



hands on

contents

We have a new column this month, Tim Anderson's *Web Development*. If you have a serious interest in becoming a **webmaster**, then keep your eyes peeled for insights into scripting, database access, and dynamically generated web pages. Future columns will take an in-depth look at **JavaScript**, using cookies to identify users and preserve state. We'll be introducing and using **Document Object Models**, **Server Side Includes**, and much, much more. Stay tuned — there's a lot to look forward to!

We're halfway through our millennium countdown, so Roger Gann ups the tension by covering the now-neglected (by Bill Gates, at any rate) **DOS** [p198].

Elsewhere sees Mark Whitehorn **upgrading a PDA** [p212] — yes, it can be done — and David Fearon championing the art of parallelism to search for extra-terrestrial life [p226].

As always, the contents of the *Hands On* columns are really down to you, the reader, so please feel free to send comments and suggestions to the contributors direct, or to myself.

IAN ROBSON, HANDS ON EDITOR
IAN_ROBSON@VNU.CO.UK

YEAR 2000

198 DOS

Microsoft has washed its hands of DOS, as Roger Gann explains, but other versions can be patched.

WORKSHOPS

194 Caligari trueSpace 2

Plunge into 3D animation with Geoff Bains' tutorial on directing a clown's wild and crazy wobble.

OPERATING SYSTEMS

202 Windows

Reasons to partition. Tim Nott advises on the most efficient use of swapfiles and virtual memory.

208 Windows NT

Disk management needn't drive you mad if you take the sage counsel of Andrew Ward.

215 Unix

Chris Bidmead's enlightened look at the up-and-coming stars of the Linux GUIs and virtual workstations in the workplace.

218 OS/2

Terence Green answers your networking questions, and there's a timely reminder that the Year 2000 is just around the corner.

240 Mac

Boldly go where Captain Kirk has gone before. Cliff Joseph steps up to the mike with speech recognition in Mac OS 8.6.

APPLICATIONS

220 Word Processing

Sensitive material and volatile macros kept at bay by Tim Nott.

222 Spreadsheets

Excel with customisation and functional tips from between the spreadsheets, with Stephen Wells.

224 Databases

Mark Whitehorn marvels at the biggest and the smallest databases you can have.

230 Sound

Steven Helstrip looks at optimising your system for increased audio performance.

232 Graphics & DTP

Statistical representation with some flair can be more effectively produced through a basic draw package, says Ken McMahon.

234 3D Graphics

A touch of post-production can prove very effective, writes Benjamin Woolley.

PROGRAMMING

236 Visual Programming

Tim Anderson looks at COM add-ins, the exciting new way to extend Office applications.

MISCELLANEOUS

199 Internet

A bumper Q&A session, with Nigel Whitfield, reveals some truths about the internet.

206 Web Development **NEW!**

Tim Anderson looks at Server Side Includes in the new *Hands On* column for web developers.

212 PDAs

Mark Whitehorn takes the plunge with a ROM-replacing PDA operating-system upgrade.

226 Hardware

David Fearon reveals how the search for ET has highlighted the power of parallel computing.

243 Networks

Bob Walder continues his mini-series on mail servers, expanding on the Internet Mail Connection.

PCW Hands On section on CD-Rom

Now it's easy to find that *Hands On* tip, trick, advice or review again — there's a whole year's worth of columns on our monthly PCW CD-ROM. So if that handy hint is on the tip of your tongue, don't sit and sweat; the answer is at your fingertips.