

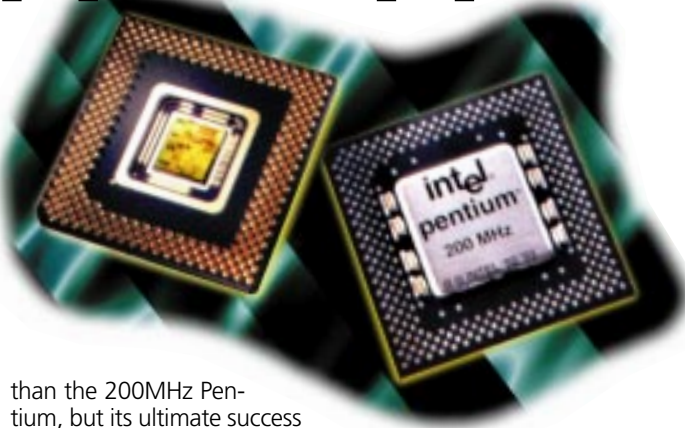
Intel chip picks up pace

According to Intel, its fastest Pentium processor yet, running at 200MHz, will marginalise existing PCs based on sub-100MHz Pentium chips.

Once production volumes of the new chip increase (towards the end of the year) the new entry-level processors for PCs will be the 120/133MHz versions, currently deemed mid-range.

Intel faces competition from Cyrix, which is already in limited production of its new processor, the 6x86 P200+. This is actually a 150MHz chip that Cyrix claims runs like a 200MHz Pentium, plus a little extra – three percent to be precise. The P200+ is not a plug-in replacement for Intel's processor because it runs faster internally (at 75MHz instead of Intel's 66MHz) so it needs specially-designed chips on the motherboard to support it.

At the moment, the Cyrix chip sells in bulk for \$100 less



than the 200MHz Pentium, but its ultimate success depends on how well it performs against Intel's product.

Machines using the new 200MHz Pentium are already in production: Viglen's starter model costs from £1,779; and there's also competition from Elonex with its very basic PC-5200M/I at only £1,557 (both prices include VAT).

Other manufacturers who

have already announced 200MHz machines are Apricot, AST, Dell, Gateway and Packard Bell.

Viglen: 0181 758 7000

Elonex: 0181 452 4444

Apricot: 0121 717 7171

AST: 0181 232 5000

Dell: 01344 720000

Gateway 2000: 0800 552000

Packard Bell: 01753 831914

MS gets partner on line

Microsoft and CompuServe are to form a strategic alliance that will involve the sharing of technological, marketing and distribution opportunities.

As a result, Microsoft's Internet Explorer 3 will be bundled as the standard Web browser on CompuServe installation CDs, and CompuServe access will be an integral part of future versions of Windows 95.

What the effect will be on Microsoft's own on-line service, the Microsoft Network (MSN), is unclear. But, at the moment, Microsoft intends to include icons for MSN and CompuServe on its Windows 95 desktop.

MSN received a mixed response in the UK when it was launched last year. This was due in part to its pricing structure, slow operation and lack of Internet access. CompuServe, which has more than 4.9 million members worldwide, has offered full Internet

access for some time, and its many 'forums' for computer hardware and software companies, as well as those for hundreds of special-interest groups, are widely perceived as one of its main strengths.

CompuServe has also announced plans to move away from its proprietary user interface. Its new system, code-named 'Red Dog', will provide access to all its existing services through a standard Web browser.

<http://www.microsoft.com>

<http://www.compuserve.com>



PCW offers chance to surf in café society



Network City has flung open the doors of the largest Internet café in Europe.

Sponsored by *What PC?*'s sister magazine, *Personal Computer World*, Network City's 2,000 square feet are furnished with 25 multimedia PCs. All connect to the Internet over a dedicated 64kbps line for fast surfing and error-free downloads.

Computer and Internet usage costs £3.50 (incl VAT) per half hour, with personal tuition for novices available at £12.50.

To surf with the café society, pop along to 72-73 Marylebone High Street, W1, or point your Web browser to:

<http://www.networkcity.co.uk>

Network City: 0171 224 4400

Hurricane is a £49.99 Ram compression utility for Windows 3.1 and 95. Helix Software guarantees at least a ten percent performance increase with Windows 95.

Roderick Manhattan:

0181 875 4444



The TC1500 Book Amp is a £119.99 speaker system for use with multimedia computers. The 12-watt speakers are operated by an infra-red remote control.

