DataGem that will do what you want—and much, much more. Download WINKEY.ZIP from data library 3, Utilities/Misc., in the PC/Contact forum or contact DotoGem directly at (206) 391-4415. In addition to the CopsLock function, WinKey also gives you the typewriter-style shift function, and you can disable NumLock, ScrollLock, or both. The registration fee is $15.

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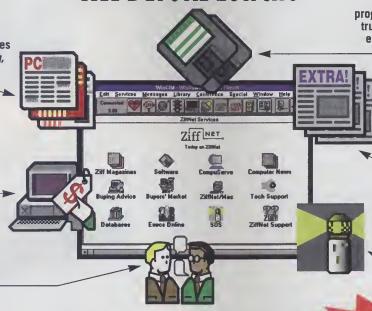

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(405) 742-6660 (14,400 bits per second, 8 bits, 1 stop bit, no parity) to download the latest drivers.

• Call Creative Labs at (405) 742-2345 and order an updated set of drivers for a small fee.

• Visit the Creative Labs forum on CompuServe and download the latest drivers from its online forum.

With some sound adapters, close proximity to a video adapter can cause interference between the two adapters. If you experience sound problems after you've updated your drivers, open your system and move your adapter to a slot farther away from the video card's.

One Hard Disk to Another

Can I automatically back up all new and changed files from the C: drive to the D: drive every time I exit Windows? In the process of backing up these files, can I create an updatable list of the files that were backed up?

MARTE SONNEVELD
APELDOORN, THE NETHERLANDS

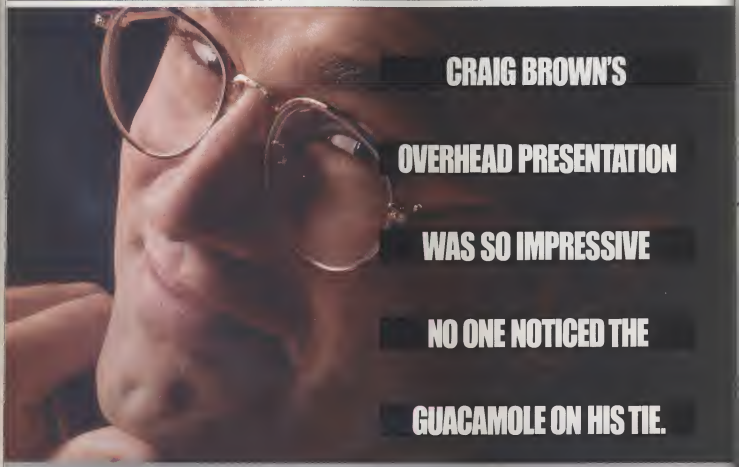
With creative use of MS-DOS's XCOPY and ATTRIB programs, you can do exactly that. Create the following batch file with your favorite text editor, and be sure to review and edit any PATH statements to reflect your own hard disk. XCOPY.EXE and ATTRIB.EXE are all normally located in your \DOS directory.

```
REM DAYBACK.BAT
@ECHO OFF
CLS
SET DATE=%4
XCOPY C:\*.* D: /A/S
ECHO %DATE% Daily Backup of C:
  drive > D:\BACKUP.LST
DIR D: /A:a /O:g /S >> BACKUP.LST
  > NUL
SET DATE=
ATTRIB -a C:*.* /S
ATTRIB -a D:*.* /S
CLS
REM  You can add other commands to
  perform following this line
ECHO Done!
```

DAYBACK sets the date environment variable using %4. It then begins XCOPY using /A to copy all files with the archive attribute set, and scans all the subdirectories on the current drive.

Once XCOPY has copied all the modified and new files to the destination drive (D:), it opens a file on the D: drive called BACKUP.LST and places the current date at the top of the file. Then, DIR creates a list in BACKUP.LST of all files on the D: drive with the attribute set, listing subdirectories first and filenames second.

Finally, the batch file clears the date environment variable and then clears the archive bits on the modified files on both the C: and D: drives. The



text of this batch file is on the PC/Contact forum on ZiffNet in data library 1 (Hot Tips/Secrets) as DAYBAK.ZIP.

Is the Printer Ready?

Is there a DEBUG script I can use to see if the printer is ready?

STEVE MARSTON
GLEN OAKS, NEW YORK

Why go through the trouble of writing a DEBUG script when the MS-DOS 5 and later MODE command's /STATUS switch already determines whether the printer is offline or ready to receive? Use the following syntax, substituting your own PATH statement for the location of MODE:

```
C:\DOS\MODE LPT1 /STATUS
```

You can also check the status of ports LPT2, LPT3, and PRN (the first parallel port) by substituting the port name for LPT1 above. Combine the result of this command-and-switch with an ON ERROR GOTO statement in your batch files, and you're all set.

DirMagic?

I upgraded to DOS 5 and want a new copy of the DirMagic utility I got for subscribing to *PC/Computing* several years ago.

SIDNEY F. MILLER
DAYTON, OHIO

Anything for a longtime subscriber. Version 3.0 of DirMagic supports a mouse, color customization, and more. Contact MJM Software Design, Box 129, Gleneden Beach, OR 97388.

Can't Delete PRN File

A 248-byte file nomed PRN was creoted in the root directory of my C: drive. DOS refuses to delete it. Even ATTRIB doesn't work. What con I do to get rid of this file?

D. B. FONDREN
CAROLINA BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA

A file named PRN poses a problem for DOS because technically it's an illegal filename. PRN is the name that DOS assigns to the logical print device, so when you type DEL PRN, DOS thinks that you're trying to delete this device and responds with "Access denied."

The solution, however, is simple. Instead of DEL PRN, type DEL ???. Be careful though—this command deletes any file that has no file extension and whose name is three characters long or less. Before entering the command, type DIR ???. to list all the files that DEL ???. will delete. Move any files that will be affected (other than PRN) to another directory, or use the ATTRIB command to temporarily hide the files and protect them from deletion.

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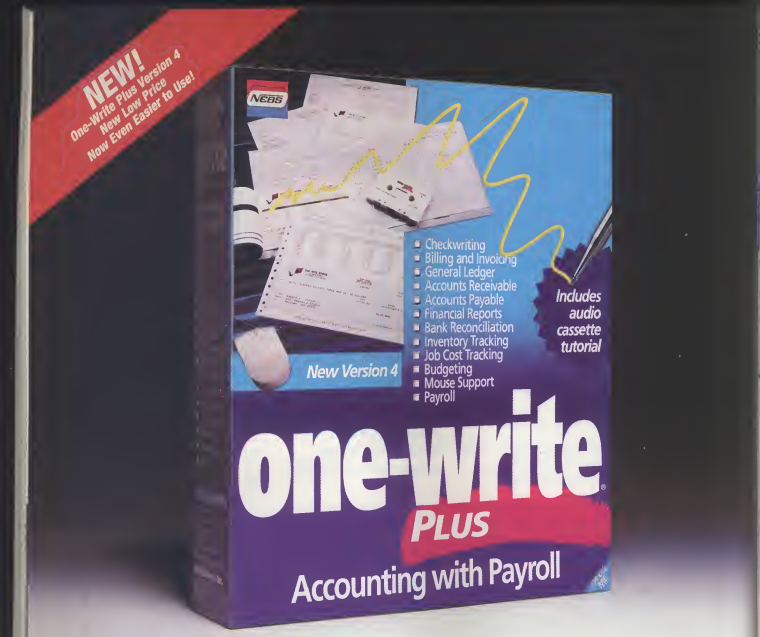

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Inside Spec Watch

It's time for desktop PCs to start worrying: Notebooks are on to them, providing all of the power and most of the expansion.

Notebooks have *almost* caught up with desktops—if they could just get a 17-inch monitor it'd be a TKO. This month's Spec Watch shows you what to look for in a portable and how to save money. Other trends to watch:

- **Need More Zip on Your Network?**
  While network industry associations hammer out 100Mbps standards and battle about Asynchronous Transfer Mode taking over the world, you should be buying VESA local-bus Ethernet cards. VL-Bus cards can boost performance substantially, and best of all, they don't require changes to your network.

- **Printers Go Green**
  Recyclable toner cartridges are only one way your printer can be environmentally aware. Newer laser printers bear the government's Energy Star label and feature power conservation modes to lower your electric bills. Many of these printers even hit the streets at less than $1,000.

- **Windows Accelerators Gain Resolution, Speed**
  Most accelerators now support 1,280-by-1,024-pixel resolutions, and video cards that support 1,600 by 1,280 pixels are beginning to show up. Make sure they support 72Hz vertical refresh rates at this resolution—and don't forget that your monitor has to support the same resolution and refresh rate, too.

- **3-D Sound Cards for Great Audio**
  Multimedia is getting ever more realistic. QSound Virtual Audio, also called "surround sound," creates unbeatable effects for action-packed video clips and splashy sales presentations. Make sure your sound card supports surround sound.

By Marty Jerome

VENDOR NAME	PAGE NO.	HOURS OPEN	800 NUMBER
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ACER	282-285	M-F 6-6; Sat 8-4 (PST)	800-230-ACER
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Comtrade	286	M-Sat 7-7 (PST)	800-969-2123
Dee-One Systems	318	M-F 8-6; Sat 10-4 (PST)	800-831-8808
expotech/VTECH	291-297	M-F 7-8:30; Sat 9-6; Sun 10-3 (EST)	800-284-3976
INMAC	269	M-F 7-7:30 (PST)	800-972-9241
Insight	310	24 Hours	800-927-3159
Midwest Micro	299-303	M-F 9-7; Sat 10-4	800-682-7248
PC's Compleat	270-273	M-F 7-Midnight; Sat-Sun 10-8 p.m.	800-598-4727
USA Flex	280-281	M-F 24 Hours; Sat-Sun 9-4	800-723-0334
PERIPHERALS			
AMDEK	276	M-F 8:30-8:30	800-72-AMDEK
Arlington Computer Products	308-309	M-F 7:30 - 7:30; Sat 9-5 (CST)	800-548-5105
Computability	261-264	M-F 8-8; Sat 9-5 (CST)	800-554-9952
Dee-One Systems	318	M-F 8-6; Sat 10-4 (PST)	800-831-8808
Dustin Discount Software	274-275	M-F 6-5; Sat 10-12 (PST)	800-274-6611
Envisions	321-323	M-F 6:30-5; Sat 9-1 (PST)	800-926-7226
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Harmony Computers	267	M-T 9-6; Fri 9-2; Sun 10:30 - 4:30	800-441-1144
Insight	310	24 Hours	800-927-3159
L.A. Trade	298	M-F 8-5; Sat 10-12 (PST)	800-433-3726
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Disk-Count Software	304	M-F 9 - 8; Sat 10 - 3	800-448-6658
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TRAINING PROGRAMS			
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Int'l Correspondence Schools	243-245	24 Hours	800-596-5505
NRI Schools	277-279, 305-307	M-F 8-5	202-244-1600
STORAGE			
Insight	310	24 Hours	800-927-3159

Notebooks Offer Balance Between Desktops and Subnotebooks

Look for 486-based power with almost all the trimmings in 7 pounds or less.

If you're on the move you have a choice: notebook or subnotebook? Despite their growing power, subnotebooks still don't offer the features and expansion of full notebooks. Here's what your notebook should have.

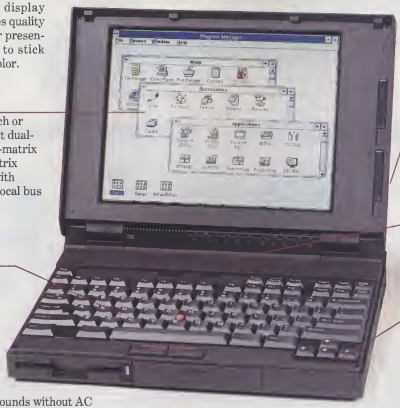
You should expect a color display. After all, color makes icons, charts, and the like discernible on 9- or 10-inch screens. The introduction of dual-scan passive-matrix technology, which refreshes each half of the display independently, makes quality color affordable. For presentations you'll want to stick with active-matrix color.

Whatever size the screen, don't accept anything slower than a 33MHz 486 CPU with integrated battery-saving technologies. Although a faster CPU clock doesn't guarantee better perfomance, it's a good rule of thumb that faster systems have faster CPUs.

Another way to boost performance is to make sure you buy enough RAM. Get at least 8MB when you buy your system. While you're at it, make sure your hard disk is as big as you can afford: You will want a 120MB drive at a minimum, but bigger is always better.

Speaking of expansion, be sure that your new machine has a full complement of ports—including at least one PS/2 port for a keyboard or mouse. Also make sure that the VGA port supports two screens simultaneously—it's very handy for presentations. And some notebooks support Super VGA on an external monitor—look for that, too. You'll also want at least one PCMCIA Type III slot (or two Type II slots) for the growing flood of PCMCIA peripherals. Ask your dealer to provide you with a list of compatible cards.

Allow an active-matrix notebook to top 7 pounds without its AC adapter, but only slightly. Passive-matrix designs should weigh about 6½ pounds. Also, be sure to check out the size and weight of the adapter: Some are the size of a small electric razor; others resemble a brick.



Display type: 9½-inch or larger backlit dual-scan passive-matrix or active-matrix color LCD with accelerated local bus graphics.

CPU: 33MHz 486.

Ports/slots: Parallel, 9-pin serial, and PS/2 ports; one PCMCIA Type III slot or two Type II slots.

RAM: 8MB, expandable to 20MB.

Hard drive: 120MB.

Weight: Under 7 pounds without AC adapter; total traveling weight less than 9 pounds.

Size: Smaller than 10 by 12 by 2 inches.

Other requirements: Standby mode, pop-up battery gauge, 6-by-3-by-3-inch battery recharger.

Features and options: Ability to swap out floppy drive for a second battery, removable hard drive, user-installable RAM, integrated pointing device.

Spec Watch

Don't settle for less than these specs:

Network Servers

CPU: Intel Pentium, 486DX2/66, or 486DX/50.

RAM: 16MB expandable to 64MB.

CPU RAM cache: 256K.

Display: 14-inch Super VGA color or monochrome.

Video card: Super VGA with 512K of RAM.

Hard drive: 1GB SCSI-2.

Drive bays: Two full-height 5¼-inch, two half-height 5¼-inch with front-panel access, two 3½-inch.

Bus: Eight EISA slots, including two VL-Bus slots.

Features and options: RAID-5, DAT backup, uninterruptible power supply.

Other requirements: FCC Class A or better, UL listed.

Red flags: *Systems with ISA bus or slotted RAM are less upgradable.*

Desktop Systems

CPU: Intel 486DX2/66 upgradable.

Secondary cache: 256K four-way set-associative.

Memory: 8MB, expandable to 32MB, 36-pin SIMMs.

