new products

Whether you're looking for a present for that special PC user in your life or just fancy a well-earned treat for yourself, there's a wealth of impressive new products for you to splash out on. Here are a few of the latest for you to consider

← Epson EMP-53 and EMP-73
Projectors

Epson's EM-53 (pictured) and EMP-73 are aimed at workers on the move but, while they are among the more affordable projectors on the market, at 2.9kg, they're by no means the lightest. The 53 and 73 offer brightness ratings of 1,700 and 1,500 Ansi lumens respectively, and both use Epson's latest 0.7in Dream 3 LCD panels, designed to offer higher aperture and brightness.

The 53 has a native SVGA (800x600) resolution, while the 73 offers native XGA (1,024x768) resolution. Both have USB support to enable the operation of a remote mouse and provide six presentation colour modes for improved image clarity.

☐ Epson: 0800 220 546
☐ www.epson.co.uk
☐ EMP-53 £1,499 ex VAT, EMP-73 £2,199 ex VAT

↓ FujiFilm FinePix S602 Zoom
Digital camera

to be reviewed

The FujiFilm S602 Zoom shares the same Fujinon Super EBC 35-210mm (equivalent) 6x zoom lens as its predecessor, the FinePix 6900 Zoom, but boasts a faster autofocus and a 1cm Super Macro setting. Another addition is a dual media slot, which can take both SmartMedia and CompactFlash Type II cards, including IBM Microdrive.

It uses a third-generation CCD (charge-coupled device) which FujiFilm says allows the S602 to offer better colour reproduction and lower noise on images. Its new design also includes superior handling, a higher-resolution viewfinder, improved control layout and better body grip.

☐ FujiFilm: 020 7586 1477
☐ www.fujifilm.co.uk
☐ £596 ex VAT

↖ Itronix GoBook II
Rugged notebook

Any notebook should be pretty robust, but few can boast a die-cast magnesium housing that can cope with rain, snow, wind, dust, fire, shock, vibration and chemical exposure, as well as an outdoor touch-screen display and NiteVue keyboard.

And this isn't the end of the GoBook II's talents. With built-in support for multiple wireless technologies (802.11b, Bluetooth, GPRS, CDMA and CDPD) you should be able to get online pretty much anywhere. Plus upgrading to future wireless technologies should be easy thanks to the inclusion of Itronix's Common Radio Module Architecture. The GoBook II is built round a 1.7GHz Mobile Pentium 4 processor with up to 1,024MB of RAM and 30GB hard disk space.

☐ Itronix: 0247 671 4800
☐ www.itronix.co.uk
☐ £2,997 ex VAT

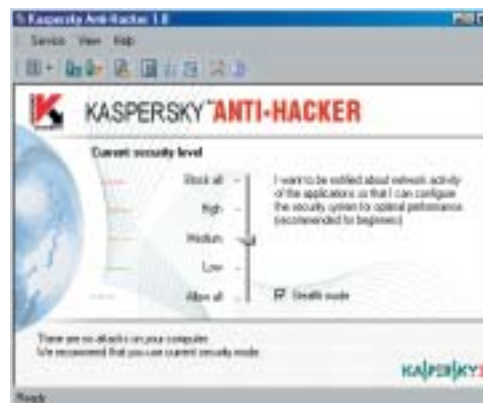## ↓ Kaspersky Anti-Hacker
Personal firewall software

to be reviewed

Kaspersky's Anti-Hacker is a personal firewall package designed to keep home computers safe from attacks and to shield personal data from prying eyes. It places a filter between your PC and the internet, providing the kind of protection that's vital if you have an always-on broadband connection. Users can pick from five preset security levels or control the settings manually.

☐ Kaspersky: 0870 011 3461
☐ www.kaspersky.co.uk
☐ £25 ex VAT

→ TerraTec Cameo Convert
Video converter

With TerraTec's Cameo Convert you can shift your old analogue video footage to DVD or SVCD (super video CD) discs and, the makers boast, there's no loss of sound or picture quality. Essentially the Cameo Convert acts as a conduit between analogue devices (TVs, videos or camcorders) and digital hardware such as your PC and DV camera.

For fast data transfer the Cameo comes with a FireWire connection, plus analogue video-in and out. It will work with both PCs and Macs, although certain features do require Windows compatibility.

☐ TerraTec: 01189 821 612 ☐ www.terratec.net ☐ £255 ex VAT

⊥ VTEC VTUSB2HDD/20/40/60
Portable hard drive

Backing up your data is essential, but if the idea of burning loads of CDs puts you off then a separate hard drive is a good alternative. It's also handy if you want a bit of extra storage capacity or need to transfer large files between computers.

(to be reviewed)

VTEC's range of USB drives have the added benefit of using the faster 2.0 data transfer standard, so if you are using a similarly equipped PC you can shift files at up to 480Mbps (USB 1.1 achieves just 12Mbps although 2.0 is backwards-compatible with older USB standards). The drives come in 20GB, 40GB or 60GB capacities, with an 80GB model on the way.

