

Windows in your pocket

Microsoft has announced Windows Compact Edition (CE), a new operating system specifically for the next generation of hand-held personal computers (HPCs).

Windows CE resembles and, for the most part operates, like Windows 95 running on a desktop PC. The most obvious differences are that it works at a reduced screen size (the resolution is set at 480x240 pixels) and it lacks support for colour displays.

Six well-known electronics companies, including Casio and Hewlett-Packard, have confirmed support for Windows CE and HPCs. The first HPCs will go on sale early in 1997 with prices expected to be around \$500 (about £333).

Microsoft has written special versions of its two most popular PC software packages, Word and Excel, and added a 'Pocket' prefix. Both titles come with Windows CE as standard.

We've seen a fully operational HPC running Windows CE and, apart from the obvious reduc-



tion in screen size, the interface is difficult to distinguish from its desktop counterpart.

Microsoft: 0345 002000

www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsce

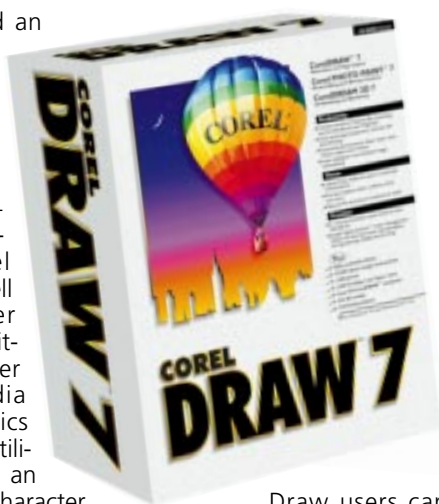
Corel Draw gets update

Corel has released an updated version of its most successful package, Corel Draw.

Corel Draw 7.0 comprises three main components – Corel Draw, PhotoPaint and Corel Dream 3D – as well as lots of smaller graphics-related editing tools. The latter include Multimedia Manager, a graphics file management utility, and OCR-Trace, an integrated optical character recognition utility.

The clip-art library now includes 32,000 items and is accompanied by a plethora of fonts as well as more than 1,000 photo images.

At £581.63 (inc VAT), the price certainly matches the product's 'heavyweight' status, although current Corel



Draw users can upgrade for a more palatable £233.83.

According to Corel's president, Michael Cowpland, Corel Draw 7.0 features a 'revolutionary' interface which provides 'intuitive access to unparalleled power'.

Channel Market Maker (Corel distributor): 01703 814142

Corel and IBM set to enter NC world

IBM and Corel are the latest companies to announce developments in the Network Computer (NC) arena.

Corel's Video-enhanced NC (VNC) will ship in the US by the end of March. Details are sparse, but Corel confirms it will be powered by a Motorola MPC821 processor, have 16Mb of RAM, and will communicate via a V34 (28,800 bits per second) modem.

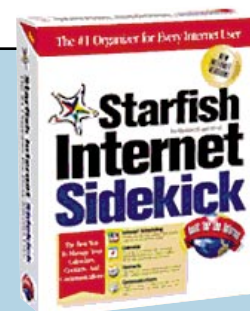
The VNC will sell for under \$1,000 (about £670) and is expected to be supplied with Corel's Office for Java office software suite.

IBM recently launched its first NC and has formed a division devoted to the production and development of NCs.

Unlike PCs, NCs don't have hard disks, CD-ROM or floppy disk drives. Applications are downloaded over the Internet.

IBM: 01329 242728

Channel Market Makers (Corel's distributors): 01703 814142



Starfish Software UK has launched Sidekick Internet, a personal organiser for Net users. Priced at £69.99, it includes a scheduling capability using Net messaging. Starfish Software UK: 0181 875 4455

Tekdata's new 12-speed IDE CD-ROM drive, the CD-512E, has a sustained data transfer rate of 1,800Kb a second and costs £151.58.

Tekdata: 01782 577677

SMSmail is an e-mail application for the Psion 3a/3c. It works with a GSM mobile phone but doesn't need a modem. It costs £35.24.

Dynamical Systems Research: 0171 584 0084

Dell has cut the price of its top-of-the-range colour notebook, the Latitude XPI P133ST. Configurations now start at £1,999 for a system with 8Mb of RAM.