Hard drive: 230MB or larger IDE.

Video: VL-Bus or PCI Windows accelerator, 15-inch monitor or larger with 72Hz refresh at 1,024 by 768 pixels.

Slots: Eight ISA slots for full-size case (including two VL-Bus or PCI), three ISA slots for small-footprint case with integrated VL-Bus or PCI video and drive.

Drives and bays: One 3½-inch 1.44MB and one 5¼-inch 1.2MB floppy drive, five half-height 5¼-inch bays.

Red flags: *Pentium-upgradable systems should include CPU, secondary CPU cache, and lots of slots for extra RAM.*

Subnotebook PCs

CPU: 20MHz 386.

Display type: 7½-inch backlit passive- or active-matrix LCD.

Weight: 4 pounds or less.

Size: Under 8¼ by 11 inches.

Keyboard: 85 percent of full-size keyboard.

RAM: 4MB, expandable to 16MB.

Hard drive: 40MB or larger.

Features and options: Removable hard drive, high-speed internal fax modem, integrated pointing device, infrared keyboard connection.

Other requirements: External floppy, at least one Type II PCMCIA slot, small recharger (5½ by 3 by 1½ inches or smaller).

Red flags: *Subnotebook displays and keyboards entail compromise—try before you buy, or make sure there's a money-back guarantee with no restocking charge.*

Windows Displays

Size: 17 inches; 20 to 21 inches for graphics applications.

Resolutions: 1,024 by 768; 1,280 by 1,024 for 20- or 21-inch monitors; noninterlaced.

Dot pitch: 0.28mm for 17-inch monitors; 0.31mm for 20-inch.

Vertical refresh rate: 72Hz or higher at all resolutions.

Tube type: Flat-square or Trinitron.

Controls: Front-panel digital image controls.

Features and options: Support for MPR II low-emissions standards, compliant with EPA Energy Star requirements.

Other requirements: Adjustable tilt-and-swivel base, video cable, antiglare coating or add-on filter.

Red flags: *Monitors with dot pitch above 0.31mm may seem fuzzy.*

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Windows

Best in February 1994 Computer Shopper Roundup
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Loom
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- Megarace
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Ethernet Adapters

Card type: 16 bit, ability to autoconfigure to 8 bit.

Network support: NetWare, LAN Manager, LAN Server, Windows for Workgroups, Windows NT.

Drivers: Eagle NE2000–compatible drivers, support for NDIS and ODI drivers.

Media connectors: For 10Base-2 (Thinnet) and 10Base-T (RJ-45); automatic sensing of media configuration.

Installation: Should be software configurable and support interrupt levels above IRQ 7.

Features and options: Upgradable boot PROM; SNMP support; collision and link status LEDs; bus-mastering interface.

Other requirements: Diagnostic utilities, slot-bracket-mounted transmission and reception LEDs, 16K or larger buffer.

Sound Cards

Compatibility: Sound Blaster.

Made: Stereo.

Card type: Internal.

Sampling capability: 16-bit record and play (MPC 2 standard).

Maximum sampling rate: 44.1kHz.

Synthesizer: Wave or FM with Wave option.

Bundled software: Windows and DOS utilities for playing, recording, and editing digital and MIDI files.

Ports: Speaker, microphone, and joystick.

Features and options: Programmable digital-signal processor for compression, SCSI port for a CD-ROM drive, and QSound Virtual Audio.

Red flags: *Cards that play but can't record 16-bit sound or have a proprietary (non-SCSI) CD-ROM interface may be less useful.*

Windows Accelerator Cards

Resolutions: 1,024 by 768; 1,280 by 1,024 for 20-inch monitors.

Colors: 256 colors at 1,024-by-768 resolution for business apps; 65,000 colors at 1,024 by 768 for near–photo-quality images.

Accelerator chip: Fixed-function chip such as S3 928, IIT AGX014, or ATI 68800 (Mach 32).

Vertical refresh rates: 72Hz at all resolutions.

RAM: 1MB for 256 colors at 1,024 by 768; 2MB or more for higher resolutions and more colors.

Features and options: VL-Bus or PCI model option, Windows utility to switch resolutions and colors.

Other requirements: Driver installation software, two-year warranty, Windows 3.1 drivers, free driver updates via BBS, CompuServe, or mail.

Red flags: *Interlaced boards and boards with 70Hz (or lower) vertical refresh rates produce more flicker.*

24-Bit Color Cards

Resolutions: 1,024 by 768 or higher.

Colors: 16.7 million colors at 1,024-by-768 or 1,152-by-870 resolution.

Graphics processor: For 24-bit Windows applications, a fixed-function processor; for 24-bit DOS apps, a full-fledged graphics coprocessor (TI34020 chip).

Vertical refresh rates: 72Hz at all resolutions.

RAM: 4MB of VRAM (not DRAM).

Drivers: For Windows 3.1 and your specific DOS apps.

VGA support: Onboard VGA chip.

Features and options: VL-Bus, PCI, or EISA models, Windows utility to switch resolutions and colors.

Other requirements: 2-year warranty; free driver updates via CompuServe, BBS, or mail.

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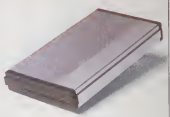

Transmission rate: 14,400 bps without compression, 57,600 bps with compression.

Supported standards: V.32bis (data speed), V.42 (error correction), V.42bis (data compression), CCITT Group 3 Class 1, Class 2, and CAS (fax).

Compatibility: Hayes.

Port selection: COM1 through COM4.

Bundled software: DOS and Windows communications and fax software, OCR software.

Features and options: Integrated voice, data, and fax; onboard digital-signal processor and coprocessor; 16550 universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter; LCD display on external modems; upgradability to V.Fast (V.34) protocol.

Red flags: *Fax modems without fallback transmission rates may not connect with other machines.*

Hard Drives

Performance: 13ms or faster vendor-rated average access time. If performance reported as average seek time: 10ms or faster.

Capacity: 230MB or greater.

Size: Half height or full height, depending on your system's drive space.

Interface: IDE for desktop systems with up to 1GB of capacity. For larger capacities, get a SCSI-2 drive interface.

Features and options: Self-parking heads, diagnostic and partitioning software.

Cache or buffer: 64K to 256K.

Red flags: *Mounting brackets and cables should come with the disk; look for a 30-day full money-back guarantee and a three- or five-year warranty.*

CD-ROM Drives

Access time: 200ms.

Transfer rate: Dual-speed drive: 150 Kbps to 300 Kbps.

Ondrive cache: 64K.

Interface: SCSI-2.

Compatibility: High Sierra (data) and ISO-9660, CD-Audio, and Kodak Photo CD (still photography) with multisession support (MPC 2).

Audio: Output jack and volume control.

Packaging: Internal.

Features and options: Bundled CD-ROM discs, single-handed operation.

Other requirements: Disk caddy (if needed).

Red flags: *Proprietary interfaces and drives that don't support MPC 2 will probably work with less software and hardware.*

Single-User Tape Drives

Storage capacity: 250MB when compressed.

Packaging: Internal 3½-inch drive preferred; external for PC-to-PC portability.

Interface: Floppy drive, IDE, or SCSI.

Cartridge type: DC6250 or equivalent, preformatted.

Bundled software: Windows and DOS backup software that supports either QIC-80 or QIC-525 tape format.

Other requirements: Floppy interface splitter or other interface cable, mounting hardware for internal drives.

Red flags: *Ensure full QIC-80 compatibility for QIC drives; avoid proprietary controller cards—they may take up an extra slot in your system; try for a price below $1 per megabyte.*

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- ☐ Computer-Aided Drafting
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- ☐ Air Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration
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Don't settle for less than these specs:

All-in-One Modems

Transmission rate: 14,400 bps without compression, 57,600 bps with compression.

Supported standards: V.32bis (data speed), V.42 (error correction), V.42bis (data compression), CCITT Group 3 Class 1, Class 2, and CAS (fax).

Compatibility: Hayes.

Port selection: COM1 through COM4.

Bundled software: DOS and Windows communications and fax software, OCR software.

Features and options: Integrated voice, data, and fax; onboard digital-signal processor and coprocessor; 16550 universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter; LCD display on external modems; upgradability to V.Fast (V.34) protocol.

Hard Drives

Performance: 13ms or faster vendor-rated average access time. If performance reported as average seek time: 10ms or faster.

Capacity: 230MB or greater.

Size: Half height or full height, depending on your system's drive space.

Interface: IDE for desktop systems with up to 1GB of capacity. For larger capacities, get a SCSI-2 drive interface.

Features and options: Self-parking heads, diagnostic and partitioning software.

Cache or buffer: 64K to 256K.

Red flags: *Mounting brackets and cables should come with the disk; look for a 30-day full money-back guarantee and a three- or five-*

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Now you can take advantage of today's hottest programming opportunities with NRI's new at-home training — Programming in C++ with Windows. It's the right training at the right time. And the only training that gives you everything you need to succeed today on the job, in a new career, or in a full- or part-time programming business of your own.

Get hands-on training with a 486sx-based mini-tower computer system

NRI knows: To program in C++ and create Windows applications, you need to work with a state-of-the-art computer system. That's why NRI gives you hands-on experience with a 486sx/25 MHz mini-tower computer — the most powerful computer system available in home study today. You train with and keep this state-of-the-art system, complete with VGA color monitor, enhanced keyboard and mouse, a 200 meg hard drive, and five full megabytes of RAM.

This outstanding computer system gives you the memory, speed, and power you need to take advantage of all the features of your C++ compiler and Windows software ... and develop the kind of quality software programs today's employers and consumers demand. But hardware is just part of what makes NRI training so good ...

Get practical experience with a powerful 486sx-based computer, VGA color monitor, 5 meg RAM, 200 meg hard drive, enhanced keyboard and mouse, and professional software...all yours to train with and keep!

Master object-oriented programming using Borland Turbo C++®

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You discover for yourself how this in-demand language allows you the freedom to write real-world applications that rival software produced by top-paid design teams — from stand-alone graphics and word processing packages to spreadsheets, text editors, database managers, and more! But that's still not all...

Learn to program for the exciting visual environment of Microsoft® Windows™

With NRI training you take command of today's newest design techniques as you master programming skills for Windows — using both C++ and the built-in functions and routines of your Microsoft Windows software.

As you actually build your own software application, you develop hands-on experience with Windows' easy-to-use features —including graphics, memory management, multitasking, data exchange, and more!

Soon you're ready to use your computer and know-how to create fast, functional programs — complete with on-screen graphics, custom cursors, images, icons, and all the other Windows features you need to build high-performance software that meets today's competitive business needs.

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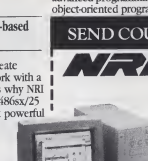

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Don't settle for less than these specs:

Network Laser Printers

Emulations: PCL 5, PostScript Level 2 with automatic emulation switching.

Print engine speed: At least 17 ppm.

Resolution: 600 dpi.

Processor: 16MHz RISC.

Resident fonts: 90 total; 10 TrueType (matching Windows 3.1), 45 PCL 5, 35 PostScript.

RAM: 8MB.

Interfaces: Parallel and 10Base-T or 10Base-2 Ethernet, Token Ring, or LocalTalk.

Network support: Concurrent for Novell NetWare, Windows NT, and Windows for Workgroups.

Paper capacity: 1,000 sheets.

Warranty: One year with onsite service.

Features and options: SNMP support, EPA Energy Star compliance, legal-size paper tray.

Color Thermal Wax-Transfer Printers

Emulations: PostScript Level 2.

Print speed: 2 ppm.

Resolution: 300 dpi.

Processor: 16MHz RISC.

Printer language: PostScript Level 2.

RAM: 4MB.

Interface: Parallel.

Fonts: 35 Adobe Type 1.

Ribbon: Three-color transfer ribbon.

Features and options: Internal network interfaces, support for 4-color (3 colors plus black) ribbons, EPA Energy Star compliance.

Other requirements: RAM expandable to 8MB.

Red flags: *Be sure vendor provides a PostScript Level 2 driver; despite some claims, business-quality printing on plain copier paper isn't a reality yet.*

Desktop Laser Printers

Emulations: PCL 5, PostScript option with automatic emulation switching and all ports active.

Print engine speed: 8 ppm.

Resolution: 600 dpi.

Resident fonts: 45 total; 10 TrueType fonts (matching Windows 3.1).

RAM: At least 2MB.

Interface: Bidirectional parallel.

Paper capacity: 200 sheets.

Footprint: 260 square inches or less.

Features and options: HP-compatible font cartridges, RISC processor for 600-dpi models, toner included, EPA Energy Star compliance.

Other requirements: Toner cartridge, parallel cable, envelope tray.

Flatbed Color Scanners

Resolution: 400 to 600 dpi.

Image scanning capabilities: 24-bit color (16.7 million colors), grayscale (256 shades of gray), black and white.

Compatibility: TWAIN.

Interface: SCSI or SCSI-2.

Image controls: External controls for adjusting brightness, contrast, and color of scan; adjustable resolution.

Bundled software: 24-bit image-editing software, OCR software.

Features and options: Automatic document sheet feeder, transparency feeder.

Other requirements: Cables and SCSI adapter card included in price.

Red flags: *We recommend one-pass scanners for color documents, but it's not a given that any triple-pass scanner produces lower-quality than a single-pass.*

"What to do when Windows™ won't work."

INCREASE SPEED

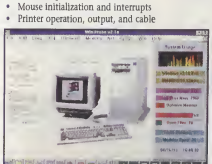
WINProbe uncovers the secrets to faster Windows operation. Simply click your mouse on "Tune Up" and **WINProbe** analyzes your system, then gives you up to 35 suggestions on how to speed up your system...

- Analyzes SmartDrive settings to improve hard drive performance
- Identifies and explains how to set up a permanent swap file
- Identifies which mode is best, Standard or Enhanced
- Pinpoints the optimum driver for your VGA card
- Optimizes and frees fragmented memory
- Analyzes and suggests the best Windows setup for your system

TROUBLESHOOT YOUR OWN PC

Few things are more aggravating than computer downtime and lockups. You waste time waiting for help and usually pay a dear price to get it when you finally do. Your time is valuable, so let **WINProbe** troubleshoot the problem for you. You'll be able to quickly identify the source of the problem; hardware, software, or configuration. Telephone support time is slashed. Repair bills drop like a rock (50% and more of your repair bills are for diagnosing the problem, **WINProbe** does it for you at NO COST!). Tests include...

