WELCOME TO THE JULY 2000 PERSONAL COMPUTER WORLD CD-ROM

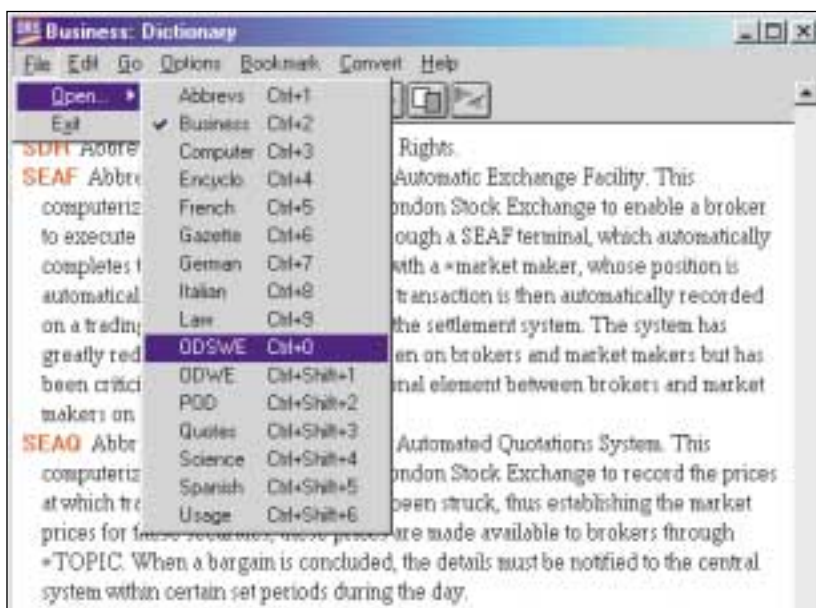# *July* COVER DISC

GAMES **APPLICATIONS** *LIBRARY* *ENTERTAINMENT* *INTERNET*

Heading the software line-up this month is a full version of the powerful
4th Dimension 6 database development software, plus the OUP's Oxford Reference
Shelf – no fewer than 16 essential reference texts in one compact package. We've also
got BeOS 5 Personal Edition, MessageASAP mail centre software, and much more.

OUP Oxford Reference Shelf

FULL VERSION

A small amount of disk space will give you an essential reference collection – enough knowledge to convince anyone that you've had an Oxford education

Here's what you get:
- Pocket Oxford Dictionary
- Oxford Dictionary for Writers and Editors
- Oxford Guide to English Usage
- Oxford Minidictionary of Quotations
- A Compact Encyclopedia
- A Concise Dictionary of Business
- A Concise Dictionary of Law
- Oxford Dictionary of Abbreviations
- A World Gazetteer
- Oxford French Minidictionary
- Oxford German Minidictionary
- Oxford Spanish Minidictionary
- Oxford Italian Minidictionary
- Concise Science Dictionary
- Oxford Dictionary for Scientific Writers and Editors
- Dictionary of Computing

The Oxford Reference Shelf, from the highly respected Oxford University Press, is an essential collection of important reference texts, all delivered in a fast, efficient, compact, no-nonsense form. In fact, these superb reference volumes will easily fit onto the most modestly endowed hard disk – keeping them accessible at all times.

Whether you're a budding writer, linguist, business person, or scientist the Oxford Reference Shelf on CD-ROM is guaranteed to satisfy your needs. This 'shelf of books' offers unbeatable value and flexibility with 16 complete texts on a single CD-ROM, giving you fast access to accurate, up-to-date information. With the Oxford Reference Shelf on CD-ROM, an Oxford education has never been easier!

If you want definitions, quotes, help with grammar and usage, or general encyclopedic information, then the collection of five writers' reference works in this package covers all you could possibly want to know.

For those tricky business terms and abbreviations, try the four business and law dictionaries to help you find concise, easy-to-understand definitions.

Use the four Oxford mini-dictionaries in the most popular European languages to impress your colleagues with your grasp of French, German, Spanish and Italian.