Dell: 01344 720000



Siemens Nixdorf's new KBPC M keyboard brings multimedia facilities to any sound-enabled PC via a single cable. Speakers, microphone, headset, mouse and handset are all connected.

Siemens Nixdorf Information Systems: 01344 862222

New from Micrografx is Small Business Graphics and Print Studio. At £92.83, it integrates drawing and image editing software, plus clip-art and fonts.

Micrografx: 0345 089372

Microsoft and Intel reveal 'NetPC' plan

Microsoft and Intel have jointly announced an initiative to develop 'Internet-ready' NetPCs. Although little different from a 'normal' PC, NetPCs must conform to a set of minimum specifications.

At the time of going to press, Microsoft and Intel had laid down some minimum NetPC requirements: a Pentium 100MHz processor; 16Mb of RAM; and a display adaptor capable of 256 colours at a resolution of 640x480 pixels (VGA-compatible). A keyboard and a pointing device must also be included, and machine cases have to be fitted with locks.

On top of these requirements, a NetPC must also offer support for communications hardware, such as a modem or an ISDN line.

The two companies are leading an Open Design Review with the goal of finalising the NetPC specification before the end of 1996.

The NetPC is widely viewed as a move to curtail the marketing success of Oracle's much-touted Network Computer (NC) concept.

Microsoft: 0345 002000

Intel: 01793 696000

Low-end Mac unveiled

Apple has launched an entry-level Power Macintosh designed to compete directly with low-cost PC clones.

The 4400/160 will be available from the end of December and has been 'built from the ground up' to meet the needs of the home and small business markets.

The machine costs £1,385 and features a 160MHz PowerPC 603e processor, 16Mb of RAM (expandable to 96Mb), a 1.2Gb hard disk, an eight-speed CD-ROM drive and a 15in Apple Multiple Scan display. The system has

an ATI graphics controller instead of a custom Apple chip and supports a maximum resolution of 1,152x870 pixels in 256 colours.

Three PCI slots are provided for expansion, as are SCSI and ADB interfaces, but Ethernet networking has been dropped to cut the cost. The 4400/160 has no bundled software other than the latest version of System 7.5.

Apple:
0990 127753

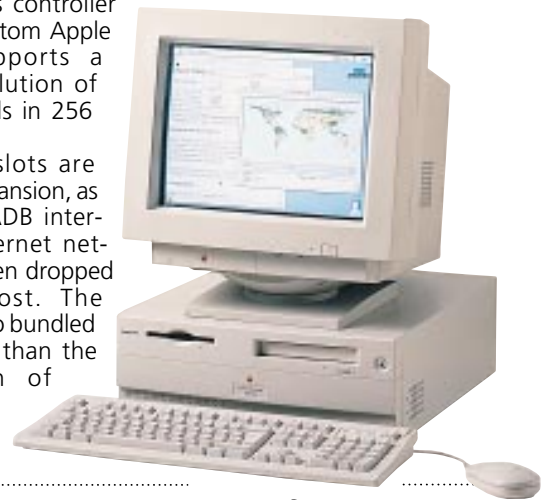


Photo editing kit targeted at families

Adobe Systems has launched Adobe PhotoDeluxe Version 1.0 for Windows.

The software is based on the same technology as Adobe's industry-standard image editing package, Photoshop, and is aimed at family and small business users.

PhotoDeluxe provides powerful ways of editing photos, including features to remove red eye and improve the quality of photographs.



It's possible to transform photos using special effects such as making a modern photo look old-fashioned.

Revamped photos can be incorporated into flyers and reports along with text.

Sample photos are included and the package accepts scanned images and photos on disk.

PhotoDeluxe will be bundled with Logitech's next generation of sheet-fed and hand-held scanners, the PageScan Color Pro and the ScanMan Color 2000.

Adobe Direct: 0131 451 6888

Netcom and CompuServe have announced their support for US Robotics' new modem communications system, x2 (*WhatPC? December 1996*). Netcom has already launched its x2 service, which offers download times that are twice as fast as a V.34 modem. Although Netcom is the first Internet Service Provider (ISP) to offer the service, it can't be used because x2 modems will not be on sale until early in the New Year.

CompuServe has also announced plans to introduce x2 in the UK and eventually across the whole of its European network, effectively bypassing the 33,600bps (bits per second) service offered by some ISPs.

