

Philadelphia HUB PC User Group Officers

Officers

President Chuck Hajdú
Vice-President HUB..... Dan Ellenburger
Vice-President ABE Tom Vogt
Vice-President ACY..... John Hayes
Editor Diana Meade

SIG leaders

Internet Steve Smith
Flight Sims..... Mike McFadyen
Graphics Mark McCumber
Adult John Hayes
Games Eric Hayes
OS/2 Chuck Hajdú
Macintosh Jan Meade

Upcoming Events

Tri-State Computer Fair

Freehold Armory
Freehold, NJ
October 4
1000 - 1600

Tri-State Computer Fair

Nur Temple
New Castle, DE
October 5
1000 - 1600

Infotech '97

Valley Forge CC
Valley Forge, PA
October 7

Private & Wireless

Wyndham Anatole Hotel
Dallas, TX
October 8 - 10

Networld & Interop 97

Georgia World
Congress Center
Atlanta, GA
October 6 - 10

Ascent In Action

Marriott Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA
November 4
0830 - 1330

APCUG Weekend

The Orleans
Las Vegas, NV
November 15 - 16

Fall Comdex '97

LV Convention Center
Sands Convention Center
Hilton Convention Center
Just About Everywhere
Las Vegas, NV
November 17 -21

Comnet

Washington Conv. Center
Washington, DC
January 26 - 29, 1998

Congratulations to our Marketing Contest winners!



We received such a great response to our marketing contest, our judges had no easy time choosing among the many excellent plans we received. Entries were judged on the basis of originality and creativity, cost effectiveness of the plan, relevancy to New Deal's target audience, and style. Here are our winners!

- **Charles Hajdu** - Grand Prize winner of \$500! (U.S. dollars)
- **Jerome Thomas** - First Prize winner of New Deal Office 97 Plus and the computer to run it on!
- **David Ross** - Second Prize winner of New Deal Office 97 Plus!
- Our runners up are **Chip Blank, Donald Rosera, and Donald Qualls**. Each will receive a copy of New Deal Office 97!

Thanks to all of you who entered our marketing contest!

IDT WinChip C6

We were recently contacted by Mike Bruzzone to take part in the launch of the new **IDT WinChip C6** processor. The name should sound familiar, Mike was the User Group contact for NexGen before they were acquired by AMD and he was responsible for their great User Group program. He arranged the fantastic deal with Cybermax in Allentown that so many of us took advantage of. Good to have you back, Mike.

Here are some information excerpts from the background package Mike sent us. There is a TON of information on the new WinChip available on their web site and we highly recommend visiting to find out more information on this innovative product.

IDT WinChip C6, designed by **Centaur Technology** [centtech.com (winchip.com in the near future)], of Austin, Texas, is manufactured and marketed by **Integrated Device Technologies** (idt.com) of Santa Clara, California.

Centaur Technology was established in 1995 in a development agreement between Len Perham, President of **IDT**, and Mr. Glenn Henry, now President of **Centaur Technology**. Their pact was specifically to develop **WinChip C6** and follow on products for **IDT's** entry into the \$20 billion annual x86 microprocessor market.

IDT WinChip C6 is a unique and original RISC

implementation of the x86 microarchitecture. At 88 mm², **WinChip C6** has the smallest die area for any x86 microprocessor manufactured on an inexpensive 0.35 micron process. The chip is manufactured with four layers of metal interconnect. The die is bonded into a standard 296-pin grid array ceramic package, Socket 7 compliant, compatible with the Pentium pin-out. **WinChip C6** is currently sampling at 150 MHz CPU / 75 bus, 180 MHz / 60 MHz bus, and 200 MHz / 66 MHz bus versions. Higher speeds and specialty derivatives are planned.

From the standpoint of cost effectiveness, **WinChip C6** was specifically architected for a small die to serve the sub \$1,000 PC product category. This is referred to as die size economics. The smaller the die the more I can etch onto, and amortize across, the cost of producing one wafer. In addition, not all die etched onto a wafer work. More die on a wafer increase the probability of having more good die which in turn lowers cost. **IDT** realizes two **WinChip C6** die for the same die area in which AMD and Cyrix realize just one K6 MMX or 6x86 MX.

Additionally, a small die results in low power dissipation for notebooks and other mobile products. In this regard, **WinChip C6** hits a new milestone for x86 power dissipation in a single rail Socket 7 pin out: just 10.4 watts maximum at 200 MHz. CPU manufacturers will be the

first to say this means more battery life.

