POWERMAC G4

More Power, More

After spreading colour on drab desktops around the world with the iMac, Apple jazzed up the notebook world with the launch of the iBook. The newest surprise is the blazing new super-processor (the G4, designed by Apple, Motorola and IBM) running at a clock speed of up to 500 MHz.

What makes a supercomputer super is its ability to execute at least one billion floating point operations per second. This measure of speed is called a gigaflop, and the new PowerMac G4 is the first microprocessor that can deliver

👆 www.chip-

a sustained performance of over one gigaflop. In fact, it has a theoretical peak performance of four gigaflops.

Super Specs

Processor
1 Configurations: 400, 450, or 500 MHz
1 Velocity Engine vector processing unit with 162 integrated Single Instruction Multiple Data (SIMD) instructions
1 Full 128-bit internal memory data paths Powerful new floating point unit supporting single cycle, double precision calculations
1 Data stream pre-fetching operations supporting four simultaneous 32-bit data streams
1 1 MB backside level 2 cache running at half the processor speed
1 100 MHz system bus supporting up to 800 Mbps data throughput
Memory
1 64 MB, 128 MB or 256 MB of PC100 SDRAM
1 Four DIMM slots support up to 1.5 GB of PC100 SDRAM
Graphics support
1 ATI RAGE 128 graphics card with 16 MB of SDRAM graphics memory installed in a dedicated graphics slot (either a 66 MHz PCI slot or a 133 MHz AGP 2X slot)
1 Support for up to 1,600 by 1,200 pixel

The secret of the G4 s revolutionary performance is a technology called Velocity Engine . The Velocity Engine, it is claimed, can process data in 128-bit chunks, instead of the smaller 32-bit or 64-bit chunks used in traditional processors. The new 162-instruction set

speeds up operations. In addition, it can perform four (and in some cases eight) 32-bit floating point calculations in a single cycle this is two to four times faster than traditional processors. The Velocity Engine-based G4 works with the PowerPC architecture to accelerate the data-intensive processing required by next-generation video, voice and graphics applications.

Among the key features of the G4 is a vector permute function that is capable of rearranging data in the registers a priceless benefit when converting data from one format to another . This conversion is often necessary with voice, video and graphics apps that typically need to save data in a number of different formats. The advantages of vector processing acceleration give the G4 microprocessor a significant edge when it comes to fast visualisation of large data sets, and intensive math for real-time simulations.

The PowerMac G4 comes in a translucent clear , silver and graphite enclosure, unlike the bright Bondi blue, tangerine and strawberry that characterised the iMac, and will be available in

ℹ Contact: Apple India
Price: Not decided yet
Phone: 080-5550575
Fax: 080-5550660

Xircom PortStation

Xircom Asia Pacific, a leader in providing mobile access solutions for PC users, has introduced what it claims is the industry s first port expansion system for mobile computing users. Called PortStation, the product provides instant network, communications and peripheral device attachment via a single USB connection to Windows-based computers.

PortStation also provides users with a variety of networking and communication technologies, including 10 Mbps Ethernet, 56 Kbps modem, digital subscriber line (DSL), cable modem, ISDN and home phone line networks. It also connects to a wide range of devices, including printers, digital cameras, mice and keyboards.

Interlocking mix-and-match modules enable maximum port flexibility based on all device connection needs. Modules can be added or removed without any need for system reconfiguration.
Contact: Xircom Asia Pacific
Price: Rs 2,200 to Rs 11,000 (approx)
Phone: 022-3893931

BayStack Hubs & Switches

Nortel Networks has launched a new affordable range of BayStack hubs and switches for small-to-medium business enterprises.

The 10/100 Mbps BayStack hubs and switches come with auto-sensing capabilities and require minimal monitoring, thereby making them cost-effective. The switches provide high-speed performance and scalability for current and future networking needs. The devices are available in a desktop-size 8-port and 16-port configuration and as a 24-port model.
Contact: Nortel Networks
Price: Rs 18,600 to Rs 30,800
Phone: 080-5095840

KODAK DC SERIES

More Reasons to Smile

Summit Data Products have tied up with Kodak to bring to the Indian market a wide range of digital cameras to suit various needs. The range includes the DC200 Plus, DC210 Plus, DC240 Zoom and DC265 Zoom.

The Kodak DC200 Plus is designed with Megapixel technology that provides vivid colour and detail enough for photo-realistic 5x7-inch prints. Professional photographers will be happy to see that the manufacturers have improved upon the award-winning DC200 platform, so that it processes pictures faster. Improvements include faster power-up, more responsive shutter release and faster picture preview, not to mention 20 percent more battery life.