Netcom: 01344 395500

CompuServe: 0800 000400



Claris Home Page 2.0, the latest version of the Web authoring software for Windows 95 and Macintosh users, is due to ship in January. Changes to the upgrade include the addition of a spelling checker, support for multiple fonts, built-in site publishing, and support for multimedia plugins such as QuickTime and Shockwave, as well as improved

table management.

Claris hasn't yet announced a price for Home Page 2.0, but registered users of version 1.0 will be able to download a free upgrade from the Claris Web site at www.claris.com.

A free, time-limited beta version of Home Page version 2.0 is also available.

Clarix: 0800 422322

Junk e-mail can be a headache when every second you spend on line is costing you money. **America Online (AOL)** has taken steps to combat the problem by introducing PreferredMail. This tool keeps a regularly updated list of notorious junk e-mailers and prevents receipt of mail from these sites. However, it's flexible enough to allow users to receive this mail if they wish. In the past, AOL had blocked junk e-mail to all AOL accounts from a number of sites that had been the subject of member complaints. AOL says the new service gives its members choice and power over their mail handling.

AOL: 0800 279 1234



A recent **Gallup** poll, conducted on behalf of computer manufacturer AST, shows that 72 percent of the parents surveyed believe that using a home PC will increase their children's chances of employment. In addition, 45 percent of parents claim their children's academic performance has improved since they bought a home PC. But playing games is still the most popular application for a home PC, with 36 percent of the 1,000 respondents using their machine for this purpose. Home administration and finance is a close second at 32 percent, while academic study and use as a learning tool for children both register 25 percent.

IE4 planned for 1997

Barely three months after the launch of Internet Explorer 3.0 (IE3), details of version 4.0 have started filtering through from Microsoft. There are many rumours about what v4.0 will and will not include, but, whatever the truth, it's unlikely to appear until mid-1997.

From what we've seen, Microsoft intends to integrate Internet Explorer closely with Windows Explorer. Users will be able to browse the Web from within Windows Explorer, with the Internet becoming just another folder.



IE3 makes the news again this month with the first beta release of the product for the Macintosh. Like its PC counterpart, Macintosh IE3 supports Hypertext Mark-up

Language (HTML) 3.3, Java and Microsoft's ActiveX controls.

Of particular interest to Macintosh users is the introduction of style sheets, enabling design flexibility similar to that offered by the platform's popular desktop publishing packages.

The Apple version of IE3 also works with the current Macintosh Internet mail and news client. This means that IE3 users can send and receive e-mail and subscribe to the 14,000-plus Usenet newsgroups.

Microsoft: 0345 002000
www.microsoft.com

Choice of Pentium portables grows

Samsung has unveiled five mid- to high-end Pentium notebook PCs. The Sens Pro500 range starts at the entry-level UO2, at £1,874.13, which has a 100MHz Pentium processor, 8Mb of EDO RAM, an 810Mb hard drive, an 11.3in SVGA DSTN screen and an optional six-speed CD-ROM drive.

The mid-range U14, at £2,931.63, has a P120 processor, 16Mb of EDO RAM, a 1.4Gb hard drive, a 12.1in SVGA TFT screen and a CD-ROM drive. At the top of the range the U35's specification matches the U14 but with a P150 processor. It costs £3,523.83. All machines have two Type II PC Card slots, 16-bit audio and a touchpad.

Toshiba has launched two notebooks – the Satellite 200CDS and CDT. Both machines have a 100MHz Pentium processor, 8Mb of EDO RAM and an 810Mb hard drive. The 200CDS has an 11.3in DSTN screen, while the 200CDT has an 11.3in TFT screen. They cost £1,874.13 and £2,461.63, respectively.

Samsung: 0181 391 0168
Toshiba: 01932 828828



Laroux mutates to delete Excel macros

A new and deadlier strain of the Laroux macro virus, which attacks Microsoft Excel spreadsheets, has hit the PC world. While the original spread from file to file without affecting data, this version wipes out macro commands that have been saved by users.

Dubbed Laroux.B, the virus infects the PERSONAL.XLS file and replaces any macros with the word 'Laroux'. Although it doesn't alter the content of spreadsheets, experts warn that this latest bug could cause severe problems for anyone whose work relies on custom macros, such as accountants.

