PERSONAL COMPUTER WORLD

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GROUP TESTS

162 £499 PCs

Are you feeling strapped for cash after Christmas but still need a new PC? We have the answer — ten storming systems for a budget-busting £499. Paul Trueman puts these bargain beauties through their paces.

165 Carrera Capricorn
165 Dotlink Magnum Entro 200
169 Elonex MCX333
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171 Lexon Entra 333
171 Panrix Micro 333
172 Protek UltraMX
172 Roldec Puma
176 Watford Electronics Aries 3200
176 West One Stingray

188 Laser printers

For perfect document presentation, you can't beat a laser printer. Ajith Ram scrutinises the output from five personal and ten small-workgroup printers, to see which does the business on text and graphics.

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192 Panasonic KX-P6300
197 QMS DeskLaser 600
197 Tally T9006

Small-workgroup printers
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201 Kyocera FS 1700+
201 Lexmark Optra K1220
202 Minolta PagePro 12
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202 Xerox DocuPrint N17

214 High-end image editing

These are the packages the professionals would use, with all the features you need to tackle the most challenging of image-editing projects. But with packages starting from just £79, they needn't break the bank. Ken McMahon puts you in the picture.

216 Adobe Photoshop 5.0
218 Corel PhotoPaint 8
220 Metacreations Painter 5.5 Web Edition
223 Ulead PhotoImpact 4.2
225 Macromedia xRes 3
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Computing on a budget
Check out our PC group test: you'll be surprised at what £499 will buy.
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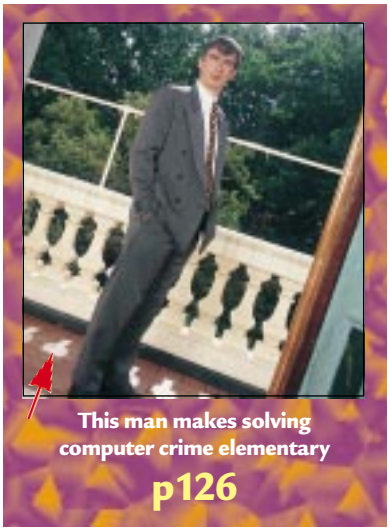
The Sherlock Holmes of the computer world, Neil Barrett, has tracked down computer hackers, fraudsters, embezzlers and virus spreaders. George Cole reports from the scene on the methods used to beat the baddies.



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