The Kodak DC265 Zoom Digital Camera provides the user with faster start-up and processing. A faster pre-

view rate of 1.6 million (1536x1024) pixel resolution makes it ideal for photo-realistic 8x10-inch prints with spectacular colour and sharp detail. Another highlight of this camera is its 3x optical and 2x digital zoom.

The lens optically extends to 3x with no loss in image quality. For added flexibility, the camera can digitally zoom in by an additional 2x factor.

DIGITA Scripting gives you the flexibility to do more such as tell the camera exactly how to execute complex operations with point-and-shoot simplicity. Complete Macintosh and Windows USB support gives you fast and

> Contact: Summit Data
> Price: Rs 27,000 to Rs 75,000
> Phone: 011-6517994
> Fax: 011-6854711

CANON COPIER NP-7210

More Stamina for Larger

Canon India has launched the Canon Copier NP-7210 that offers speeds of up to 21 pages per minute on a variety of media.

Part of the Stamina Series from Canon, this copier is built to tackle a heavy workload with ease, and offers an array of user-friendly features. The product is capable of printing 25,000 copies per month, and it also features an auto power-off feature that saves electricity.

According to the product release, the NP-7210 claims to be India's only copier that can continuously copy up to 999 sheets, assisted by its automatic tray-switching feature.

Like most Canon products, the NP-7210 incorporates the OPC drum and toner development system, making it an environment-friendly copier. The fully biodegradable OPC drum also elimi-

nates the need for frequent polishing, and increases sensitivity to tones and shades of grey. The advanced Canon-patented TPD system provides precise images with higher contrast and minimises maintenance.

The NP-7210's fit image mode lets you automatically reduce oversized images to a single sheet and the exposure is set to provide you with a crisper image. For greater security, the copier comes with a Control Card IV option that restricts access to the machine and

> Contact: Canon India
> Price: Rs 1,35,000
> Phone: 011-6806572
> Fax: 011-6807180

HDTV

Your wait for a larger, all-format HDTV is finally over. The AF3.0HD, a direct view 30-inch HDTV monitor from Princeton Graphics Systems, is here. It supports all ATSC HDTV formats, video and VGA, SVGA and XGA resolutions from computer sources, while maintaining compatibility with NTSC.

Featuring fine pitch, 16.9 high-resolution Invar Mask CRT with a special microfilter, greyscale linearity, colour fidelity and flat-field uniformity.
W eb site: w w w.princetongraphics.com

Harman Kardon DVD 5

This five-disk carousel DVD changer is engineered to provide exceptional picture and sound quality. Highlights include component video output, 10-bit video processing, Dolby Digital and DTS compatibility and 96 KHz/24-bit audio capability. A high-precision mechanism ensures ultrastable, high-quality disk playback and fast access time. Stereo audio headphone output with level control is also provided.
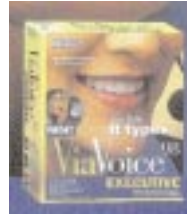W eb site: w w w.harmankardon.com

Voodoo3 3500 TV

This PC entertainment system combines 3D and 2D graphics with complete TV tuner and multimedia functionality. With support for MPEG 2, DVD via software, FM stereo with dbx, cable television and high-resolution displays, the product allows you to interact with your PC just as you would a high-end television or VCR. Surf channels, zoom in on the TV picture, record your favourite television program and play them back with DVD quality. Apart from the 350 MHz RAMDAC and 16 MB memory, Voodoo3 3500 has 183 MHz that

IBM ViaVoice 98 Executive

IBM has launched a new version of its voice recognition software ViaVoice 98 Executive comes with enhanced functionality, including natural language commands and a powerful speech recognition engine.

According to the company, ViaVoice 98 Executive allows you to dictate directly into most of the popular Windows applications, including spreadsheet and presentation software. You can create VoiceText dictation macros and Voice-Form Dictation templates to auto-insert text into documents and control functions such as executing programs, and also open, close and save files.

Editing and formatting of the document can also be done using voice commands. The 64,000-word vocabulary is expandable by an additional 64,000 words. Built-in modules that let you expand the vocabulary further include ViaVoice Business, Finance and Computer Topics. Besides assisting you in setting up and training the application in a jiffy, the ViaVoice Wizard takes you

Contact: Tata-IBM
Price: Not Confirmed
Phone: 080-5267117
Fax: 080-5268553

Autodesk Inc, has announced the launch of 3D StudioMax R3.