Microsoft is working on a cure for Laroux.B which you should be able to download from www.microsoft.com.

Reports of another new virus, Irina, have been revealed as a hoax. It appears this was merely part of a marketing ploy, by UK publisher Penguin Books, which backfired.

Microsoft: 0345 002000



Excel: threat from Laroux B.

PCs on shelves for Xmas

Several new PCs have been launched just in time for Christmas. Dan Technology's Dan Home/smm range starts with a 120MHz Pentium system with 8Mb of RAM, a 16-bit sound card and an eight-speed CD-ROM drive for £1,170.30. All the machines in the range have an 850Mb hard drive, an ATI Xpression video card, a V.32bis fax modem and an ATI TV Tuner card.

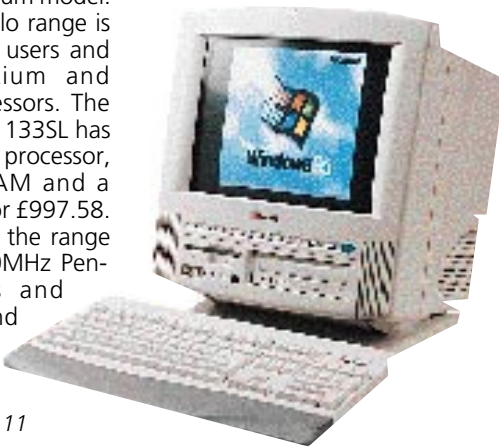
Tatung's TMP-5100 all-in-one PC has a 15in monitor, 8Mb of RAM, a 1.2Gb hard drive, an eight-speed CD-ROM drive and integrated 16-bit sound with built-in speakers.

An optional TV card is available. Prices start at £1,761.33 for a 133MHz Pentium model.

Olivetti's Modulo range is aimed at business users and uses both Pentium and Pentium Pro processors. The entry-level Modulo 133SL has a 133MHz Pentium processor, 16Mb of EDO RAM and a 1.2Gb hard drive for £997.58. Other machines in the range have 166 and 200MHz Pentium processors and optional audio and CD-ROM drives.

Dan: 0181 830 1100
Tatung: 01952 290111

Olivetti Personal Computers:
0800 447799



Sony and Nokia release new screens

Nokia and Sony have launched new monitors. Nokia's as yet un-priced MediaStation 445X-zvc aims to bring video conferencing to the desktop and has a built-in video camera, a microphone and loudspeakers.

Sony's entry-level Multiscan 100sx replaces the Multiscan 15sx and is a Trinitron monitor at the budget price of £381.88. It is available from Byte, selected Sony centres and approved resellers.

Sony has also renamed its



monitors, enabling European consumers to benefit from its new scheme in which its 15in

line becomes the CPD-100 range and its 17in models are renamed as CPD-200s.

This follows a recent US court ruling which ordered that monitor names should no longer misrepresent the viewable area. Traditionally, monitors are named in accordance with the size of their cathode ray tubes (CRTs), although the viewable area is smaller.

Datex 2000 (Nokia distributor): 01372 224800
Sony: 0181 760 0500

Map data improved in AutoRoute

AutoRoute version 5.0 has been launched by Microsoft in two versions, for Great Britain and Europe. Both programs have the same look and feel.

Map data has been improved and there is a detailed map display similar to Microsoft Encarta's. The GB version covers more than 200,000 miles of road, the European one 1.5 million miles, and both can be searched by post codes.



In addition to route planning, the programs have features that enable them to plan

complete itineraries. They contain information on hotels, campsites, restaurants and tourist attractions and can work out which are in a specified range of any given route.

They can also integrate with the Internet and display Web sites containing information about areas on the maps. The European edition contains a 12-language phrasebook. The packages cost £59.99.

Microsoft: 0345 002000



Lotus has finally given full details of the imminent release of its office software SmartSuite 97. During a recent press conference in France, the company announced that SmartSuite 97 is due to be launched in Europe in January 1997. Initial pricing will be the same as the previous version at £439.45 (inc VAT) for the full product, with the upgrade from any 'competitive product' (Microsoft's or Corel's office suites) costing £210.33.

SmartSuite 97 consists of 1-2-3 (spreadsheet), Word Pro (word processor, previously called Ami Pro), Approach (database), Freelance (presentation graphics), Organizer (personal time management system) and ScreenCam (screen-action capture system).