- CPU and system board in 16 and 32 bit operation
- Math coprocessor
- Memory; conventional, extended, expanded, and XMS
- COM ports and MODEM control lines
- Floppy drive speed and surface analysis
- Hard drive surface analysis
- Keyboard and scan codes
- Video adapter and screen
- Mouse initialization and interrupts
- Printer operation, output, and cable



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"This $99 toolkit deserves high praise for ease of use, completeness, and accuracy."
Windows Sources

"A bargain worth writing home about."
PC Computing

"WINProbe's most impressive offering is its memory-reclamation capability. This feature alone is worth the price of admission."
PC Computing

RESOLVE SETUP PROBLEMS

Say 'goodbye' to software and hardware configuration and setup problems. **WINProbe** provides helpful information on...

- Installing a new hard drive
- CMOS display and edit
- IRQ, DMA, and UMB usage
- What to do when installing an add-in card
- Cleaning up *.INI and *.GRP files
- Memory allocation and management
- Locating and removing duplicated system files

OPTIMIZE MEMORY

WINProbe includes a memory optimization feature which lets you reclaim memory that Windows applications use but don't properly make available when you're in another program. Now you can avoid system crashes and other problems caused by reduced available memory.

COMPATIBILITY

WINProbe requires an IBM AT, 386, 486, PS/2 or compatible with at least 1MB of RAM, DOS 3.1 or higher, Windows 3.0 or higher, and either a Hercules mono, EGA, VGA, or SVGA video. A mouse is recommended but not required.

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Now available 270MB!

SQ3105A IDE Drive Bare	$239
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Portable external, attaches to printer port with 1 cartridge	$399

105MB Removable Media Drive. The #1 storage solution for the 1990's. Hard drive speed (14.8ms). Low cost per MB. Mounts in 3 1/2" or 5 1/4" bay. Great for unlimited upgradability, data archival, transport & exchange, just to name a few.

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with Adaptec 1542 & 1 Disk	$529
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GSI GSI drive accelerators increase the data transfer rate of your IDE drive 30 to 80%. Works by enabling the drives Read Multiple & Write Multiple commands to greatly increase performance. We highly recommend these products for WD, Conner, Quantum, Seagate, Micropolis, Maxtor, & Fujitsu. Alone w/Drive

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GSI-3B Board supports 2 IDE drives. Works in conjunction with MFM, RLL, etc.	$85 $45
GSI-32 Board uses 32 bits 2 16550 serial ports & 1 bi-directional parallel port	$139 $119
GSI MaxIDEA Software solution works on existing IDE configuration (requires less than 1K of memory). Includes performance benchmark test.	$34 $25

HARD DRIVES

CONNER

IDE

210MB	14ms	CFS210A	$209
340MB	13ms	CFA340A	$279
420MB	14ms	CFS420A	$329
541MB	12ms	CFA540A	SCALL

digital

SCSI

1600MB	9.7ms	DSP3160	$1189
2103MB	9.7ms	DSP3210	$1559
3800MB	11ms	DSP3850	$2399
4000MB	11ms	DSP5400	$2599

FUJITSU

IDE

520MB	12ms	M2624F	$499
SCSI			
520MB	12ms	M2624F	$499
1080MB	9ms	M2694ESA	$829
2060MB	12ms	M2685ESA	$1429

Maxtor

IDE

248MB	15ms	7245A	$249
340MB	14ms	7345A	$278
540MB	12ms	7546A	$459
540MB	8.5ms	MXT540A	$489
SCSI			
340MB	14ms	7345S	$349

MICROPOLIS

IDE

1050MB	10ms	MC2210A	$846
1740MB	10ms	MC2217A	$1122
SCSI			
1050MB	10ms	MC2210	$846
1052MB	8.5ms	MC4110	$915
1740MB	10ms	MC2217	$1122
2100MS	11ms	MC1926	$1438
3020MB	11ms	MC1936	$2065
9100MB	12ms	MC1991	$4059

Differential Wide SCSI! The ultimate setup for speed. Price includes EISA card & cables!

1050MB	10ms	MC2210DW	$1599
1740MB	10ms	MC2217DW	$1899

Also available Audio / Visual tuned drives!

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256MB	12ms	AC2282	$238
341MB	12ms	AC2340	$279
425MB	12ms	AC2420	$329
540MB	12ms	AC2540	$459

Boost WD performance 26% with MaxIDEA!

HARD DRIVES

Quantum

IDE

170MB	14ms	LPS170A	$189
270MB	12ms	LPS270A	$329
242MB	13ms	LPS340A	$279
541MB	12ms	LPS540A	$469
SCSI			
170MB	14ms	LPS170S	$189
270MB	12ms	LPS270S	$245
342MB	13ms	LPS340S	$249
541MB	12ms	LPS540S	$459
1000MB	10ms	LMP1000	$949
1225MB	10ms	PD1225S	$959
1800MB	10ms	PD1800S	$1079

Seagate

IDE

213MB	16ms	ST3243A	$199
260MB	16ms	ST3290A	$229
342MB	12ms	ST3390A	$279
452MB	12ms	ST3500A	$369
SCSI			
1690MB	8ms	ST11950N	$1469
2145MB	8ms	ST12550N	$1689

CONTROLLER CARDS

	Alone	w/Drive
ADAPTEC		
A1522BASIC 16Bit SCSI	$129	$109
A1542CBASIC 16Bit SCSI	$225	$215
A2742 EISA SCSI	$389	$369
A2842 VESA SCSI	$319	$299
7130 8Bit SCSI	$79	$65
7248 Parallel to SCSI	$189	$179
FUTURE DOMAIN		
1680SVP 16Bit SCSI	$155	$139

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PS/2 35 & 40	$229	$299	$379
PS/2 50 thru 95	$379	$489	$589

Larger capacities in stock. PS/2 286 120MB $589

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  - Pro Studio add $100
- Amplified Speakers
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Sony	CDU 561	298ms $489
Sony	33A	325ms $359
NEC	3X CDR-510	195ms $629

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Toshiba	XM4101	320ms $249
Sony	CDU561	298ms $299
Sony	33A-10	325ms $269

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Pioneer	DRM600	600ms $839
Pioneer	DRM602X	300ms $949
Pioneer	DRM604X	300ms $1189

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CD Software sold separately only with CD ROM Drives.
Bundle 1 San Diego Zoo's The Animals,Toolworks Reference Library, ToolworksCreditor's Multimedia Encyclopedia , Toolworks World & US Atlas & Tempra Plus+ CD Access $89
Bundle 2 San Diego Zoo's The Animals, Toolworks Reference Library, World Atlas, US Atlas with Auto Map, Sherlock Holmes, Sports Best, Arthur's Teacher Trouble, Chessmaster 3000, & Family Choice (18 titles incl. Berenstain Bears) $159
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Family Doctor answers to 1000+ questions $66
Game Pak II 10 games incl. Chessmaster 3000 $19
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Languages of the World 12 language translations $32
Mayo Clinic medical ailments reference $39
US Atlas w/ auto map intelligent road atlas $20
CIA World Trade 268 CIA country profiles $22

OPTICAL DRIVES

	Bare	Kit
Kit is 16Bit Card & 1 disk	Bare	Kit
128MB Fujitsu	$725	$879
1.3Gig Hewlett Packard	$2499	$2759
1.3Gig Maxoptix	$2699	$2959
Networking Special Media	5	
128MB / 650MB	$42/$109	$38/$95

Many other brands and types in stock.

TAPE DRIVES

CONNER

250MB QIC-80 tape drives includes software & tape — Alone w/drive

Internal 3.5 or 5.25 bay		$158	$139
External for printer port		$325	$315

SCSI Tape Drives

Kit is 16Bit card & 1 tape	Bare	Kit
850MB Teac MT01	$449	$639
250-1/4Gig Exabyte 2501	$549	$739
2Gig HP 35470	$799	$969
2Gig HP 35470	$929	$1049
2.5Gig Exabyte 8205	$1449	$1699
4-8Gig Conner 4324	$1119	$1329
4-8Gig HP 35480	$1059	$1279
4-16Gig Sony SDT5000	$1199	$1429
5-10Gig Exabyte 8505	$2239	$2519

REMOVEABLE DRIVES

Syquest	Bare	Kit
44/88MB 20ms SQ5110C	$329	$439

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Dual Full Height / Four Half Height $329
Four Full Height / Eight Half Height $549
Removable drive brackets, turns any 3.5" hard drive into removable IDE / SCSI $69/$119

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Maxtor 105MB, 19ms hard drive $459
PCMCIA to SCSI adapter $319
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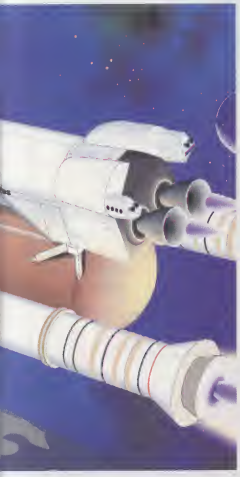

write-through or write back mode. And, Quantex will throw in an extra 256KB Secondary Cache Memory to give you an even faster computing session.

Complete Compatibility

Even with exciting new technology at your fingertips, you don't have to leave your favorite software behind. While the Quantex Pentium is built for the future, it retains compatibility with over 50,000 existing software applications. In addition, the Quantex Pentium supports all of today's operating systems, including MS DOS, UNIX, Windows NT, OS/2 and NEXTstep. So, pick and choose as you wish—it's compatible!

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486DX-50/128C NICE EISA VLB	636	798	1,036	1,086	1,176	1,336	1,386	1,456
486DX2-50/128C NICE EISA VLB	478	628	886	916	1,006	1,166	1,216	1,286
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486DX2-50C IDA	368	478	716	766	856	1,016	1,066	1,138
486DX-40C IDA	268	468	706	756	846	1,006	1,056	1,126
486DX-33C IDA	288	456	666	746	836	986	1,046	1,116
486SX-33C IDA	154	318	556	606	696	856	906	976
486SX-25C IDA	132	284	532	582	672	832	882	952
486DLC-40/64C IDA	144	384	542	582	662	842	882	662
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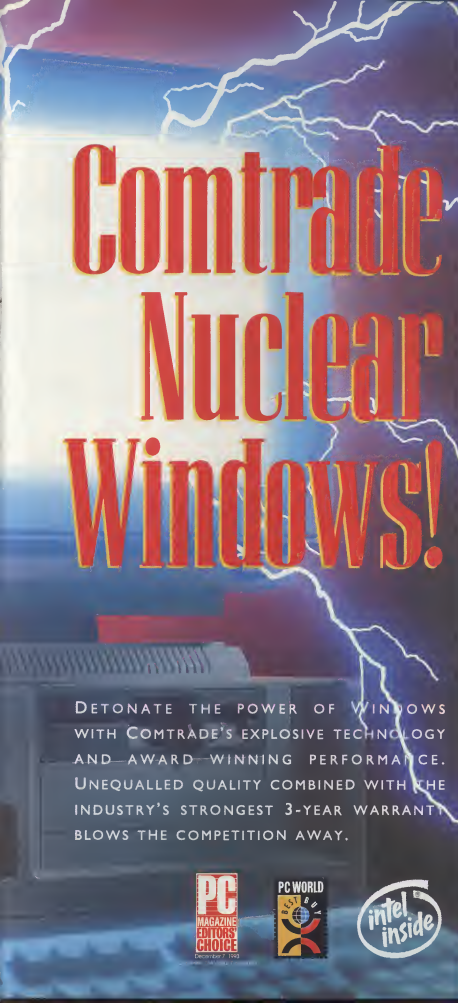

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PC MAGAZINE EDITORS' CHOICE December 7 1993

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64x4	---	2.25	---	---
64x1	---	---	2.00	2/$4

	80387	80387-20	80387-33
Addm Pentium 60	4/5/18 Meg		CALL
Addm Eval Kit	4/5/18 Meg		CALL
Atmas Sprites 286 Hunk 386SX	2/8 Meg KIT		
Enterprise 386 Sim			
Addm Sprnte Hunk & Enterprise 486	4/16 Meg KIT		
Addm MC 486SL	2/4/8 Meg		189
Addm S Series	4/8/12/16 Meg		189
Addm 3M Series	4/16 Meg		189

	80387-16	80387-20	80387-33
80387 DX (Does AA)	79.00		
80487 DX (Does AA)	249.00	309.00	329.00
Intel SX (Does AA)	79.00		
Intel DX (Does AA)	79.00		
Intel 168pin	40.00		
Intel 208X	54.00		

AMBRA

CYRIX DRx² 386 to 486 Upgrade

Clock Doubler

* Single chip upgrade solution
* Clock doubling technology
* Compatible with industry standard 386DX CPU socket
* Compatible with DOS, Windows, 3.X, OS/2 & UNIX
* Uses industry standard math chip
* Fully tested & burned-in

The Cyrix Upgrade runs at twice the speed of your original 386 microprocessor combined with a 1K internal cache you will enjoy a performance boost of 100% and more. Ideal for any DOS, Windows or OS/2 application which requires a large amount of microprocessor horsepower

CX486 DRx²-16/32	239.00
CX486 DRx²-20/40	299.00
CX486 DRx²-25/50	CALL
CX486 DRX²-33/66	CALL
CX486 SRX2 16/32	249.00
CX486 SRX2 20/40	249.00
CX486 SRX2 25/50	279.00

SIMM MODULES (Add $5.00 for SIPP)

	4MNS	4MS	8MNS	8MS	16MNS	16MS
1Meg x 9 (3 chips)	29.00	32.00	39.00	42.00	78.00	84.00
1Meg x 36 (4MB)	---	---	158.00	159.00	148.00	---
4Meg x 9	---	---	---	168.00	159.00	---
1Meg x 9 (36 chip)	---	---	---	---	---	---
1Meg x 36 (9MB)	---	---	---	---	---	---

72 PIN SIMMS (EISA)

256 x 36 16Meg		99.00	---
512 x 36 (8Meg)		82.00	84.00
1 x 36 (4Meg)	149.00	89.00	92.00
1 x 36 4Meg (w/p 1M)	159.00	99.00	102.00
2 x 36 (8Meg) (w/p 1M)	359.00	249.00	249.00
4 x 36 (16Meg)	649.00	499.00	499.00
8 x 36 32Meg	1549.00	1,099.00	---
16 x 36 64Meg	3,099.00	---	---

CYRIX FASMATH PROCESSOR

Programs to succeed up to 3X faster • Plug & closed core compat. w/486 83D87-40MHz - 40 MHz 83D87-33MHz - 33 MHz 83D87-25 - 25MHz 83D87-20SX Vr ... 89.00
83D87-35SX - 92.00 PC Week" rated #1 over all math coprocessors
Any Manufacturer "All Chipsets Supported"

AST MEMORY

MODEL	AMT. UPGRADED	AST PART #	PRICE
Rampage 4/8/16 4/32 4/32 4/64 4/64	4Meg	4/4MS	149.00
	8Meg	8/8MS	299.00
	16Meg	8/16MS	419.00
	32Meg	8/32MS	819.00
	64Meg	8/64MS	1599.00