Evesham Micros:

01386 765500



NME, the popular UK music magazine, is now available on the World Wide Web. Updated weekly, the Web site includes the latest music news and reviews, as well as music samples to download.

<http://www.nme.com>

Microsoft Word now has an 80 percent share of the word-processor market, according to Romtec figures. This represents a 16 percent increase on 1995. Word Pro comes second with 11 percent, while Wordperfect has 8 percent of the market.

Microsoft: 01734 270001

The US Internet censorship bill was kicked out when three federal judges ruled it unacceptable on constitutional grounds. The US government will appeal against the ruling.

Acrobat sharpens its act for the Web



Adobe

The latest version of Adobe's Acrobat has been designed with the World Wide Web in mind.

Due out around September time, Acrobat 3.0 links closely with Netscape Navigator to display fully-formatted information a page at a time, instead of waiting ages for an entire document to download.

What's more, a progressive rendering process means that text will appear speedily on screen, followed by links, then images and finally full-text formatting—so you will be able to

see what a page is about, without waiting for it to finish loading. The price is £188 including VAT.

Another forthcoming product from Adobe will prove a boon to those struggling to manage hundreds of fonts on their PCs. Type Manager 4.0 for Windows 95 includes a utility to enable or disable Windows TrueType and Adobe Type 1 fonts, without having to uninstall them from your system.

Adobe: 0181 606 4000



The Net goes on the box

Acorn has demonstrated the world's first Internet computer — or 'Internet box'.

The £399 Acorn Netstation connects to a standard domes-

tic TV set. Viewers browse the Internet by simply pressing buttons on a remote-control handset (a bit like using Teletext).

The Netstation is built around Acorn's ARM7500 32-bit microprocessor, and comes with 4-16Mb of Ram and 4-8Mb of Rom for the operating system and Web browser applications. The Rom can be upgraded by simply changing a credit-card-sized smart card.

Connection to the Internet is via a 28,800bps modem built into the unit. The Netstation also supports

2Mbps or 25Mbps ATM, Ethernet, and ISDN connections.

There are also ports for connecting a standard or infra-red keyboard and mouse, and a parallel port for a printer.

Available in Pal (UK) and NTSC (US) versions, screen resolution is 760x576 or 800x600, respectively, with 16-bit colour.

According to Acorn, the Netstation is set to 'change forever the way we communicate, and will pave the way to e-mail for everyone'. The expected launch date is 11 October.

NChannel: 07000 852852



Office suite is revamped and renamed

Corel has started shipping a revamped, repackaged and renamed version of the PerfectOffice suite.

Recently acquired from Novell, and now known as Wordperfect Suite for Windows 3.1, Corel is looking to dent Microsoft's dominance of the office software market.

Wordperfect Suite for Windows 3.1 comprises the Wordperfect 6.1 word processor, Quattro Pro 6.0 spreadsheet, flowcharting package CorelFlow 2 and the



descriptively-titled Presentations 3.0.

As part of the bundle, Corel is also supplying Starfish

Software's Sidekick 2.0 and Dashboard 3.0, along with a vast clip-art library, screensavers and numerous fonts.

Also on the cards from Corel is WordPerfect Suite 7 for Windows 95, a full 32-bit version of the product. We reviewed the beta version of this — then named Corel-Office 7.0 — in our June 1996 issue.

Surprisingly, both versions of the suite have the same price: £233.83 including VAT. Corel: 0800 581028



Purple Software is currently selling a floppy disk drive for a seemingly expensive £169.95 including VAT.

But this is no ordinary floppy disk drive: it's powered by five AA-type batteries and it plugs straight into a Psion 3a palmtop computer.

Called the Cyclone, once it is attached to your Psion it appears as drive C to all your built-in applications and any third-party software adhering to Psion standards. It also comes with file-management software for making system backups or copying individual files. These can be transferred to a desktop using older 720Kb or current 1.44Mb floppies.

Purple Software: 0171 387 7777

Prestel On-Line is the second Internet service provider to offer access using the new V34 plus system.

The service is based on the latest US Robotics (or compatible modems) which boost V34 throughput from 28,000 to 33,600bps.

Casual users can sign up for £3.65 a month and get two-and-a-half hours' access. But probably a better deal is the Added Value Pack, which offers unlimited access for £8.99 a month and comes with Netscape Navigator Personal Edition and the promise of nationwide access at local-call rates.

