A Pretty Pass

Canon has launched a range of multitasking products for the Indian market. The MultiPASS range, which comprise an all-in-one fax machine, photocopier, printer and scanner, obviates the need to buy separate equipment and results in considerable saving on cost.

These products—the MultiPASS C20, the MultiPASS C50 and the MultiPASS L60—fall into a completely new category of computer peripherals called the 'multi-tasking range of products' because they can perform multiple tasks that generally requires discrete equipment.

The fax feature is highly advanced, with a transmission speed of 6 seconds per page, a fax memory of up to 90 pages, one-touch speed dialling and sequential broadcasting to 117 destinations. An error correction mode is built-in, as is G-3 compatibility. Equipped with PhotoReal-ism technology incorporated into Canon printers, the MultiPASS range recreates flesh tones realistically and accurately.

Printing can be in full colour or black and white; with 600 dpi print resolution and 256 greyscales. This gives true-to-life print quality at a reasonably quick six pages a minute. The printer uses a technology called Electro-photographic laser beam printing. The print cartridge used is of the FX3 type, well-known for its efficiency and durability.

The MultiPASS range of products has an in-built Contact Image Sensor that allows you to scan colour photos, illustrations and designs. The document feeder can take up to 20 pages at a time, and the scanner gives a resolution of 400-600 dpi. The photocopying capabilities of the MultiPASS can give you up to 99 pages from memory and even allows reproduction in full colour. There is support for image reduction (to 90, 80 and 70 percent of the original).

A unique Dual Access feature enables users to scan, print or copy documents even if the unit is busy receiving incoming documents or transmitting faxes from memory. The futuristic technology, wide support base and competitive pricing will undoubtedly give Canon a fillip in the office automation segment.

ℹ️

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Canon MultiPASS
Contact: Rediffusion DY&R
Price:
 MultiPASS C20: Rs 41,000
 MultiPASS C50: Rs 59,000
 MultiPASS L60: Rs 69,500
Phone: 022-6521940
Fax: 022-68581099
Web site: www.canon.com
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PC 2000

This Y2K-compliance software tool is designed for PC, PC Networks and Client-Server environments with full auditing and reporting capabilities. The compliance test can be run on any IBM-compatible computer running Windows 95 or Windows NT with at least a 386 processor and 8 MB of RAM. PC2000 checks your PC clock and the BIOS to ensure compliance, besides providing a complete hardware and software inventory, and a database and spreadsheet file inventory.
`Contact: IT Secure`
`Phone: 022-6431233`

R2000 & Soffix

R2000 is a hardware solution from Rizvi Software for Y2K-compliance in desktop PCs. The device is said to provide the user with complete software inventory and network hardware, followed by two simple tests. It tests your machine in both Power-On and Power-Off mode for the OS rollover, BIOS rollover, Real-Time Clock (RTC) rollover, CMOS via BIOS rollover including leap- and non-leap-year compliance. In case the product finds your computer non-compliant, it will bypass your RTC and ensure that the OS rollover to the next millennium is safe.

Soffix is the software equivalent of R2000 and performs a similar inventory, test and finally monitors your RTC to ensure Y2K validity of your system date.
`Contact: Rizvi Software`
`Phone: 022-6499267`

Y2K Fix

Copy the `y2kfix.exe` and the `licence.txt` file to the root directory of the boot drive. Edit the `autoexec.bat` file in the root directory of the boot drive and type in the name 'y2kfix' in the first line of the file and save it. Re-boot the system.

Boot the system from plain DOS. Set the date to 12-31-1999 and time to 23:59 and reboot the system. The softwar requires two reboots for the OS to accept the new date. From the second boot onwards, the systems will show the proper date on every boot.
`Contact: Parakh Computers`
`Phone: 0151-544433`

news

Products

BARRACUDA ATA DISC DRIVE (28 GB)

Roomy disk drive

Seagate, worldwide market leader in storage devices, has shattered disk performance for desktop PCs. They recently launched the Barracuda ATA 28 MB disk drive, part of the Barracuda range of high performance disk drives, which offers 7,200 rpm performance for the price of a 5,200 rpm disk.

What really grabs your attention are two startling facts mentioned in the product release, stating how rugged the disk is and how much data it can store. Seagate claims that the disk can withstand forces of up to 300G in non-operational mode and can store 7.1 GB of data per disk.

Today, even home users use the PC not just for word processing and browsing the Internet, but also for image rendering, sound and video editing, all of which involve faster file and data access. With respect to these factors, Barracuda ATA Disc Drives claim up to 30 percent improvement in performance over its other disks.

And to give you an idea of what this 28 GB disk can hold, the release says that you can store 9 VHS-quality feature films, 8 high-performance gaming applications, 100 rolls of digital film and two hours of video clips—with room to spare.

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Contact: MelCole Public Relations
Price: NA
Phone: 022-2826763
Fax: 022-2836338
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KODAK DC265 DIGITAL CAMERA

Fast shooter

Following the success of its DC260 Digital Camera, Kodak has launched another high-end, 1.6 megapixel digital camera, the Kodak DC265. Like the earlier model, the DC265 offers a 3x (equivalent to 38–115 mm) zoom and 8x10 inch prints to that ensure photo-realistic images.

Compared to its predecessor, the DC265 boasts of a quicker boot-up time with faster processing between shots. The camera can handle three times the burst capture performance—six full images (1.6 megapixel), six SVGA images (0.8 megapixel) or 24 standard size images (0.36 megapixel).

