

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 new products for you to splash out on. Here are a few of the latest to consider

→ Creative WebCam NX

Webcam

The cheap-and-cheerful WebCam NX is aimed at first-time buyers who want to get moving images on the web. Its multipurpose desktop stand can be clipped to a flat-panel or standard CRT monitor. It may not boast the best quality output, delivering video at 352x288 pixel resolution or stills at 640x480 (interpolated), but it's inexpensive and we like the look of its colourful blue-and-white finish. The NX connects via USB and is bundled with a software starter pack.

□ <http://uk.europe.creative.com> □ £24.99 inc VAT



← Belkin USB 2.0 DVD Creator

Video-capture kit

Belkin's USB 2.0 DVD Creator provides you with all the kit you need to capture video from your camcorder, PC camera, VCR or other analogue video source, get it on to your PC and burn it to a DVD. It bundles the cables and connectors you need to transfer images via USB 2.0, taking advantage of its faster data transfer speed of 480Mbps (megabits per second) – around 40 times faster than USB 1.1. There's also a copy of Ulead's 6.0 SE package to guide you through creating DVD discs.

□ www.belkin.co.uk □ £69.99 inc VAT



↓ Vtec V-Reader

Media reader

Vtec's V-Reader offers a genuinely portable way to read media cards on a PC or Mac. It weighs just 44g and measures only 90x52x15mm, so it will slip easily into your bag or pocket. To ensure fast data transfer between card and computer it uses a USB 2.0 connection, although it's still compatible with the older USB 1.1. The V-Reader's four slots allow it to read Type I/II CompactFlash, Microdrive, SmartMedia, Multimedia, Secure Digital and Memory Stick cards.

□ Vtec: 01264 336 901 □ www.vtec.co.uk □ £23 inc VAT



↗ Steganos Internet Anonym 5.0

Internet privacy software

If you want to keep your identity secret while surfing the web, Internet Anonym 5.0 was designed with you in mind. Steganos boasts that its software can sweep away any trace of your presence as you browse the internet, preventing hackers and advertisers tracking your activities. It can kill irritating pop-up ads, delete evidence of online and offline PC activity and render you anonymous during video chat sessions. It will also destroy cookies, history and cached data which, Steganos claims, will speed up a sluggish PC.

□ Steganos: 00800 7834 2667 □ www.steganos.com □ £19.99



← Waitec Shining 191

Flat-panel display

This Waitec model offers 19in of viewing space and, thanks to the size of the display, it has a maximum resolution of 1,280x1,024. The 170-degree viewing angle and 500:1 contrast ratio promise sharp picture quality, while DVI input means you won't lose quality if you are using a similarly equipped graphics card. The Shining 191 also has two integrated speakers, freeing up extra desk space.

□ www.waitec.com □ £599 inc VAT

↓ Hercules 3D Prophet 9200 SE

Graphics card

Hercules' 3D Prophet 9200 SE is an entry-level card designed to bring the power of DirectX 8.1 and AGP 8x to the less well heeled. Based on ATI's Radeon 9200 SE chipset this card comes with 128MB of DDR RAM onboard. The aim is to provide users with a relatively cheap means to upgrade their PCs' graphics performance, allowing them to take advantage of new features in games and graphics-intensive applications.

□ www.hercules.com □ £64.99 inc VAT



↙ Visioneer Strobe XP 450

Sheetfed scanner

If your office depends on the ability to scan documents then Visioneer's Strobe XP 450 may well appeal. It's designed for small workgroups and can scan at a rate of 20ppm (pages per minute). A 50-page automatic document feeder should ensure that you don't run out of paper too frequently – always a bonus in a busy environment. It has a top resolution of 600x1200dpi (dots per inch) and offers 48bit colour. The software bundle includes ScanSoft's PaperPort, which means users can scan direct to PDF format.

□ Visioneer: 01483 445 480

□ www.visioneer-europe.com □ £349.99 inc VAT

→ Freecom USBCard

Storage media

Freecom's credit card-sized device allows you to store up to 512MB of data. It has a flat USB connection cable that folds back into the card, allowing you to keep it safe in your wallet. The USBCard comes preloaded with a range of software to let you access email from anywhere in the world via a USB-equipped PC. There's also a compression program to cut down on file sizes and a password-lock facility designed to keep data secure.

□ Computer Connections International: 01423 704 700

□ www.freecom.com □ from £89.99 inc VAT

