News ...

LOW COST COLOUR SCANNING

Integrex has recently launched the CS300, a fixed head colour scanner that can scan up to A4 size in either mono, grey scale or full 24-bit colour at a resolution of 300dpi. The CS300 is a single-pass sheet-fed scanner that operates at a speed of up to 34mm per second. The CS300 costs £399 ex. VAT, and the price includes Twain drivers, application software and a SCSI cable. Further details can be obtained from Integrex, Church Gresley, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 9PT, tel. 0283 550880, fax 0283 550325.

AFFORDABLE QUALITY COLOUR PRINTING

Also new from Integrex is the Colourjet 600, a compact inkjet printer offering resolutions up to 300 by 600 dpi. The Colourjet 600 is HP DeskJet 500 compatible, and printer drivers are

FERMANAGH BIRDS TAKE TO THE SKIES
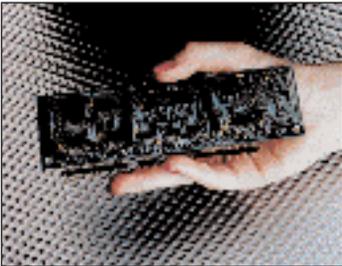
Cumana is currently celebrating the sale of 412 Expandable Multi Use (EMU) boards, featuring user ports, hard drive interfaces and 60Mb hard drives, to Northern Ireland's Western Education and Library Board. The boards are being supplied to 202 primary schools located in Farmanagh, County Tyrone and County Londonderry. Cumana's EMU interface with user port, IDE upgrade and 60Mb hard drive is priced for education

CD-ROM BRINGS SHAKESPEARE TO LIFE

Cumana has just released a CD-ROM with a difference - Karaoke Macbeth. The package has been designed to make understanding Shakespeare simple and fun, and is a valuable learning tool for schools, amateur dramatics groups and anyone else wishing to study the bard. The play has been recorded for the CD-ROM by professional actors and actresses, complete with lifelike sound effects. When running the program, players may take any part they wish, either using 'karaoke mode' with the lines displayed on screen, or with the lines hidden to aid learning. Karaoke Macbeth costs £49.94 ex. VAT, and Karaoke Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night and Hamlet are currently under development.

A WORLD OF
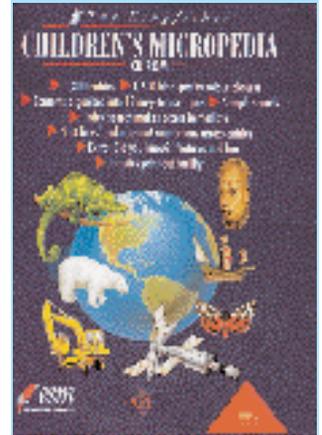
INFORMATION

An exciting new release from ESM is the CD-ROM version of the Kingfisher Children's Encyclopedia. Sporting over 1,300 entries and 1,600 colour pictures, the Micropedia, as it is known, is claimed to be a comprehensive reference resource that will give pupils at Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 valuable experience in handling information on the computer. Supplied with a Quick Start Guide for teachers, photocopiable teaching activities for pupils and a detailed Reference

MAKE MOUSEWORK

If your mouse is feeling a bit down in the dumps, why not brighten up its life a bit with these wacky new mousemats from Oxfordshire-based The Data Business. Kildare Burrowes from the company says, 'Let's get a bit of colour and fun onto these functional products which we have to use every day of the week.' Priced at £6.99 ex. VAT, the Mat Label-badged mousemats are top quality mats with hard etched PVC tops for good traction. They can be obtained from

IN THE FUTURE, when every home, every business and every school is linked together by high-performance networks, people may look back on the 6th July 1994 as the day on which the Acorn Computer Group took the biggest and boldest step forward in its turbulent history. For on this date, at a press conference at Le Meridien Hotel, Piccadilly, London, the Acorn Computer Group announced its entry into the global interactive multimedia market with the launch of Online Media, a sister company to Acorn Computers Ltd.