Get swift and sure guidance on the correct scientific and computing terms to use. From these three subject-specific dictionaries discover the meaning of terms ranging from allele to ZIF socket.
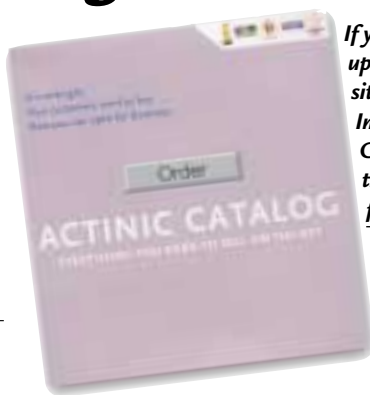
Actinic Catalog

30-day evaluation

The Internet is no longer just a network, it's a marketplace. Entrepreneurs who use the web can be open for business 24 hours a day, 365 days a year – and find that sales are easier to fulfil and gathered at less cost.

This month, *Personal Computer World* offers you the chance to set up and run your own online sales site with a free 30-day live trial of Actinic Catalog (RP £300 exVAT) – the UK's leading ecommerce solution from Business ISP Zen Internet. (Actinic Catalog is an all-British product).

Actinic Catalog is self-installing and very easy to use. It enables you to publish an illustrated, online catalogue without design or technical expertise. The package includes a shopping cart and secure encrypted ordering. Catalog is approved by major high-street banks, the Which? Association, and most shopping portals.

To use the software, you will need a PC running Windows 95/98 or NT4 and a dial-up connection to the Internet. There are no restrictions on the secure hosting services supplied free of charge by Zen Internet

If you want to set up your own sales site on the Internet, Actinic Catalog makes things very easy for you

during the evaluation period, so you could begin taking orders and payments right away. 50MB of secure web space is available for your trial.

Three steps to net profit

Step 1 Begin the Actinic Catalog installation from the cover CD-ROM
Step 2 Complete the registration details online when requested. You will then receive your server login code and the URL of your commerce site by email from Zen Internet.
Step 3 Finish the installation and run

Actinic Catalog. Click 'Bypass' when the software asks you for an authorisation key (this is supplied when you purchase the product). When the software prompts you for a User ID from 'the SuperMall Administrator' (Zen Internet in this case), enter the code you received from Zen when registering.

This is a complete copy of the software. Full context-sensitive help is provided, and an extensive manual is included in Acrobat (PDF) format. For the ultimate in extra customisation, users can download the 'Advanced User Guide' available at: http://actinic.zen.co.uk/advanced/advanced.htm.

For more information about the evaluation, and how you can purchase Actinic Catalog, email: sales@zen.co.uk, telephone: 01706 713714, or visit the Actinic website.

> **GETTING STARTED WITH ACTINIC**
> Read the Getting Started notes on the CD-ROM before installing. You will need to register on the Zen Internet website to get your user name and password before you can get up and running.

Using the CD-ROM

AS OF LAST MONTH, the *PCW* CD-ROM uses a web-browser style interface. As well as cutting the time needed for development, content designed for the web can be easily ported to the CD (and vice versa); and, compatibility issues are reduced as your browser has been installed to work on your individual PC. However, to get full functionality from it, you will need to use Microsoft Internet Explorer (version 4 or later). This is because we use a special ActiveX plug-in that allows us to install software directly from the browser, without all the options, dialogs and security warnings you normally get. Unfortunately, Netscape doesn't properly support this software. So in the meantime, for those non-Microsoft users, we've included a small installer that will run when you insert the CD, or when you run the program PCW.EXE in the root of the CD-ROM. Of course, you can still launch the main browser to read all about the software on this month's disc.

IMPORTANT

Please note that we cannot give support on individual programs contained on this CD-ROM.

