

WHAT PC? AND SOFTWARE

Cover story

85 PC and Printer awards



In the second part of the *What PC?* annual awards, we concentrate on PCs, printers and peripherals. Once again, our team of specialist writers and contributors make their choice of the best computer hardware across a broad spectrum of categories. In the first section, we spotlight the best in PC technology

from palmtops to family desktops; and then we turn our attention to printers, monitors, modems and scanners, selecting the most impressive performers in each category.

Features

124 Windows word processors

Word processors are becoming increasingly sophisticated. Features such as grammar checking, automatic page layout, and 'smart' auto-correction allow you to process your words as perfectly and painlessly as possible. Tim Nott evaluates eight of the latest Windows packages.

156 Internet service providers

Everyone wants to be on the Internet these days. Like mobile phones, getting connected is cheap; but it's important to know who will give the best service, and how much you will really end up paying. In this Special Report, Wendy Grossman puts the leading access providers to the test.



Reviews

43 Up front

- Quicken 5 Deluxe for Windows** Personal finance manager.
- AST Bravo LC P/100** Pentium PC for business use.
- Kodak DC50 Digital Camera** For taking digital pictures.
- MS Works and Bookshelf 95** Integrated package for Win 95.
- Laplink for Windows 95** 32-bit data transfer package.
- ClarisWorks 4.0 for Windows 95** Rival to MS Works.
- Acer Aspire P133** Multimedia PC with built-in modem.
- CorelOffice 7.0 for Windows 95** PerfectOffice one step on.
- Adobe Pagemill** Helps you design pages for the Web.
- HP Copyjet M** Combined colour inkjet printer and copier.
- Route 66 (Ultimate Traveller Version)** Route planner.
- Videologic Graftixstar 400 with Mpeg Star** Graphics card.
- Janna Contact 95 for Windows 95** Pim system.
- Turbocad 2D/3D for Windows 95** Computer-aided design.
- Red Box Winstation CP166+** 'Pentium killer'.
- Corel Graphics Pack** Five graphics programs and five utilities.

74 In brief

- Mouseman 96** Mouse with software for extra functions.
- Fotofun digital colour printer** For printing PhotoCD images.
- Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing Version 4** Learn touch-typing.
- Quickaddress Lite for Windows** Database of postcodes.
- WINwatch Home** For controlling access to the Internet.
- MAG DX1595 monitor** 15in monitor.
- Stretchercise** On-screen reminder to take an exercise break.
- Fanfare Presentations** Low-price presentation software.
- Tube (for the Psion 3a)** London Underground map for your 3a.
- Hijaak for Windows 95** Latest version of screen grabber.
- Corel Super Ten (entertainment/reference)** Ten-pack of CDs.

Regulars

32 Ad index & free facts

32, 41 Reader survey Tell us what you think and you could win a copy of Quicken 5.

35 News hardware and software latest.

79 Letters and competition winners.

81 Competition It's an HP double-bill with a Vectra 522 Pentium PC and Deskjet 850C inkjet printer up for grabs. Two runners-up will each receive a year's free subscription to the Internet.

183 Question time Write to us with your PC problem – if we publish your letter, you'll receive a copy of either MS Works or Publisher.

195 Tables PC, software & peripherals.

196 Faxline *What PC?* pages via your fax.

197 How to buy Advice for buyers.

207 What PC? buyer's charter

224 Back page Next Month; book reviews; and Terry Pinnell on suppliers' failure to package their technology in a form we can use.

getting started

We provide advice and information to help guide the complete beginner or technophobe through the sometimes bewildering initial stages of buying and setting up a PC.

12 Getting started

17 Desktop PCs

21 Notebooks

24 Printers

28 Word processors

30 Image-editing software



140 Computer class

Jane Dorner tells you how to create your own home page on the Web. What's more, there's Microsoft software on offer for the best efforts.

What PC? on the Web

If you have access to the Internet, you can now visit the *What PC?* Web site at: <http://www.vnu.co.uk/vnu/hc/wpc/>

After hours

169 Games This month: we try another Doom clone, test a new Mpeg player, and join the space race in Wing Commander IV and Chronomaster. Plus, we've ten copies of the History of Medicine CD to give away.

175 Family We explore Mythical Creatures, Pocahontas, and Blender – a lifestyle magazine on CD-Rom.

179 On line Bored? Not on this surfboard: take a trip round Terry Pinnell's Internet.



Cover CD

4 Summertime special

Here comes summer, and we're celebrating with a sizzling selection of software. Among the games demos: check out Cyril Cyberpunk; chalk up for Virtual Snooker; or go full-throttle with Apache Longbow. We've also got a wide range of utilities and applications.

