

WHAT PC? AND SOFTWARE



Cover CD

6 What CD? number thirteen

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; music and 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

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

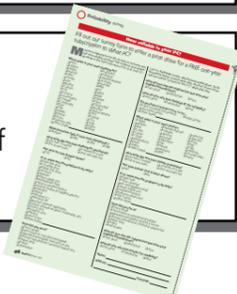
Better quality and lower prices are making digital cameras an attractive way of getting images into your PC. Take a look at the latest offerings.

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.
- Claris 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.
- Ok! Okifax 740mf** Multifunction device.
- Tierra Highlights2** Checks your favourite Web sites for you.

Regulars

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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

Check out an interactive encyclopaedia, visit Toyland for some fun and education, and browse through a guide to some National Trust properties.

133 On line

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