

NEW ON THE MARKET

Disk Drive*(continued from page 51)*

the primary drive fails, the software automatically shifts operation on-the-fly to the backup drive. The software also supports periodic, scheduled, or on-demand backup.

List Price: The Classic Disk Drive, \$1,295; additional data cartridges, \$149. **Requires:** 512K RAM, expansion slot, DOS 2.0 or later. Software not copy protected. Cumulus Corp., 23500 Mercantile Rd., Cleveland, OH 44122; (216) 464-2211.

CIRCLE 435 ON READER SERVICE CARD

Programmer's Library Added to Microsoft's List of CD-ROM Titles

The promise of CD-ROM is fast access to huge volumes of information. Microsoft has taken another step toward the fulfillment of that promise with the release of *Microsoft Programmer's Library*, which packs more than 20,000 pages of reference material and sample code onto a single CD.

Programmer's Library includes 48 books and technical manuals on Microsoft operating systems and languages. The information ranges from quick-reference help to more-in-depth material, grouped into nine categories: MS-OS/2, Windows,

MS-DOS, C, BASIC, Macro Assembler, Pascal, FORTRAN, and hardware. Among the several books included are *Inside OS/2*, by Gordon Letwin, and *Programming Windows*, by PC Magazine contributing editor Charles Petzold. The library's 1,200 sample programs would require 20 floppy disks to store them.

All of the material in *Programmer's Library* can be accessed from inside a text editor or word processor and copied directly into programs or documents. When the library is popped up within a text editor or word processor, the word at the cursor can be automatically searched on. The library can also be run as a standalone program and is extensively cross-referenced.

List Price: *Microsoft Programmer's Library*, \$395 through December 1988. **Requires:** 640K RAM, CD-ROM disk drive with MS-DOS CD-ROM extensions, DOS 3.1 or later. Software not copy protected. Microsoft Corp., 16011 NE 36th Way, Box 97017, Redmond, WA 98073; (206) 883-8080.

CIRCLE 437 ON READER SERVICE CARD

Power Protection Unit Fits Inside Case, Saves Complete System State

Microsync Inc. has introduced a power protection system that

NEC ProSpeed 386 Portable Machine Is At Home on the Office Desk or on the Road

The NEC ProSpeed 386, from NEC, bridges the gap between the desktop and the field by providing power for the office and portability for traveling. The modular system consists of a detachable portable computer with a hard disk and LCD screen, and a large \$1,199 power supply/expansion unit (called a "docking station") that remains behind on the desk.

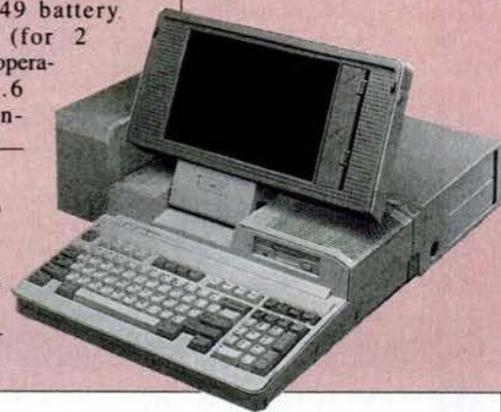
The portable is driven by a 16-MHz 80386 processor and comes with a 40MB (\$7,699) or 100MB (\$8,999) hard disk and a 1.44MB floppy disk drive. The LCD screen displays CGA and EGA graphics; VGA support is included for an optional external monitor. Standard are 2MB of 32-bit, 100-nanosecond RAM, expandable to 15MB. The portable module weighs 17.6 pounds, NEC says, and the optional \$349 battery attachment (for 2 to 3 hours of operation) adds 4.6 pounds. Stan-

dard ports include one parallel, one serial, and one VGA port. An AC/DC power source is built in.

The docking station attaches to the rear of the portable, for a total system depth of 24 inches. It duplicates the ports on the rear of the portable and adds a second serial port, an external keyboard port, two RJ-11 connectors, and an AC power outlet. It also adds three full-size 16-bit expansion slots and one full-size 8-bit slot.

List Price: NEC ProSpeed 386, with 40MB hard disk, \$7,699; with 100MB hard disk, \$8,999. Optional battery unit, \$349. Docking station, \$1,199. NEC Home Electronics (USA) Inc., 1255 Michael Dr., Wood Dale, IL 60191; (312) 860-9500.

CIRCLE 433 ON READER SERVICE CARD



The NEC ProSpeed 386 (\$7,699 with 40MB hard disk) combines the power of a desktop machine with the versatility of a portable.

19-Inch IBM Mono Monitor Supports 8514 Graphics Adapter, Up to 64 Shades

IBM has unveiled a 19-inch monochrome monitor suited to desktop publishing, graphics, and large spreadsheet applications. The \$867 IBM Monochrome Display 8507 supports up to 16 shades of gray when used with the PS/2 Display Adapter 8514/A, and up to 64 shades of gray when the IBM 8514 Memory Expansion Kit is added.

The analog monitor can handle resolutions of up to 1,024 by 768 pixels and has a viewing area of 14 by 10½ inches. IBM says that the monitor can be used with older PCs in addition to the current PS/2 line.

List Price: IBM Monochrome Display 8507, \$867. Contact your local IBM dealer.

CIRCLE 434 ON READER SERVICE CARD

fits completely inside your CPU case and protects against data loss. When the Boomerang detects a power outage, the combination hardware-and-software system supplies battery power while saving the entire state of your system to your hard disk. Once normal power is resumed, a simple command restores the computer to its state at the time of interruption, according to Microsync.