Prestel On-Line: 0990 223300 (or: <http://www.prestel.co.uk>.)

Miro's Miromedia View is an accelerated video graphics card for Windows 95.

Based on an S3 Tri64V+ graphics chipset, it has both hardware Mpeg (for video playback) and 2Mb of EDO DRam on board. The Miromedia View can display resolutions of up to 1,408x1,024. It can also be upgraded, piggyback fashion, with a TV tuner board, which allows you to watch TV on your PC.

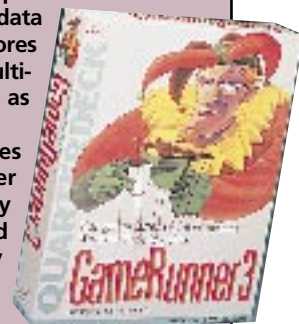
It costs £275 (incl VAT), with TV upgrade an additional £190. Miro: 01494 510250

Quarterdeck has launched two new software products designed to improve your PC's performance.

Speedyrom is a CD-Rom accelerator for Windows 95. Costing £35.19 (incl VAT), the 32-bit utility provides a cache on the hard drive where data read from CD-Roms is stored. The cache stores the most frequently-accessed data for multiple CD-Roms and supports compressed, as well as uncompressed, hard drives.

Gamerunner 3 is a utility that provides more memory for games running under both MS-Dos and Windows. The utility also provides a hard drive cache to speed up disk access and 'cheats' for a variety of popular games. It too costs £35.19.

Quarterdeck: 01245 496699



Kodak develops Flashpix

Kodak, in collaboration with Hewlett-Packard, Live Picture and Microsoft, has announced a new initiative in digital imaging.

Based around a new file format, Flashpix is an open standard for digital image storage and manipulation. It should overcome many of the obstacles faced by anyone working with images on a PC.

Flashpix images can be edited on screen at a low resolution, with changes taking effect almost instantly, and then printed at a resolution matching that of the printer.

Rather than modifying the original image, changes made to a Flashpix image are stored



separately as a series of 'transformations' that are quickly applied when the image is opened. This means that users can easily manipulate low-

resolution images on a PC and e-mail the changes to a printing bureau, who can then apply them to a high-resolution version of the image before printing.

The Flashpix format does require custom-written software and several companies, including Apple and Corel, have expressed an interest.

Kodak has also launched a low-cost digital camera. The DC-20 costs £349 and is roughly the same size as a 35mm compact camera. It can store either eight or sixteen pictures, depending on their resolution, and comes with cables and software to transfer images to a PC. Kodak: 01442 61122 <http://www.kodak.com>

Multitech revs it up with V34+ modem

Multitech is the second company (USRobotics was the first) to announce a UK-approved modem capable of data transfer rates of up to 33,600bps.

The Multitech 2834BLK conforms to the yet-to-be-ratified V34+ standard, and thus allows users to take full advantage of the top speeds currently offered by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) Pipex and Prestel On-Line. Although the V34+ standard remains unofficial, it is expected to receive full approval at the next meeting of the ITU Study Group in Geneva. You can buy the Multitech 2834BLK now for £468.83 (incl VAT).

In another part of the modem market, PPCP has started shipping a new PCMCIA card modem which offers both V34 (28,800bps) over normal telephone lines and 9,600bps on GSM mobile phone networks. PPCP claims it is the first in the UK to do so. The MC218 Twin Card is a Type II PCMCIA card and sells for £468.83 (incl VAT). Multitech: 01344 891266



Pilot pitched into hand-held market

US Robotics enters the hand-held market with the UK launch of its Pilot electronic organiser.

Developed by US Robotics Palm Computing division, the Pilot has no keyboard but instead has a touch-screen with handwriting recognition using the innovative Graffiti system.

Designed to fit inside a shirt pocket, the Pilot is not intended for use as a standalone device, but as an accessory to a desktop PC. It comes with hardware and software that provide a simple means of transferring information between it and a PC or Mac. Once the Pilot is dropped into its small docking station, the press of a button synchronises data between the two machines, via a serial cable.

It will be available in two versions: the Pilot Palm 1000, capable of storing up to a thousand entries, will cost £279 and the Pilot Palm 5000, for five thousand entries, will cost £349. US Robotics: 01734 228200 <http://www.usr.com/palm>



New notebooks named

Three major manufacturers have announced new notebooks this month.