Other enhanced features in the new model include improved compression options. You can now compress images in the 'Super' level, a step ahead of the older DC260 in which you could save files in a much lower compression size, thereby restricting the number of images that could be stored at given time.

Also, a 16 MB Compact Flash Card offers you better storage space, while 4 Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) batteries ensure better power management for longer battery life.

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Contact: Kodak India
Price: Rs 73,000
Phone: 022-4446751
Fax: 022-4456290
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UPDATES & PATCHES

WinNT 4.0 'Malformed Phonebook Entry' patch

Microsoft has released a patch to tackle the vulnerability in the Windows NT remote access service (RAS) client, which could allow a denial-of-service attack to be mounted against the client machine or allow arbitrary code to be executed on it. A carefully constructed phonebook entry could cause arbitrary code to execute on the client via a classic buffer overrun technique. Neither variant can be exploited accidentally.

However, this vulnerability affects RAS client machines, not RAS servers, and the user must have permission to add or modify phonebook entries in order to mount the attack. The machines primarily at risk from this vulnerability are workstations configured to dial out to other systems, because servers (including terminal servers) are not typically configured to act as RAS clients.
www.microsoft.com/security/bulletins/ms99016.asp

IE Settings Swapper

Having to tamper about with your Internet Explorer settings each time you want to change your proxy settings, Wallet, security, homepage, connection settings or modem, could be very trying. InterSwap works hand in hand with Internet Explorer to give you the ability to set up profiles with unique Internet Explorer settings. Call up the profile with a couple of clicks—from a tray icon—when you want to swap.
www.ofori-boateng.clara.net/i_swap.zip

Flying Toolbars

Replace the Netscape Navigator toolbar with Flying Toolbars and you can increase the Netscape client space area. It also includes a Personal Toolbar, one-touch searches on multiple engines (automatically configurable for all engines), Batch Loader, support for Navigator Gold and Communicator, fast access buttons for most-used Navigator commands. It also hides the Netscape Menu. If you are using a small-size monitor or low-resolution mode, Flying Toolbars is a must.
ftp://ftp.webcom.com/pub6/flyingtb/ftb44.zip

DIGITABLES

Spine-friendly chair

Got a back that refuses to cope with your long working hours? Steelcase has the solution for you. The leading manufacturers of office furniture have introduced a chair that promises to conform to each individual's unique spinal movements or 'spineprint', thus ensuring a healthy posture. Called Leap, the chair supports independent movement of the upper and lower back, which move in different directions as you shift in your chair.

The spine does not move as a single unit, preferring to move in ways not allowed by most chairs today. For example, when reclining, the upper back wants to move backward and the lower back wants to move forward. Most chairs have rigid backrests that cannot follow this motion, creating a 'gap' in the lower back area. This leads to a hunched posture that is hard on the back.
Leap
Web site: www.steelcase.com

E-cam for your kids

The new E-cam from Vivitar is an easy-to-use point-and-shoot digital camera for kids. The small (4x3x1.5-inch) lightweight E-cam features a focus-free lens and an automatic exposure system, and can store 24 pictures in its internal memory. It has a cool translucent blue finish and a handy wrist strap.

Other features include an optical viewfinder and a 10-second self-timer with LED indicator. The E-cam is supplied with LivePix Looney Tunes Photo Print Studio photo-editing software from Live Picture. The software offers a gallery of popular photo templates including calendars, greeting cards, scrapbook pages and stickers.
Vivitar E-cam
Web site: www.vivitar.com

Another sprinter from Intel

Intel recently introduced 'the latest member of its Pentium III processor family'. The 550 MHz Pentium III processor (for the desktop PC) is targeted at Internet and 3D-intensive applications, and new features include a high clock speed and Internet-streaming SIMD extensions.

The SIMD extensions comprise 70 new instructions that enhance the performance of advanced imaging, 3D streaming audio and video, and speech recognition applications. The new processor features a 512 KB L2 cache and is based on Intel's P6 micro-architecture manufactured on 0.25 micron technology. This processor is being delivered on PC platforms based on the industry mainstream Intel 440BX AGPset boards that will provide future scalability.

Contact: Genesis PR
Price: Rs 31,000 (Approx)
Phone: 022-4911783
Fax: 022-4911788

D-Link DP-601M Internet

D-Link, one of India's largest network product manufacturers, has announced the launch of an Internet server aimed at simpler, easier and more cost-effective Internet access.

Called the DP-601M Internet Server, the product resembles any regular modem; it features a DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) server function and NAT support that automatically creates and assigns IP addresses to all network users. According to the product release, the built-in 56K modem eliminates the need to buy a separate modem for Internet access and also functions as a connection between PC and phone for file transfer and remote access.

The DP-601M also claims to act as a proxy server, in view of its ability to allow multiple users on a network to access the Internet.

Contact: D-Link India
Price: Rs 14,500
Phone: 022-6526696
Fax: 022-6528914

HP Visualize Workstations

Hewlett-Packard has introduced new generation Unix systems that are powered by the PA-8500 RISC processor and are available to users in three function-specific configurations.

Called the HP Visualize B1000, this 2D and 3D graphics workstation is said to be 'aggressively priced' and targeted at electrical engineers for small-to-medium-sized Integrated Circuit (IC) design. Also launched is the HP Visualize C3000, which it claims is the fastest desktop graphics workstation ideal for complex modelling.

The third product is the HP Visualize J5000, which is a dual-processor 'deskside' graphics workstation that is ideal for IC verification and simulation.

Contact: Hewlett-Packard India
Price: Rs 44,000 to Rs 1 Lakh (Approx)
Phone: 011-6826000
Fax: 011-6826061