

Sandra

www.sisoftware.co.uk/sandra (shareware – free for educational or private use)

SiSoft's System Analyser, Diagnostic and Reporting Assistant (Sandra) performs PC check-ups such as benchmarking and diagnostics. Sandra will tell you about the performance of everything in your machine from the CPU to the communications ports.

Sandra automatically generates detailed reports at the end of a diagnosis, which you can print, fax or email directly to where you want them. Report formats include Word documents, HTML, standard text, XML and a special Report format.

With Sandra, you can find out anything you could possibly want to know about your system. The program runs a benchmark test on your CPU to compare it to other modern systems, supporting tests on multiple processors if you have them. It will tell you all about the DirectX and OpenGL capabilities of the graphics card. You can find out details about your motherboard, including its bus speed (useful for buying new Ram) and its version information (useful for flash-upgrading the Bios). Information is available on all aspects of your PC, including the hard disk, the Ram, Windows' memory usage and TCP/IP details in the WinSock interface.

More than 40 tools reside in Sandra's Control Panel-style menu, so whatever you want to find out about your computer, be it the IRQ setting for your sound card, the speed of your DVD drive or your CPU multiplier, it can be found with minimal effort.

Sandra's benchmarking tools can find relative speeds of your CPU, hard disk and CD drives, and graphical charts compare their performance with that of other standard PC components. There is even a special Burn-In tool that allows you to test a new computer to get a better idea of its capabilities and identify the sources of any problems that might arise.

Sandra will be useful for people who want to upgrade their computer and for anyone building computers who wants to get an idea of the efficiency of their systems. No PC user above beginner level should be without this tool. 