MODEL	AMT. UPGRADED	AST PART #	PRICE
Premium 486/25, 25, 33, 33E	4Meg	4/4MS	149.00
Premium 486/25, 25, 33, 33E	8Meg	8/8MS	299.00
Premium 386/25, 33, 33E, 386/25E	4Meg	4/4MS	149.00
Premium 386/25, 33, 33E, 386/25E	8Meg	8/8MS	299.00
Premium 386/25, 33, 33E, 386/25E	16Meg	8/16MS	419.00
Premium 386/25, 33, 33E, 386/25E	32Meg	8/32MS	819.00
Premium 386/25, 33, 33E, 386/25E	64Meg	8/64MS	1599.00
Bravo LX 386/25 25	4Meg	4/4MS	149.00
Bravo LX 386/25 25	8Meg	8/8MS	299.00
Bravo LX 386/25 25	16Meg	8/16MS	419.00
Bravo LX 386/25 25	32Meg	8/32MS	819.00
Bravo LX 386/25 25	64Meg	8/64MS	1599.00
Prelude 433S, 433D, 433E, 433C	4Meg	4/4MS	149.00
Prelude 433S, 433D, 433E, 433C	8Meg	8/8MS	299.00
Prelude 433S, 433D, 433E, 433C	16Meg	8/16MS	419.00
Prelude 433S, 433D, 433E, 433C	32Meg	8/32MS	819.00
Prelude 433S, 433D, 433E, 433C	64Meg	8/64MS	1599.00
Prelude 433S, 433D, 433E, 433C	128Meg	8/128MS	3199.00
Prelude 433S, 433D, 433E, 433C	256Meg	8/256MS	6399.00
Prelude 433S, 433D, 433E, 433C	512Meg	8/512MS	12799.00

ZENITH MEMORY MODULES

MODEL	AMT. UPGRADED	AST PART #	PRICE
Z-386/20, 25, 33, 33E	4Meg	ZA4MS	149.00
Z-386/20, 25, 33, 33E, 486/25E	8Meg	ZA8MS	299.00
Z-386SX	16Meg	ZA16MS	419.00

MAGNAVOX

Z-386/20/25/33E, 386SX/16, 20, 486SX/20 & 25, 386/20 and 25 with ZAPEM SIMM
4MEG = $149.00 8MEG = $299.00 16MEG = $419.00 32MEG = $819.00

MEMORY BOARDS

IBM Compatibles @ PS/2

BOCA AT PLUS

16 BIT MEMORY BD. FOR 286, 386 AT • 0K-16Meg Bd. • 0 LIM Compat. – Rev 3.2 • No Wait-States • Parity • Expand, Disable Memory • Supports DOS, OS/2, UNIX, XENIX • Versatile Split Memory Addressing • Operates w/CPU Speeds to 33 MHz • Supports Dimensions' Multitask construction • 64 masks per Base Resolution, 4 of four

0K - $34.00	256Kp - $150.00	4Meg - $239.00	8Meg - $439.00

BOCA XT 8 BIT BUS

• Expanded memory up to 4 • Lim 4.0 compat. • 0-4Meg • Uses 256K1-100

0K - $69.00	1Meg (9 Bit) - $219.00

IBM P/S2 328IT EXPANSION BD.

0-2Meg, Set-Expand. Memory Bd. for P/S-70,72, 80, 25, Lum 4.0

0Meg	1Meg	2Meg	4Meg	8Meg
$139.00	$239.00	$319.00	$499.00	$899.00	$1099.00	CALL

PS/2 MCA 0-8MEG EXPANSION BD.

D-8Meg, Extended, and/or Exp. extend Memory Bd. of IBM PS/2 Mod. 50, 50Z, 55, 55SX, 65SX, 70, 80 • 4/0 LIM Compat.

DK - 119.00	2Meg - 199.00	4Meg - 299.00	8Meg - 439.00

IBM PS/1, PS/2 MEMORY MODULES

IBM PART NO.	WORKS WITH MODEL NO	PRICE
90X7385 (1Meg)	55SX	79.00
90X7386 (4Meg)	55, 56, 25-286, 30 MT/HR 80	149.00
64G3275 (1Meg)	80-041	79.00
64G3276 (1Meg)	80-071, 081, 121, 311	79.00
64G1260 (4Meg)	80-A21, A31, B21, C31, D31, E31	149.00
64G9634 (2Meg)	80-A21, A31, B21, C31, D31, E31, 90XL, 90XP, 90XD, 95XP, 95XD	89.00
64G0008 (2Meg)	70-A21, A61-E, B21-E, 001, 002E, 002L, 013E, W13L, W, P, 025T	SOLD
64G3277 (4Meg)	80-A21, A31, B21, C31, D31, E31	149.00
34F2553 (4Meg)	95XP, 95XD, 90XP, 90XD, 55SL, 65SX	149.00
87F8877 (4Meg)	55SX, 56SX, P50, 40SX, 350S, 35SLC	149.00
87F8878 (8Meg)	55SX	249.00
87F8879 (16Meg)	55SX	449.00
87F8884 (4Meg)	P70 S FIS P/N 33F8884	149.00
87F8885 (8Meg)	P70 S FIS P/N 33F8885	249.00
Value Point 2/16	Value Point 2/16 Notebook 2/16	175.00
64G5128 (4Meg)	Value Point 2/16 4860SX, 4850SX, P70 S, P75, 386SX	175.00
	Value Point 2/16 4860SX, 4850SX, 95 XP, 95 XD, 40SX, 40SLC	
64G5129 (8Meg)	Value Point 2/16 4860SX, 4850SX, 95 XP, 95 XD	379.00
64G5130 (8Meg)	P70 S FIS P/N 33L5130, P75 S 33L5130	379.00
	Value Point 2/16 4860SX, 4850SX, 95 XP, 95 XD	
40G1018 (1Meg MD)	P70 S Systems 6000	709.00
40G1019 (4Meg MD)	P70 S Systems 6000	1419.00
40G6134 (4Meg MD)	RISC System/6000	3319.00

IBM NOTEBOOK & LAPTOP MEMORY

79F0999 (2Meg)	L40, 5120, 75 Inch	79.00
79F1000 (4Meg)	L40, 5120, 75 Inch, Thinkpad 350, 350c	159.00
79F1001 (8Meg)	5140, 5120, 75 Inch	319.00
20Y8126 (2Meg)	5140, 5120, 75 Inch	79.00
20Y8127 (4Meg)	5140, 5120, 75 Inch	159.00
20Y8128 (8Meg)	5140, 5120, 75 Inch	319.00
20Y8129 (16Meg)	5140, 5120, 75 Inch	639.00
33G6564 (4Meg)	Thinkpad 700, 700C	419.00
33G6565 (8Meg)	Thinkpad 700, 700C	419.00
33G6566 (16Meg)	Thinkpad 700, 700C	419.00
33G6567 (32Meg)	Thinkpad 700, 700C	419.00
33G6569(64Meg)	Thinkpad 700, 700C, 720, 720C	419.00
20Y7401 (4Meg)	5170, 5140, 5120, Thinkpad 700, 700C, 720, 720C	419.00
20Y7402 (8Meg)	5170, 5140, 5120, Thinkpad 700, 700C, 720, 720C	419.00
92G0019 (16Meg)	Thinkpad 350, 350c	672.00
92F6824 (2Meg)	5140	79.00

COMPAQ MEMORY MODULES

MODEL	AMT. UPGRADED	CMPQ PART #	PRICE
DeskPro 386/20, 386/25,	1Meg Mod	115644-001	49.00
486/25, 486-O/L,	4Meg Module	115681-001	129.00
DeskPro 386/20E, 386/25E,	8Meg Module	115682-001	249.00
DeskPro 386/33L, 486/33L,	2Meg Mod	115699-001	79.00
DeskPro 386/33E, 486/33E,	4Meg Module	115700-001	159.00
	8Meg Module	115701-001	319.00
DeskPro 386S-16MHz	1Meg Exp Mod	113633-001	149.00
	4Meg Exp Mod	113634-001	329.00
	8Meg Exp Mod	113644-001	729.00
DeskPro 386/20E	1Meg Module	113344-001	79.00
DeskPro 386/25E, 386/33E	4Meg Module	113345-001	329.00
	8Meg Module	113346-001	729.00
DeskPro 2600N, 386N,	4Meg Module	113132-001	215.00
386/SX20, 386/SX25,	8Meg Module	113133-001	429.00
386/SX20, 386/SX25, 486/SX25M,	1Meg Module	113688-001	59.00
486/S25M, 486S/16M	4Meg Module	113689-001	180.00
Port 1 Series 486S	8Meg Module	113690-001	360.00
M Series Exp 92	5-4Meg	131160-001	279.00
DeskPro 386/16	1Meg Mod	106018-001	59.00
	2Meg Mod	106019-001	99.00
	1-2Meg Exp Mod	105003-001	239.00
	4Meg Exp Mod	105004-001	479.00
DeskPro 286	1-2Meg Exp	5176K-001	99.00
DeskPro 386S, 386M, 386/20	4Meg Exp	5177K-001	499.00
Prolinea 4/25S, 4/33S	1Meg Mod	149911-001	59.00
Prolinea 4/25C	4Meg Mod	149912-001	199.00
Prolinea 4/33C	8Meg Mod	149913-001	399.00
Prolinea 4000 4/50	4Meg Mod	149914-001	199.00
Prolinea 4000 4/50	8Meg Mod	149915-001	399.00
Prolinea 386 3/25S, 3/33S	1Meg Mod	147738-001	59.00
	4Meg Mod	147742-001	199.00
Prolinea 486 4/25S, 4/33, 4/50, 4/66, 0/S	1Meg Mod	147739-001	59.00
	4Meg Mod	147744-001	199.00
	8Meg Mod	141695-001	399.00
Prolinea PC Server, 486/33	4Meg Mod	147743-001	199.00
486 0/S/90	8Meg	149233-001	719.00
	16Meg	149234-001	1535.00

COMPAQ LAPTOPS & NOTEBOOKS

LTE/286	2Meg Bd	151081-002	99.00
LTE/286	4Meg Bd	151082-002	179.00
LTE/386SX/20	4Meg Module	121125-002	259.00
LTE/386SX/20	8Meg Module	121126-002	479.00
LTE 1/25 C/20, 25, 25C	4Meg Module	150769-002	259.00
LTE 1/25 C/20, 25, 25C	8Meg Module	150770-002	479.00
LTE 1/25 4/25C, 4/33C, 4/33C	4Meg Module	150769-004	809.00
LTE 1/25 4/25C, 4/33C, 4/33C	8Meg Module	150770-004	1619.00
LTE 1/25 4/25C, 4/33C, 4/33C	4Meg Module	140307-004	809.00
LTE 1/25 4/25C, 4/33C, 4/33C	8Meg Module	140307-004	1619.00
SLT/286	4Meg Module	113231-001	249.00
SLT/386	4Meg Module	113231-001	249.00
SLT/386	8Meg Module	113232-001	499.00
SLT/386	4Meg Module	113230-001	219.00
Concerto	4Meg	144704-001	CALL
	8Meg	144705-001	CALL
	16Meg	144700-001	CALL
Contura 320, 325	4Meg Module	151078-001	249.00
	8Meg Module	151079-001	499.00
Contura 4/25, 4/25C, 4/25CS	4Meg Module	150499-001	349.00
	8Meg Module	150500-001	699.00
	8Meg	149531-001	349.00
	16Meg	149532-001	699.00

PCMCIA VERSION 2.0 (See Palmtops & Subnotebooks)

MODEL	AMT. UPGRADED	PRICE
S-RAM Cards 1M/5B	1M	4/4SY1K,400 (Watchtw
S-RAM Cards 2M/5B	2M	Modems
Card Pro (made by Data I/O)		2400/9600 Data/Fax Modems
Transfers data from PCMCIA		2400/9600 Data/Fax Modems
card to desktop PC, connects		14.4K Data/Fax Modems
to a parallel port.		Ethernet 10 Base/Twist, Tape Drv

219.00	
249.00	
179.00	
179.00	
299.00	
279.00	

FLASH MEMORY

2 Meg 259.00 5Meg 569.00 10Meg 599.00 15Meg CALL 20Meg CALL

Flash Memory Cards operate like the computer as a hard disk drive. In DOS environment users system will see the flash card much like an IDC hard disk drive and assign it a logical drive (e.g D:) No battery to deal with. Also all capacities come with data compression software to double the amount of flash memory. All flash memory made by Sundisk)

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TOSHIBA LAPTOP MEMORY

MODEL	AMT. UPGRADED	MANU. PART #	PRICE
T1000SE/XE/LE	2Meg	PC14-PA8312U	84.00
T2000/T2000SX	2Meg	PC18-PA8317U	84.00
T2000SX/T3100SX	4Meg	PC18-PA8318U	169.00
T3000SX/T1000XE	8Meg	PC14-PA8313U	339.00
T3200SX/T3200SX (1600, 1610)	2Meg	PC-PA2931U	84.00
T3200SX/T3200SX (1600, 1610)	4Meg	PC-PA2931U	169.00
T3200SX/T3200SX (1600, 1610)	8Meg	PC-PA2931U	339.00
T4400SX, SSC/T4400	2Meg	PC-PA2932U	84.00
T4400SX, SSC/T4400	4Meg	PC-PA2932U	169.00
T4400SX, SSC/T4400	8Meg	PC-PA2932U	339.00
T4500, T4500C, T4600, T1900	2Meg	PC-PA2931U	84.00
T4500, T4500C, T4600, T1900 (3.3 V)	4Meg	PC-PA2931U	210.00
T4500, T4500C, T4600, T1900	4Meg	PC-PA2931U	169.00
T4500, T4500C, T4600, T1900, (3.3 V)	8Meg	PC-PA2931U	399.00
T2000SL	2Meg	PC-PA2930U	84.00
T2000SL	4Meg	PC-PA2930U	169.00
T1200XE	2Meg	PC13-PA2026	99.00
T1600	2Meg	PC13-PA1326	169.00
T1910	2Meg	PC13-PA1326	179.00
T1950	2Meg	PC13-PA1326	179.00
T3100	2Meg	PC15-PA3357U	109.00
T3100SX	4Meg	PC15-PA3210U	209.00
T3100	8Meg	PC8-PA1727U	189.00
T3200SX	2Meg	PC13-PA8307U	119.00
T3200SX	4Meg	PC13-PA8308U	239.00
T3000SX	8Meg	PC13-PA8309U	519.00
T5200/T5200C	2Meg	PC13-PA8307U	119.00
T5200/T5200C	4Meg	PC13-PA8308U	239.00
T5200/T5300	2Meg	PC80-PA8304U	114.00
T5200/T5300	4Meg	PC80-PA8305U	419.00

