

WHAT PC? AND SOFTWARE



Cover CD

6 What CD? number thirteen

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Cover story

54 PC or Mac?



So you want to buy a PC... but have you considered a Mac? To see if Apple's 'friendly' machines really do offer a viable alternative to PCs, we compare the latest models with their similarly-priced Windows-based counterparts. Is it still a case of horses for courses, or has a clear winner emerged?

Features

68 Top 20 utilities

Utilities – software tools that help you get the most out of your computer – are available in their thousands. We review 20 of what we consider to be the most useful utilities around today.

92 Digital cameras

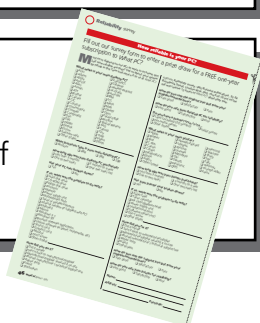
Better quality and lower prices are making digital cameras an attractive way of getting images into your PC. Take a look at the latest offerings.

106 Personal information managers

To help you get organised why not buy yourself a PIM – a personal information manager? There are 10 of the latest to choose from in our review.

42 Reliability survey

How reliable is your PC? Return our survey for a chance to win 12 issues of *What PC?* absolutely FREE.



Reviews

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Compaq Presario 1060 Multimedia notebook with built-in CD-ROM drive, stereo speakers and joystick connector.
Poser 2.0 For designing 3D images of the human body.
Hewlett-Packard OfficeJet Pro 1150C Desktop-sized all-in-one colour scanner, inkjet copier and printer.
Corel Lumiere Suite 1.0 A video-editing program.
Evesham Micros Vale Platinum K6 Multimedia desktop PC based on the new AMD K6 range of processors.
Clarix Works 4.0 Internet Edition Integrated package plus Web page design program.
Apple Newton MessagePad 2000 Hand-held computer.
Quicken 6 DeLuxe Update of personal finance package.
Carrera Power Media X P166 Budget-priced PC with a 166MHz Pentium MMX processor.
Forefront WebWhacker 3.0 Web browser tool to store copies of Internet sites on your hard disk.
M.Y.O.B. 6 The latest version of the mid-range business accounting software.

44 In brief

Apocalypse 3Dx Latest 3D graphics card from VideoLogic.
First Hand Disk Mapper For organising your hard disk.
Chambers Biographies on CD-ROM Reference title.
MemoWeb For downloading Web sites to your hard disk.
Linotype-Hell Jade flatbed scanner First scanner from Linotype priced within the reach of home users.
McAfee VirusScan 3.0 Easy-to-use, upgraded anti-virus software offering protection against all sorts of viruses.
Pace Microlin NB 33.6 Voice PC Card modem.
Partition-It Package allowing you to partition your hard disk to make it more efficient at storing data.
Microtrope ImageCensor Detects pornography on a PC's screen and sounds an alarm.
Oki Okifax 740mf Multifunction device.
Tierra Highlights2 Checks your favourite Web sites for you.

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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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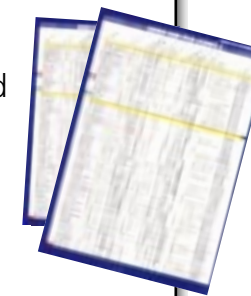
getting started

5 & 174 Getting started The ultimate beginner's guide to personal computing.

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

191 Buyer's charter

192 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

124 Games

Fight some aliens, track down your sister's killers, and go back in time to the Wild West for a run-in with some outlaws.

129 Family

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Terry Pinnell sends some electric postcards, and has a laugh with Eddie Izzard.