What we're attempting to do with our first processor is achieve broad access by end customers to a robust 200 MHz MMX solution for sub \$1,000 PCs and sub \$2,000 notebooks, running standard Windows business applications: word processing, spreadsheet, database, 2d presentation. Of course, **WinChip C6** will run all x86 applications including those requiring floating point and MMX today. **Centaur** engineers concentrated on Windows business application's performance first.

The computer we were provided to test the new WinChip included:

An AES Computers case
Holco Shuttle Spacewalker 565 motherboard
Intel 440 TX chip set
Award 4.53 BIOS with Centaur support
512 Kbyte L1 cache
32 MB EDO DRAM, 60 ns
Diamond Stealth 3D 2000 (Virge) with 2 MB EDO DRAM
Western Digital WDC 32100 Caviar 1.6 Gig IDE
Samsung 24 x CDRom
ESS 768 PnP Sound
1.44 MB Floppy
Windows 95 w/license

When the computer arrived we immediately did the standard computer geek thing: we took it apart. The case is a full sized desktop case, not one of those terrible compact

or low-profile designs. There's plenty of room inside to add additional hardware. Two free SIMM sockets, three free PCI slots, two free ISA slots and 2 free 5 ¼ bays. The CPU is in a ZIF socket which, of course, will make an upgrade very easy. There's also a large fan on the CPU and the case design provides for plenty of room for airflow to help keep things cool. All in all, a very nice design.

We hooked up a TeleVideo SV210 17" SuperView monitor, the AES keyboard and a Mitsumi two-button mouse and we were ready to go. The SV210 is a "plug-and-pray" monitor and it worked perfectly. It was recognized immediately and worked flawlessly. This computer deserves a quality monitor and the TeleVideo SV210 is a reasonably priced, superb performing choice.

The computer came with Win95 and a few test programs installed (along with all of the factory installed drivers, of course). We had to decide what we wanted to install, in what order, to test the system. Since the WinChip is designed to work best with business applications, we decided to load a couple of standard suites.

The first thing we installed is our favorite, the Lotus SmartSuite 97. We added Organizer 97GS in place of Organizer 97 so we can test the group scheduling capabilities and the Texas Instruments PS-6960Si in a future issue.

Next came Microsoft Office 95 Standard. We could have installed Office 97, but since most of our members still use Office 95 we felt it would be of more interest.

We also installed Nico Mak WinZip 6.3 (the BEST zip program ever), Print Shop Deluxe and a couple of old DOS games.

Since we were asked to test for compatibility we decided to try two applications that we've had lots of problems with in the past. The Ring Disk is an interactive guide to Wagner's Ring Cycle. It's a beautiful program that explores every aspect of the classic opera. It's also very particular about hardware and refuses to run on computers that it thinks are inadequate (it HATES the AMD K5 chip). Guess what? No problems, it autoloaded and ran perfectly. While we're on the subject, audio CDs also run perfectly. As I'm writing this I'm also listening to Stevie Nicks on CD and there's no hesitation at all (at this moment I have Microsoft Word with 3 documents open, the CD player, Lotus Organizer and AOL running).

The second program that is notoriously finicky is Microsoft's HPC Explorer. We were unable to use HPC Explorer to connect to any of our HPCs on several computers, while it works perfectly with others. Needless to say, we had no trouble connecting. In no time we were up and running and sending files back and forth to both a Compaq Companion C140 and a Philips Velo 1.

Since we were testing the HPC connection, we took it one step further and installed Puma Technology's IntelliSynch. Of course everything went perfectly. We synched up with our Organizer 97 files and starting synchronizing our HPC files and desktop files. If you're an HPC user we highly recommend getting

IntelliSynch, it's an invaluable product.

How can you own a computer today and not have a modem attached? We have just gotten in a couple of 56k external modems and decided to try one of them. We disconnected the HPC cable from COM2 and attached the serial cable for the Shark Leopard 56k modem. Needless to say, it was recognized immediately and ready to go. We installed AOL 3.0 and went on line. By now you'd be surprised if we had encountered any glitches so you won't be surprised to hear that there were, as usual, no problems.

Statistics comparing the performance of the WinChip C6 to Intel, AMD and Cyrix chips are all available at www.centtech.com. We are much more interested in practical tests. How well does a product work for us, not how does it compare in some esoteric automated application tester.