Lotus: 01784 455445

Two manufacturers have recently launched modems. Electronic Frontier has a new range of 33,600bps (bits per second) models, starting with the XL 3361 PC-Card data/fax modem which costs £111.63.

It's also available as an external modem for £128.08 with voice-enabled versions costing £129.25 for the PC Card model and £139.83 for the external unit.

DataFlex also has a 33,600bps voice-enabled modem,

which goes by the name of VoiceSurfer. The internal ISA-card modem has Plug and Play installation and can detect data, fax and voice calls.

The modem works with Pentium-based Windows 95 PCs only and is priced at £151.58.

Electronic Frontier: 01734 810600
Dataflex: 0181 543 6417

Leading storage manufacturers are gearing up for the demands of new applications and operating systems with a hoard of faster, higher-capacity hard drives. Quantum, Maxtor and Micropolis are among the first companies to deliver new devices for the desktop.



Quantum has announced three new drives; the Bigfoot CY, the Fireball ST and the Pioneer SG. The first two products come in up to 6.4Gb configurations, while the Pioneer SG offers a low-cost 2.1Gb option.

Maxtor's DiamondMax family features drives up to 5.1Gb, and the new Tomahawk Class drives from Micropolis offer a 9.10Gb option for SCSI users.

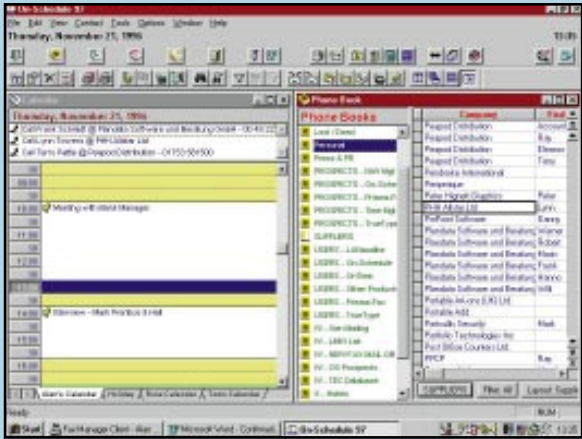
Quantum: 01344 353500
Maxtor: 01483 747356
Micropolis: 01734 751315

Progressive Networks has announced RealAudio System 3.0, a system for delivering high-quality sound in real-time over the Internet. RealAudio 3.0 delivers stereo sound with V.34 modems and CD-quality sound with ISDN connections. It also has improved audio delivery which reduces the chopiness found in earlier versions of the software.

A time-limited beta version of RealAudio 3.0 can be downloaded from the RealAudio Web site, and dozens of sites are already using it to deliver live and pre-recorded audio. Singer Sheryl Crow has even used RealAudio 3.0 to broadcast a debut single from her new album.

www.realaudio.com

Internet Service Provider (ISP) Uunet Pipex is offering Internet access via the UK's three largest cellular telephone networks. The service allows notebook PC users to access the Internet and use e-mail via the Vodafone, Cellnet or Orange networks, providing they have a compatible phone and data card. The service is provided as part of Uunet Pipex's standard pricing plan (£17.63 per month) and Vodafone and Orange have announced



Windows 95. It has interlinked phone books, calendars and to-do lists and a customisable interface. On a network, each user can retain his or her customised settings for shared databases without affecting other users. Files from On Schedule 97 are fully compatible with those produced by On Schedule 3.0, the 16-bit version of the program designed primarily for Windows 3.x users. A single-user licence for either version of On Schedule costs £151.58. Upgrade prices are available from Prisma Office.

Prisma Office: 01753 810899.

special mobile data tariffs.

British Telecom has also enhanced its Internet package, BT Internet. The service now provides five e-mail boxes per account, 2.5Mb of personal Web space and 33,600bps (bits per second) connection for £15 a month.