NOTEBOOK, LAPTOP MEMORY

MAKES	AMT. UPGRADED	MANU. PART #	PRICE
ACER 700	2Meg-Max.16Meg		159/255/449
ACER 900	4Meg-Max.16Meg		319/509/899
AST Ascentia 900N	2Meg	12407900	249.00
AST Bravo & Explorer	4Meg 16Meg	501255-001 - 002	189.00/819.00
AST Notebook Pro Exec	4Meg	500414-003	169.00
AST Power Exec	2Meg		
AST Power Exec 4/25SL, 4/33SL	4Meg		199.00
AST Power Exec 4/25C, 4/33C	8Meg		399.00
AST Power Exec 4/50SL	4Meg	501189-001	199.00
AST Power Exec 4/50SL	8Meg	501190-001	399.00
AST Power Exec 4/50SL	16Meg	501191-001	799.00
Aurobord 8310, Plus	8Meg	1MB-10M	139.00
Aurobord 8310, Plus	16Meg	2MB-20M	279.00
Aurobord 8320 SX	4Meg		229.00
Aurobord 8320	4Meg	4880311	229.00
Gateway 2000 Handbook 4/25 Cache	4Meg	PGA100MEM4MB	199.00
Gateway 2000 Nomad 425 DX/Quad	4Meg		199.00
Micron Millenia	4Meg	1MX-4M	199.00
Micron Millenia	16Meg 64Meg	2MX-16M-28	599.00/1599.00
NEC Powermate 386SX/16	2Meg	NEC Prospeed	79.00
NEC Powermate 386SX/20	4Meg	NEC Prospeed	159.00
NEC Prospeed 386SX	2Meg	NEC Prospeed	79.00
NEC Prospeed 386SX/20	4Meg	NEC Prospeed	159.00
NEC Ultralite 386SX/20	2Meg	PC-AT-2M	79.00
NEC Ultralite 386SX/20	4Meg	PC-AT-4M	159.00
NEC Ultralite 386SX/20	8Meg	PC-AT-8M	319.00
NEC Ultralite Versa	4Meg/8Meg/16Meg/32Meg	4PM/8M	209.429.849.1594
Packard Bell Platinum 286	1Meg	286 SIMM2	59.00
Panasonic 511-12, 512-13, 513	2Meg	SF-BA166	CALL/CALL/CALL
Panasonic 514	2Meg+16Meg		CALL/CALL/CALL
Sanyo 1610	2Meg		99.00
Sanyo 1610 NB	2Meg	MBC-NB4MEM	99.00
SHARP PC-4500, 4700	4Meg		199.00
SHARP PC-4800	2Meg	PC-IA21B	119.00
TOSHIBA T1000, 1000SE, Universal	2Meg	T1000-2M	119.00
TOSHIBA T1000SE	4Meg	T1000-4M	239.00
TI Travelmate 3000	2Meg	2358990-1	84.00
TI 4000	4Meg		199.95 / 349.95
Toshiba T1000, T1000SE	2Meg	T1000-2M	119.00
Toshiba T1000SE	4Meg	T1000-4M	239.00
Zenith Data Systems	2Meg		99.00
Zenith Master Sport 386SX	2Meg	ZA-320-1	114.00
Zenith Master Sport 386SX	4Meg	ZA-320-2	199.00
Zenith Data Systems	2Meg	ZA-150-M	119.00
	2Meg	ZA-150-M4	179.00
	4Meg	ZA-150-M8	239.00
	8Meg	ZA-150-M16	479.00
Zenith Data Systems	2Meg	ZA-150-C	119.00
	4Meg	ZA-150-C4	179.00/239.00
Zenith Z-Note 425SX, LC	4Meg	ZNM-425SX	199.00
Zenith Z-Note 425SX, LC, LNP	4Meg	ZNM-425SX	199.00

LASER PRINTER MEMORY UPGRADES

AMOUNT UPGRADED (M for .25/Mb)	1	2	3	3.5	4	5	8	9	10	12
Apple LPM, LPM II	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Compaq Pagemarq 4	---	199	---	---	199	---	---	---	---	---
Epson ActiveLaser	---	149	---	---	149	---	---	---	---	---
Epson EPL 4000	---	149	---	---	149	---	---	---	---	---
Epson 8000	69	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
HP LaserJet 1000, 1500	---	149	---	---	149	---	---	---	---	---
HP 3, 3D	---	159	---	---	159	---	---	---	---	---
HP 3 Si, 3P, 3P 3Pi	---	159	---	---	159	---	---	---	---	---
HP 4, 4M, 4Si, 4Si MOX	---	---	159	---	---	159	---	---	---	---
HP 4Si	69	---	---	159	---	---	---	---	---	---
HP 4Si	---	---	159	---	---	159	---	---	---	---
HP 4Si	---	---	---	---	---	---	159	---	---	---
HP Design Jet 800, 650	---	---	---	---	---	---	159	---	---	---
HP DeskJet 500C, 550C	59	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
HP DeskJet 1200C, 1200CP---	---	---	---	---	---	---	159	---	---	---
HP PaintJet XL300	---	---	---	---	---	---	259	---	---	---
HP LaserJet 401X, 401E	---	---	---	---	159	---	---	---	---	---
HP LaserJet 4L	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
HP LaserJet 4039, 4079	---	89	---	---	159	---	---	---	---	---
NEC Sp 2200	---	199	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
NEC Sp 2700	---	199	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Oki 400	---	89	---	---	159	---	---	---	---	---
Oki 800	---	159	---	---	159	---	---	---	---	---
Packard Bell PB 8500	---	159	---	---	227	---	---	---	---	---
Packard Bell PB 9500	---	159	---	---	227	---	---	---	---	---
Panasonic 4420/4423	---	129	---	---	239	---	---	---	---	---
Panasonic 4426/4427	---	129	---	---	239	---	---	---	---	---
Texas Instruments	---	149	---	---	149	---	---	---	---	---
TI XL-PS17/PS35	---	149	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

H.P. COMPATIBLE FONT CARTRIDGE

BAR CODER Bar Code Reader Fonts	99.00
DATAKIT 5/8/8 (HP 500) 5 Fonts, 8 Typ. Sizes, 8 Pt. Logo, 8 Scl. 24 pt	99.00
IBM 4019, 4019E, FONT CARTRIDGE 2019 Fonts, Turbo Card	105.00
TURBO ES (Compatible to Pacific Data Products) HP LaserJet IIP, IIP, IIIP, IIIP, 143 Fonts (compat. with Epson Action Laser II and IIP, HP PaintJet Xl, HP 4)	
TURBO ES (Compatible to Pacific Data Products) HP LaserJet IIP, IIP, IIIP, IIIP, 143 Fonts (compat. with Epson Action Laser II and IIP, HP PaintJet Xl, HP 4)	
UNI 4 (HP 500) 4 Fonts, 8 Typ. Sizes, 8 Pt. Logo, 8 Scl. 24 pt	179.00
UNI 4 ENHANCED (HP 500) 4019, 4019E, 4029	179.00
UNI 4 ENHANCED (HP 500)	179.00
UNI 4000 Emulation	179.00
UNI 4000 Emulation	84.00
UNI 4000 Emulation	169.00

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IBM
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COMPAQ

$1629*

ProLinea Desktops

Processor	Hard Drive	Price
486SX/33	120MB	$1109
486SX/33	240MB	$1259
486DX/33	120MB	$1389
486DX/33	240MB	$1469
486DX/33	340MB	$1619

Lease for $50/mo.

ProLinea Net1 $1329

ProLinea Desktop

ProLinea MT

Processor	RAM	Hard Drive	Price
486SX/33	4MB	270MB	$1399
486SX/33	4MB	340MB	$1499
486DX2/66	8MB	535MB	$2469

Lease for $51/mo.

DeskPro/M

Processor	RAM	Hard Drive	Price
486DX/33	8MB	240MB	$2659
486DX/33	8MB	340MB	$3069
486DX2/66	8MB	510MB	$3739

Lease for 3/36/mo.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

$1869*

TravelMate 4000E Monochrome

Processor	Price
486SX/25	$1679
486DX2/50	$2429

Lease for $61/mo.

TravelMate Accessories

TI Intelligent Docking Station	$799.99
External Battery Charger	$129.99
Deluxe Carrycase	$56.99
Ethernet Adapter	$449.99

TravelMate 4000E Color

TravelMate 4000E Color

Processor	Screen	Price
486SX/25	Enhanced Color	$2099
486DX2/40	Enhanced Color	$2699
486DX2/50	Dual Scan	$2999
486DX2/50	Active Matrix	$3799

New From Texas Instruments

486DX4/75	8.4" Active Matrix	$4399
486DX4/75	9.5" Active Matrix	$4849

Lease for $77/mo.

COMPAQ

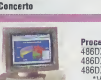
$2399*

Concerto

▲ 9.5" mono display
▲ 2 PCMCIA Type II slots
▲ Integrated, detachable keyboard

Processor	Hard Drive	Price
486SL/25	120MB	$2359
486SL/25	250MB	$2649
486SL/33	250MB	$2929

Lease for $47/mo.



Concerto

LTE Lite 4/25

Screen	Hard Drive	Price
Mono	120MB	$1999
Mono	209MB	$2299
Active Mono	120MB	$2799
Active Mono	209MB	$3099

Lease for $73/mo.

Contura 4/25

Screen	Price
Mono	$2199
Dual Scan	$2599
Active Matrix	$3449

Lease for $81/mo.

LEADING EDGE

$969*

VL Bus Desktops

Processor	Hard drive	Price*
486SX/25	170MB	$919
486SX/33	170MB	$1009
486DX/33	260MB	$1249
486DX2/50	345MB	$1609
486DX2/66	345MB	$1699

*VGA color monitors begin at $209.99

Lease for $50/mo.

VL Bus Desktops

VL Bus Minitowers

Processor	Hard drive	Price*
486DX/33	260MB	$1309
486DX2/50	345MB	$1669
486DX2/66	345MB	$1839

*VGA color monitors begin at $209.99

WinPro 486SLC Series

Processor	Hard drive	Monitor	Price
486SLC33	120MB	14" VGA	$979
486SLC33	170MB	14" SVGA	$1059

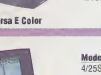
NEC

$1499*

UltraLite Versa E

Processor	Screen	Hard drive	Price
DX2/40	Monochrome	120MB	$2579
DX2/40	Monochrome	250MB	$2989
DX2/40	Active color	120MB	$3819
DX2/40	Active color	250MB	$4229
DX2/50	Monochrome	209MB	$3259
DX2/50	Active color	209MB	$4499
DX2/50	Active color	340MB	$4919

Lease for $95/mo.



Versa E Color

Ready Multimedia Desktops

▲ 4MB RAM, expandable to 36MB
▲ Double or triple speed CD-ROM drive
▲ MediaVision 16-bit stereo sound
▲ 9600/4800 fax, 2400 data modem

Processor	Hard drive	Price
486SX/25	170MB	$1499*
486SX/33	250MB	$1899

Lease for $55/mo.

AST

Authorized Systems Reseller

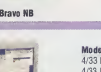
$1729*

Bravo NB

▲ 486SX/25 processor
▲ Accelerated local bus graphics
▲ PCMCIA Type III slot

Screen	Model	Hard Drive	Price
Mono	123W	120MB	$1639
Mono	173W	170MB	$1799
Dual scan	123W	120MB	$2279
Dual scan	173W	170MB	$2399
Active matrix	173W	170MB	$2899

Lease for $62/mo.



Bravo NB

PowerExec

Model	Screen	Price
4/25SL Model 203/W	Mono	$2399*
4/25SL Model 203/W	Active color	$4029
4/33SL Model 203/W	Monochrome	$2629
4/33SL Model 203/W	Active color	$4229
4/33SL Model 343/W	Active Matrix	$4629

Lease for $89/mo.

AST

Authorized Systems Reseller

$999*

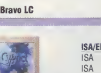
Bravo LC

▲ 4/8MB RAM exp. to 64MB
▲ 120/170/210MB hard drive

Model	Hard Drive	Price*
4/25s Model 123W	120MB	$999
4/33 Model 123W	120MB	$1299
4/33 Model 173W	170MB	$1359
4/33 Model 213W	210MB	$1539
4/66d Model 213W	210MB	$1979

*Monitors sold separately

Lease for $50/mo.



Bravo LC

Bravo MT

Model	Hard Drive	Price*
4/33 Model 3	Optional	$1269
4/33 Model 173W	170MB	$1539
4/33 Model 343W	340MB	$1999
4/66d Model 3	Optional	$1819
4/66d Model 173W	170MB	$2099
4/66d Model 343W	340MB	$2539

*Monitors sold separately

Lease for $50/mo.

Cygnet

$2149*

Desktop Systems

RAM	Video	Price
8MB	20M-Wm	$2149*
16MB	20M-Wm	$2479
16MB	60M-Wm	$2699

*Monitors sold separately

Lease for $79/mo.

Cygnet Desktop

Tower Systems

ISA/EISA	Video	Price*
ISA	20M-Wm	$2149
ISA	60M-Wm	$2699
EISA	20M-Wm	$2879
EISA	60M-Wm	$3099

Includes 16MB RAM
*Monitors sold separately

15" SVGA color monitor $399.99

Circle 148 on reader service card.

Toshiba Direct

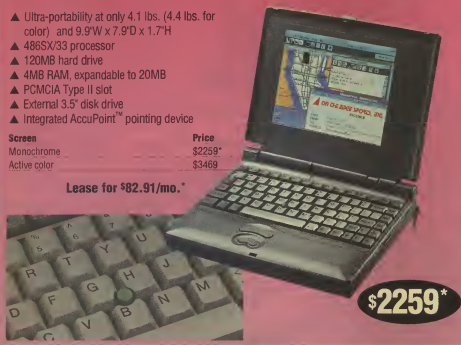
Portégé T3400

- Ultra-portability at only 4.1 lbs. (4.4 lbs. for color) and 9.9"W x 7.9"D x 1.7"H
- 486SX/33 processor
- 120MB hard drive
- 4MB RAM, expandable to 20MB
- PCMCIA Type II slot
- External 3.5" disk drive
- Integrated AccuPoint™ pointing device

Screen	Price
Monochrome	$2259*
Active color	$3469

Lease for $82.91/mo.*

T3400 Color



$2259*

T4700

- 486DX2/50 processor
- 8MB RAM, expandable to 24MB
- Brilliant 9.5" display with local bus video
- 2 PCMCIA slots (1 Type II, 1 Type III)
- Microsoft Sound System, built-in microphone, audio out port
- MS-DOS, Windows 3.1, UltraFont & Indeo video compression software

Screen	Hard drive	Price
Dual scan color	200MB	$3996*
Dual scan color	320MB	$4329
Active color	200MB	$4599
Active color	320MB	$4949

Lease for $146.76/mo.