After many hours of running programs with blinding speed and total reliability all we can say is: WOW. We're not just impressed, we're in awe! There were exactly ZERO problems. No conflicts, no crashes, no nothing. The WinChip C6 just plain works.

Thanks to Chuck Hajdu, Tom Vogt, Megan Hajdu, Bryan Woody and Diana Meade for testing the IDT WinChip C6 and contributing to this review.

Solutions for HandHeld Personal Computers

Philips Velo 1

Philips Mobile Computing Group
Street price: \$799
www.velo1.com

When we received the Philips Velo 1 to evaluate I didn't expect it to be very different from the other WinCE devices we've tested. As usual, I was wrong. At first glance it looks very much like the Casio Cassiopea or the Compaq Companion expect for the two-tone texture of the case. But once its opened the differences start to jump out at you.

1 - A small thing, but significant, the keys are oval not square. Believe it or not, it took some getting used to. I'm still not sure how I like the slippery little egg shaped keys. It seems to slow me down (if that's possible!).

2 - The screen is virtually the same despite the slightly rounded edges (is Philips going for a rounder look in everything?).

3 - There's no back-light. This isn't a major factor because the back-light on the other HPCs doesn't work very well anyway. No great loss.

4 - One feature I really like is the "hot keys". Much like the Psion, Philips has added Alt-# hot keys to start all of the major applications. Very convenient and quick.

5 - Where the speaker is located on the Casio and Compaq units there is a really spiffy telephone hookup. It's convenient and folds out of the way when not in use. An excellent feature.

Those are some of the obvious, at-first-glance things I noticed. There are lots of other things that really make the Velo 1 stand out. The biggest one from my point of view is the Voice Memo feature. I normally carry an HPC in my jacket pocket or have it sitting on my desk within arms reach. With the Velo 1 all you have to do to record a voice memo is pick up the closed (or opened) Velo and push the record button to record thoughts. I'm amazed at how convenient and easy it is. Trust me folks, this one feature alone makes the Velo 1 better than the competition.

The Velo 1 uses the MPS R4000 processor and this baby really hums. It's much faster than the Hitachi SH3 used in the Casio and Compaq HPCs.

Of course there were things I don't like. The Velo 1 doesn't have a built in PC Card slot. You have to buy an accessory which adds bulk, weight and cost. The Velo 1 use Flash Cards instead of PC Cards and has two slots on the bottom. One is just for adding additional RAM and the other allows for system. I've gotten used to transferring information and files easily by using PC Cards as a transfer method

between my HPCs and desktops. It's not as easy or convenient to do with the Velo 1.

The Velo 1 comes with a base unit that is needed to connect to your desktop. It provides AC power and the required serial connection in a good solid unit. It's hard to criticize something that works well, but it seems bit like over-kill. If the base unit provided PC Card slots, a printer port or other such really useful stuff I'd be overjoyed. But it only performs the same functions as the neat little clip-on piece the Compaq uses. Not too impressive.

My over all impression is that this is an excellent HPC. In many ways it's the best I've used. Like all HPCs it shares certain flaws: the keyboard is hard to use, the pointing device is inconvenient, the screens are terrible, you can't print from them, etc. But if you're like me the benefits of their small size, light weight, flexibility and surprising power make the really worth while. I wouldn't think of not having one with me at all times.

Is the Philips Velo 1 worth the higher price you have to pay for the built in modem and the convenient Voice Memo feature? That's for you to decide. But personally, I'd say "yes".

PHLHUBPCUG@aol.com

Pocket-Jongg 2.2

C-Labs Inc.
Demo Free
WinCE \$19.95
Win95/NT/CE \$21.99
www.c-labs.com

One of the advantages of carrying a WinCE computer is having a cool time-killing device at your finger tips. I've never been someone who liked arcade type, shoot-em-up games, I like card games and board games. Pocket-Jongg by C-Labs, is one of the most addictive games I've found for

the WinCE system. Most of the companies that are writing WinCE products use the web as their distribution system. Visit their site, download the software and pay (credit card required) for a password to unlock the product. A fast simple way to get the product out.

Pocket-Jongg is a fantastic version of Mah Jongg that works great on both WinCE and desktop computers. The

rules are all spelled out in the help file and it takes a grand total of about five minutes to learn the ropes. I won't try to explain the game in detail, it's a bit complex to try to describe without seeing the screen.

