bazaar

CHIP List

Product watch

A look at the most talked-about hardware and software in the market

HARDWARE

Canon CanoScan FB 620U

Sleek, stylish and compact, this scanner is perfect for a SOHO setup. Its 600 x 600 dpi/36-bit resolution ensures beautiful scans to brighten your documents. The USB interface facilitates connection to a Windows 98 PC and using its one-touch scanning button you can get the CanoScan FB 620U to work very, very fast.

Creative PC-DVD Encore 6X Dxr3

Aimed at PC users who want the ultimate in PC-DVD technology and performance, the PC-DVD Encore 6X Dxr3 drive features the successor to the award-winning Dxr2 decoder card. Enhanced full-motion, full-screen video plus Dolby Digital (AC-3) audio are some of the other highlights.

Creative Nomad

Use this MP3 Player to record your favourite audio numbers by recording from your personal CD collection or MP3 files from the Internet. Throw in Environmental Audio effects and you can experience the same sound as with the SoundBlaster Live! card.

Creative Nomad has 64 MB RAM that allows it to can also double up as a dictaphone. There also is a fully functional digital FM tuner for live music, news or sports from your favourite radio channels. The Nomad provides up to two hours of CD-quality audio and four hours of voice recording with adjustable bit-rate encoding. Flash card support allows you to upgrade your player in one step, so you can carry all your songs and listen to them too.

Intel Celeron 400 MHz

With a performance that almost matches that of the PII 400 and a price that is approximately the half, the new Celeron 400 MHz processor offers exceptional value. A relatively small Level 2 cache of only 128 K, is integrated on the processor chip and runs at the full processor speed.

The processor has the same CPU core as the PII but the L2 cache is built with standard SRAM chips in the Slot 1 module.

Apple G3

Out with the Beige and in with the Bondi Blue. This PowerPC uses the powerful G3 processor not only looks good, but offers you processing power of up to 400 MHz and support for up to 1 GB of SDRAM. The Apple G3 also provides 1 MB of performance boosting backside cache running at 200 MHz, not to mention the two firewire and two USB ports.

Epson Stylus Pro 9000

Epson Stylus Pro 9000 is one of the first wide-format printing systems to bring you photographic quality plus laser-sharp text and line printing. It can print on a wide range of media from plain papers, coated inkjet media to RC-based photographic papers. It can also print on backlight and watercolour media. Not only does it cash in on Epson's reputation for reliability, the Stylus Pro 9000 also offers a one-year Epson Preferred Protection Plan.

Dell CPi A366XT

Slim is in and so is this latest notebook from Dell. With a low height of just 1.6 inches, the CPi A366XT packs in a powerful PII 366 MHz processor making this machine a major contender in the high-end notebook market. The notebook is supplemented by additional slim devices such as a 24x CD-ROM drive, floppy drive and a 'weight-saving' empty module that allows for an additional HDD or battery.

DragonSystems NaturallyClear USB System H100

This superior quality speech-sensitive microphone from Dragon Systems promises to improve the productivity of your voice recognition packages. H100 has a built-in miniature soundcard as well as digital-to-analog circuitry to convert your voice from analog to digital before transmitting it through the USB port to your PC.

SOFTWARE

Software Notes Office Edition 2.0

Remember 3M's little yellow stickies that your colleagues would 'post' on your computer or table top as reminders? Well, so useful were these little Post-it notes that they were followed by the stickies that could be placed on your PC desktop as personal reminders.

The latest in the line is the Office edition of the Post-It Notes from 3M. Aimed at office LANs, you can use this utility to post a message to your colleague and it pops-up on his desktop. You can jazz up the note by adding sounds, logos and fonts. Also included in the package is a chat feature, called Memoboard.

Milestones Simplicity 2.0

This Project Manager helps you to tackle those crucial Gantt Charts and calendars by detailing your project schedules in a jiffy. It also allows you to e-mail your project schedule, print it or attach it to a presentation; or convert it into HTML and post it on the Web. The wizard allows you to modify dates and add an array of symbols and logos to your project schedule. Those wanting just a peek at the project schedule, need not load the entire application to their PC, downloading a simple viewer will do.
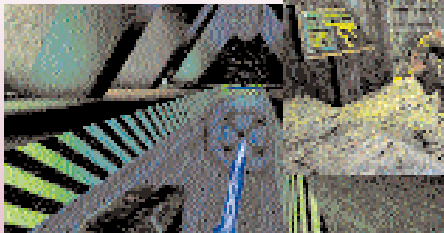
Kai s Photo Soap 2.0

Kai Power Tools, the all-time-favourite of digital artists, has introduced yet another simple and sophisticated tool for Web developers. Using Photo Soap 2.0 you can create a personalised photo album or rotating picture cube with some nifty effects. Even though Photo Soap 2.0 will consume more space on your system, it is worth every bit that it occupies.

Microsoft Works Suite 99

Don't want to spend a fortune on a huge all-encompassing Office Suite for your home needs? Get the MS Work Suite 99. Comprising a word processor, spreadsheet manager, database and communications package including Word 97, this package is perfect for the limited needs of a home user. What's more, you also get Microsoft's Works Calendar, Money 99 Basic, Encarta Encyclopedia 99, Graphics Studio Greetings 99, Expedia Streets 98, Internet Explorer 4.0 and Outlook Express.

IMSI TurboSketch

This new CAD Tool allows you to dictate your way though the intricate CAD drawings. TurboSketch is compatible with AutoCAD R14 and Office 97, but has the added advantage of ease of use. It comprises 33,000 vector clipart images and has a very helpful automatic snap to visual guide feature. The online help and wizard are simple enough for a novice to master the art of vector drawing.

QuarkXPress 4.04

The popular publishing tool is easy-to-use, and can produce everything from newsletters, ads and brochures to product packaging, catalogues, magazines, and newspapers. The program integrates expert type, layout, colour, and graphics-handling features with professional illustration tools, word processing and sophisticated pre-press functions. Precise typography and layout tools offer an unparalleled design control and command over every aspect of your document, from conception to output.

PhotoSuite II

Options that allow you to apply various effects to your picture collection at the click of a mouse as well as touch up photographs and other graphics does not really make Photo-Suite II an outstanding image editors. What makes this Personal image editor commendable is the easy manner in which these functions can be performed.

Adobe Acrobat 4.0

The first major upgrade in two years, Acrobat 4.0 with its enhanced editing tools targets the Web and workgroup collaborations. The Web capture and annotation feature allows for conversion of a single Web page or the entire site to the PDF format, while the digital signature system provides access and modification control for files.

Unreal

A simple story made more realistic with MMX enhanced graphics, *Unreal* is as close to reality as any computer generated game can get. However, to fully enjoy its synchronised sound effects, volumetric lighting, and great shimmering textures for water, fire and lightning, you will need a high-end machine and a 3DFx card. Scripted events, such as hearing a fight beyond a door, set the mood.