

WHAT PC? AND SOFTWARE



Cover CD

4 What CD? number seven

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 new interactive Getting Started guide to PCs; a resources section filled with essential shareware and utilities; music, photos and a sci-fi comic 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.

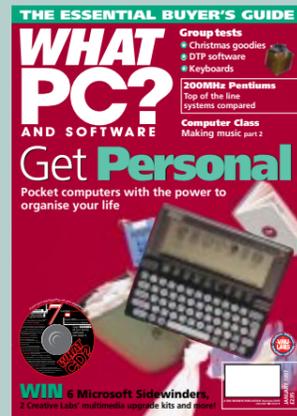


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Cover story

62 Personal Digital Assistants



You might decide to make that worn Filofax a thing of the past by replacing it with your very own Personal Digital Assistant (PDA). In this issue we round up and compare the latest models which offer everything from basic storage of telephone numbers to pocket-sized PC power.

Features

84 Christmas goodies

If you're struggling to finish your Christmas shopping, we've come up with some ideas, from mouse mats and Game Boys to Camcorders and OverDrive processors.

88 DTP software

These days anyone with a PC can enter the desktop publishing world and create professional-looking documents. We test both high-end and budget packages for Windows.

108 Pentium 200s

200MHz Pentium PCs are currently top of the line, but high power doesn't necessarily mean a high price. We look at 10 of the fastest machines you can buy for under £2,000.

128 Keyboards

Vital yet often overlooked, a good keyboard can make all the difference when using your PC. We give our verdict on a dozen of the latest models.



Reviews

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Corel Draw 7.0 Updated high-end graphics package.
Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 693c Colour inkjet printer.
CyberMedia First Aid 95 Deluxe Windows diagnostics.
IBM Aptiva 382 Multimedia mini-tower PC.
Info Evolution NearSite Web tool for automatic browsing.
VCI Software Pro Word and Spreadsheet Pro Word processor and spreadsheet aimed at small office/home office.
TI TravelMate 6030 High-end 133MHz Pentium notebook.
Norton AntiVirus for Windows 95 v2.0 Virus scanner.
VideoLogic Apocalypse 3D 3D graphics accelerator.
CIX Ameol 2.0 (beta) Latest off-line reader for CIX.
Dan dantum 95/166 Multimedia 166MHz Pentium PC.
Adobe Photoshop 4.0 Latest version of the photo retouching and image manipulation software.
Hewlett-Packard DeskJet 870Cxi Colour inkjet printer with fast text and graphics output.

52 In brief

Micrografx CreatoCard Plus Make your own greetings cards.
Chase Technology DiSQ-6 CD-ROM drive for notebooks.
CD Direct EasyTutor Learn Office 97 Training software.
Logitech Cordless MouseMan Pro Radio-controlled mouse.
Digital A-Z London Street Map The A-Z on screen.
MicroVision WebExpress Software to create Web pages.
Quarterdeck MagnaRAM 97 Helps get more out of memory.
Pipex Dial: The Rough Guide Book and Net connection kit.
Owl Video AV Mate Turns your PC into a television.
Fast Electronics FPS 60 Digital video card.
Psion Dacom Surfer Surfboard-shaped modem.

136 Computer class

We conclude this two-part class by showing you how to use Cubase to make music on your PC.

Regulars

15 News hardware and software latest.

57 Letters and competition winners.

59 Competition A copy of Microsoft's SideWinder Game Pad and Creative Labs' Family Multimedia Upgrade Kit are on offer this month.

145 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.

214 Reader survey Give your views and you could win a copy of Rally Championship or F1 Manager from Europress Software.

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What PC? buyer's guide

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



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getting started

12,192 Getting started The ultimate beginner's guide to personal computing.

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

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

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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

After hours

150 Games We take off with Microsoft's Flight Simulator for Windows 95, go for a spin in Road Rash, and bounce around with Sonic the Hedgehog.



157 Family We compare three CD-ROM encyclopaedias, get stuck in to Green Eggs and Ham, and investigate some inventions.

187 On line On the Web, Terry Pinnell researches movie stars, and has a word about some anagrams.