If you have problems running the CD or any

of its content, please follow these guidelines:
● Faulty CD (ie, the disc is physically damaged and will not load) – return the disc for a replacement (see box at the end of CD details).
● You have problems installing/running some of the software – check the support page on the CD, or the support website at

www.pcw.vnunet.com/cd. You should also check the manufacturer's website (the details in most cases are given on the CD).
● For general difficulties you can call 01685 354726
● If you're still stuck, drop us an email at pcwcd@vnu.co.uk – we may be able to help.

4th Dimension version 6.0.6   STANDARD EDITION

4D version 6 allows developers to create virtually any type of database application imaginable easily and efficiently – from simple contact management systems and product catalogues to sophisticated multimedia applications and full-scale accounting packages.

With 4D's intuitive interface and powerful 4GL programming language it is ideal for designing database solutions in single-user, client/server or Internet/ intranet environments. Its ease-of-use, reduced development time and straight-forward installation and maintenance also make it a cost-effective solution for companies and organisations of all sizes.
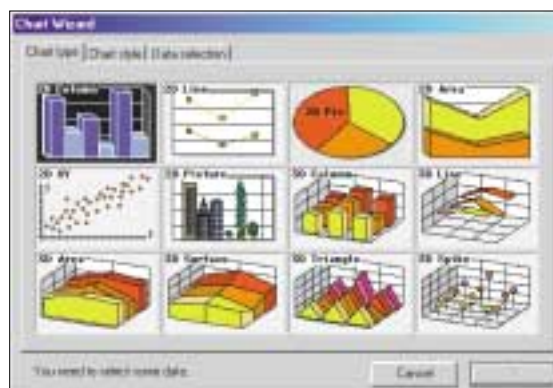
From its release in the mid-1980s, 4D has won awards from the computer industry press and praise from users for its power, elegance and simplicity. Millions of users and developers use it to store vital data. As the first major graphical user interface relational database product on the Macintosh, 4D pioneered the concept of RAD (Rapid Application Development). Now, with Version 6, it has taken Windows and Macintosh RAD to a new level.

4th Dimension has its own built-in programming language of over 500 commands. This makes it a powerful development tool for database applications on desktop computers.

You can use the 4th Dimension language for many different tasks – from performing simple calculations to creating complex custom user interfaces. Check out some of the sample applications on the CD-ROM for a better idea of what 4D can do.

4th Dimension is the ideal tool for all levels of users and developers to accomplish a complete range of information management tasks. Novice users can quickly perform calculations. Experienced users with no programming experience can customise their databases, or developers can use it to add sophisticated features and capabilities to their databases, including file transfer and communications. Developers with programming experience in other languages can add their own commands.

Installing 4D

You can install 4th Dimension 6 directly from the *PCW* browser (provided that you are using Internet Explorer) or from the loader menu that appears when you insert the CD. Follow the on-screen instructions. During installation the following serial number will be required. Type it exactly as shown:
Serial no: 0840B012313E3FF335

There are demo applications that you can install from the browser by running the file Setup.exe in <CD:>\Software\4D\4D Demo Applications\DISK1\. These are a useful way to learn about creating your own applications. There's also a quick-start tutorial (<CD:>\Software\4D\Tutorial\ Install Tutorial Files\DISK1\setup.exe) in Acrobat format, which takes you step-by-step through creating your first database with 4D, adding tables and creating relations, reports, labels and graphs... right through to publishing it on the web.

4D EXTRA is a plug-in that will add extra functionality to your installed copy of 4th Dimension (install within the browser from <CD:>\Software\4D\4D Extras\4D Extras\DISK1\setup.exe).

4D has very comprehensive online help. You can find some very useful additional documentation in Acrobat PDF format in the following directory on the CD: <CD:>\ software\4D\documentation\acrobat files.

