

welcome



Welcome to your bumper issue of *PC Advisor*. But just in case you were wondering about the thinking behind this month's Digital World supplement, here's the lowdown

Why is there a supplement called *Digital World* with this month's *PC Advisor*? *Digital World* is all about making the PC the centre of home entertainment. This idea is hardly new – it's as old as the PC itself. But the PC is a digital Swiss army knife and there's always been a school of thought in the computer business that one day we'll be able to throw away all other implements – hi-fi, TV, phone, central heating controller, alarm clock – and just use the jack-of-all-trades PC.

The tin opener on a Swiss army knife can be a lifesaver if you're stuck up a mountain with nothing between you and starvation but a pack of survival rations. But to use this fiddly tool every day in the kitchen is asking to be one finger short of a handful by the end of the week.

It's the same with the PC: it can do TV, but it's not great quality. It can do music, but not as well as a stereo. It can do games, but not as easily as a console. The historical landscape of the consumer computer business is littered with the corpses of machines and companies that tried to make the ultimate PC home entertainment centre. So is this latest attempt to make the desktop system centre of the home equally doomed? We don't think so.

Most of the entertainment content we consume – music, movies, broadcast TV information – is digital. And the PC does digital better than anything else. Couple this with broadband internet access and suddenly you have a reason to make the PC a media distribution centre, gathering the various streams of entertainment and sending them to whatever device you want to consume them on.

Well, that's the theory. The practice will be messy and confusing. And that's why *Digital World* is bundled with this month's *PC Advisor*. It is not a coffee table book with glossy pictures of 'digital lifestyles'. There's no such thing as a digital lifestyle – just a bunch of products you can connect together and make work for you.

In *DW* we put that to the test. Welcome to the real digital world. ■

Andrew Charlesworth, editor

reader information

Liability

While every effort is taken to ensure that all details printed in the magazine are correct at the time of going to press, the publishers cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained in the editorial, nor for the consequences of any actions taken as a result of this information. The views of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the publisher.

Product reviews

If you contact the manufacturer or vendor and find the review model is not offered, please email reviews@idg.com. Prices quoted throughout the magazine include VAT except where otherwise stated.

Competition rules of entry

The following rules and conditions apply to all competitions and giveaway offers in the magazine. The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. There is no cash alternative to the prize. Employees of IDG Communications, the company or companies donating prizes and their relatives are not eligible for entry. Neither *PC Advisor* nor IDG Communications can be held responsible in the unlikely event that a company is not able to fulfil its obligation and provide a prize, for whatever reason. Competitions open to UK residents only.

Email privacy policy

PC Advisor will only use your email address if you have given this information either as a registered online user or through the magazine. We will occasionally email *PC Advisor* customers with relevant information about the magazine and website. You may also receive emails from selected third parties unless you opted out from this when your data was collected. If you have given us more than one email address on different occasions you will receive duplicate emails. You are free to unsubscribe at any time either from our e-newsletters or promotional emails. *PC Advisor* always complies with industry regulations when emailing readers.

Cover disc

The publisher shall have no liability without limitation for any losses or damage arising from using software on cover discs, including any loss of profit, damage to equipment or data, interruption of business, or any other damage, direct or accidental. Make a full hard drive backup before installing any new software. Telephone numbers or website addresses given for cover disc software registration may only be valid for a limited period. If you experience problems with the cover disc call our helpline on 0870 739 7630.

Aug 03 competition winners

Magix & Pure Digital bundle: Mr P Merrett, Bristol
Magix Music Maker UK Garage Edition & Dance Edition: Mr S Bentley, Lancs; Mrs J Bywaters, Sutton; Mr R Brackstone, Norfolk; Mr M Ranyard, Hereford; Mr N Rotherham, S Yorks; Mr I Summers, Herne Bay; Mrs D Harrison, Sunderland; Mr R Cottle, Hockley; Mr S Martin, Isle of Wight.
Homelands 2002 DVD: Mr K Anderson, Nottingham; Mr P Valleley, Herefordshire; Mr B Cross, Bristol; Mr J Hodgson, Lancs; Mr A Boyles, Carsharilton; Mr K Seeby, Birmingham; Mr R Jameson, Woking; Mr K Oxborough, Portsmouth; Ms S Heywood, Anglesey; Miss E Walden, Coventry.
Royalty-free image CD: Mr D Glossop, Bude; Mr F Davis, S Yorks.