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Load up the cover disc for a selection of great security and web programs.

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WIN! 16 competition



Fancy a tiny USB backup device? Or perhaps you'd prefer to try your hand at 3D animation, listen to digital radio stations on the train or play Disney's latest game. Turn to page 16 for your chance to win one of more than 50 fantastic goodies in our easy-to-enter competition.

117 get £100 off a mesh system

Buy the 2700+ Athlon-powered Matrix for under £1,000 ex VAT. With 512MB RAM, a 120GB hard drive and 17in flat-panel monitor, it's one tempting offer.

ON THE COVER



ON THE COVER

123 win a trip to hollywood

Your skills as a film director could see you jetting off to La La Land courtesy of Pioneer. Plus two runners-up can get their hands on a DVD writer or DVD recorder.

WIN!

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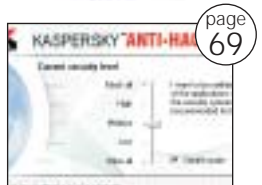
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The lowdown on motherboards.

82 Reader's choice

As one reader discovered, it's quite hard to choose a new PC if you've an unlimited budget.



84 consumerwatch

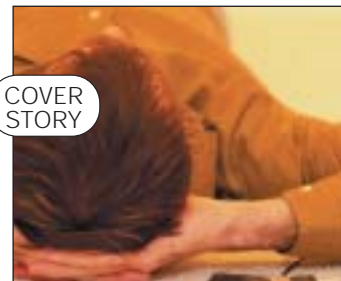


We investigate some pitfalls of PC buying and give sound advice on dealing with all consumer issues.

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96 What next for your PC?

Technology pervades our lives in more and more ways, but have you noticed how it's affecting your PC? The humble desktop can turn its hand to many tasks already, and it's about to get a whole lot more versatile...



106 Speak and spell

Wouldn't it be nice if we could throw away our keyboards, and with them the threat of RSI? Speech-recognition software promises voice control over your PC, but is it a real challenge to the keyboard?

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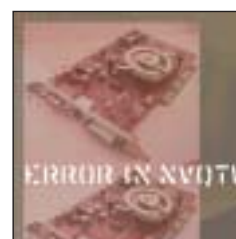
126 Movie Maker 2.0

XP's built-in video-editing tool has finally come of age in version 2.0. Simple, effective filmmaking is now at your fingertips for free.

132 Windows XP Q&As

Hardware compatibility and Product Activation are hot topics in this month's XP mailbox.

146 helpline



Our experts tackle your PC problems and offer a variety of solutions to get your PC running smoothly.

162 lifestyle

Megalomania and intrigue feature in spades this month, courtesy of SimCity 4 and the very scary Silent Hill 2. We just hope you have a sofa to hide behind.

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112 Protect your data

From simple password protection to encryption, firewalls and backup, we show you how to safeguard your precious files and keep them away from prying eyes.



118 Video-editing tips & tricks

Thinking of splicing together some footage from your holidays or perhaps compiling a corporate video? Read our top tips for producing a slick masterpiece that's sure to impress your audience.

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