IBM

News Release

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IBM Personal System/2

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, NEW OPERATING SYSTEMS, COMPATIBILITY,

POWERFUL GRAPHICS, NEW OPTIONS HIGHLIGHT SYSTEM

RYE BROOK, N.Y., April 2 . . . IBM today introduced a new
generation of personal computing products and programs -- the IBM
Personal System/2 ^{TM}.

It represents the broadest range of compatible personal
computing systems ever offered. The new processors are packed
with IBM-developed technology, powerful graphics capability and a
wide range of high-capacity memory and storage devices.

The Personal System/2 family also includes advanced displays
and printers, new and enhanced operating systems, and a wide
array of other options and software. It is being announced
worldwide and supports 11 national languages.

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The Personal System/2 was designed as a system. It provides performance and technology value that exceed the sum of its individual elements. It offers compatibility to hundreds of thousands of users of IBM personal computing products. The popular IBM Personal Computer Disk Operating System -- known as PC DOS -- and most of today's IBM Personal Computer software applications will run on the new systems. Many of these applications will also run with the new IBM Operating System/2^{TM} introduced today.

With the Personal System/2, customers can build systems solutions to meet traditional computing requirements today, and prepare for technology that will emerge in the future.

"This announcement represents a turning point in the evolution of personal computing," said Edward E. Lucente, IBM vice president and group executive for the company's Information Systems Group. "In only a few years, the importance of personal computing has expanded dramatically. It has moved from a stand-alone productivity aid for individuals to become an integral part of operating most businesses.

"The Personal System/2 will meet our customers' wide range of requirements from single applications to multitasking, from stand-alone jobs to sharing resources with other users, and from single systems to environments that involve large networks."

New Models

The Personal System/2 includes two configurations of the Model 30, based on the Intel 8086 processor; the Model 50 and two configurations of the Model 60, all of which use the Intel 80286 processor; and three configurations of the Model 80, based on the Intel 80386 processor.

Innovative Technology Enhances Performance

Personal System/2 sets new standards of quality, reliability and serviceability.

The system incorporates a number of technological advances developed in IBM laboratories. For example, up to 80 percent of the Model 80's content was developed by IBM. It features the same one-million bit memory technology used in larger IBM systems, including the IBM 3090; IBM-unique logic chips complementing the Intel processor; higher-capacity IBM fixed disks; new IBM monochrome and color analog displays; advanced IBM Micro Channel^{TM} architecture, IBM's new printers and the same IBM enhanced keyboard for all models.

IBM-developed technology, as well as fewer components, cable connectors and substantially less power dissipation make the Personal System/2 up to five times more reliable than the original IBM Personal Computer and two to three times more reliable than today's most popular models.

Adapter cards for serial and parallel printer attachments, pointing devices, and new levels of graphics are standard equipment on the Personal System/2. The system is also easy to set up because there are no system switches to set.

The built-in graphics capability, in conjunction with the new IBM displays, generates clearer text, sharper charts and realistic pictures. Users can display up to 256 colors at the same time from a palette of more than 256,000 colors -- and monochrome graphics of up to 64 shades of gray at the same time.

The IBM Micro Channel on the Models 50, 60 and 80 enables up to 32 bits of data to flow to and from the processor. That is twice the capacity of most earlier IBM personal computing products. The Micro Channel allows the system to handle more data and synchronize its entry and exit in much the same way a four-lane highway handles traffic more efficiently than a two-lane road. This enables users to perform several tasks at once without sacrificing efficiency.

New Operating System Taps Greater Power

IBM Personal System/2 customers will have two strategic operating systems from which to choose. Both are designed to take advantage of the capabilities of the Personal System/2.

Available immediately, IBM PC DOS 3.3 supports all of the new systems and all previous models of the IBM Personal Computer. When the new IBM 3270 Workstation Program is used with IBM PC DOS 3.3, the Personal System/2 connects with mainframe systems, supports more memory and provides customers with multitasking support.

Operating System/2, available in the first quarter of 1988, will run on Personal System/2 Models 50, 60 and 80, and is compatible with most applications written for PC DOS.

Operating System/2 is also the first offering of IBM Systems Application Architecture, a common framework for developing and using the same application programs across the broad range of IBM systems.

Prices for the various models of the Personal System/2 range from $1,695 for a two-diskette configuration of the Model 30 to $10,995 for the most powerful Model 80.

All products are available through IBM's North-Central and South-West Marketing divisions, IBM Authorized Advanced Products Dealers and Authorized Advanced Products Value Added Dealers. Selected products are available through Authorized IBM Personal Computer Dealers and Value Added Dealers.

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(Note to Editor: The following is a summary of information contained in additional news releases.)

Processor Models

Model 30: Available in two desktop configurations, it can process information up to two-and-a-half times as fast as the IBM Personal Computer XT(TM). Designed for a broad range of customer needs such as word processing, spreadsheets and business applications, including graphics, it can be used in entry-level, stand-alone, network or host-connected environments.

Model 50: This compact single-diskette desktop workstation can be mounted in the drawer space of a desk. It can be used as a personal office system, as a workstation in a local area network or connected to a larger host system. The Model 50 processes information up to twice as fast as the IBM Personal Computer AT(R).

Model 60: This floor-standing processor fits under a desk and is available in two configurations. Individuals, small businesses and departments within larger enterprises will find the Model 60 ideal because of its flexibility to serve as a single user system or as part of a larger network.

Model 80: The most powerful model in the new family, this floor-standing system comes in three configurations and processes information up to three-and-a-half times as fast as the IBM Personal Computer AT. Designed to meet high-performance requirements, such as those found in businesses where resources and data are shared among multiple users, it also can serve as the gateway to access large host systems and for file sharing in a local area network.

Advanced Display Models

The new IBM Personal System/2 analog displays offer sharp text characters, graphics and image processing along with reduced flicker, and a non-glare screen. Included are three color and one monochrome display.

New Printer Models

There are five new printers, including three models of the IBM Proprinter(TM), a faster Quietewriter(R) printer and a laser printer.

SolutionPacs For Customers

New IBM SolutionPacs(TM) for the Personal System/2 are Personal Publishing System, Legal Profession Series, Doctor's Office Management, Construction Industry Series, CADwrite Design and Drafting System and Business Adviser Financial Accounting. A host-based SolutionPac, Publishing System VM Edition, which operates on most IBM System/370s, was also announced.

High-Capacity Diskette is Small and Durable

The IBM Personal System/2 uses durable, high-capacity 3.5-inch diskettes, capable of holding up to four times more data than the 5.25-inch floppy diskette. Several devices also announced enable customers to move data easily between 5.25-inch and 3.5-inch diskettes. Many independent software developers will convert their applications to the 3.5-inch media.

Connectivity Enhanced

Enhancements to the IBM Token-Ring and PC Network were also announced today. These new products continue the program to connect low-cost small systems to high-function, host-based systems, and link personal computing systems together.

Optical Disk

An optical disk drive uses removable cartridges to increase the storage capacity of the Personal System/2. Each cartridge can hold up to 200 megabytes of data.

Music

The IBM Music Feature is an adapter card which enables the user of an IBM Personal Computer, IBM Personal Computer XT, Personal Computer AT or Personal System/2 Model 30 to create and play sophisticated musical compositions.

Advanced Products Dealers

In order to market and provide increased customer support for the Personal System/2, IBM has established a new level of retailer -- the Advanced Products Dealer -- from qualified members of its present Authorized Personal Computer Dealer and Value Added Dealer organizations.

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