Ease of use makes 4th Dimension unbeatable

DETAILS

PLATFORM 4th Dimension requires a Pentium 90 (or faster) system running Windows 95, 98, or NT; minimum 32MB of RAM (48MB recommended); 14in SVGA with 256 colours

UNINSTALLING 4D 4th Dimension comes with its own uninstaller. Ensure that the CD is inserted in its drive, then simply select Start > Programs > Aci > 4th Dimension 6.0.6 > Uninstall, and follow the on-screen instructions. NOTE: The same uninstall procedure applies to the sample applications and 4D plug-ins

SPECIAL READER OFFER

If you upgrade to 4th Dimension version 6.5 you get even more features and faster applications.
● Faster applications – significant performance gains
● Fully-integrated web server – integrate your database applications seamlessly with the web
● Better forms – produce more functional interfaces, quicker
● 4D Internet Commands – easily implement email, FTP and Internet functionality into your applications
● Execute on Client – distribute tasks between clients
● Find Editor – search for strings in a database structure
● Methods – writing methods is even easier
● Runtime Explorer – view behaviours during development
● PLUS improved Windows support, and many more new and improved features
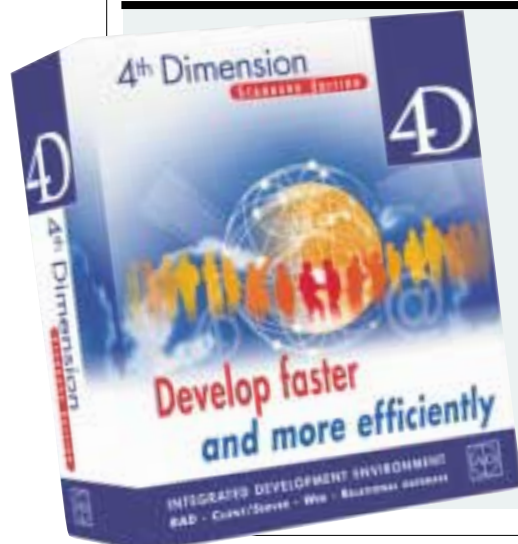
4D Standard Edition 6.5
Upgrade from 4D 6 for just £95* (RRP £195)
4D Developer Edition 6.5
Upgrade from 4D 6 for £295* (RRP £495) (*prices exclude £12 shipping and VAT, offer closes 31 July 2000)
CALL: 01625 536178 or email: sales@aciuk.com
To find out more about the latest version of 4th Dimension, why not visit the 4D website at www.acius.com.

Software Library

Each month the library section brings you some of the best shareware and demonstration programs from vnunet's downloads section on the net. This month we've brought you seven useful and interesting programs – SiSoft Sandra, AudioCD MP3 Studio 2000, CDH Image Explorer Pro, LaserAge, Paint Shop Pro 6.02, Paragamus SpeedNet, and WinOptimizer 99 Deluxe.

SiSoft Sandra 2000.3.6.3

SiSoft Sandra (the System ANalyser, Diagnostic and Reporting Assistant) is an information and diagnostic utility. This shareware can provide you with most of the information you would ever need to know about your PC and the software on it.

Sandra is a native 32bit Win32 application, although it can provide information on 16bit Windows and DOS, too. It comprises 50 information, benchmarking, listing & testing/diagnostic modules. It also features plug-and-play support, and can save, print, fax, email and upload a report it has created. It can also

export reports in various formats: XML, HTML, and SMS for the Microsoft SMS management system. The software runs on Windows 95 or 98.

AudioCD MP3 Studio 2000

This great audio CD shareware tool from Ashampoo allows you to create your own private audio CDs. You can extract tracks from audio CDs, store them, combine them and record your own CDs. Tracks can be read from audio CDs and stored in a space-saving compressed format (up to 1:4) on your hard disk or removable media. You can create playlists of your favourite tracks, including normal and compressed WAV files and MP3 files, and write them all to audio CDs you can play on your stereo.

Key features include:
● extracts tracks from audio CDs with all standard CD-ROM drives.
● supports almost all standard CD writers. Drivers for new CD writers are available free from www.ashampoo.com.
● supports MP3 music files and writes them directly to audio CD
● write speed selection for maximum recording quality
● automatic level adjustment (normalise) while recording
● compressed music file format (eg 1:4)
● management of tracks and artist lists
● all functions in real time.

