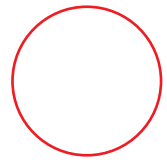# letters

Write to *What PC?* Editorial, 32-34 Broadwick Street, London W1A 2HG. We offer a copy of the highly informative *The What PC? Guide to your PC* for the best letter

## Libretto wanted

I read with interest the short article relating to the Toshiba Libretto sub-A4 PC featured in your April News section.

I have known about the Libretto for some months and believe it fills a large gap in the market. It is limited where the hard disk space is concerned and would also benefit from double the RAM, but apart from this, at £1,500 it would be ideal for some people.

The snag is Toshiba. Not only do they say it is unavailable in Europe, they won't even speak to you about it! In fact, you might suspect that it was a cover for some dastardly plot against the government judging by the reaction I got. They were very clear they could not support the machine technically or otherwise; they were adamant that they were not prepared to assist even with advice about how I could purchase one from Japan, even if I was so inclined.

I faxed Toshiba in Japan and they eventually replied, with a similarly unhelpful response – evidently the party line! I presume that these machines are sitting on shelves in the Tokyo equivalent of Dixon's? And that anyone with enough savvy and fluent in Japanese could walk in and buy one? So what is their problem?

Short of going to Japan myself, or getting someone to go for me, are there ways of buying such items when the mother company says 'Oi, consumer....NO!'?

*Paul Adkins,*
*adkinsmalvern@enterprise.net*

**When the April Libretto story was written, Toshiba had no plans to introduce a similar machine to Europe. Three months is a long time in computing, however, and, on June 2, Toshiba did launch a Eur-**

opean version of the Libretto amongst its new range of notebook PCs.

A more detailed description of the new Libretto can be found in our News in this month's issue, and you can expect a full review as soon as we can get our hands on one.

## Cover disc dilemma

I am getting fed up with the number of cover disc features that don't work on my machine (P150+, 16Mb of RAM, 1Gb hard disk, AWE32 sound card, etc). I am sure most people like myself scrutinise all the cover discs to see what's on them and use this as a basis to decide whether to buy the magazine.

I bought the March issue of *What PC?* with the Sega Rally demo on the cover disc, but to no avail. I bought the April issue

for the Destruction Derby 2 Demo, again to no avail. The problem this time was slightly different – the game tells me that I only have a Pentium 486.

I have read that Windows does not recognise the P150+ chip as a Pentium equivalent. My question is, will more software in future search the machine for the configuration and fail to run because it can't find a Pentium?

If so, I think that you should warn people not to buy a Cyrix-based PC. Is there any way to fool the software into thinking there is a Pentium inside?

*Jim Gray*
*Jim.Gray@UK.honeywell.com*

**An interesting point, Jim. According to Cyrix, the 6x86 processor has been fully certified by Microsoft for Windows 95. However, the algorithm that detects which processor is inside the machine was designed before the 6x86 was launched, which is why it reports it as being a 486.**

**On the whole, you should not see any compatibility**

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## Zip tip

In Paul Wardley's article in the March issue he suggests using Winzip to archive old files and so save hard disk space. I would like to tell you about the system I use which is an extension of his suggestion.

First, I keep all my work in hand in one place on my hard disk, a directory (sorry, folder) called 'files' from which I have a sub-folder for each customer. I also have another folder which I call 'zipfiles' in which are 'zip' files with the same names as the customer folders.

Every so often, I open two Explorer windows on my desktop, one showing my 'files' folder and the other showing my 'zipfiles' folder. I can then use Winzip's drag-and-drop support to simply drag files from the customer folder to the appropriate zipfile. Winzip does the rest, starting up and adding the selected files to the archive. It then closes itself down conveniently leaving the original files still selected so that one tap on the delete key gets rid of them.

I have shortcuts on my desktop to 'zipfiles' and 'files'. I also have these shortcuts on my start menu. This makes it easy for me to access my work in hand, extract an old job to work on it again (double-clicking on a 'zip' file automatically starts Winzip with the archive loaded) or view the two folders for housekeeping.

I've found that this system saves a lot of scraping and searching all over the place looking for files.

*John Lundberg, johnlundberg@tinet.ie*

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problems with applications, but some games and multimedia programs use the Windows ID to find out what machine they are running on. If they just rely on this to detect a Pentium-class CPU they may not run with a 6x86. This is likely to be the case with Destruction Derby, although it is listed as compatible on the Cyrix Web site. In general, all of the top games manufactur-



ers are making products that are Cyrix-aware.

As for Sega, the majority of its PC titles are listed as compatible on the Cyrix Web site, including recent releases such as Virtua Fighter and Virtua Cop. Unfortunately, Sega Rally is not listed and so we can only assume that it is not yet Cyrix-compatible.

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