$3999*

T4700 Dual Scan

T1910

- 486SX33 processor
- 4MB RAM, expandable to 20MB
- 9.5" display
- Type III PCMCIA slot
- 82-key keyboard
- MS-DOS, Windows 3.1
- Ballpoint mouse 2.0 with Quickport
- Enhanced power management

Model	Screen	Hard drive	Price
T1910	Monochrome	120MB	$1499
T1910	Dual scan color	120MB	$2099
T1910	Dual scan color	200MB	$2329

Lease for $55/mo.

$1499

T1950

- 486DX2/40 processor
- 4MB RAM, expandable to 20MB
- 9.5" display
- Type III PCMCIA slot
- 82-key keyboard
- MS-DOS, Windows 3.1
- Ballpoint mouse 2.0 with Quickport
- Enhanced power management

Model	Screen	Hard drive	Price
T1950	Monochrome	120MB	$1899
T1950	Monochrome	200MB	$2099
T1950	Dual scan color	120MB	$2499
T1950	Dual scan color	200MB	$2719
T1950	Active color	120MB	$2849
T1950	Active color	200MB	$3069
T1950	Active color	320MB	$3399

Lease for $70/mo.

$1899

T4600

- 33MHz 486SL processor
- 4MB RAM, expandable to 20MB
- 9.5" display
- 2 PCMCIA slots
- Ballpoint mouse with QuickPort
- MS-DOS, Windows 3.1

Screen	Hard drive	Price
Monochrome	200MB	Call
Active color	120MB	$3689
Active color	200MB	$4096
Active color	320MB	$4449

Lease for $143/mo.

$3889

Desk Station IV

Toshiba's Desk Station IV turns your T4600 and T4700 into a full-function desktop computer by providing:

- 2 full-size, 16-bit industry standard expansion slots
- 5.25" half-height drive bay
- Parallel, serial, PS/2 mouse, VGA monitor, 101-key keyboard ports and 1 floppy disk drive port
- Separate monitor stand
- Monitor, notebook and keyboard extra

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ValuePoint Systems Feature

▲4MB RAM expandable to 64MB
▲VESA Local Bus Graphics (up to 1280x1024)
▲3.5" 1.44MB disk drive
▲2 Serial, parallel, keyboard, mouse ports
▲101 key keyboard, IBM Mouse

ValuePoint SpaceSavers

You can't beat the ValuePoint SpaceSavers if you're looking for IBM quality, service and support at an entry level price.

ValuePoint Desktops

With lots of room for expansion, here's a system you won't grow out of in 2 years.

ValuePoint MiniTowers

The most flexibility offered in any configuration featuring 8 expansion slots and 6 drive bays.

ValuePoint P60/D Pentium

The ultimate power trip is here in a Pentium system featuring PCI architecture, LANS, graphics, publishing, CAD/CAM and more at a full-tilt 32-bit speed.

ValuePoint SpaceSaver

ThinkPad 500 subnotebooks

Lighten your load, with true desktop class power.

▲ 486SLC2/50 processor
▲ 4MB RAM exp. to 12MB
▲ 170MB hard drive
▲ 7.4" VGA monochrome display
▲ Serial, enhanced parallel, mouse board, mouse, external disk drive ports
▲ 1 Type II PCMCIA slot
▲ 81-key keyboard
▲ TrackPoint II integrated pointing device
▲ 3.5" external floppy drive
▲ Nickel Metal Hydride battery, AC adapter
▲ Weighs only 3.8 lbs. (w/battery) and measures 10.11" x 7.23" x 1.67"
▲ IBM DOS 6.1, Prodigy

$2419*

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ValuePoint Models and Specifications

Model	Hard Drive Video	Slots	Bays	Software	Price
ValuePoint Si SpaceSaver *(Video RAM expandable to 1MB)*					
486SX/25	120MB	512K	3	3	IBM DOS/MS Windows	$ 929
486DX/33	212MB	512K	3	3	IBM DOS/MS Windows	$1399
486DX2/66	212MB	512K	3	3	IBM DOS/MS Windows	$1789
ValuePoint Desktop *(ZIFF socket, Pentium OverDrive upgradability, VESA local bus slot)*					
486SX/33	170MB	1MB	5	5	IBM DOS/MS Windows	$1359
486DX/33	212MB	1MB	5	5	IBM DOS/MS Windows	$1559
486DX/33	340MB	1MB	5	5	IBM DOS/MS Windows	$1719
486DX2/66	340MB	1MB	5	5	IBM DOS/MS Windows	$2159
ValuePoint MiniTower *(527MB system includes 8 MB RAM standard)*					
486DX2/66	340MB	1MB	8	6	IBM DOS/MS Windows	$2269
486DX2/66	527MB	1MB	8	6	IBM DOS/MS Windows	$2699
ValuePoint P60/D Pentium *(features 32-bit PCI architecture, 16MB RAM expandable to 128MB, 256KB cache. Intel PCI local bus with 3 PCI local bus slots open and available)*					
Pentium 60MHz	424MB	1MB	4	5	none	$4039
Pentium 60MHz	525MB	1MB	4	5	none	$4099

Monitors priced separately. Other models available.

ValuePoint Multimedia Desktops

▲ Based on the IBM ValuePoint config.
▲ SoundBlaster 16 stereo sound card
▲ IBM internal double speed CD-ROM
▲ Creative Labs stereo speakers & microphone
▲ 10 CD-ROM titles including Kodak Photo CD Access, Software Toolworks Multimedia Encyclopedia, Multimedia Microsoft Works, Microsoft Bookshelf, HSC Interactive Presentation Tool, Grandma & Me, Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?, Loom, The Secret of Monkey Island, Secret Weapons of the Luftwaffe

Processor	Hard Drive	Price
486DX/33	212MB	$2049
486DX2/66	340MB	$2649
486DX2/66 *	340MB	$2469

**excludes speakers, microphone and CD-ROM software titles*

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Software

...tor Windows 1994	$9.99*/$4.99
...ing Your Money v.10	$9.99*/$4.99
...SmartSuite Upgrade	$279.99*/$314.99
SmartSuite	$389.99*/$449.99
1-2-3	$259.99*/$294.99
1-2-3 Upgrade	$99.99
...s Organizer	$74.99*/$99.99
...ix Pro	$59.99*/84.99
...ni V	$69.99*/$109.99
...rton Utilities 7.0	$79.99*/$119.99
...rton AntiVirus 3.0	$59.99*/$89.99
...rton Desktop (Win 3.0	$79.99*/$119.99
...WindowWorks	$39.99*/$84.99

**Low price available when purchased with a system*

...soft Office Version Upgrade	$249.99
...soft Office Competitive Upgrade	$289.99
...soft Office	$449.99
...soft Word 6.0 f/Win	$294.99
...soft Encarta CD-ROM	$89.99
...ng Pro f/Win	$39.99
...rPerfect 6.0 f/Win	$279.99
...rPerfect 6.0 f/Win Version Upgrade	$99.99

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Multimedia

Creative Labs Discovery 16 Kit	$449.99
Creative Labs Edutainment 16 Kit	$519.99
ProAudio Spectrum 16 sound card	$159.99
SoundBlaster16 SCSI ASP sound card	$224.99
Labtec CS-150 stereo speakers	$19.99
Microsoft Sound System 2.0	$139.99

NEC *Monitors*

SVGA, 14", MPRII	$319.99
4Fge, 15", Accucolor	$689.99
5FGe, Energy Star	$1069.99
5FGp, 17", 1280x1024	$1219.99
6FGp, 21", Opticlear	$2369.99

SONY *Monitors*

14", 1024x768, .25mm aperture	$559.99
17", 1024x768, Digital Image	$1049.99
17", 1600x1200, Dynamic Focus	$1199.99
20", 1280x1024, .30mm aperture	$2279.99

Multimedia Bundles

Desktop Library Upgrade Kit	$459.99
CD-ROM drive, Internal, 2X, SCSI	$319.99

New Media

Visual Media SCSI PCMCIA Adapter	$219.99
WAVjammer PCMCIA sound card	$279.99
Bus Toaster SCSI 2 PCMCIA adapter	$269.99

Maxtor

PCMCIA, 105MB Drive Kit, Type III	$469.99
DeskRunner, Drive Bay Adapter	$139.99
130MB IDE Drive	$194.99
245MB IDE Drive	$279.99
345MB IDE Drive	$374.99

Luxurious Leather

$99.99

- Padded computer section with divider for accessories
- 3 section compartment for files
- Pockets for disks, pens, & business cards
- External pocket 13"x 9"x2"

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Prestige Leather(3 colors)	$224.99
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Premier Leather	$139.99
Business Commuter	$124.99
Universal Case	$69.99
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16MB ... $749

PowerExec Ltr 3/25SL, 3/25SL-C, EL
4MB ... 50Y1138-001 ... $179
8MB ... $359

Premium Exec 286, 386SX/20, 25, 25C
4MB ... 50Y1149 ... $249
8MB ... $395

Bravo MB 486
4MB ... $579
8MB ... $959
16MB ... $1919

Compaq

Concerto 486
4MB ... $569
8MB ... $959

Contura 3/20, 3/25, 3/25c
4MB ... $329
8MB ... $549

Contura 4/25c series
4MB ... $329
8MB ... $549

LTE 386S/20
4MB ... $229

LTE Lite 20; 25; 25c, 25s
4MB ... $329
8MB ... $549
16MB ... $799

LTE Lite 4/25c
4MB ... $329
8MB ... $599

SLT 286
4MB ... $329

SLT 386s/20
4MB ... $599

IBM

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4MB ... $299
8MB ... $389
16MB ... $939

ThinkPad 710T
4MB ... $789
8MB ... $939

N51 Notebook (All)
4MB ... $179
8MB ... $359

L40SX, N33SX, PS/Note 102
4MB ... $185

L40SX, PS/Note 102
8MB ... $329

NEC

UltraLite Versa (all models)
2MB ... $249
8MB ... $499
16MB (2) ... $1126

UltraLite SL 51/25C
2MB ... $179
4MB ... $359

UltraLite SL/20, SL/20P
2MB ... $179
4MB ... $259

ProSpeed 286, 386SX/16
4MB ... $179

ProSpeed 386
4MB ... $359

Texas Instruments

TravelMate 3000 (all models)
2MB ... $179
4MB ... $359

TravelMate 5100 (all models)
2MB ... $179
4MB ... $359

TravelMate WinSLX/25
2MB ... $179

PERSONAL COMPUTER MEMORY

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Premmia
4MB ... 50Y1139-001 ... $152 | 8MB ... 50Y1597-002 ... $369

Bravo 2/25s
2MB ... 50Y0710-004 ... $96 | 8MB ... 50Y0824-002 ... $316

Advantage! 386SX/20 25 Advantage! Pro 25/25C Bravo 3/25s
1MB ... 50Y0708-004 ... $48 | 4MB ... 50Y0822-002 ... $179

Advantage! Pro 486SX/25, 33, 50, 50/2, Bravo LC 4/25s, 33, 33c, 50c, 4/25T
2MB ... 50Y0710-001 ... $73 | 4MB ... 50Y0812-002 ... $179

Premium 386/25, 33; 33T, Premium II 386SX/16, 20; 25
1MB ... 50Y0708-002 ... $48

Advantage! 486/25, 33; 33c; 50/33, Bravo 4/33; 486/25, Premium II/25, 33T, Server SE 4/25
2MB ... 50Y0710-004, 700-005 ... $69

Advantage! 486/25, 33; 33c; 50/33, Bravo 4/33; 486/25, 4/33; 33c; 50c; 66, Premium 386/33T, 486/25, II 25T; 33; 33c; 33T, Premium II 386/25; 33; 486/25; 486SX2/25, Premium Server SE 4/33
4MB ... 50Y0710-004 ... $179 | 8MB ... 50Y0700-001 ... $359

Compaq

ProSignia 2/25s; 2/25cs
2MB ... 144166-001 ... $89 | 8MB ... 144742-001 ... $319

ProSignia 4/25s, 4/33, 4/50
1MB ... 147243-001 ... $39 | 2MB ... 149483-001 ... $74
4MB ... 147604-001 ... $181 | 8MB ... 149485-001 ... $354

DeskPro 386/20e, 386/25c, 25
1MB ... 113730-001 ... $180 | 4MB ... 113649-001 ... $244

DeskPro 386s/16
4MB ... 112264-001 ... $180 | 8MB ... 113634-001 ... $255

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545MB	IDE	CP30544	10ms	3.5"/1H	579	599
545MB	SCSI	CP30540	10ms	3.5"/1H	649	759

FUJITSU

520MB	IDE	FJD524A	12ms	3.5" HH	$499	$519
520MB	SCSI	FJD524S	12ms	3.5" HH	519	689
1050MB	SCSI	FJD1054S	12ms	3.5" HH	999	1,149
2060MB	SCSI	FJD2545	12ms	5.25" FH	1,299	1,449

Maxtor

130MB	IDE	MXT131A	15ms	3.5"/1H	$189	$209
213MB	IDE	MXT213A	15ms	3.5"/1H	219	239
250MB	SCSI	MXT245S	15ms	3.5"/1H	289	419
340MB	IDE	MXT340A	12ms	3.5"/1H	319	318
340MB	SCSI	MXT345S	12ms	3.5" HH	349	499
540MB	IDE	MXT540A	12ms	3.5"/1H	529	549
540MB	SCSI	MXS540S	12ms	3.5"/1H	759	909

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976MB	IDE	MC2210A	10ms	3.5" HH	$823	$849
1050MB	SCSI	MC2210S	10ms	3.5" HH	839	989
1.1GMB	IDE	MC2217A	10ms	3.5"/1H	1,049	1,199
1750MB	SCSI	MC2217S	10ms	3.5"/1H	1,099	1,249
2100MB	SCSI	MC3243S	11ms	3.5"/1H	1,499	1,649
3000MB	SCSI	MC1936	11ms	5.25" FH	2,099	2,249

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170MB	IDE	QLPS1170A	12ms	3.5"/1H	$189	$209
210MB	IDE	QLPS2100A	12ms	3.5"/1H	249	349
270MB	IDE	QLPS2270A	9ms	3.5"/1H	249	269
270MB	SCSI	QLPS2270S	9ms	3.5"/1H	269	419
340MB	IDE	QLPS3430A	12ms	3.5"/1H	279	299
340MB	SCSI	QLPS3430S	12ms	3.5"/1H	299	449
540MB	IDE	QLPS5440A	12ms	3.5"/1H	529	529
540MB	SCSI	QLPS5440S	12ms	3.5"/1H	569	719
1.0GMB	SCSI	QLMP1080S	12ms	3.5"/1H	849	999
1225MB	SCSI	QLPD1225S	10ms	3.5" HH	949	1,099
1.6GMB	SCSI	QLPD1862S	10ms	3.5" HH	1,189	1,339

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42MB	IDE	ST351A	28ms	3.5"/1H	$139	$159
130MB	IDE	ST3145A	15ms	3.5"/1H	189	209
213MB	IDE	ST3243A	15ms	3.5"/1H	219	239
260MB	IDE	ST3290A	15ms	3.5"/1H	239	249
340MB	IDE	ST3391A	12ms	3.25" FH	279	299
340MB	SCSI	ST3390N	12ms	3.5" HH	299	449
452MB	IDE	ST3550A	12ms	3.5"/1H	399	419
540MB	IDE	ST3600A	12ms	3.5"/1H	529	549
540MB	IDE	ST3655A	12ms	3.5"/1H	529	549
540MB	SCSI	ST3655N	12ms	3.5"/1H	529	739
1050MB	SCSI	ST31200N	11ms	3.5"/1H	999	1,049
1700MB	SCSI	ST11950N	12ms	3.5"/1H	1,299	1,399
1700MB	SCSI	ST11950N	Barracuda	3.5" HH	1,579	1,729
2100MB	SCSI	ST12430N	Barracuda	3.5" HH	1,499	1,709
2100MB	SCSI	ST12550N	Barracuda	3.5" HH	1,559	2,009
2100MB	SCSI	ST12400N	10.5ms	3.5"/1H	1,559	1,709
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- 2 PCI 64-bit Expansion Slots
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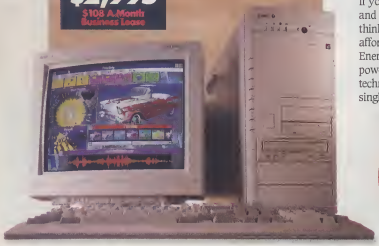
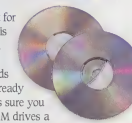


Acer Raises The Standard! All Systems Feature A CD-ROM Drive.



