

WHAT PC? AND SOFTWARE



Cover CD

6 What CD? number fourteen

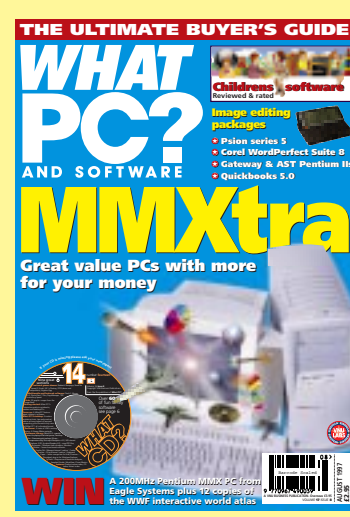
Our fully-interactive cover CD is now better than ever. Each month, you'll find the latest games and multimedia demos; Internet pages galore; our interactive Getting Started guide to PCs; a Software Library section filled with essential shareware and utilities; graphics in the arts section; a 12-month back-issues index of *What PC?*; the complete previous issue of the magazine to read on disc; plus more than 500 pages of Hands on articles; and much, much more.



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Cover story

58 Great-value MMX PCs



As manufacturers jump on the MMX bandwagon, prices for PCs based on this technology are falling. You can now get an MMX machine for around £1,400 – in fact, in most cases you'd be mad to buy anything else. This month we test eight of the latest 166MHz systems designed to give you more for your money.

Features

72 Image-editing software

Image-editing software can transform pictures as if by magic. We review the latest personal and professional packages.



84 Children's software

Learning is more fun these days with a multitude of exciting educational packages for children of all ages. In our roundup we pick out the best from the rest.



Reviews

21 Up front

Psion Series 5 The long-awaited next-generation hand-held Personal Digital Assistant from Psion.
Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 beta preview Updated office suite including word processing, spreadsheet and graphics.
ALPS MD-2300 Masterpiece Sub-£1,000 colour printer.
QuickMail Pro 1.0 E-mail program with added features.
Gateway 2000 G6-266XL Pentium II desktop PC.
AST Bravo LC 6233 PC workstation with 233MHz Pentium II.
Canon BJC-5500 Four-colour bubblejet that can print on A2.
QuickBooks Accounting and Payroll 5.0 Accounting package for small businesses, including payroll application.
Tiny Accelerator PR200 AMD Printer System 200MHz MMX PC supplied with Lexmark colour inkjet printer.
Packard Bell-NEC Versa 2535 Big-screen colour notebook at an entry-level price.

46 In brief

AA MileMaster Britain & Ireland Route-planning package.
PrestoPrint Suite Graphics utilities and a printing tool.
QuickCD External CD-ROM drive for notebook computers.
Multimedia Training for Windows 95 Computer-based training package for Windows 95.
Virtual London Tourist guide to London on CD-ROM.
VideoLogic Captivator PCI/VC Video-conferencing at a budget price.
STB Nitro 3D Multimedia Accelerator 3D graphics accelerator with impressive bundle of games.
Panasonic KXL-600A The smallest digital still camera *What PC?* has ever seen.
DataSafe Security tool to keep your PC files hidden and safe from prying eyes.
TEAC CD-524E 24-speed CD-ROM drive.
ViewSonic Optique V773 17in monitor.

Regulars

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53 Competition One lucky reader will win a 200MMX PC from Eagle Systems, and 12 runners-up will get a copy of the WWF Interactive World Atlas.
133 Question time Write to us with your PC problem – if we print your letter, you'll receive a copy of either MS Works or Publisher.
180 Reader survey Give your views and you could win one of two VideoLogic Apocalypse 3Dx graphics cards.
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What PC? buyer's guide

Essential advice and information for beginners, plus the most comprehensive buyer's tables on the market.



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getting started

5 & 168 Getting started The ultimate beginner's guide to personal computing.

181 How to buy Detailed advice for buyers, including a checklist and a self-questionnaire to help you reach a decision.

184 Buyer's charter

185 Tables Make an informed choice from our comprehensive listings of the latest PCs, software & peripherals – including specifications, prices and manufacturers' contact numbers.



What PC? on the Web

If you have access to the Internet, you can now visit the *What PC?* Web site at:
www.whatpc.vnu.co.uk

After hours

114 Games

Have a go at the new *Star Wars* game, halt some pig-napping aliens in their tracks and test your speed in our POD competition.

121 Family

TV character and children's favourite Pingu the penguin comes to CD-ROM, we find out all about classic cars and try out a package that makes chemistry fun.

127 On line

Terry Pinnell squeezes into a Mini Web site, listens to live radio and does some crosswords.