This software requires a Pentium PC or faster and runs on Windows 95, 98, or NT.

LaserAge 1.9.1 (freeware)

An addictive arcade game with good graphics. Blast that aircraft and go to the next level!

LaserAge is a shoot-'em-up that combines powerups, detailed graphics and lots of action. There are four levels, 18 enemies to fight, nine powerups and full-screen mode. New features include a web-based highscore list.

Requires Windows 95 or later.

CDH Image Explorer Pro 4.4

View, edit and manage your image and video formats. Image Explorer Pro is shareware that enables you to read and write some 70 formats, and has more than 100 image manipulation and processing features. Apart from the standard features (crop, resize, rotate, flip and mirror) it has several advanced features, including:
● batch format conversion among all supported formats
● advanced image thumbnailing and thumbnail browser
● GIF animation creation
● video editing
● 2,000-plus special effects
● Adobe Photoshop-compatible plug-in support
● picture index creation
● slideshow capabilities
● 3D text and shaping.

It runs on Windows 95, 98, 2000, and NT, and requires a Pentium PC, with 16MB of RAM and at least 14MB of hard disk space.

Paint Shop Pro 6.02

Designed for users who want control, power and flexibility, Paint Shop Pro delivers the tools you need to easily capture, create, enhance and optimise your graphics projects. Version 6.01 adds new features such as editable text with character-level formatting, object manipulation and node editing, multiple colour gradients and a multi-level redo option. It also improves compatibility with Windows 2000. The latest version 6.02 includes minor improvement and bug fixes as well as Animation Shop 2.02. For a full list of changes visit Jasc Software's website www.jasc.com/psp602new.html.

Paint Shop Pro runs on Windows 95, 98, or NT, and requires 12MB of RAM and 10MB of free hard disk space. Please note this is a 32bit, time-limited demo.

WinOptimizer 99 Deluxe

WinOptimizer 99 Deluxe can find and safely delete redundant files, recovering space on your hard disk and optimising Windows performance. It includes a revolutionary screensaver that seeks out and deletes data garbage automatically.

This function-limited demo runs on Windows 95, 98 or NT and needs a Pentium 100 or faster with at least 32MB of RAM.

Paragamus SpeedNet

SpeedNet claims to increase your online download speed – with dialup connections seeing a speed increase of about 100-200 per cent, and higher speed connections such as cable modems, ISDN, 56K and DSL by 200-600 per cent.

SpeedNet optimises Windows to allow for the optimum packet size and provide the maximum download speeds.

Please note: This version is function limited. It only speeds up connections that have a 56K or less modem.

BeOS 5 Personal Edition

Thanks to this brand new Version 5, you can now install BeOS as a file within Windows. No repartitioning is necessary, and launching BeOS 5 is as simple as double-clicking an icon on your desktop.

BeOS 5 is designed to unleash the processing power of modern PCs. Be has created this Personal Edition that fits inside a single compressed file on your Windows 95, 98, 2000, or NT4 computer. This file can be converted into a Windows application that boots and runs BeOS 5. You don't need any special hardware or a separate partition for your BeOS files. And it's free.

As you might expect, squeezing an entire operating system into a single file imposes some limitations. Although BeOS 5 Personal Edition is by no means a 'crippled' version of BeOS, it isn't as robust or as flexible as the real version, BeOS 5 Pro Edition. To purchase a copy of BeOS 5 Pro Edition, go to www.be.com/ products/freebeos/ distributors.html.

Installation

When uncompressed, BeOS 5 Personal Edition inflates to 512MB, so you need that amount of disk space available before you start the installation. (BeOS 5 Pro can be installed in a partition as small as 256MB or as large as your largest hard drive.)

To install, follow the on-screen instructions, then restart your computer.

Unlike most Window applications, BeOS 5 Personal Edition takes over your computer and shuts down Windows and launches BeOS 5. To get back to Windows, reboot your computer. Running BeOS 5 Personal Edition will not harm your Windows operating system – it doesn't delete any data or alter the Windows Registry. When you reboot into Windows after running BeOS 5, your computer will revert to normal.

