

# WHAT PC? AND SOFTWARE



## Cover CD

### 6 What CD? number fourteen

Our fully-interactive cover CD is now better than ever. Each month, you'll find the latest games and multimedia demos; Internet pages galore; our interactive Getting Started guide to PCs; a Software Library section filled with essential shareware and utilities; graphics in the arts section; a 12-month back-issues index of *What PC?*; the complete previous issue of the magazine to read on disc; plus more than 500 pages of Hands on articles; and much, much more.

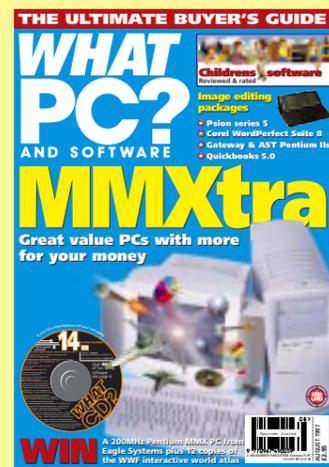


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## Cover story

### 58 Great-value MMX PCs



As manufacturers jump on the MMX bandwagon, prices for PCs based on this technology are falling. You can now get an MMX machine for around £1,400 – in fact, in most cases you'd be mad to buy anything else. This month we test eight of the latest 166MHz systems designed to give you more for your money.

## Features

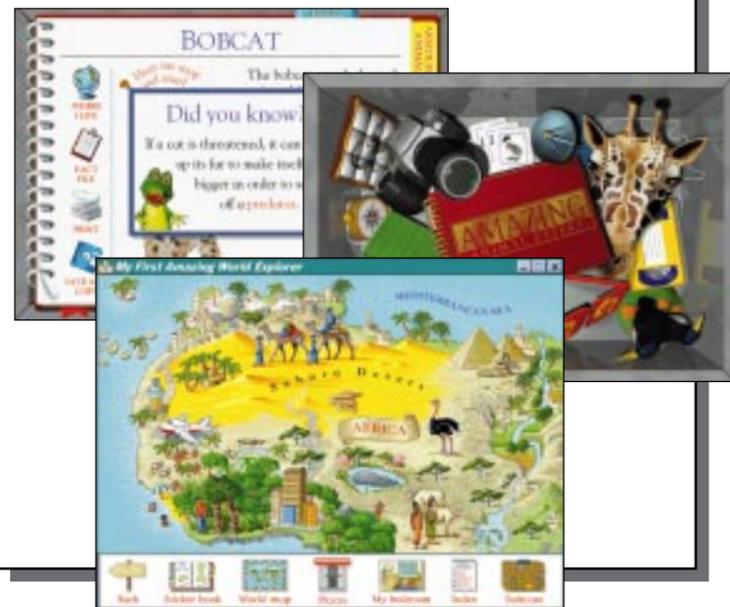
### 72 Image-editing software

Image-editing software can transform pictures as if by magic. We review the latest personal and professional packages.



### 84 Children's software

Learning is more fun these days with a multitude of exciting educational packages for children of all ages. In our roundup we pick out the best from the rest.



## Reviews

### 21 Up front

**Psion Series 5** The long-awaited next-generation hand-held Personal Digital Assistant from Psion.  
**Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 beta preview** Updated office suite including word processing, spreadsheet and graphics.  
**ALPS MD-2300 Masterpiece** Sub-£1,000 colour printer.  
**QuickMail Pro 1.0** E-mail program with added features.  
**Gateway 2000 G6-266XL** Pentium II desktop PC.  
**AST Bravo LC 6233** PC workstation with 233MHz Pentium II.  
**Canon BJC-5500** Four-colour bubblejet that can print on A2.  
**QuickBooks Accounting and Payroll 5.0** Accounting package for small businesses, including payroll application.  
**Tiny Accelerator PR200 AMD Printer System** 200MHz MMX PC supplied with Lexmark colour inkjet printer.  
**Packard Bell-NEC Versa 2535** Big-screen colour notebook at an entry-level price.

### 46 In brief

**AA MileMaster Britain & Ireland** Route-planning package.  
**PrestoPrint Suite** Graphics utilities and a printing tool.  
**QuickCD** External CD-ROM drive for notebook computers.  
**Multimedia Training for Windows 95** Computer-based training package for Windows 95.  
**Virtual London** Tourist guide to London on CD-ROM.  
**VideoLogic Captivator PCI/VC** Video-conferencing at a budget price.  
**STB Nitro 3D Multimedia Accelerator** 3D graphics accelerator with impressive bundle of games.  
**Panasonic KXL-600A** The smallest digital still camera *What PC?* has ever seen.  
**DataSafe** Security tool to keep your PC files hidden and safe from prying eyes.  
**TEAC CD-524E** 24-speed CD-ROM drive.  
**ViewSonic Optique V773** 17in monitor.

## Regulars

**13 News** hardware and software latest.  
**51 Letters** and competition winners.  
**53 Competition** One lucky reader will win a 200MMX PC from Eagle Systems, and 12 runners-up will get a copy of the WWF Interactive World Atlas.  
**133 Question time** Write to us with your PC problem – if we print your letter, you'll receive a copy of either MS Works or Publisher.  
**180 Reader survey** Give your views and you could win one of two VideoLogic Apocalypse 3Dx graphics cards.  
**180 Faxline** *What PC?* pages via your fax.  
**214 Back page** Next month; book reviews; and Paul Wardley is driven crazy by journalists who insist on using car analogies to describe computers.  
**215 Product index**

## What PC? buyer's guide

Essential advice and information for beginners, plus the most comprehensive buyer's tables on the market.



### 167 Buyer's guide contents

getting started

**5 & 168 Getting started** The ultimate beginner's guide to personal computing.

**181 How to buy** Detailed advice for buyers, including a checklist and a self-questionnaire to help you reach a decision.

### 184 Buyer's charter

**185 Tables** Make an informed choice from our comprehensive listings of the latest PCs, software & peripherals – including specifications, prices and manufacturers' contact numbers.



## What PC? on the Web

If you have access to the Internet, you can now visit the *What PC?* Web site at: [www.whatpc.vnu.co.uk](http://www.whatpc.vnu.co.uk)

## After hours

### 114 Games

Have a go at the new *Star Wars* game, halt some pig-napping aliens in their tracks and test your speed in our POD competition.

### 121 Family

TV character and children's favourite Pingu the penguin comes to CD-ROM, we find out all about classic cars and try out a package that makes chemistry fun.

### 127 On line

Terry Pinnell squeezes into a Mini Web site, listens to live radio and does some crosswords.