Toshiba's latest model, the Portégé 650CT, has a footprint smaller than an A4 piece of paper and weighs just 2.2kg, which makes it one of the smallest and lightest around. Unfortunately, at £4,694 (including VAT) its price is somewhat weightier, but you do get a 133MHz Pentium processor, 16Mb of Ram and an 11.3-inch TFT screen.

Compaq has introduced its new Armada range. At the top end, the Armada 4100 is supplied with a 133MHz Pentium processor and 16Mb of Ram. It

has an ingenious battery-in-the-handle design, which means it can have up to three batteries fitted, giving a total battery life of ten-and-a-half hours. It costs £3,995.

Finally, NEC has extended its Versa range with the launch of the 6000 series. The entry-level Versa 6000H with a 100MHz Pentium processor, 16Mb of Ram and six-speed CD-Rom will cost £4,106. The 6000 series retains the 'Versabay' which allows you to choose which of the internal devices (CD-Rom, floppy drive or second battery) you wish to insert.



Toshiba: 01932 828828
NEC: 0181 993 8111
Compaq: 0181 332 3000

Iomega releases Zip, Jaz and Easy

Storage specialist Iomega has launched three new products.

First off is an internal version of its popular Zip drive.

Although available as both IDE and Scsi, only Scsi models will be sold in the shops – the IDE model will be sold exclusively to PC manufacturers. Both internal and external Zip drives cost £175.08, with disks costing £16.45.

The Iomega Jaz removable hard drive is now available as an external model, in addition to the existing internal one. The Scsi drive, suitable for

use with both PCs and Macs, uses removable cartridges that can store up to 1Gb of data in uncompressed form. The external Jaz drive costs £586.33 and the 1Gb cartridges £105.75.

Iomega's latest Ditto tape drive is the Easy 3200. Costing £292.58, it connects via a PC's parallel port, and can store up to 3.2Gb (compressed) on a single cartridge (£37.60 each). It is compatible with a variety of back-up tape formats. Iomega: 0800 898563



Joint effort for the 'ultimate' upgrade

Creative Labs and Microsoft have joined forces to produce what they call 'the ultimate multimedia upgrade kit'.

Included is a Soundblaster 32 wavetable sound card suitable for games, creative music and sound editing. There's a Creative Labs eight-speed CD-Rom drive with front panel controls for the playback of audio CDs; and compatibility with the CD-Extra format that combines digital

audio and data on a single CD. Microsoft's contribution includes a selection of CD titles

to make the most of the upgraded PC's multimedia features. Titles include Works 3.0, Auto-

route Express, Golf, Wine Guide, Creative Writer, Fine Artist and Explorapedia. It costs £350 (incl VAT).

What's more, according to the 'before and after' publicity shot, the kit will apparently transform your living room with a new table, a picture for your wall and a thriving plant! Creative Labs: 01743 248590



Brother and Olivetti have both launched new desktop PCs this month.

Brother's direct-sales division, Kyodai, has announced an addition to the Brother Professor range. Housed in a mini-tower case, the Professor Powerhouse has a 166MHz Pentium processor, 16Mb of Ram, a 1.6Gb hard disk, a six-speed CD-Rom drive and a price tag of

£2,501.58 (including VAT).

Olivetti's new arrival is the M24, available with a choice of 100MHz or 133MHz Pentium processor. Both are fitted with 8Mb of Ram. Prices are £1,056.33 and £1,291.33 respectively. Kyodai: 01279 416888

Olivetti: 0181 785 6666

Samsung, Goldstar and Hitachi have each launched new eight-speed CD-Rom drives. All have a claimed data transfer rate of 1.2Mb per second.

Goldstar's GCD-580B, which is competitively priced at £116.33 (incl VAT), has an average seek time of 150ms. Hitachi's CDR-7930 offers the same seek time but at the slightly higher price of £129.25.

Lastly, at £151.58, Samsung's SCR-830 is the most expensive of the bunch, but

its 146ms seek time means it is also marginally the fastest.

All three drives are designed to be fitted internally using an Enhanced-IDE interface.

