EDITORS' CHOICE

October 15, 2002

Innovative PCs: Business Desktops

NEC PowerMate eco



The NEC PowerMate eco stands out in two unique ways. First, this Editors' Choice winner is the only desktop PC that doesn't use a fan. Second, it's the first to address PC recycling, an issue often overlooked but very important.

By using the Transmeta Crusoe TM5800 chip, which was originally built for low-power notebooks, the PowerMate consumes so little power and emits so little heat that it doesn't need a fan. Also, according to NEC and Transmeta, the system never produces more than 20 decibels, making it as quiet as a whisper. The trade-off for such a quiet and cool machine is a drop in performance caused by Transmeta's use of code-morphing technology, though the PowerMate is still fine for running typical business applications.

The unit is highly recycling-friendly. Its flat-panel screen does not contain boron, commonly found in CRT monitors, and its motherboard is made with lead-free solder, which protects those doing the reclamation and the ground water in case of disposal. Also, the chassis is made of NEC's patented NuCycle plastic, which is 100 percent recyclable and uses nontoxic flame retardant.

Since the machine takes up an unusually small amount of space, we applaud the PowerMate's design. Like the IBM NetVista X41, it's essentially a flat panel with a PC built into its base.

Not necessarily known for innovative design, NEC comes through with cool style, great use of technology, and a unique approach to PC recycling.

IN THIS COMPARISON

Editors' Choice	Product	Editor Rating	Member Rating	Shop Now
	Compaq Evo D500 Ultraslim Desktop	●●●○○		Check Prices
	Gateway e4000	●●●●○		
	IBM NetVista X41	●●●●○		Check Prices
✓	NEC PowerMate eco	●●●●○		
	PC Power & Cooling SleekLine 2400	●●○○○		