Remember, Personal Edition lives inside a 512MB file. Some of the 512MB is taken up by the OS itself, and some is devoted to a variable-sized 'swap file' (or virtual memory). After all that is accounted for, you may not have much room left for writing and saving files. To get around this, you can mount other partitions. For example, you can mount your normal Windows partition and read, play and write files you have stored there (though not all files will be recognised by BeOS).

Note that BeOS 5 Personal Edition can only recognise one processor. If you have a multiprocessor system, you should purchase the BeOS 5 Pro Edition.

Cards and hardware

Your graphics card, sound card, network card, or other hardware device may not work with BeOS 5, whether you have the Personal or the Pro Edition. For a full list of compatible hardware, check the list at www.be.com/products/ freebeos/beosreadylist.html.

Before installing BeOS, you should read the notes in the Hands On section of the CD-ROM.

Blender (BeOS and Windows)

Blender is a powerful 3D modelling and rendering package available on several platforms. Featuring a versatile animation system, advanced rendering and deformation tools, inverse kinematics and an editor for post-production, Blender can create commercials and other broadcast quality content, as well as multimedia and 3D

Create broadcast-quality 3D animations using Blender

game content for PCs and game consoles.

We have included both Windows and BeOS versions. The latter can be found in the \software\blender\ folder on the CD,

Pinball's fun with RollemUp

and is supplied as a compressed TAR file. Uncompress this (using WinZIP, for example) and copy the files to a folder on your hard disk, then install from within BeOS. The Windows version can be copied and unzipped directly from the CD menu.

RollemUp

Another good example of what BeOS is capable of is a pinball game, and again we've supplied both Windows and BeOS versions (the BeOS version files can be found in \software\rollemup\ beos\rollemup 1.1\). To get you started quickly, there's also the Windows version you can install and run from the CD menu.

Uninstallation

BeOS comes with its own uninstaller. Ensure that the CD is inserted in its drive, then simply select Start > Programs > BeOS 5 Personal Edition> Uninstall BeOS 5 Personal Edition and follow the on-screen instructions.

HANDS ON

You'll find files mentioned in this month's Hands On workshops in the following folders on the CD: \hands on\databases\, \hands on\pda\, and \hands on\vis prog\. Please refer to the Hands On section in this issue for details of these files.

The CD also contains **RealProducer** and **CuteFTP** – both relevant to this month's Hands On. RealProducer 7.0 converts your audio and video files or live feeds into RealAudio and RealVideo for the Internet or your intranet. Check out the Real website at

www.realnetworks.com/products/producer/info.html for more information about this product and RealProducer Plus 7.0. (See Streaming Media workshop p152.)

CuteFTP 4.0 (30-day trial)

CuteFTP is an award-winning FTP client that transfers files via the Internet faster than any web browser. Its easy-to-use interface and robust features include Encrypted Site Manager, Smart Keep Alive and Quick Connect Bar and make CuteFTP a must-have for beginners and power users.

MessageASAP

MessageASAP is an innovative software package that allows you to access and manage all message types and multiple email accounts, providing total location and device independence.
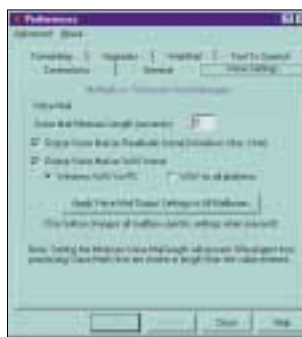
How does it work?

MessageASAP consists of two major components: OfficeAgent® (which resides on the client PC) and software on the OfficeDomain portal. OfficeAgent, the heart of the system, receives all faxes and voicemail messages. It converts all inbound faxes and voicemail messages to file formats that are compatible with the industry leading browsers. So, it doesn't matter what browser is being used – Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Communicator. And these files can be viewed without any additional plug-ins or software.

Plus, OfficeAgent instantly puts them all in the user's inbox as email attachments.