This is a very highly recommended game for WinCE users you travel a lot and need an occasional diversion to help them relax.

JoisyChick@aol.com

Upgrading Your Personal Computer

APC Back-UPS Pro PnP 280

American Power Conversion
132 Fairgrounds Road
West Kingston, RI 02892
401-789-0204
www.apcc.com

Why DESKTOP SYSTEM Power Protection is Essential.

Contrary to most literature published by power protection manufactures, your PC is not an eggshell. Quality vendors such as Dell and IBM build in strong tolerance for the daily barrage of power anomalies your PC is likely to face. In most cases, you may not even be aware of the frequency with which power problems hit your computer because of the protection already build into the PC.

You do need to protect against out-of-bounds power events with quality surge

protection and reliable battery backup power. Out of bounds events, like a high end surge or a low end power outage, can damage data or hardware. In either case, the responsibility of the computer designers to protect you ends, and your obligation to protect yourself begins.

The two paragraphs above were found on the American Power Conversion (APC) home page. Those two paragraphs pretty much sum up the reason I installed the APC Back-UPS Pro 280. The Pro 280 is an Uninterruptible Power Supply for the desk top computer user and was designed for Windows 95.

This UPS provides instantaneous power to your computer in the event of a brownout or complete loss of power. It offers lightning and

surge protection and network grade line conditioning to prevent glitches. The batteries are user replaceable thus eliminating the need to return the unit to the factory for battery replacement. There is a communications interface for automatic and safe system shut down in the event of a power failure.

The unit is small and compact therefore taking up very little room on your desk top. The UPS also comes with a \$25,000.00 lifetime equipment protection. As long as you properly installed the unit, your connected equipment will be repaired or replaced by APC for damage caused by an AC surge, including surges due to lightning. Now that's a deal that can't be beat.

The user's manual is straight forward and easy to understand making installation simple and fast. To install the unit I plugged the power cord of the UPS into the wall socket, then plugged the power cords from the computer and monitor into the two sockets located on the back of the unit. I now had surge protection and an uninterruptible power supply.

But I said that this unit was designed for Windows 95. Included with the unit were a telephone cord, a communications cable and Power Chute Pro software. The telephone cord is to provide modem protection. The communications cable is connected to a serial port on the back of the unit and to an available COMM port on the computer. Since my mouse is on COMM 1, I used COMM 2 for the communications cable. Finding an available IRQ was just as simple. The manual explained exactly how to go about doing this. The entire installation took just under 15 minutes.

Configuring the Power Chute Pro software was just as easy. There are drop down menus for System, Logging of events, configuration, diagnostics and help. The configuration menu allows you to set UPS Shutdown Parameters. You can allow to system to operate until the battery runs down or to have the system shut it self down after a predetermined amount of time. The same menu allows the user to set parameters to automatically shut down open applications by using the "WorkSafe feature."

Once I had the unit installed it was time to test it out. I set all the parameters, initiated the self test, made sure all of the light and buzzers worked. Everything work fine. Now it was time to simulate a complete loss of power. To do this, I pulled it's plug. I expected the monitor to go blank but nothing happened. The screen was still alive and the hard drives were still spinning. Then five seconds after pulling the plug the UPS started beeping and the "On Battery Power" light came on. The computer was still operating normally. The unit worked as advertised and I was overcome with joy, since I had lost data twice last month due to two local power failures.

With everything installed properly and working fine it was time to try the "WorkSafe Feature." I opened a blank Lotus 1-2-3 page and a blank Word Pro page. I first titled, then saved both blank pages. Then I entered a few cells of data in the spreadsheet and a few lines of text in the Word Pro document, pulled the plug again and waited for the unit to shut the computer down. After shut down was complete, I plugged the unit back in and the computer rebooted. I opened the two pages I had left open prior to the power failure and found exactly what I had left. I was expecting to find blank pages, but the "WorkSafe Feature" save both of the open documents.

The APC Back-UPS Pro PnP 280 is the low end as far as power requirements go, but it's just perfect for the home computer user.

TomV@itw.com

Disclaimer:

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the Officers or Members of the Philadelphia HUB PC User Group, any Air Traffic Control Tower, the PHL HUB, the Air Traffic Division, Eastern Region, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, the U. S. Government, the Government of Hungary, the United Nations or the United Federation of Planets.

A wasted youth is better by far than a wise and productive old age. Objects in the rear-view mirror are closer than they appear. Everything louder than everything else.

LSMFT