Technology waits for no one—so don't wait for other companies to realize a CD-ROM drive is an essential part of a complete PC system. New encyclopedias of information, interactive multimedia software and virtual worlds of advanced information technology are already becoming mainstream. Now Acer makes sure you won't be left behind by making CD-ROM drives a standard feature on all desktop PCs. **And to top it off, all systems also come standard with MS-DOS 6.2 and Windows for Workgroups.**

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- S3 1MB VESA Graphics Accelerator
- 15" .28 Non-interlaced SVGA Color Monitor
- Upgradable to Intel Pentium Upgrade Processor
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- 8 16-bit ISA Slots, 2 on 32-bit VESA Bus

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- 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- S3 1MB VESA Graphics Accelerator
- 15" .28 Non-interlaced SVGA Color Monitor
- Upgradable to Intel Pentium Upgrade Processor
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- 128KB Second-level Cache
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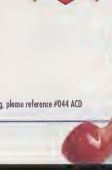

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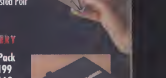

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Feature	VTech	DELL	Gateway	ZEOS
Memory	8MB	8MB	8MB	8MB
Hard Drive	426MB	450MB	424MB	426MB
Floppy Drives	3.5"	3.5"	3.5"	3.5"
Video	1MB VLB	1MB VLB	1MB VLB	1MB VLB
3 Year Warranty	Yes	No	No	No
Double Speed CD-ROM	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sound Card & Speakers	Yes	Yes	Optional ($132)	Optional ($148)
Modem	Yes	Optional ($79)	Optional ($49)	Optional ($49)
Remote Diagnostics Sftw.	Yes	No	No	No
Case	Full Size	Desktop	Baby AT	Desktop
External Cache	128K	128K	128K	No
Monitor	15"	15"	15"	Upgrade ($95)
PC Computing Service	★★	★★	★★	★★
Value Rating (Aug 1993)	★★★	★★	★★	★★
Price	**$2199**	**$3074**	**$2476**	**$2762**

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- With over 11,000 employees and 3 research and engineering labs VTech has the technology and resources to build incredible systems.
- Our prices are among the lowest in the industry because we supply systems to some of the largest manufacturers in the world and that helps us keep production high and prices low.
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- Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia, Webster's Dictionary and World Atlas
- VLB Graphics with 1MB
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
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- Full Size Metal Desktop Case
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- Stereo Sound Board
- Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia, Webster's Dictionary and World Atlas
- VLB Graphics with 1MB
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 15" VTech HiRez Monitor
- Full Size Metal Desktop Case
- Dual Cooling Fans
- 9600/2400 Data/Fax Modem
- Remote Diagnostics Software
- MS-DOS 6.2 & Windows 3.1
- Enhanced 101 - Keyboard & Mouse
- 3 Year Warranty

$1999
$2199 with 486DX2/66

Expo 486DX2/66VM

- **Intel Verified:** for the Pentium™ OverDrive™ Processor
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- 527MB 12ms IDE Hard Drive
- Double Speed CD-ROM
- Stereo Sound Board
- Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia, Webster's Dictionary and World Atlas
- VLB Graphics with 1MB
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 15" VTech HiRez Monitor
- Full Size Metal Desktop Case
- Dual Cooling Fans
- 9600/2400 Data/Fax Modem
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3 YEAR WARRANTY

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- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 14" VTech HiRez Monitor
- Full Size Metal Desktop Case
- Dual Cooling Fans
- 9600/2400 Data/Fax Modem
- Remote Diagnostics Software
- MS-DOS 6.2 & Windows 3.1
- Enhanced 101 - Keyboard & Mouse
- 3 Year Warranty

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$1399 with 486DX33

Expo 486DX33V

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- 4MB RAM with 128KB Cache
- 340MB 13ms IDE Hard Drive
- VLB Graphics with 1MB
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 14" VTech HiRez Monitor
- Full Size Metal Desktop Case
- Dual Cooling Fans
- 9600/2400 Data/Fax Modem
- Remote Diagnostics Software
- MS-DOS 6.2 & Windows 3.1
- Enhanced 101 - Keyboard & Mouse
- 3 Year Warranty

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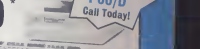

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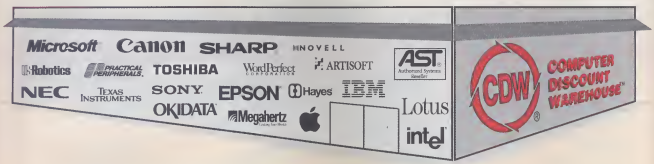

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326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750
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501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855
526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870
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PRODUCTS FEATURED IN EDITORIAL

Please answer questions below:

1. **Where do you use your computer?** (Check one only):
   A ☐ Home B ☐ Business C ☐ Both
2. **What kinds of computers do you use?** (Check all that apply):
   D ☐ IBM/Compatible Laptop E ☐ IBM/Compatible Desktop F ☐ MAC
3. **Do you plan to buy any of the hardware or software mentioned below in the next three months?** (Check all that apply):

HARDWARE
G ☐ PC
H ☐ MAC
I ☐ Laptop
J ☐ Printer
K ☐ Monitor
L ☐ Disk/Tape Back-up
M ☐ Add-in Board
N ☐ Modem
O ☐ Input Device
P ☐ Local Area Network

SOFTWARE
Q ☐ Accounting
R ☐ Spreadsheet
S ☐ Personal Finance
T ☐ Desktop Publishing
U ☐ Word Processor
V ☐ Database Manager
W ☐ Graphics
X ☐ Utility

Y ☐ Communications
Z ☐ Windows/Multi-tasking
1 ☐ Programming Language. Compiler
2 ☐ Integrated/Multifunction
3 ☐ CAD

4. **From which of the following sources do you purchase personal computer products?** (Check all that apply):
   4 ☐ Specialty Computer Retail Stores 6 ☐ Direct from Manufacturers
   5 ☐ Mail Order Firms 7 ☐ Other

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N. ☐ Modem
O. ☐ Input Device
P. ☐ Local Area Network

SOFTWARE
Q. ☐ Accounting
R. ☐ Spreadsheet
S. ☐ Personal Finance
T. ☐ Desktop Publishing
U. ☐ Word Processor
V. ☐ Database Manager
W. ☐ Graphics
X. ☐ Utility
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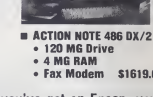

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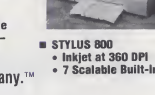

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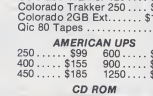

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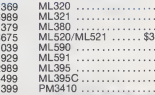

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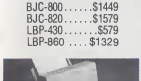

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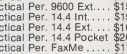

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Max Resolution	640x480	1024x768	1024x768NI	1280x1024NI	1600x1200NI
Max Refresh Rate	70 Hz	70 Hz	90 Hz	90 Hz	105 Hz
Dot Pitch	N/A	.28mm	.28mm	.28mm	.26mm
100-240 VAC (Auto-sensing)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MPR II Compliant	No	No	Yes (as option)	Yes	Yes
Power Management	No	No	No	Yes	Yes (Avail. 3/94)
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*Unit 1 Price	$109	$269	$279	$379	$839
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MidWest Micro
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A rabbit's foot for good luck? What you really need is the Elite DX4 SoundBook. Now there's a good luck charm to carry around (especially if your business depends on powerful presentations). Audiences love the colorful detail and melodious sound projected by this lightweight portable (you'll love the weight)! For small groups, the SoundBook offers a large 10.3" screen and for larger crowds, simultaneous video. Plus, 75 MHz processing speeds mean you won't be embarrassed by sluggish software during your demonstration. If your business depends on powerful presentations, depend on Elite's DX4 SoundBook.

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intel inside

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Seeing Is Believing

Weighing only 3.9 pounds, the Elite 486SX-25 SubNote delivers spell-binding desktop power in a space-saving design. You'll find Intel's "SL Enhanced" 486SX-25 processor (designed especially for portable computers) inside, as well as 4 Mb of RAM and up to a 520 Mb hard drive. And with the SubNote's captivating 10" high-contrast screen and up to five hours of battery life, you'll never feel like you're sacrificing desktop quality for lightweight portability.

Presto! For a notebook you can see and hear try our color DX4 SoundBook. This notebook highlights the latest Intel clock-tripler chip for 75 MHz processing speeds and integrated audio features. You get a built-in microphone, a speaker and external jacks for sounds never before heard from a 6.9 pound notebook computer. Bundled audio accessory software for Windows and DOS environments lets you record, compress, store and playback voices, sounds or music. You'll also get local bus accelerated video and 1 Mb video DRAM for true 24-bit color graphics on a whopping 10.3" dual-scan color screen.

Trying to steal the spotlight, our 486SX/DX Notebooks come with a large 9.5" monochrome, 10.3" dual-screen color or 9.5" active-matrix color screen and an upgradeable Intel processor. A PCMCIA Type III slot lets you add network adapters, modems and interchangeable hard drives.

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All Elite 486SX/DX Notebooks and SubNotes operate on Intel's "SL-Enhanced" microprocessor. Known for low power consumption, the processor also delivers excellent power management for longer battery life.

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- Intel SL-Enhanced Processor
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- Turbo Bus Accelerated Video
- 3.5" Built-in Diskette Drive
- User Replaceable Hard Drive
- Two Type II/One Type III PCMCIA Slot
- Built-in Trackball
- NiCd Battery and AC Adapter
- Advanced Power Management with SMM
- One Parallel and One Serial Port
- External VGA and Keyboard Port
- MS DOS 6.2
- Weight: Mono – 6.4 lbs. Color – 6.9 lbs.
- Carrying Case

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- 3.5" Built-in Diskette Drive
- User Replaceable Hard Drive
- Two Type II/One Type III PCMCIA Slot
- Built-in Trackball
- NiMH Battery & AC Adapter
- Advanced Power Management with SMI
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- MS DOS 6.2
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- Carrying Case

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- Turbo Bus Accelerated Video
- 3.5" External Diskette Drive
- User Replaceable Hard Drive
- One Type II PCMCIA Slot
- Built-in Trackball
- NiMH battery and AC Adapter
- Advanced Power Management with SMM
- One Parallel and One Serial Port
- External VGA and Keyboard Port
- MS DOS 6.2
- Weight: 3.9 lbs.
- Carrying Case

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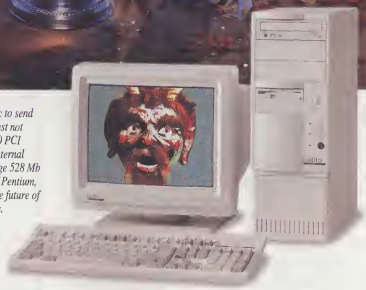

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intel inside

Microsoft WINDOWS FOR WORKGROUPS

Seagate

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Ask the crystal ball. What does it see? An image is materializing…customers paying too much for computer technology. Poor souls, haven't they heard of MidWest Micro? Luckily, you aren't among them. Ah, there you are. Over there on the phone.

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Known for their 32-bit technology, VESA Local Bus Systems offer show-stopper graphics on a value-minded budget.

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- 8-Bay Mini-Tower Case
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- 101-Key Enhanced Keyboard
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- MS DOS 6.2 and WFW 3.11

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486DX2-66 $1999

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- 340 Mb IDE Hard Drive
- 32-Bit VESA Local Bus Graphics with 1 Mb
- 32-Bit VESA Local Bus IDE
- Double Speed Multimedia CD-ROM Drive
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 15" SVGA .28 Non-Interlaced Multi-Scan Color Monitor with Hitachi CRT
- 8-Bay Mini-Tower Case
- 5 ISA and 3 VESA/ISA Slots
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- High-Resolution Mouse
- MS DOS 6.2 and WFW 3.11

486DX2-66 $2499

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- Intel 486DX2-66 Processor
- 16 Mb RAM, 128 Kb Cache
- 528 Mb IDE Hard Drive
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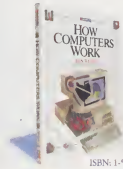

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1MB 1 X 9 SIPP 7100NS	4.75
1MB 1 X 9 SIPP 7150NS	4.75
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1MB 1 X 9 SIPP 7250NS	4.75
1MB 1 X 9 SIPP 7300NS	4.75
1MB 1 X 9 SIPP 7350NS	4.75
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1MB 1 X 9 SIPP 9150NS	4.75
1MB 1 X 9 SIPP 9200NS	4.75
1MB 1 X 9 SIPP 9250NS	4.75
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1MB 1 X 9 SIPP 9350NS	4.75
1MB 1 X 9 SIPP 9400NS	4.75
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1MB 1 X 9 SIPP 9950NS	4.75
1MB 1 X 9 SIPP 10000NS	4.75

CACHE

64KB 15NS	4.75
64KB 20NS	4.75
64KB 25NS	4.75
64KB 30NS	4.75
64KB 35NS	4.75
64KB 40NS	4.75
64KB 45NS	4.75
64KB 50NS	4.75
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64KB 1000NS	4.75

MATH CO-PROCESSORS

INTEL	
80387-16MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
80387-20MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
80387-16MHZ (PGA)	99.00
80387-20MHZ (PGA)	99.00
80387-25MHZ (PGA)	99.00
80387-33MHZ (PGA)	99.00
80387-16MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
80387-20MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
80387-25MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
80387-33MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
80387SX-16MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
80387SX-20MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
80387SX-25MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
80387SX-16MHZ (PGA)	99.00
80387SX-20MHZ (PGA)	99.00
80387SX-25MHZ (PGA)	99.00
80387SX-33MHZ (PGA)	99.00
80387SX-16MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
80387SX-20MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
80387SX-25MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
80387SX-33MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
CYRIX	
83D87-16MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
83D87-20MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
83D87-25MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
83D87-33MHZ (PLCC)	99.00
83D87-16MHZ (PGA)	99.00
83D87-20MHZ (PGA)	99.00
83D87-25MHZ (PGA)	99.00
83D87-33MHZ (PGA)	99.00

ENVISIONS GIVES YOU ALL IT TAKES TO CREATE THE BEST...

