

# Books

## Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary, Third Edition

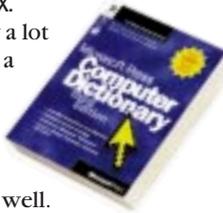
Microsoft Press. 540pp. £27.99.  
ISBN: 1-57231-446-X.

There's not really a lot to be said about a computer dictionary. This one defines lots of words - some 7,600 - and does it well.

Its explanations are clear and accurate; there is even a pronunciation guide, and the book's authors have done their best to interject a bit of, admittedly rather anoraky, humour.

There is a sprinkling of illustrations and diagrams, but the emphasis is on very usable definitions for virtually anything we could think of - and some we couldn't. Did you know that 'constellation' refers to PC communications as well as stars?

As a bonus, the complete text of the book is available on an accompanying CD-ROM and can be searched electronically. This doesn't, though, excuse the fact that when the price was translated from dollars an exchange rate of almost 1:1 was used - £27.99 is a lot to pay for a book that costs \$29.99 in the States. Nonetheless, if you need a computer dictionary, this is worth getting.



## Windows 95 Secrets - 4th Edition

Brian Livingstone & David Straub. IDG Books. 1,126pp.  
CD-ROM. £42.99.  
ISBN: 0-7645-3070-4.

If we had a pound for every book that comes into the *What PC?* office promising to reveal Windows 95 secrets, the magazine would be written on notebook PCs on a beach in the Bahamas. If you're stuck for one to choose, though, you could do worse than *Windows 95 Secrets*.

At over 2in thick, it certainly has a lot of information and although much of it could hardly be described as a secret, it's useful to have it all in one place with a comprehensive index. There are plenty of useful tips and it's up to date enough to include IE4 (though not Windows 98).

The book is clearly written and although aimed at people who want to do more than merely use Windows 95 (and aren't afraid to get their hands dirty), it's also a useful reference book for anyone whose ever bashed their head on the desk in frustration at not knowing how to do something. It's a good book to dip into too and you're almost guaranteed to learn something new each time.



## Webmastering for Dummies

Daniel A Tauber and Brenda Kienan.  
IDG Books. 364pp. £18.99.  
ISBN: 0-7645-0717-2.

Our shelves are groaning with the monthly quota of *Dummies* books, but they still just keep on coming. *Webmastering* is unusual in that it's aimed mainly at business readers. If you've been considering an Internet presence for your company, this book could save a lot of grief.

Step by step, it takes you through the principles of establishing a Web site, using it to achieve business aims and keeping it running. It's not a guide to the nitty-gritty of creating a Web page, more an introduction to the issues involved.

For businesses, it may make financial sense to contract out some of the technical work, and several chapters are devoted to this: there are tips on choosing a contractor in the first place, and then on saving money both at the design and contracting stages.

Although it's inappropriate if all you want to do is have a personal home page, *Webmastering* could be worth its weight in gold if you know that your company should be on the Internet, but just aren't sure why.



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