

Back to the future

Tongues firmly in cheeks, Ursula Seymour and Alex Katz hazard a guess at what's in store for Microsoft boss Bill Gates

2003

To promote his vision of a cable-free future, Microsoft boss Bill Gates takes the concept of Bluetooth to the extreme. Revealing his new colourful smile, he demonstrates how his front incisor can now wirelessly control any PC.

2005

Tablet PC hangs like an albatross around Microsoft's neck. Gates is down to his last \$10bn so the software supremo decides it's time for desperate marketing measures. In a no-expense-spared launch in New York's Ground Zero theme park he declares his intention to disband the Microsoft campus and run his empire from a single Windows-powered Tablet PC.

2008

His company lying in ruins, Gates is alone after his wife Melinda changed the access codes to their high-tech hideaway and his tablet PC irretrievably crashed. A single lifeline remains for the once-great

Microsoft: nemesis Steve Jobs' token \$1 bid is under consideration by the liquidators.

2010

Jobs is installed in his new office at the Applesoft campus in Redmond. To promote his new mega company he is offering all Windows users a free upgrade to Mac OS 20 (codename Squirrel).

2012

Gates' latest venture – the launch of fruit-flavoured PCs running Windows 20 (codename Red Squirrel) – proves no match for Applesoft's Cube. Facing homelessness he is forced to beg Jobs for a job.

2013

Gates has been working on Applesoft's tech support desk for a year and is next in line for the manager's job.



2020

Gates is finally promoted, but doesn't take to his position of responsibility. He is dismissed from his job as Applesoft tech support manager after slamming down the phone on the hundredth customer who asked him to explain just what it was he meant by .Net.

next month

spring issue on sale 6 february

features

PC Advisor Gold awards

A round-up of the 50 best software packages we've reviewed in the past 12 months, plus the apps we expect to be successful in 2003. There are 10 categories and the best product in each wins the *PC Advisor* Gold award.

Wireless primer

A look at existing and emerging wireless technologies as well as the devices already on the market. Plus connect wirelessly to your network, find and use wireless access points and how to make the most of the hardware you choose.

workshops

Install a DVD writer

We help you choose a suitable recording format and DVD writer. Our step-by-step guide also explains how to transfer video-based footage from tape to DVD.

Add Flash to your website

Make your website come to life and grab the attention of casual surfers by adding Flash animation elements.

broadband advisor

Speed freaks

We find out what *PC Advisor* readers are using their 1Mbps cable connections for.

consumerwatch

Music piracy controls

If you've ever copied a CD then you've broken the law, even if you own the disc in question. Using a file-swapping service to download free tunes can put you on dodgy ground too. Now consumers are complaining just as loudly as the music industry that they're the ones being ripped off.

reviews

Taking notes

Notebooks are more functional than ever, available in a variety of sizes, specs and, most importantly, weights. The latest Power and Budget offerings come under scrutiny.