■ STEPHEN MANES

PS/2 TOP TEN LISTS

From the Home Office in Scottsdale, Arizona (with apologies to the staff of "Late Night with David Letterman," and we all know just how painful that can be).

Top Ten Advantages of the Personal System/2

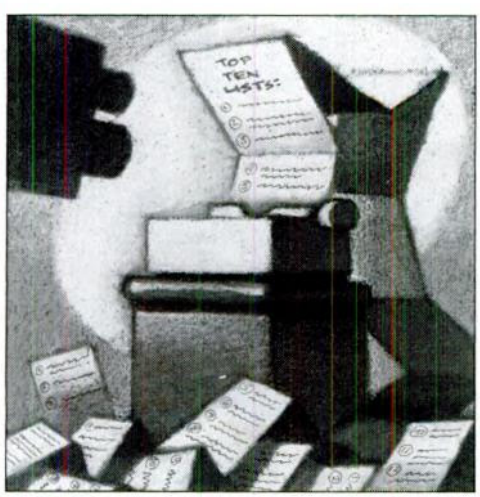
10. New bus frees old-model expansion cards for use as attractive, functional coasters.
9. Icon that appears when you boot up with a nonsystem disk by mistake does not have a "grumpy face."
8. Integral card labels make accidental installation of multiple mouse boards unlikely.
7. Faster serial port means no more problems with your 19,200-bps modem.
6. Three-slot design of low-end models eliminates overheating worries.
5. Extra-wide standard keyboard keeps your desk from looking empty.
4. Snappy design makes underlings with plain old PCs feel like wienies.
3. On-board graphics lets monochrome users goof off with paint programs.
2. Handle on high-end models whisks thieves out of your office fast.
1. Snazzy new IBM nameplate is "virtually impossible to clone."

Top Ten Disadvantages of the Personal System/2

10. Decreased RF may eliminate soothing rhythmic pulsations from FM radio band.
9. Fan is so quiet the boss won't believe you're doing your job.
8. 5¼-inch floppies won't fit into new disk drives unless you fold them with special optional tool.
7. Thumbscrew connectors and elimination of internal switches presage plummet in needle-nose pliers industry.
6. Lower-temperature operation may spell need for space heater.
5. "A platform for the future" motto refers only to high-end model and IBM profitability.
4. Snappy design lets boss instantly single out office spendthrifts.
3. Desirable configuration and price available from IBM only after traditional 18-month wait.
2. Higher reliability creates fewer opportunities for days off.
1. Cassette port not even offered as an option.

Top Ten Nicknames for Personal System/2 Machines

10. Slash Two.
9. Leading Edge Model E.
8. PS I Love You.
7. PS de Resistance.
6. PS Your Cat Is Dead.
5. Virgule II.



4. Deskpro Plus.
3. The Buddy System.
2. PS Zadora.
1. That new IBM PC—you know, the one that won't take the old cards.

Top Ten Rejected Spokespersons for Personal System/2

10. Original cast of "The Honeymooners" (except Jackie Gleason).
9. Original cast of "Father Knows Best" (except Robert Young).
8. Original cast of "All in the Family" (except Carroll O'Connor).
7. Original cast of "The Bob Newhart Show" (except Bob Newhart).
6. Original cast of the old "Dick Van Dyke Show" (except Mary Tyler Moore).
5. Original cast of *La Cage Aux Folles*.
4. Original cast of *Hair* (except Diane Keaton).
3. Original cast of *Beatlemania* (except the guy who played John).
2. Original cast of *Platoon* (except Charlie Sheen).
1. McLean Stevenson.

Top Ten Exciting New Features of OS/2 or National Pastimes

10. Breaking the 640K barrier.
9. Watching TV.
8. Ogling members of the opposite sex.
7. Hanging around.
6. Collecting stamps.
5. Knocking down a few brews.
4. Barbecuing ribs.
3. Going for a Sunday drive.
2. Cutting your toenails.
1. Talking baseball.

Illustration: Darryl Ligasan

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Top Ten Recent Quotes from IBM or Its Competitors

10. "How could they be so nice? Even *our* 286 machines will run OS/2 (we pray)."
9. "Performance in a multitasking operating system is a function of both the individual program and the total system load as well as the size of the physical system."
8. "Oh, no! A version of *DisplayWrite* so big it has to run in protected mode! How can we possibly compete?"
7. "It's a *very* competitive price. Our brand-new Personal Pageprinter is just $2,199."
6. "Damn! I knew we shouldn't have bet the company on 1.4-meg to 5¼-inch floppy technology!"
5. "Oh, yes, it does need our Personal Pageprinter adapter. But that only costs $1,950."
4. "Just wait. Maybe these new hard disks won't work right for a couple of years, either."
3. "IBM cannot comment on any future releases."
2. "Does this mean The Little Tramp can flack for us?"
1. "We're practically *giving* them away!"

Top Ten Rejected Names for the New IBM Personal System/2 Bus

10. S-200.
9. Byte of the Greyhound.
8. Electric Trailways.
7. Flxible.
6. Magic.
5. Omni.
4. Incu.
3. Succu.
2. Notreallya . . . Morelikeachannel.
1. Blunder.

Top Ten Markets for IBM Personal System/2 or Mr. Coffee machines

10. Trendsetters bored with their Macintoshes.
9. Secretaries.
8. Housewives.
7. Competitors.
6. Developers.
5. Joe DiMaggio's devoted fans.
4. Those who care enough to buy the very best.
3. High rollers.
2. Glamorous movie stars.
1. MIS guys who won't lose their jobs as the result of specifying IBM or Mr. Coffee and . . . what the hey, it's not their dime, anyhow.

Top Ten Things You Can Do with a Personal System/2 that You Can't with Any Other Machine on the Market

[Transmission garbled; the Home Office was out to lunch at deadline.] PC

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