DESKTOP PUBLISHING

Solutions: Take creative control with Envisions' total DTP scanning solutions. It's an unbeatable value with award-winning scanners!

Envisions Scanners Add up to Value

- 600, 800, or 1200 dpi base resolutions
- 16.8 million colors and 256 grayscales
- Twain compatibility scans into an open application
- 200 steps of brightness and contrast
- Single light source ensures exact color registration
- 8.5" x 14" scan window takes legal sized documents
- On-board input/output buffer quickens scan time
- 30-day M.B.G. and one year warranty

Adobe Photoshop™ 2.5
for Windows image editing software has taken desktop publishing to the high end. Photoshop offers extensive features for creating original art, editing and enhancing scanned images, color separating and imparting renderings from other applications.
Retail value $895
Stand alone–Call us
Included in DTP Solutions!

Microsoft Publisher™ 2.0
makes page layout a breeze! Resemble photos, illustrations and text onto Publisher's electronic page to create eye-catching newsletters, brochures, flyers, presentations, letters, reports, banners, manuals and other impactful pieces.
Retail value $199
Stand alone–$/$
Included in DTP Solutions!

Kai's Power Tools™
new Windows version offers 33 awesome plug-in filters for Photoshop and other programs with plug-ins. Transform your images with textures, backgrounds, gradients, glows, halos, metallic tubes and more for a creative explosion!
Retail value $199
Stand alone $99
Included in DTP Solutions!

Photo™
new color version for Windows fully automates the color and grayscale adjustment process. In just one step, you can automatically scan, classify, straighten, crop, sharpen, and determine the best highlight and shadow value for your image.
Retail value $295
Stand alone–Call us
Included in DTP Solutions!

Best Value

Only **$1299**
Value $2387
Part# EST-3057B

ENVI810 DTP Scanner Solution Includes

Photoshop 2.5	$ 895
Microsoft Publisher	$ 199
Kai's Power Tools	$ 199
OFOTO Color	$ 295
Total Software Value.	$ 1588

Envisions 800/1600 dpi scanner plus software DTP solution is only $1299

Only **$1699**
Value $2787
Part# EST-3058B

ENV24Pro DTP Scanner Solution Includes

Photoshop 2.5	$ 895
Microsoft Publisher	$ 199
Kai's Power Tools	$ 199
OFOTO Color	$ 295
Total Solutions Value.	$ 1588

Envisions 1200/2400 dpi scanner plus software DTP solutions is only $1699

Pictured: ENV24Pro with optional $699 transparency adapter for scanning slides, x-rays, transparencies.

TWAIN Compatibility

COREL Compatibility

★★★★ Direct Top 40 Vendors Four Star Winner PC Computing

Envisions flatbed scanners and bundled software require 386 or higher, Windows 3.1, 4 MB RAM, 20 MB hard disk space free, ISA slot available for interface card (included). PS/2™ and Apple® Macintosh versions are also available.

Page 1 of 3

ENVISIONS
Scanner Solutions Made Easy

30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
Restocking fee may apply.

WE LOVE QUESTIONS!!!
CALL OUR SCANNER HOTLINE:
1-800-926-7226
QUESTIONS?

Envisions Solutions Technology, Inc. 872 Mahler Road, Burlingame, CA 94010
Local: 415-692-9061, Fax: 415-692-9064

ENVISIONS' SCANNERS INCREASE YOUR PRODUCTIVITY WITH...

OFFICE AUTOMATION

Solutions: Retype documents no more! Automate tedious retyping, filing and organizing chores with Envisions' OR scanner solutions!

Recollect™ document image management software lets the paperless office become a reality! Capture, store, recall and manage your critical data. Auto text recognition and auto indexing saves time and labor. Easy search and retrieval capabilities make Recollect a powerful office solution.
Retail value $795
Stand alone $595
Included in OR Solution!

ScanEdge™ lets you accomplish any tedious form-filling task quickly, accurately, and efficiently on your computer. Simply scan any form, and fill it directly on screen. Or, open a saved PCX file and effortlessly fill it. Saves time, paper, and looks clean and professional!
Retail value $129
Stand alone $119
Included in OR Solution!

CardScan™ business card software is your answer to better organization of those crucial business contacts. One button scanning, auto sort and file, automatically dials the phone number you need! It keeps an image of the card for reference. It's like a terrific assistant!
Retail value $149
Stand alone- Call us
Included in OR Solution!

Lotus Organizer™ is an on-screen calendar, to-do list, planner, address book, notepad and reminder all rolled into one. Use it to set up meetings with anyone on your LAN or WAN via cc:Mail.
Retail value $149
Stand alone $99
Included in OR Solution!

TextBridge™ by Nerox is text scanning at its easiest! It performs OCR with exacting accuracy.
Retail value $99
Stand alone $99
Included in OR Solution!

Image Folio™ Awards winning image editing & processing software
Retail value $249
Stand alone $129
Included in OR Solution!

Pictured: ENV8100 with 25-page automatic document feeder for fast, easy, and accurate text scans.

Only **$1499** You Save $821

Part# EST-3059B

ENV8100 OR Scanner Solution:

- ENV8100 Scanner
- Nerox TextBridge OCR
- Image Folio

Value	$ 799
25-Page Auto Doc Feeder	$ 399
ScanEdge	$ 129
CardScan	$ 149
Lotus Organizer	$ 149
Recollect	$ 295
Total Solutions Value	$ 2470

Envisions 600/1600 dpi scanner plus software OR solution is only $1499

Only **$1999** You Save $821

Part# EST-3060B

ENV24Pro OR Scanner Solution:

- ENV24Pro Scanner
- Nerox TextBridge OCR
- Image Folio

Value	$ 1199
25-Page Auto Doc Feeder	$ 399
ScanEdge	$ 129
CardScan	$ 149
Lotus Organizer	$ 149
Recollect	$ 295
Total Solutions Value	$ 2820

Envisions 1200/2400 dpi scanner plus software OR solution is only $1999

Other flatbed scanning solutions available starting at $599
Call us! 1-800-926-5226

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QUESTIONS?
1-800-926-7226

Envisions Solutions Technology, Inc. 872 Mahler Road, Burlingame, CA 94010
Local 415 692-9061, Fax 415 692-9064

ENVISIONS
Scanner Solutions Made Easy

ENVISIONS' HANDHELD SCANNERS *DEFINE* VALUE!

Features and Bundled Items:	ENVISIONS ENV256™	Logitech ScanMan®256	ENVISIONS ENVColor™	Logitech ScanMan®Color
Resolution	Up to 400 dpi	Up to 400 dpi	Up to 800 dpi	Up to 400 dpi
Grayscales/Color Capability	256 Grayscales	256 Grayscales	16.7 Million Colors	16.7 Million Colors
Automerge/AutoStitch	✓ Halo Desktop Imager PC Magazine's Editors' Choice	✓ FotoTouch by Logitech	✓ Halo Desktop Imager; PC Magazine's Editors' Choice	✓ FotoTouch by Logitech
Image Editing Software Included	Perceive Personal	Catchword Pro by Logitech	Perceive Personal	Available at additional cost
Text Scanning Software Included				
Your Price	$149.00	$279.99*	$299.00	$524.99*

*Average of 3 prices quoted by Eightball Software stores in the San Francisco Bay Area on 2/8/94. Hand scanner bundle request 386 or higher, Windows 3.1, 4MB RAM, 5MB hard disk space free.

Envisions' bundles are more logical than Logitech's, by far!
Let's be reasonable – both Envisions and Logitech offer terrific handheld scanners bundled with premium software to scan text and graphics. They both scan full pages using automerge technology. But why does Logitech make you pay so much more? We can't figure it out either. It's not logical!

What's the difference between these scanned photos?
Sure, the Logitech ScanMan™ Color delivers a nice scanned image, but are you prepared to spend an extra $226 for the Logitech name? When you grab an ENVColor scanner, you get a complete scanning solution for text and graphics, all for hundreds less than Logitech!

Photo scanned with ENVISIONS' $299 ENVColor handheld scanner as 400 dpi in 24-bit color.

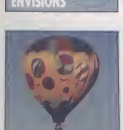

Photo scanned with Logitech's $525 ScanMan™256 Color handheld scanner as 400 dpi in 24-bit color.

Free with Scanner!

Envisions' handheld scanner bundles include imaging and text software!

Automatically merge multiple scans and create posters!
HALO Desktop Imager brings full page desktop scanner power to your handheld scanner!
- Automerging assembles multiple scans easily
- Previous mode takes guesswork out of fine-tuning
- Blow up an image to 10,000% using minimal disk space
- Batch file conversion feature

Value $ 169

Scan text off the page for quick, accurate data entry!
Perceive Personal 2.0™'s easy accuracy and speed saves time and effort when scanning text. Perceive 2.0 recognizes a variety of text styles and sizes. There's no need to re-type, ever!
- Recognizes 6-24 point type without training–even mixed fonts on the same page!
- Up to 99.8% accuracy, eliminates tiresome corrections
- Recognition speed for a full page of text is a fast 15-40 seconds, based on performance of a 386/33MHz PC, with 4 MB of RAM.

Value $ 299

ENV256 and ENVColor (24-bit) Scanner Solutions Include:
- Gray or Color Scanner
- Halo Desktop Imager
- Perceive Personal OCR

Total Software Value $458

ENV256 Solution Only $149 EST-4430B

ENVColor Solution Only $299 EST-4460B

NEW

Now you can capture text and images on the go with Envisions' new portable handheld scanning solution!
Scan anything, anytime–anywhere! Here's all you need to connect your handheld scanner to your laptop or notebook computer through the printer port. It's easy to install because there's no need for an interface card! Fully Twain-compliant to scan directly into any open Twain-based application. An $885 value!

ENV256 and ENVColor (18-bit) Portable Scanner Solutions Include:
- Perceive Personal, Halo Imager, plus
- Lotus Organizer, value $ 149
- CardScan Business Card Software, value $ 149
- ENV-LPT Laptop Adapter, value $ 99
- ScanPad, value $ 20

Total Software Value $885

Gray Portable Only $299 EST-3078B

Color Portable Only $399 EST-3079B

One Year Warranty!

THE LOVE QUESTIONS

CALL OUR SCANNER HOTLINE:

QUESTIONS?

1-800-926-7226

TWAIN Compatibility

MICROSOFT WINDOWS

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ENVISIONS
Scanner Solutions Made Easy

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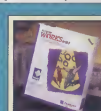

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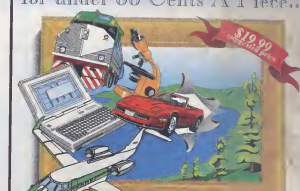

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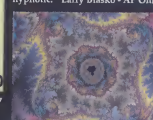

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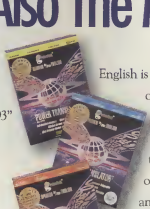

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I'll Bet It's Your Damn Thurman Unit Again!

They pelted us with rocks and garbage.
—David Letterman

FOR THE PAST two years we've given you a phony clip-and-save April Fools' ad for a stupid-cheap computer at the bottom of this page to spread around like a hard copy virus. (If you save old copies of *PC/Computing*, check out our joke prices from two years ago—they've become damn close to fair. On second thought, if you keep old computer magazines, don't bother—it'd be better to try to get out a little more. Even a T.G.I. Friday's would be a step in the right direction.)

Y'all did us proud. You spread the phony ad by hand, fax, Xerox, and modem. We shut down some phone lines and got some very important people stupid-angry (you, the customers, are always right, and I have a day job—we're invincible). We've been there, we've done that twice. We're done.

Here's my humble plan for this April Fools': Let's all work together and try to slide a word into our culture. Alan Freed is credited with making up the term *rock and roll*. *Saturday Night Live* sure has enriched our culture—not! David Letterman, back when he was a little goofier, tried to get a catchphrase into the culture by brute force: "They pelted us with rocks and garbage." He said it a lot and encouraged others to as well. I did my part, but it didn't fly.

Computer people coin like mother-hubbards. Jaron Lanier started saying *virtual reality* and now it means "kinda 3-D-ish, sort of." Dvorak must have come up with something (I had a mean-spirited Dvorak joke prepared, but at the NewTek party in Topeka, John dealt me a solid, and I owe him one—next time). *Multimedia* now means *A/V*, and *media* is singular. We can't beat any of that, but maybe we can have some fun.

Clearly, our fake word has to have something to do with Uma Thurman. I was at a computer conference, and one of you people came up to me and said, "I don't know who Uma Thurman is, but you sure are making her famous." Bless his pocket protector.

Uma Thurman? My first idea was an anagram, but as great a name as Uma Thurman is, all you can really get out of it is *Math Numura*, and what good is that? If you put Uma Thurman and Penn Jillette together (good thinkin'), the best you get are *multiple ramjet henna nut*, *implement lutheran junta*, or *platinum enthral jet menu*—I like those, and the latter could almost work for a Mac, but they're not right for us. UMA could be Universal Media Access (controller), the chip in a CD-ROM that handles the digital video transfer, but where's the beef?

How about this?—*thurman*, a common noun for the part of the computer about which the speaker knows jack but about which the listener knows even less.

"It must be the thurman." "It's your goddamn thurman that's fatutzed." "Ask your office computer geek to give you a new thurman."

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If we all work on this, we might each get one good laugh out of it. And what else do you want for April Fools'—a new thurman?

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