You can program OfficeAgent so you never miss an important message

OfficeAgent can also be programmed to send an alert to a pager or PCS cell phone when an incoming message arrives so an important email, fax or voice message never needs to be missed. Each message received has specific information attached to it (ie From, Date, Time) based on CallerID. All messages are then uploaded to your POP3 email account. Replies to messages can be done quickly. Every message from a known sender has the correct email address attached to it, allowing easy response via email. In addition, the user's personal address book of phone numbers and email addresses is

online on the same web page.

Work mate

You can use MessageASAP instead of an answering machine, fax machine or answering service. MessageASAP can receive your emails, faxes and voice messages and present them in an orderly fashion on your local machine or on your own web page.

Your personal web page can then be accessed via a browser on any computer that can access the Internet. This will allow you to access, view and manage all of your messages while travelling, no matter where you are as long as you can access the Internet.

SPECIAL READER OFFER

When installed, a code on the CD activates the software. You will receive an email to advise you of this and another at around 60 days alerting you to the end of the free promotional offer. The package also includes the following three products.

MessageASAP Upgrade allows you to retrieve voice and fax messages without having to enter the MessageASAP portal — so there's no need to change ISP, phone number or email address. It includes a further 20MB of disk space on the server, plus AdFreeASAP, which eliminates the banner ads when viewing the webmail account.

MessageASAP upgrade also entitles you to future upgrades and phone support.

AlertASAP is ideal for use when travelling. This premium product sends notification of all new email, fax and voice messages to your pager or PCS phone. It includes filtering capabilities so that you can choose which messages you want to be alerted about.

AutoResponder sends an automatic response to messages received at times when you are unavailable or unable to respond. You can filter AutoResponder and select which messages should receive a response.

DETAILS

PLATFORM Windows 95, 98, or NT4; Pentium 90 or higher; 16MB of hard disk space plus additional space for voice and fax storage; 32MB of RAM minimum; Netscape Navigator 3 or later, or MS Internet Explorer 3 or later; 14K or faster modem, voice/data, speakers and microphone. Caller ID recommended but not required

UNINSTALLING MessageASAP comes with its own uninstaller. Ensure that the CD is in its drive, then simply select Start > Programs > MessageASAP > UninstallMessageASAP and follow the on-screen instructions.

Technical information to help you use the CD

● **How to use the CD-ROMs**
Put the disc into your CD drive:
If you've got **Windows 9x**, the *PCW* interactive loader will appear on your screen. If your CD doesn't autoload, go to Start/Run and type in **<CD Drive>:\pcw.exe** Please note: the CD is designed to run on Windows 9x although some of the software may also run on other versions.

● **Technical support**
We cannot offer technical support on individual programs contained on the CD-ROM. You may find help in the SUPPORT section on the CD, or by visiting the SUPPORT WEBSITE at **www.pcw.vnunet.com/cd**. For general problems with the CD, the Technical Helpline is

open weekdays from 10:30am to 12:30pm and 1.30pm to 4:30pm on **01685 354726**.

● **Faulty discs**
If you have a faulty disc please return it with your name and address, clearly marked '**PCW CD July 2000**' to:
TIB plc
HelpLine Returns
Unit 5 Triangle Business Park
Pentrebach
Merthyr Tydfill
Mid Glamorgan CF48 4YB
quoting ref '**PCW Vol 23 No 7**'. A replacement disc will be sent to you. NOTE: *These cannot be supplied direct from VNU.*

● **Getting software on to the CD**
Personal Computer World is keen to promote quality software and would like to hear from you if you are interested in having your product included on a future cover disc. For cover-mount enquiries only please telephone Mick Andon on 07968 330670 or email mick@andon.co.uk

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The publisher, VNU, has checked the *PCW* CD-ROM for known viruses at all stages of production, but cannot accept liability for damage caused either to your data or your computer system, which may occur while using either the disc or any software contained on it. If you do not agree with these conditions, you should not use the disc.