

Dan's Desktop

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Technobabble

- 8 *166 MHz computers are now available for under \$1000 — not including monitor. Prices are continuing to fall while computing power continues to double about every two years. 300 MHz Pentium II computers are available for about \$3000. Within two years, these may be the \$1000 models.*
- 8 *An NC or Network Computer is a low cost computer that is basically a stripped down computer with just a CPU and memory along with a modem or network card. All programs and data are stored on a network. It was once thought that these would make computers more affordable to people at home. The problem now is that some full functioning computers are now available for prices starting at \$700-800. Few people would want to spend just \$100-200 less to get a machine with such limited capabilities. NCs will probably be used mostly in business.*
- 8 *What will be the future ways people connect to the Internet? Cable modems are available in some locations. They offer faster connections to the Internet. New digital technology will allow phone and data services to simultaneously use a normal phone line. Besides being speedy, either of these technologies could allow continuous access to the Internet. Digital Satellite services are beginning to be offered as well. Also, a new 112 KBPS modem was recently announced (note: it requires the use of two phone lines).*
- 8 *IBM has announced several breakthroughs recently. One is a new technology that will allow the use of copper in processors. This will allow chips to be dramatically faster. A 600 MHz processor can't be far away. IBM also announced a new 16.8 gigabyte hard drive.*
- 8 *My clients increasingly request that I do on site hardware upgrades or that I set up simple computer networks. I can advise you on beneficial upgrades and help with installations.*

Gifts for You and Your PC

If your Pentium or 486 PC seems slow or awkward to use, there are a number of things you can do to make your use of the PC more pleasant.

THIS MOUSE WAS STIRRING

Recently, I was nearly driven over the deep end by a mouse that wouldn't shoot straight. I just could not get it to easily point to the precise location I wanted. Solution: I bought a new Logitech MouseMan for \$50 at Staples. It has four buttons including a thumb button that helps me scroll without using the scroll bars. One of the buttons is used when I want to double click. The MouseMan is also better contoured to my hand. I now can point, click, and double click with the precision of a surgeon.

BLINKETY BLINK BLINK BLINKING CD ROM

When you run software that involves a CD ROM, do you find that you must wait quite a while for the CD to be read? If your CD ROM is less than an 8X, you might want to consider replacing it. I replaced my 2X with a 24X. This tremendously sped up the time it takes to access my encyclopedia, SelectPhone, SelectStreet, and other software. A 16X to 24X CD ROM can be purchased for \$60 - \$100.

MEMORY IS TOO PAINFUL TO FORGET

No computer should have less than 16 meg RAM — especially if you are using Windows 95. It costs \$80-\$150 to purchase 16 meg of additional memory.

WORLD WIDE WAIT

If you use the Internet for more than E-mail, you should be using at least a 28.8 KBPS modem. A new modem costs \$50 - \$230 depending on speed and features.

THE HARD KNOCKS OF AN OLD HARD DRIVE

If your hard drive is much less than a gigabyte (1000 meg), you



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Software to Consider

The following software is on my PC and is very useful to me.

MICROSOFT PUBLISHER

Newsletters, business cards, brochures, ads, Web Pages, etc.

COREL MEGA GALLERY

30,000 pieces of clip art.

MICROSOFT OFFICE

Word for letters, envelopes, invoices, forms, mail merges.

Excel for calculations and sometimes for mail merge data.

Access to track business activity and databases developed for clients, also use with mail merge.

PRO CD SELECT PHONE

National phone directory. Finding phone numbers or addresses. Name and address data for direct marketing.

PRO CD SELECT STREET

Street maps for entire country. Make maps to client sites. Plot clients on a map.

LVIEWPRO

View and edit images. View slide shows of images.

MICROSOFT MONEY

Track personal accounts, assets, and investments

DELRINA WINFAX PRO

Send and receive faxes. Convert fax to document with OCR software

AMERICAN SAVINGS BANK ELECTRONIC BILL PAYING

Pay utility and other recurring bills online

INTERNET EXPLORER

Connect to Internet Service Providers like Prodigy Internet and SNET Internet, browse web pages. *Internet Mail* feature allows sending and receiving mail without bringing up web pages.

NETSCAPE NAVIGATOR

Another web browser.

NORTON ANTI VIRUS

Protect computer against viruses.

POST IT SOFTWARE NOTES AND POST IT NOTES DESIGN SOFTWARE

Put post it notes on screen or print notes on special paper.

FAMILY TREE MAKER DELUXE EDITION II

Record family history and print out family trees, calendars and more. Includes World Family Tree disks with information submitted by other users.

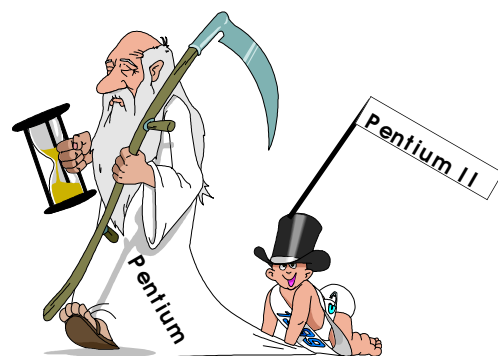
BEST OF MICROSOFT ENTERTAINMENT PACK

Games including Free Cell, Jezz Ball, Taipei.

BICYCLE SOLITAIRE

Many solitaire varieties

SCRABBLE



Dan's Desktop Comes to the Web!

<http://pages.prodigy.net/danhenry>

Well, I've finally taken advantage of the web space Prodigy Internet makes available to me. *Dan's Desktop, Internet Edition* features information that has appeared in my newsletter. There are also links to the technical support areas of major hardware and software providers so that you can more quickly find answers to questions and download new software fixes or revised hardware drivers. If you have an Internet connection, **check it out!** I welcome your feedback.