Boomerang does not require an expansion slot; it installs between the power supply and the

motherboard.

Microsync says Boomerang also lets you simply turn off power at any point within an application. When you power up again, the device returns your system to where you left it.

List Price: Boomerang, \$299. **Requires:** 256K RAM, hard disk, graphics adapter, DOS 2.1 or later. Software not copy protected. Microsync Inc., 15018 Beltway Dr., Dallas, TX 75244; (214) 788-5198.

CIRCLE 436 ON READER SERVICE CARD

Microsoft CD Duo Offers Economic Statistics, Small-Business Counsel

PC HANDS ON

BY LORI GRUNIN

When you're ready to trade long hours in the library for shorter hours in front of a computer, you're ready for the age of on-line research. Microsoft's latest CD-ROM offerings, the \$125 *Stat Pack* and the \$149 *Small Business Consultant*, are geared to people who need quick reference to economic data and entrepreneurial advice.

Stat Pack comprises the full text and tables of five federal-government publications: *The Statistical Abstract of the United States 1987*, *Public Land Statistics*, *Survey of Current Business*, *Area Wage Surveys*, and *Agricultural Statistics*. Every table comes in both .WK1 and .XLS formats for easy importation into your spreadsheet program.

Since these documents take up only a fraction of the space on the CD, the International Monetary Fund's (IMF's) *Inter-*

national Financial Statistics would have been a welcome addition.

Small Business Consultant consists of hundreds of documents, covering numerous aspects of starting, running, and expanding a small business, issued by the Small Business Administration (SBA) and other government agencies. For balance, you'll also find a bit of private-sector advice from the accounting firm of Deloitte Haskins & Sells.

The information is broken down into categories such as Planning, Finance, and Selling, as well as one called Loss, meant to help prevent losses and criminal infractions. Microsoft includes two templates (in both .WK1 and .XLS formats) to help produce monthly cash-flow projections and profit-and-loss statements.

Stat Pack and *Small Business Consultant* share the same interface. The TSR software lets you search through a document for up to three terms. You

can't perform explicit Boolean searches, but once you have found an appropriate set of hits, you can filter the set to locate a specific reference. An especially handy feature enables you to place a bookmark in a spot you know you'll want to return to. You can also import data and text into your word processor via the clipboard's cut and paste features.

One frustrating limitation, especially evident in *Small Business Consultant*, is the inability to search across categories. To find everything on "pricing," for example, you'd have to perform at least three separate searches: one under each of the categories Selling, Trade, and Management.

Both packages consolidate useful information that would take you countless hours to accumulate and sift through on your own. To be useful to the serious researcher, *Stat Pack* should be sold by subscription—a usable data set usually needs to be spliced together

from various issues of the source publications on an ongoing basis; it's rarely found in one volume. But for finding an occasional statistic, it sure beats trotting down to the local library. **PC**

PC **FACT**
MAGAZINE **FILE**

Microsoft Stat Pack Microsoft Small Business Consultant

Microsoft Corp.
16011 NE 36th Way
Redmond, WA 98073
(206) 882-8080

List Price: *Microsoft Stat Pack*, \$125; *Microsoft Small Business Consultant*, \$149.

Requires: 640K RAM (512K with hard disk), DOS 3.1-3.3, CD-ROM drive with Microsoft's MS-DOS CD-ROM Extensions.

CIRCLE 441 ON READER SERVICE CARD

FeedThru Modem Gives What It Takes

PC HANDS ON

BY JONATHAN MATZKIN

My Manhattan apartment and my PC's expansion bus have one thing in common: a shortage of places to put things. So whether I'm contemplating a new couch or a new modem, I have to think carefully before I plunk down my money.

The Xecom FeedThru modem does little to expand my living quarters, but this faintly Rube Goldbergish device has allowed me to communicate without sacrificing an expansion slot or serial port.

One end of the 1- by 3/4- by 4-inch (HWD) FeedThru attaches to your serial port in much the same way that Touchbase Systems' Worldport or Mi-

gent's Pocket Modem does. But at the other end, the FeedThru has another connector, which turns out to be a serial port. You toggle between the port and the modem with a switch mounted on the case of the FeedThru. That means you can't simultaneously use the modem and whatever device you connect to the serial port. There is no way

to make the switch in software. Power comes from an AC adapter.

Xecom eliminates a potential annoyance by including a serial extension cord. This allows you to place the FeedThru next to or on top of your system unit, like any other external modem, so manually switching between the RS-232 port and the modem is less irksome than it

would be if you had to grope around on the back of your system unit.

The modem half of the FeedThru lacks some of the creature comforts many of us expect, like a speaker and status lights. It is a fully functional 2,400-bit-per-second modem, however, and it worked without flaw during testing.

The FeedThru comes with *Mirror II* communications software and costs \$349. For \$499, you also get a serial mouse, *TurboCAD*, and *Dr. Halo III*. It's a surprisingly successful solution to your PC's housing shortage.

List Price: Xecom FeedThru, \$349; with serial mouse, \$499. Requires: Serial port. Xecom Inc., 374 Turquoise St., Milpitas, CA 95035; (408) 945-6640.

CIRCLE 448 ON READER SERVICE CARD



The Xecom FeedThru modem sports a serial port at one end, to which you can attach any standard RS-232C-compatible peripheral.