PERSONAL COMPUTER WORLD

CONTENTS

GROUP TESTS

142 Ultimate Business PCs

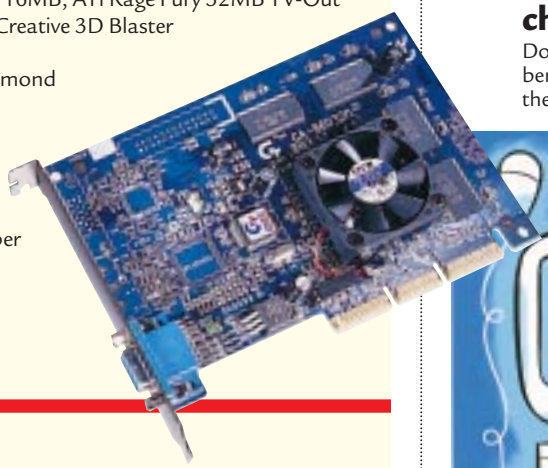
If you're using a PC for eight hours a day, five days a week, you want it to be up to the job. We put machines aimed at the small business through their paces.

147 Atlas Meridian 450, Big Red Computers Mercury 450
148 Carrera Octan M550, Compaq Prosignia
152 Dell Dimension T500, Elonex ProSentia
156 Evesham Vale Athlon TNT2, Gateway GP7-500
157 Hi-Grade Computers Ultis PVIII, How to set up network printing
162 Mesh Computers Professional 500B, Panrix Avenia
165 Polar Panache P3-500, Adding a server to your network
168 Tiny Office Powerhouse, Viglen Homepro P3-500 DWR
167 Test results
174 Table of features
176 **Editor's Choice**

178 Graphics cards

Our team of reviewers strap themselves in and prepare for some serious graphics acceleration, with 21 of the industry's leading cards on test.

180 3dfx Voodoo3 2000, 3dfx Voodoo3 3000, 3dfx Voodoo3 3500 TV
181 AOpen PA3000 Plus, AOpen PA3020, Asus AGP-V3800 Deluxe
182 ATi All-in-Wonder 128, ATi Rage Fury 16MB, ATi Rage Fury 32MB TV-Out
184 Creative 3D Blaster Riva TNT2 Ultra, Creative 3D Blaster Savage4, Diamond Stealth III S540
186 Diamond Stealth III S540 Xtreme, Diamond Viper V770 Ultra, Elsa Erazor III
187 The future of graphics cards
188 Gigabyte GA-660, Guillemot Maxi Gamer Xentor 32, Matrox Millennium G400
189 Matrox Millennium G400 Max, Number Nine SR9, VideoLogic Neon 250
190 Test results
192 How we tested
194 Table of features
197 **Editor's Choice**



200 Web editors

Building a website can be so much easier if you have the right software. Nik Rawlinson checks out how you can spin that web.

202 **High-end business users**: Adobe GoLive 4, Microsoft FrontPage 2000, Macromedia Dreamweaver 2, Allaire HomeSite 4
205 **Home and small-office users**: SoftQuad HoTMetaL Pro 5, Adobe PageMill 3, Claris HomePage 3, Web Page Construction Kit 5, Symantec VisualPage 2
210 Table of features
211 Registering a domain name
212 **Editor's Choice**

FEATURES

114 Upgrading

Whatever your price point, we have some suggestions on how to add value to your PC

126 Presentations

How to put on a good show and make sure your audience gets your message

134 Millennium lookback

A brief history of the major events in the computing industry

138 Computing for children

Do PCs offer the educational benefits that are claimed or can they stunt children's learning?