Sit back and imagine being able to watch anything on television that you wanted, when you wanted, be it a personalised news service, the previous week s Coronation Street, or a film of your choice, without having to go anywhere near a video store. While you re watching it, the telephone rings. The programme is automatically paused as you answer the call and the paused image dissolves to be replaced by the features of your father - the TV has become a videophone. He tells you

that he s just seen the car you ve been looking for at your local second-hand car dealer and gives you its details. Seconds later, from the comfort of your armchair, you press a Menu button on the remote control and select the Car Dealer page from a range of options that appear on the TV screen, including Entertainment, Education, Shopping, Banking and Communications. Photographs of various cars appear on screen. Still using the remote control, you select the car you re interested in. The salesperson appears on the TV beside the car and guides you around it, showing you the state of its bodywork, engine and interior. He then switches it on and takes it out for a drive so that you can see it in action and listen to its engine noise. You decide that you are definitely interested in it, and, by simply selecting the I m interested option beneath the car s photograph, ask the salesman to bring it over to your house so that you can test drive it yourself. Business over, you press the

Continue button on the remote control and the programme you were watching continues from where you left it.

Science fiction? No, this is reality! Later this year Online Media, with partners the likes of Olivetti, ARM Ltd, Advanced
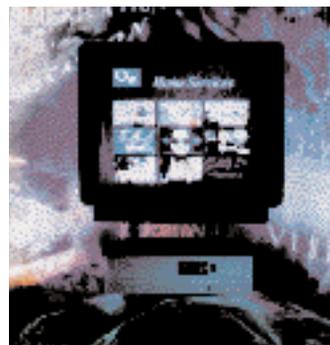
Telecommunications Modules Ltd, Bell-Northern Research, News International, MAI, Anglia Television,

Next month we ll be examining Online Media in detail, looking at its aims, products, services and implications for Acorn users, and the profound effect interactive multimedia

A REPHORMED CHARACTER

Rephorm, Oak Solutions morphing application, has been updated with several new features. It now supports OLE (object linking and embedding) for Sprite editing, start and end frames can be swapped so that multiple sequences can be smoothly joined, and a Splitter application is included to enable large Sprite files to be edited on systems with limited memory. Rephorm costs £50 ex. VAT, and upgrades are also available. For more information contact Oak Solutions on 0532
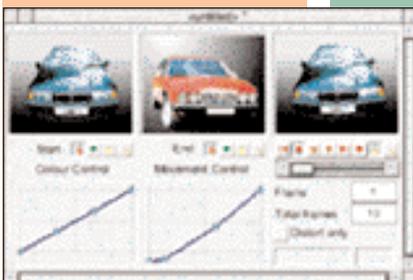
THE NAME S WHO, DR WHO

The Fourth Dimension is about to release the sequel to its very popular adventure game Haunted House. Supplied on five discs, The Time Machine is a challenging graphical adventure which involves you and your Tardis (the Portaloo) travelling through time and space in a quest for... you ll have to find out yourself! The Time Machine costs £22.09 ex. VAT. The Fourth Dimension can be contacted at 1 Percy

D-DAY FOR LONGMAN LOGOTRON

There has been much in the press recently about the 50th anniversary of the D-Day landings. Teachers looking for resources to help teach about this landmark in British history need look no further. Longman Logotron has just published two new titles aimed at helping 9-13 year olds understand a little more about our past. Both programs have been designed to complement the BBC s Landmarks series, Britain since the 1930s , to be broadcast in the Autumn. According to Longman, Landmarks Microworld Invasion and Landmarks PinPoint Datafile - Britain since the 1930s encourage pupils to see links between their own lives and surroundings and those of people in past times and different places. Landmarks Microworld Invasion is priced at £24.95 ex. VAT, and Britain since the 1930s at £12.00 ex. VAT.
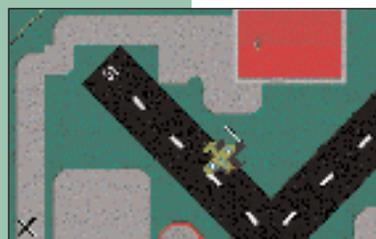
A MAJOR PLAYER IN MULTIMEDIA DEVELOPMENT

Cumana is helping UK schools to develop their own multimedia resources incorporating enormous amounts of text, graphics, sound and moving pictures, by becoming a major sponsor of the National Educational Multimedia Awards (NEMA).