Samsung: 0181 391 0168

Goldstar: 01753 500400

Hitachi: 0181 849 2092

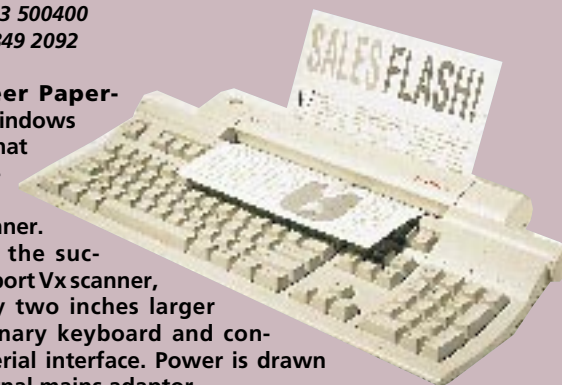
The Visioneer Paperport ix is a Windows 95 keyboard that has an integrated 400dpi greyscale scanner.

Based on the successful Paperport Vx scanner, the ix is only two inches larger than an ordinary keyboard and connects via a serial interface. Power is drawn from an external mains adaptor.

In addition to the excellent Visioneer Paperport document manager software, the Paperport ix also comes with the OCR (optical character recognition) package Xerox Textbridge, Formtyper form recognition software and a business card scanning and storage application. The Paperport ix can be used with all versions of Windows and costs £323.13 (including VAT).

Visioneer: 01734 668229

<http://www.visioneer.com>



Epson has announced a replacement for its flagship Stylus Color II inkjet printer.

Called the Stylus Color 500, the new printer has a resolution of 720dpi (dots per inch) and, according to Epson, can produce photorealistic printouts on plain paper.

The Stylus Color 500 is a four-colour machine with an improved-formulation ink, which has been designed to dry quickly on all types of stationery. Epson includes software to allow users to produce greetings cards, calendars and signs.

The Stylus Color 500 will be available in the shops by the time you read this, with an expected price of approximately £350 (including VAT).

Epson: 01442 61144

Autodesk's Cad package, Autocad LT for Windows 95, will be available at the end of July for £699 including VAT.

However, if you buy the existing £582 Windows 3.1 version before July 31, you can claim a free upgrade and save yourself £117 – as long as you're willing to wait until the end of August when the upgrade ships.

The new version supports long filenames and includes extensive on-line help, including key concept cards and set-up wizards to step you through the creation of new drawings. Other program features are real-time panning and zooming, an enhanced spell-checker and new tools to simplify the creation and location of geometry.

Autodesk: 01483 303322

Hitachi, Nokia, CTX and Wyse have all launched new monitors this month.

Hitachi has unveiled its 17MVX-V2, a 17in Plug-and-Play monitor priced at £645 (incl VAT). At the same price is Nokia's new Valuegraph 447E, which comes with a 17-inch Trinitron tube.

Meanwhile, CTX's new 17M5 is a 17-inch monitor which offers a 15.7-inch diagonal viewing area at the lower price of £586.

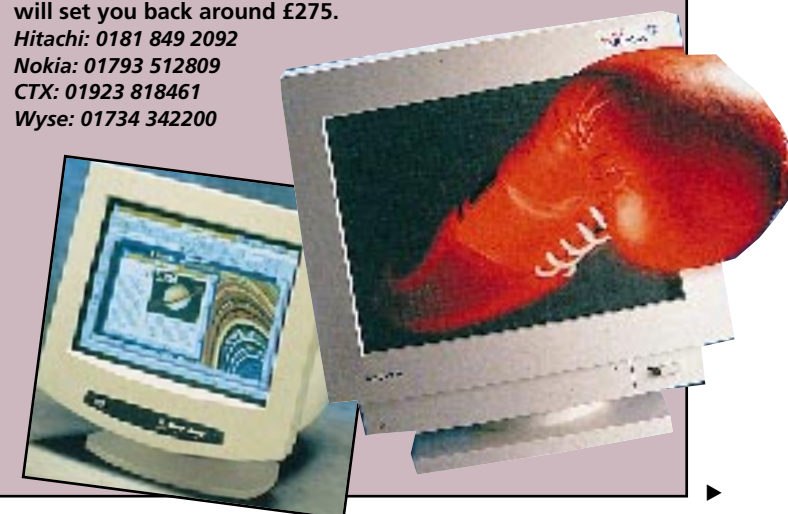
Those with more modest size requirements may be interested in the latest offering from Wyse. The 15-inch WY-15E+ will set you back around £275.

Hitachi: 0181 849 2092

Nokia: 01793 512809

CTX: 01923 818461

Wyse: 01734 342200





Portable Add-ons has launched an Adlib-compatible PCMCIA sound card with built-in speaker and joystick port. The Gamejammer is available now at a cost of £222 (including VAT).