466 Schools giveaway

Collect the tokens to get great educational software for your kids

PERSONAL COMPUTER WORLD

REVIEWS

NEW PRODUCTS

73 **Hi-Grade Notino AS7400**
The first ever portable Pentium III

74 **Carrera Octan M700**
Impressive Athlon-powered PC

75 **Fujitsu Stylistic LT**
Slim portable makes for rich pickings

78 **SGi 540 Virtual Workstation**
Affordable graphics workstation

81 **Sharp PC-A280**
Ultra-portable with ultra-sharp screen

82 **Panrix Fusion 600 Pro**
Intel 820 PC

83 **Sony Cybershot DSC-F505**
Zoom-tastic digital camera

85 **3Com Palm IIIe Special Edition**
Re-inventing the Palm III

85 **Oregon Scientific Osaris**
Great value Epoc-based PDA

88 **Atlas Meridian A700**
Future-proof, high-end PC

90 **Dell Inspiron 7500**
Fully-featured notebook

94 **Evesham Vale Athlon GeForce 650**
A PC for the power-crazed

96 **HP Pavilion 8530**
Good-looking consumer box

97 **SuSE Linux 6.2**
Perfectly-formed Linux distribution

98 **FileMaker Pro 5**
Mac database manager goes PC

100 **MGI Photosuite III**
Photo-editing suite gets a makeover

102 **Emagic Logic Audio Gold 4.0**
Colourful music software

103 **JSB Surfcontrol and Netsiren UC2**
Software that lets you keep tabs on who's doing what on the Internet

HEAD TO HEAD

106 **Removable media vs removable hard disk**
How can you ensure you recover all your data in an emergency?

REGULARS

9 Editorial

10 Subscriptions & Back Issues

12 Cover Disc Notes
Full versions of A Brief History of Time, and OnCue

27 News & Analysis
BT under fire; first look at Merced; Intel chip bug horror

67 Letters

70 Gadgets

216 Best Buys

284 Futures
We travel back in time to see how many whacky new ideas actually became a reality

458 Faxback Service

460 Reader Offers

462 Brainteasers and crossword

464 Competitions
WIN! an HP CD writer and labeller kit, plus a Digital MP3 Player

468 Flashback

348 Retro

LEISURE LINES

274 News

275 Screenplay
Grand Theft Auto 2, System Shock 2, Shadow Man, Dark Stone

280 Kids
The Castle under Siege, British Isles Explorer

281 Books
Microsoft Office 2000 Professional at a Glance, Growing Up Digital, Outlook Annoyances, Official Figher's Kompanion

COLUMNS

57 Inside Information
There are many differences between ISPs, says Gordon Laing

59 Straight Talking
Follow your nose to the ozone zone, advises Barry Fox

62 Business Matters
The Java revolution hasn't happened, says Brian Clegg

64 Out of Site
Paul Smith finds that his new baby is as demanding as his website

285 Direct Buyers' World

293 Buying Advice & Buyers' Charter

439 Micromart

453 Directory of Product Suppliers

456 Index of Advertisers

hands on advice

223 **Introduction**
A look at this month's features

224 **Workshop: Webcam**
Watching me, watching you over the web

226 **Year 2000: Networks**
Keep your network running over the millennium

227 **Internet**
What you pay for when registering a domain name

229 **Windows**
Passwords, partitions and colourful crashes

235 **Web Development**
What happens when you Submit

238 **Windows NT**
The future of NT on Alpha

242 **PDAs**
Faster Psions and fishy CE

245 **Unix**
Samba step-by-step, and rooting around the Unix filesystem

248 **OS/2**
Tips on how to keep up in the high-speed net access race

250 **Word Processing**
Finger trouble with shortcut keys in Lotus Pro

252 **Spreadsheets**
Back to basics with the first spreadsheet

254 **Databases**
Problematic postcodes in Access

256 **Hardware**
Keeping in touch on the move

260 **Sound**
MIDI timing and aural problems

262 **Graphics & DTP**
A toy to make a world of your own

264 **3D Graphics**
Flights of fancy and animation

266 **Visual Programming**
The right toolbars and a Delphi frame of mind

270 **Mac**
Turning your Mac into a machine for playing PlayStation games

272 **Networks**
How to get an e-certificate