

GROUP TESTS

160 Undercover PC group test

PCW goes undercover to discover the truth about buying a PC. Taking on the persona of someone setting up a small business, with £1,000 to spend, we bought PCs from ten companies, testing out their sales and technical support services, as well as the quality of the machines they are selling to the general public. And, to make sure you are well-armed before you take the plunge, we give you advice on buying a PC, too.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 170 Amari NBX Workstation | 182 Hi-Grade Winputer Pv2 333 |
| 172 Dabs Direct Atlantis Home Office | 183 Mesh Elite Connect PII 300 |
| 174 Dell Dimension XPS R350 | 186 NEC Direct SM 333CL |
| 179 Evesham Micros Prestige Scorchier | 190 Panrix Lightning 266 |
| 181 Gateway GP6 333 | 192 Tiny PII 333EX |

208 Comms hardware

V.90 has arrived, settling the 56K standards row. Roger Gann hooks up 15 of the latest modems and takes a sneak peak at future ways of getting online.

Desktop modems

- 211** 3Com/USR 56K Voice Faxmodem
- 211** Aztech 56K PCI Modem
- 211** BT Prologue K56EV Plus
- 211** Compaq 56K External Fax Modem
- 211** Diamond SupraExpress 56ePRO
- 211** LASAT Safire 560 Voice
- 212** MultiTech MultiModem
- 212** Olitech Self Memory II 56000

- 212** Pace 56 Voice
- 212** Premier MT56KSVe
- 212** Tashika 56000BPS
- 212** Zoom FaxModem 56Kx

PC Card modems

- 217** COM One Platinum MC220
- 217** Psion Dacom Gold Card NetGlobal
- 217** Xircom RealPort Ethernet 10/100

226 Comms software

It's good to talk. However, if you want to communicate with the world, there is a software package to help you. Ian Wrigley helps you assess your requirements, and looks at email, faxing from the desktop, remote access and internet telephony.

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BUYING A PC

It's a big business. Do the PC manufacturers meet the PCW grade?

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In the name of science, Kevin Warwick, Professor of Cybernetics at Reading University, had a chip implanted in his arm. He tells Christopher Rye that we could all want one in the near future.

126 Novell NetWare 5 vs Windows NT 5.0

Server heavyweights, Microsoft and Novell, prepare to slug it out once again with new versions of their network packages. Terence Green referees the contest.



You want to install a new server system, but which do you choose?

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134 Small business: marketing your web site

You've set up your web site, but how do you tempt people in? Market it widely, is Nigel Whitfield's advice. He shows you how.



Make sure your customers know about your web site

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140 Xeon servers

Intel aims to stay ahead of the server game with the Xeon processor. Ajith Ram looks at four servers and asks whether Xeon is up to the job.

150 Wireless technology

When you want to transfer data, chuck out your cables and go wireless. Tony Dennis sorts his Bluetooths from his IrDAs.



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Gorgeous sub-notebook.
- 80 Carrera PowerMedia 350**
Mid-range multimedia PC.
- 81 Cobalt Qube**
Server and *objet d'art*.
- 84 Rock Agenda 960**
Power notebook.
- 86 Gateway Solo 5150**
Business notebook.
- 91 Hewlett-Packard 2000 C/CN**
Fast high-end colour inkjet printer.
- 92 SoundBlaster Live!**
Creative's new sound card.
- 96 VisionMaker Sketch 14**
Combined LCD panel and graphics tablet.
- 99 Yamaha DS2416**
Entry-level video capture.
- 100 Philips PCA645VC**
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- 104 Calluna Hardwall**
Innovative anti-virus and security solution.
- 104 Widget Route Planner**
Navigation for your Psion 5.
- 105 Adobe Illustrator 8 Preview**
We take an in-depth look at a final beta.
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Sophisticated Year 2000 fixer.
- 110 Ulead Cool 3D v2**
Easy-peasy 3D design.
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- 114 Caere PageKeeper Standard**
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A winning PC, one year on.
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One of the first flatpanels, revisited.
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Lexmark demonstrates longevity.
- 117 Agfa e1280 digital camera**
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