☐ VTEC: 01264 336 901
☐ www.vtec.co.uk
☐ 20GB £115 ex VAT, 40GB £152 ex VAT, 60GB £203 ex VAT

↓ Canon Bubble Jet i850, Bubble Jet i950 and CanoScan Lide 50
Inkjet printers and flatbed scanner

Canon has launched a whole host of new products to herald in the new year, and we have picked a few to give you a taste of what's on offer for 2003. For digital photography enthusiasts there's a new six-ink photo-realistic printer, the Bubble Jet i950, with a maximum resolution of 4,800x1,200dpi. It will be available from February.

Next up is the Bubble Jet i850, also set to hit stores in February. It's aimed at both business and home users and offers the same resolution as the i950, but uses just four inks. Joining the CanoScan scanner range is the Lide 50 (pictured). A USB 2.0 model with a maximum resolution of 1,200x2,400dpi plus 48bit colour depth, the Lide 50 goes on sale in January.

☐ Canon: 08705 143 723
☐ www.canon.co.uk
☐ Bubble Jet i950 £246 ex VAT, Bubble Jet i850 £144 ex VAT, CanoScan Lide 50 £84 ex VAT
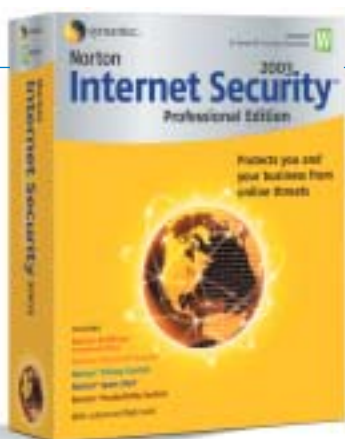
→ Creative I-Trigue 2.1 3300
Speakers

Obviously you want your PC speakers to sound good, but it's a real bonus if they look good too. Creative believes that the I-Trigue 2.1 3300 provides just such a combination of style and technology. The two 9W satellite speakers and 25W subwoofer work with PCs, Macs and Creative Jukebox digital audio players.

Each satellite includes three titanium drivers which should provide better audio clarity than standard aluminium drivers. The I-Trigue offers a frequency response of 30Hz to 20KHz.

☐ Creative: +353 1 433 3200
☐ www.europe.creative.com
☐ £77 ex VAT

← Norton Internet Security 2003 Professional Edition
Online security software

Norton has already launched its Personal version of Internet Security 2003, but now it is aiming at small businesses with the Professional Edition. The package includes firewall, privacy, antivirus and content filtering technologies and offers data recovery features to guard files against viruses or accidental deletion.

To help business users retain privacy, Norton will digitally shred files when they are no longer needed. A Web Cleanup tool keeps hard drives tidy, getting rid of temporary cache files, history items and cookies, while Connection Keep Alive ensures dialup internet connections don't time out. To keep productivity levels high there are tools to filter out distracting content and block access to newsgroups.

☐ Symantec: 020 7616 5600
☐ www.symantec.com
☐ £51 ex VAT

↓ Visioneer Strobe XP 100
Sheet-fed scanner

Mobile professionals looking for a portable scanning solution might find Visioneer's Strobe XP 100 of interest. This sheet-fed scanner weighs just 300g, measures a mere 38x51x29mm and is USB powered, so requires no power adapter. It even comes with its own travel bag, making it easy to pack up and take on the road. It offers an optical resolution of up to 600dpi twinned with 36bit colour depth.

Thanks to its use of Visioneer's Paper-driven and AutoLaunch technologies the Strobe XP 100 powers up as soon as you put a document into the front of the scanner.

☐ Visioneer: 01483 445 480
☐ www.visioneer-europe.com
☐ £128 ex VAT

↗ Asus USB 6-in-1 Reader
Internal card reader

Asus has come up with a neat way to ensure you can read a whole range of media cards on your PC. Its USB 6-in-1 Reader slots into a free 3.5in bay inside your PC using a USB 1.1 interface. It then allows you to read data held on CompactFlash, SmartMedia, Secure Digital, Multimedia Card, Memory Stick and Microdrive media.

You can also transfer files from your PC to any of these card types, making it simple to move data between your computer and devices like digital cameras and camcorders, PDAs (personal digital assistants) and notebooks. As more features such as Bluetooth become available on these cards, the reader will also let you add these functionalities to your PC.

☐ Asus: 0870 429 3220
☐ www.asus.com
☐ £24 ex VAT

to be reviewed

↗ Mitsumi Bluetooth USB Adapter
Wireless USB adapter

Mitsumi's USB Adapter offers a simple way to add Bluetooth functionality to your PC or notebook for communication with similarly equipped devices, such as PDAs (personal digital assistants) and mobile phones.

The software has also been improved and Mitsumi claims this will reduce the time it takes to establish a connection between Bluetooth devices. The adapter works with both PCs and Macs running Mac OS 10.2 or above.

☐ Mitsumi: 01276 29 029 ☐ www.mitsumi.de/english ☐ £48 ex VAT