Uunet Pipex: 01223 250100
www.uunet.pipex.com
BT: 0800 800001

Miro has announced the 3D Adventure Set, comprising its 3D graphics card, Fanatix virtual reality-style glasses and a surround-sound card. 3D Adventure Set is priced at £234.37.
Miro: 01494 510250



Shift F7 Design has recently released a virtual keyboard program to enable users to operate computers where keyboards are impractical. The on-screen keyboard comes in at £117.50.
Shift F7 Design: 01672 511670

Graftek has unveiled the latest version of its Tabby graphics tablet. The device is microprocessor-controlled and is more accurate than a mouse. The Tabby costs £69.95.
Graftek: 01923 248222

Happy second birthday to the **Electronic Telegraph**, the UK's oldest on-line newspaper. Its blend of news, comment and magazine articles can be found at: www.telegraph.co.uk



Psion Dacom's latest Gold Card modem combines a V.34 modem, fax, Ethernet and GSM communications on a single PC Card costing £468.83.
Psion Dacom: 01908 261686

Offered free to all new **Time** customers is a video explaining how to set up and run a new PC. The video can also be bought from Time.
Time: 01282 777111

New notebooks lined up

Three manufacturers have launched new notebooks. First off the blocks is AST with two new machines in its Ascentia P series.

The P41 has a Pentium 120 processor, 16Mb of EDO RAM and a 11.3in TFT screen. The top-of-the-range P55 has a Pentium 133 processor, 24Mb of EDO RAM and a 12.1in TFT screen. Both models have 1Gb hard drives, modular floppy disk and six-speed CD-ROM drives and integrated 16-bit sound. They cost £3,053.83 and £3,288.83 respectively.

Digital's HiNote VP500 line starts with a Pentium 100-based model with 8Mb of RAM, a 1Gb hard drive, an 11.3in DSTN screen and 16-bit sound. Higher-end models have an 11.3in or 12.1in TFT screen, an internal six-speed CD-ROM drive and an infra-red port. Prices start at £1,878.83.

The latest addition to Twinhead's Slimnote range is the Slimnote 7. Only 34mm thick, this has either a Pentium 100, 120 or 133 processor, an 11.3in TFT screen, 8 or 16Mb of RAM, a built-in floppy



disk drive and 16-bit sound.
AST: 0990 611611
Digital: 0345 227228
Twinhead: 01256 811366

Virgin and ClaraNet join ranks of ISPs

Two new UK Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have appeared this month. Virgin Net, from Virgin Communications, and ClaraNet claim to offer easy and affordable access to the on-line world.

Virgin Net says its mission is to make the Net easier to use and more appealing to 'the man in the street'. There's no initial connection fee and no charge for the first three months of unlimited access.

Potential users can pick up the necessary software, which

includes Netscape Navigator and Cybersitter filtering software, free from Virgin shops. After the first three months the cost is £10 a month for unlimited access, or £6 a month for five hours plus a usage charge of 2p a minute after that. Calls are charged at the local rate.

ClaraNet offers a one-month free subscription, 5Mb

of free Web space, no connection fee and local call access in the UK. It offers several schemes, including a £99 annual subscription with unlimited access.

Virgin Communications: 0500 558800
ClaraNet: 0171 647 1000



Top 20 software packages according to Romtec figures

Position	Package	Publisher/supplier	Type	Last month
1	MS Office v4.2 Standard	Microsoft	Office suite	1
2	MS Windows 95	Microsoft	Operating system	2
3	MS Office Pro 4.0	Microsoft	Office suite	3
4	Lotus Notes for Windows	Lotus	Groupware	4
5	MS Windows NT Workstation	Microsoft	Operating system	15
6	MS Office 7.0 Pro	Microsoft	Office suite	8
7	MS Access for Windows	Microsoft	Database	19
8	Lotus SmartSuite v3.0/4.0	Lotus	Office suite	7
9	cc:Mail for Windows	Lotus	E-mail	13
10	MS WFWG inc UG	Microsoft	Operating system	9
11	MS Plus for Windows 95	Microsoft	Utility.	10
12	MS Office v7.0	Microsoft	Office suite	5
13	MS Word	Microsoft	Word processor	11
14	PK Zip for Dos	Atlantic Coast	Utility	6
15	S&S AV	S&S Enterprises	Anti-virus package	—
16	Corel Draw for Windows	Corel	Drawing package	20
17	MS Excel	Microsoft	Spreadsheet	14
18	MS Office v4.0	Microsoft	Office suite	—
19	MS Project for Windows	Microsoft	Project management	16
20	MS Works	Microsoft	Word processor	—

Figures for September 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.