The awards, which were launched by the National Council for Educational Technology, the government body responsible for promoting the effective use of new technology in schools, are designed to encourage the creative use of multimedia in education.

Further information on the

PROFESSIONAL PRINTING RESULTS WITH REPRO

Following the launch of the new printer drivers from Acorn, Oak Solutions has launched Repro, a professional tool which allows the user to manipulate the exact translation of colours from screen to paper. Repro gives complete control over screen size, screen angles, gamma correction, grey balance and black removal. Repro costs £50 ex.

ARM AT THE CORE OF IBM S NEW SERIAL INTERFACE

IBM and VLSI have recently announced plans for the development of a new communications system known as the Serial Storage Architecture (SSA) interface. VLSI will develop and manufacture ARM-based chips for SSA applications that will be available for purchase and use by IBM and others in future storage products. SSA, which is being promoted vigorously as an industry standard by IBM, offers much higher

ACORN ENSURES QUALITY FOR CUSTOMERS

Acorn has responded to market demands by introducing the Acorn Hardware Conformance Scheme. The scheme is designed to offer customers greater peace of mind when buying third-party hardware upgrades for Acorn computers, and allows hardware developers whose products conform to Acorn s specifications to display the Acorn Hardware Specification Compliant logo on their products. Developers have responded very positively to the scheme. Peter Wild, Managing Director of Wild Vision, had this to say: With this new scheme the customer will be able to consider not just the price but

DIGITAL DESIGN AND SIMULATION
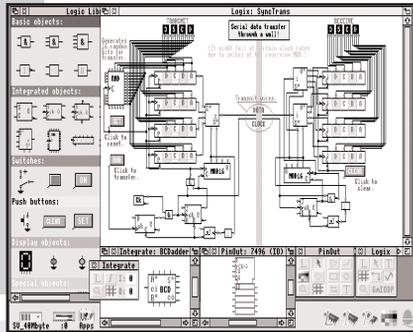
Logix, from Silicon Vision, is a suite of four inter-related applications that allow the user to design and simulate logic circuits, either assembled from a library of basic logic gates and ready-made complex logic circuits, or from the user s own circuits. The package costs £99.95 ex. VAT and is available from Silicon Vision, Signal House, Lyon Road, Harrow,

AB DICK INSTALL ACORN SYSTEM AT PURBECK PRESS

Swanage-based Purbeck Press has installed a Graphtex 400 Publishing System from AB-Dick. The top-of-the-range GraphTex 400 digital production system comprises an Archimedes A5000, 21 monitor, flatbed colour scanner and 600dpi A3 laser printer. Partners Jim Farrer and Graham Jordan found that, the Acorn-based system offers all the functionality of a high-end Mac at very impressive speeds and is competitively priced. Purbeck Press is a typical high street printer that attracts the majority of its work

from within a 30 mile radius of its print and stationery retail outlet, which acts as

SAMSUNG LICENSES RISC TECHNOLOGY FROM ARM

On the 23rd May in New York, Samsung Electronics became the latest major company to sign a licence to use RISC technology from ARM Ltd. Under the terms of the agreement, Samsung will embed ARM6, ARM7 and ARM610 RISC technology in products to be jointly developed by Samsung and ARM. Initially, Samsung will apply the ARM 32-bit technology to a number of the company s own peripheral products, including hard drives, laser printers and multimedia processors. The convergence of sophisticated digital technologies, from wireless personal digital assistants and cellular fax/phones to set-top boxes and interactive TV, is creating a critical need for low-cost, high performance computational power embedded in these devices to control them, said Hyung Lee Roh, director of Samsung s Micro Component Business Group. ARM s versatile RISC technology meets that need, and will spearhead