Portable Add-ons:
01483 241333

Claris has launched Home Page, a Web-page creator designed for novices. The price is yet to be announced, but a beta can be downloaded from Claris' Web site (<http://www.claris.com>).
Claris: 0181 756 0101

Psion has cut the prices of its PCMCIA Gold Card modems. The Gold Card V34 is now £245 and the V32bis £149 (both prices include VAT).
Psion: 01908 261686

Controlware has begun shipment of the first fully-certified ISDN PCMCIA card. Priced at £525, the Diva is aimed at notebook users.
Controlware: 01635 584000



Digicorp has launched a new range of PCMCIA Type III hard drives. The Digistor drives are available in 130Mb, 170Mb and 260Mb formats, and cost from £341.
Digicorp: 01372 844151

Geodome Landforms is a virtual geographical museum on CD. It uses 3D models and animation to illustrate the impact volcanoes, earthquakes, rivers, and coasts have on their surroundings. It costs £39.95.
Attica: 01908 570113

The real surfer stands up

A survey of one million UK Internet users reveals that certain preconceptions about the typical 'net surfer' may not be accurate.

According to the survey, conducted by Consumer Surveys as part of a study on direct mail, 57 percent of surfers earn in excess of £25,000 a year. Furthermore, 23 percent are professionals, and most (29 percent) live in London, followed by East Anglia (12 percent), and Yorkshire (10 percent). Perhaps unsurprisingly, 69 percent are male.

Those high-earning London professionals who don't fancy the trek to the super-

market, might be interested to know that you can now do all your shopping via the Internet. ShoppersUniverse is an on-line



shopping centre that allows consumers to browse merchandise, make a secure financial

purchase and then receive the goods within five days. The service is managed by GUS, a company that has experimented with electronic retailing since the 1970s.

On a similar note, Dewar's Scotch Whisky has launched an interactive manhunt challenge on the Internet. The challenge is in celebration of the company's 150th anniversary, and the Web site has Java-based games that can be played on-line.

Consumer Surveys:
0171 403 6885
<http://shoppersuniverse.com>
<http://www.dewars.co.uk>

Word spreads about Atom time bomb

The Atom virus is one of the latest in a new breed of havoc-wreaking Word macro viruses.

Primed to respond to trigger dates and times, Atom can erase all files in the current directory if the date is December 13.

Less destructive, but equally annoying, is that if you use the File/SaveAs command at 13 seconds past the minute, Atom will set a password for the doc-

ument making it impossible to reload. Just in case you fall victim, the password is: ATOM#1.

Macro viruses are a particular nuisance as many detection programs will not find new strains. One exception is Invincible from Second Sight UK. The full commercial program costs £88, but free detection software can be downloaded from: <http://www.second-sight.co.uk>.



Second Sight UK: 01865 821811

Top 20 software packages according to Romtec figures

Position	Package	Publisher/supplier	Type	Last month
1	Office v4.2 Standard	Microsoft	Office suite	1
2	PK Zip for Dos	Atlantic Coast	Utility	5
3	Windows 95 Upgrade	Microsoft	Operating system	3
4	Office 4.2 Pro	Microsoft	Office suite	-
5	Dos Upgrade	Microsoft	Operating system	6
6	WFWG 3.11	Microsoft	Groupware	11
7	cc:Mail for Windows	Lotus	Groupware	7
8	Smartsuite v3/4 for Windows	Lotus	Office suite	8
9	Word v6 for Windows	Microsoft	Word processor	9
10	Dr Solomon's Anti-virus for Win	S&S International	Anti-virus	-
11	MS Systems Man Server for Win	Microsoft	Networking	-
12	Lotus Notes for Windows	Lotus	Groupware	10
13	Organizer v2 for Windows	Lotus	Pim	13
14	Office 4.2 Standard Upgrade	Microsoft	Add-on	-
15	Office 7 Pro	Microsoft	Office suite	-
16	Office v4.3 Professional Upgrade	Microsoft	Add-on	15
17	Excel v5 for Windows	Microsoft	Spreadsheet	17
18	MS Office 7 Standard	Microsoft	Office suite	-
19	Norton Anti-virus for Windows	Symantec	Anti-virus	8
20	MS Project for Windows	Microsoft	Project management	-

Figures for May 1996, source Romtec. Business application and desktop operating systems unit sales only, OEM sales excluded. Romtec figures are calculated by grossing up sales from resellers. If you are interested in joining Romtec's Reseller Panel and finding out how as a reseller you can benefit, call direct on: 01628 414013.