





GROUP TESTS

STUDENT PCS

160 SYSTEMS FOR LEARNING

Having your own PC when you're at school or university can be a godsend, so we examined 16 systems aimed at students to see how they scored

- 176 HOW WE DID THE TESTS
- **177** TEST RESULTS
- **180** TABLE OF FEATURES
- 183 EDITOR'S CHOICE

17IN MONITORS

186 THE BIG PICTURE

What you see isn't always what you get and price is not always the best guide, so turn to this group test to find out which of our 13 monitors hits the spot

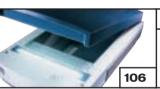
- 192 GLOSSARY OF MONITOR TERMS
- **198** TABLE OF FEATURES
 - **HOW WE DID THE TESTS**
- **200** EDITOR'S CHOICE

SME SERVERS

202 SERVER CITY

Small businesses are looking to client/server environments for their networks and buying the right server is vital, so we put 10 to the test

- **213** CHOOSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE
- **214** NAS AND SAN EXPLAINED
- 219 TEST RESULTS
 - **HOW WE DID THE TESTS**
- 220 TABLE OF FEATURES **222** EDITOR'S CHOICE











REVIEWS

HARDWARE

- **PANRIX FUSION SCSI 933**
 - Dual-FC-PGA system
- **73 MESH MATRIX GT ULTRA**
- 1GHz Athlon PC
- **DELL PRECISION 420 EXCLUSIVE**
 - High-end Linux workstation
- **SHARP PC-AX10**
 - Ultra-slim, lightweight notebook
- 80 HP OMNIBOOK 6000
 - Corporate notebook
 - **GATEWAY SOLO 9300XL**
 - Highly-specced desktop replacement
- **HI-GRADE ULTINOTE AS8300**
- Notebook with room for expansion
- **BUSH INTERNET TV**
 - A telly for browsing the web

PERIPHERALS

- 86 SONY NW-MS7 - EXCLUSIVE
 - Sleek, solid-state Walkman
- COMPAQ IPAQ H3600 Great looking Pocket PC PDA

- SONY CMD-Z5
 - WAP, email and answerphone
- 3DFX VOODOO5 5500
- Graphics card with FSAA features
- HERCULES 3D PROPHET II
 - 64MB graphics card
 - **POWERLEAP NEO-S370**
 - Solution for compatibility problems
- 101 PIONEER DVR-S201
 - A must for DVD authors
- 103 CANON DIGITAL IXUS
 - Compact, stylish camera
- **105** EPSON PHOTOPC 3000Z
- 3.3megapixel camera **106** UMAX POWERLOOK 1100
 - FireWire scanner for trannies
 - CANOSCAN FB1210U
 - Simple-to-use scanner
- 108 CTX EX1300
 - 21in shadow-mask monitor
 - **TAXAN ERGOVISION 985**
- A fine 19in screen **109** KODAK V600 ZOOM
 - LCD projector for mobile presenters

- 109 IBM DESKSTAR 75GXP
 - IDE hard drive
- **WESTERN DIGITAL 1394**
 - External FireWire drive
 - **HP DESKJET 350C SERIES**
 - Mobile printer
- 112 HP OFFICEJET G85
 - The multifunction device returns
- **BURN-PROOF CD-RWS**
 - CD burners from Plextor and Mirai

SOFTWARE

- 122 IPSWITCH WS_FTP PRO 6.5
 - FTP client for Windows
 - **HEMERA PHOTO OBJECTS**
 - Library of 50,000 pictures
- 126 FILEMAKER PRO 5
 - Database management system

BUSINESS

- 128 ELSA AIRLANCER
 - Wireless LAN
- **130** GNAT BOX GB100
 - Firewall to help with security

CONTENTS

SEPTEMBER 2000







PCWEXPERT

225 SCANNERS

Our brand new section takes an in-depth look at scanners – their history, the technology involved, the future, and we've put together three workshops to help you scan for print, and the web and for film

COMPETITION

442 WIN A GREAT PHILIPS MONITOR

Take our screen test for a chance to win one of three screens, ranging from a 17in right up to a massive 21in monster

FEATURES

138 IMAGE EDITING FOR ALL

If you're feeling creative and want to be artistic with your photos, this is required reading. Ken McMahon explains image editing and three workshops offer step-by-step guides to producing great results

150 50 HARDWARE TIPS

Everything you ever wanted to know about your PC's hardware but didn't want to ask. Gordon Laing has 50 ways to keep your PC in tip-top condition

158 MATING ROBOTS

If you thought humans were in control of robots, think again, because it won't be long before these inanimate objects will be designing and reproducing themselves

COVER DISC

MAGIX MUSIC MAKER 2.0 AND XARA 3D V1

Compose your own music with the full version of MAGIX music maker 2.0; and if you want to create 3D text give Xara 3D a whirl

DVD-ROM COVER DISC

If you've bought the DVD version, turn to page 20 for details. We've packed in M.Y.O.B version 6, PhotoPaint 2000, Attica Interactive World Atlas, Checklt 5, some great games and much, much more. Each month only a limited number of issues will carry a DVD-ROM, so turn to page 10 for details of how to subscribe to this special edition or buy the DVD-ROM separately

HANDS ON

245 CONTENTS

246 OUESTION TIME

250 **WORKSHOP: EXCEL**Shortcuts to keep accounts in order

253 WINDOWS

Beware 'free' software

256 windows 2000

The key to a secure environment

258 WINDOWS NT

We check out bus mastering

260 UNIX

Finishing the ADSL router project

264 HARDWARE

BX outpaces RDRAM

268 OFFICE APPLICATIONS

Creating indexes and Gantt charts

270 DATABASES

Password-checking software

272 SOUND

A look at Windows Media Player

274 GRAPHICS & DTP

Cutouts with Photoshop's erasers

276 3D GRAPHICS

Making sense of Blender

279 VISUAL PROGRAMMING

Microsoft's SOAP is put to work

282 WEB DEVELOPMENT

Create an online guestbook

285 PDA

Checking out slots and CE apps

288 ECOMMERCE

Don't rely on spam to advertise

291 NETWORKS

Detect and fix cabling problems

NFWS

25 GATES FIGHTS BACK

Microsoft targets web in \$2b fightback. First Transmeta machines. WAP under more fire. ADSL hiccups

LEISURE LINES

434 PREVIEWS

435 GAMES

Diablo II, MDK 2, Vampire: The Masquerade – Redemption, Shogun – Total War

441 BRAINTEASERS AND CROSSWORD

443 FLASHBACK

444 RETRO

Remembering the Atari ST

REGULARS

9 EDITORIAL

10 CONTACT US

11 INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

52 INSIDE INFORMATION

56 STRAIGHT TALKING

59 BUSINESS MATTERS

63 404 NOT FOUND

67 LETTERS

133 BEST BUYS

421 MICROMART

431 BUYING ADVICE & BUYERS' CHARTER

432 READER OFFERS