W ith an enhanced collaborative workflow environment, the R3 claims to support a large number of third-party tools and plug-ins. Additional key enhancements include nestable external references, application-wide scripting and macro recording.

The new render tool has been completely revamped and has been transformed into plug-ins for specific tasks such as anti-aliasing, sampling, shaders and shadows. More than a dozen rendering components accompany 3D StudioMax, while more com-

ponents are available in the product s Software Development Kit (SDK) for d e v e l o p - ment use .

According to the product release, the organic modelling process has been simplified by introducing application-wide soft selection, enabling artists to easily give regional touches to their selections for gradual fall-offs of model-
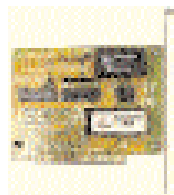
Contact: AutoDesk Inc.
Price: Rs 2,00,000 (approx)
Phone: 080-5564829
Fax: 080-5564897

Mercury Millennium card

Bangalore-based Kobian India has announced a fix for the Year 2000 problem. Called the CI-5050 Millennium, this card has an onboard 10-year data retention real-time clock chip, and intelligent ROM BIOS. An advanced feature called CMOS backup can restore any changes made to the CMOS. This feature also prevents viruses from damaging your CMOS data, thereby saving on service costs.

In network environments, system administrators often need to configure all

PCs to the same date, time and other CMOS settings. Now, you can set up the entire data by just plugging in the CI-5050.

According to the product release, this feature will save engineering time and therefore reduce overall costs. The manufacturers maintain that the card has been designed to resolve only the hardware issues at

Contact: Kobian India
Phone: 080-2258229
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SIEMENS NEW RANGE OF DESKTOPS, NOTEBOOKS, SERVERS

One for every need

Siemens Nixdorf, the world's 9th largest IT company with an annual turnover of $10 billion, has entered the Indian computing market in a big way with the launch of their latest range of desktop PCs, high-end graphic workstations, notebooks and servers. Apart from these computing products, they have also launched ATM machines, passbook printers, video-conferencing terminals and touch-sensitive LCD terminals.

Desktops
In the Desktop PC range, Siemens has launched the new Scenic range of machines that use the Intel Celeron, Pentium II or Pentium III processors. Starting from the Scenic 300 which houses processing power of up to 500 MHz on the Pentium III processor, up to 512 MB of SDRAM and an ATI Rage IIC or a Matrox G100/G200 graphics card.

The Scenic 500 runs processors of 550 MHz, 512 MB SDRAM and ATI Rage or Matrox graphics cards. The Scenic 600 supports the same processing power as the 500 but can house up to 768 MB of SDRAM. This system also incorporates an integrated chip-card reader and the Siemens DeskView (desktop management software). The Scenic 800 supports the Pentium III 550 MHz processor, 768 MB SDRAM, ECC in main memory and second level cache, in addition to the features provided by the 600 series.

Notebooks
There is a radically new notebook launched by Siemens that comes with a detachable keyboard and touchpad. This one-of-its-kind model in India the Scenic Mobile 800 AGP provides the user with an Intel Pentium II 400 MHz processor, up to 512 MB RAM, a magnesium casing, 14.1-inch LCD screen, ATI 3D RageLT PRO graphics card and 6 GB of hard disk space (which can eventually be upgraded to 14 GB).

The other models in the line of notebooks are low-end compared to the Scenic Mobile 800. The Scenic Mobile 360, 510, and the 750 provide users with an entire range of

1. SCENIC Mobile 800 AGP features removable keyboard
2. PRIMERGY 470 : Dual P-II server
3. CELSIUS 630: A high-end workstation

note-books with varied screen sizes, processing power and RAM configurations.

Servers
Siemens has a vast range of servers for dedicated users, from small corporate networks to SAP implementation. These servers from the Primergy series, have a processing solution for every type of organisation. The range starts with Intel Pentium II-based machines, Pentium III, Dual P-II and P-III and goes all the way up to 4-way or 8-way Pentium III Xeon processors.

Workstations
Siemens has launched two very high-end workstations called the Celsius 420 and the Celsius 630. The Celsius 420 blazes on a Pentium III 600 MHz with 100 MHz Front Side Bus and 768 MB of SDRAM. A Matrox G400 or a Celsius Synergy II graphics card enables amazing graphics.

The Celsius 630 is capable of frying the market to a frazzle with its single or dual Pentium III Xeon processor running at 550 MHz.

The memory can go up to 2 GB. With

Contact: Summit Data
Price: Rs 27,000 to Rs 75,000
Phone: 011-6517994
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