

PCW Christmas Quiz

As the long winter nights draw in, there's nothing better than a fun festive quiz to test the old grey matter. Of course, being a computer magazine we're going to have to ask you a load of technology questions instead, but you get the general idea.

In the tradition of all good competitions, we've got a great incentive for trawling through our festive 50 brainteasers. Our first prize is nothing less than a superb Canon Powershot A5 digital camera worth £500, while 20 lucky runners-up will each receive a copy of Microsoft Encarta 1999 Reference Suite, price £99 apiece. To stand a chance of winning, all you need to do is answer as many of the following 50 questions as possible.

The entry with the most correct answers wins the camera, and the next 20 get the reference suites. Good luck!



HOW TO ENTER

Please mark your answers directly on these pages or a photocopy, and, remembering to include your name and address, pop them in an envelope and then send them to:

Gordon "Santa" Laing
PCW Christmas Quiz
VNU House
32-34 Broadwick Street
London W1A 2HG
Last entry day: 4th January 1999

RULES OF ENTRY

This competition is open to readers of PCW, except for employees (and their families) of VNU Business Publications. The Editor is the sole judge of the quiz and his decision is final. No cash alternative is available in lieu of competition prizes.

Section 1: Famous faces

You know the name and have heard the gossip, but what do they actually look like? Identify the following five people from their photo and an industry clue. Choose your answers from the list of names below:



1. This man has been called (notably by his own publicists) the Bill Gates of the East.



2. This co-founder of a US giant says paranoia is the basis of his business philosophy.



3. This man popularised the term "pervasive computing" — but not enough to save his job, in 1995.



4. This Englishman should profit from the trend to mobile devices.



5. F...F...F... er, find the man who recently pulled off one the biggest ever company takeovers.

Choose from the following names:

A: Yoshinori Kobe of Matsushita **B:** Andy Grove of Intel **C:** The late Gary Kildall of Digital Research **D:** Hermann Hauser of Acorn and Advanced RISC Machines **E:** Tsutomu Kanai of Hitachi **F:** Lee Kun-Hee of Samsung **G:** Robin Saxby of Advanced RISC Machines **H:** Eckhard Pfeiffer of Compaq **I:** Stan Shih of Acer **J:** Ray Noorda of Novell **K:** Michael Cowpland of Corel **L:** Bob Frankenberg of Novell **M:** David Potter of Psion UK **N:** Larry Ellison of Oracle **O:** Jim Clarke of Netscape.

Section 2: True or false?

It's very simple: tell us which of the following statements are true, and which are false.

6. There is a vacuum in a hard disk.

True

☐

False

☐

7. The anode in a CRT monitor runs at 5000V.

☐
☐

8. Each USB device requires 100mA of power to be configured.

☐
☐

9. L2 cache speed on a Celeron is faster than that on a PII of an equivalent clock rating.

☐
☐

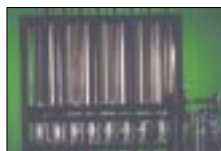
10. To be sold legally in this country, all PCs have to pass CE testing.

☐
☐

Section 3: History

In the first of our historic sections, rack your brains or search the library for clues on the following:

11. What, or rather who, is the link between a reputedly incestuous Romantic poet and a military programming language?



Science and Society Picture Library

12. William Gibson named a novel after this mechanical precursor to the computer (*left*). What was the latter called?

13. In which year was the IBM PC launched? _____

14. Microsoft's new PC operating system was remarkably similar to the then market-leading OS, written by Digital Research. What was this called?

15. Attending this year's 50th anniversary of the first stored-program computer, built at Manchester University, was the first modern programmer. What is his name?

Section 4: Game on!

This is a quick quiz for all you game-gurus out there. Below are the names and pictures of five characters that have starred in top PC games this year. All you have to do is match them up with the game titles listed:



16. Red Lotus



17. Gex



18. Edmond Lucy
Fentible



19. Max Damage



20. Adam Crowley

Choose from the following games:

A: Starship Titanic **B:** Deathtrap Dungeon **C:** Nightmare Creatures **D:** Enter the Gecko **E:** Carmageddon II

Section 5: Industry news

It's not just politics that has a penchant for surprise movers and shakers, scandal and dirty deeds. All that can be had in the IT industry too! So we thought it would be fun, as part of this quiz, to test your knowledge on industry news. Here are five questions based on events in the IT sector over the last year:

21. In the Microsoft anti-trust trial, David Boies, aka the "antitrust wizard", has been brought in as special prosecutor. What other famous anti-trust trial did Boies take part in? We want to know which company he defended and how long the trial lasted for. And one more little teaser on the Microsoft front: what's the link between the Microsoft trial and President Clinton?

22. Which networking company has recently been scooped up by giant chipmaker Intel, and what is that networking company's link to Scotland?

23. The "new" millennium problem is having to cope with a new phone numbering system. What is the exact date the numbering system is due to come in to effect?

24. Where can you fill your trolley with PCs and an ISP connection?

25. We all know about the new iMac from Apple. But what does the "i" in iMac stand for? Is it:

a) Intranet, **b)** Internet, **c)** Innovative, or **d)** Incomplete? Sorry, I mean **e)** Ideal? _____

Section 6: Acronyms

We all use acronyms every day, but how many of us know what they really stand for?

26. ACPI _____ 27. ATAPI _____
 28. CMOS _____ 29. LVDS _____
 30. RADSL _____

Section 7: Name that font

There's more to fonts than just Arial and Times New Roman. Try to name the following examples to see if you're our type. Take your pick from the list below:


31. Merry Christmas ☐ 32. *Merry Christmas* ☐ 33. **Merry Christmas** ☐
 34. **MERRY CHRISTMAS** ☐ 35. *Merry Christmas* ☐

Choose from the following fonts:

A: Palatino **B:** Courier **C:** Zapf Chancery **D:** Meta **E:** Futura **F:** Dolce Vita **G:** Mekanik **H:** Garamond **I:** Elli **J:** Helvetica

Section 8: Who did what, and when?

Everyone's heard of Bill Gates and Larry Ellison, but how much PC history do you have at your fingertips?

36. Who missed an important meeting with IBM in 1980 and changed the course of William Gates's life? _____
 37. Who invented the mouse, and which Palo Alto research facility did they go on to work for? _____
 38.  + ? = Java. Name the person and Java's previous incarnation. _____

39. Who invented the Apple II with this man?  _____

40. Who is the father of the original 1979 "killer app" and what was it called? _____

Section 9: Bandwidths

One for the true winter anorak wearers. If you thought the acronyms were too easy, try telling us what the bandwidth or throughputs of the following standards are — and make sure you get your units right!

41. USB _____ 42. Bluetooth _____ 43. SCSI U2W _____
 44. Dolby Digital 5.1 on DVD or LD _____ 45. ISDN D channel _____

Section 10: Robots and computers in the movies

Finally, no computer quiz would be complete without a few questions on famous computers and robots on the small and silver screens.

46. What was wrong with the R2 unit whose demise allowed R2-D2 to join C-3PO and work for Luke Skywalker's uncle?
 47. John Connor uses a handheld computer to steal cash from ATMs in Terminator 2. What is the make and model?
 48. (i) What does the indestructible car KITT's name stand for? (ii) Name his prototype.
 49. What is the name of Commander Data's brother?
 50. Who were the makers of Gromit's Techno Trousers?

