



REAR VIEW

When you read predictions from 'industry analysts' about how we will be using technology in the future, don't believe them.

Alexander Graham Bell thought the telephone he invented would be used only in emergencies. And I remember reading books and articles in the 1960s which predicted that by the end of the century we'd be living in perspex domes at the bottom of the ocean and taking our vacations on the moon.

These pundits looked at the way technology was progressing at the time and made their predictions. But the uses of technology evolve faster than the technologies themselves. Take CD-ROMs for example.

My house is plagued with ants. I came back from a trip to the US last year only to find an inch-wide column of the little blighters marching through my house from front door to back door, browsing on crumbs which I had neglected to clean up before I left. An hour's work with the vacuum cleaner indoors and the ant powder outdoors (supplemented by another hour nailing the roof back on my garden shed - it had blown off while I'd been away) brought me back to gritty reality with an extremely hard bump.

‘I don't like resorting to chemical warfare, but they started it - they invaded my living room’

This year I've managed to keep the six-legged intruders at bay with a poisonous sticky gel which you put near their runs and the workers take back to the nest to feed all their friends with. I don't like resorting to chemical warfare, but they started it - they invaded my living room.

But what have ants got to do with CD-ROMs? Well, the gel needs a smooth surface to sit on, otherwise it soaks into the ground. The manufacturer recommends glass or plastic. I've got dozens of old CD-ROMs sitting around the house, so I use them.

Voilà - a new use for CD technology which Philips would never have predicted. (Anyone compiling a list of 1,001 things to do with CD-ROMs may add this to their list, provided they acknowledge its source.)

The only drawback with this ingenious plan is that the gel-carrying discs keep disappearing from outside the front door.

I suspect the paper boy. If he's been running them in his Dad's PC, heaven knows what the gel has done to the CD drive, and I expect his Dad may have found a new use for the discs too. More likely he is selling them in the playground to fund his glue habit. He may have some angry punters on his hands.

— **by Andrew Charlesworth** —

Caption competition



Here at *What PC?* we like to illustrate our reviews with simple, clear pictures of the products on test. However, companies will insist on sending us what they call 'lifestyle' images - usually someone pointing at a PC while standing naked in the desert. Such shots deserve to end up on back pages as the humorous basis for caption competitions.

The reader who submits a caption for the picture above (less than 25 words, please) that makes the most members of the *What PC?* team chuckle will get a copy of Kai's Power Goo to create his or her own funny photos.

Send your entries to *What PC?* Editorial, 32-34 Broadwick St, London W1A 2HG (or e-mail: whatpc@vnu.co.uk), marked 'Caption competition', to arrive no later than 14 September 1997.

Found on the Internet

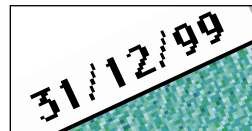
(and never a truer word spoken): 'We've heard that a million monkeys at a million keyboards could produce the complete works of Shakespeare. Now, thanks to the Internet, we know this is not true.'



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Illustration by Jake Abrams