

MAGAZINE

VOLUME 6 NUMBER 1
JANUARY 13, 1987

The AT
Clone
from IBM

Connectivity:
IBM Token-Ring
Report Card

Removable
Hard Disks:
Three
Bernoulli
Challengers



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COVER STORY

The Best of 1986 (And Some of the Worst)

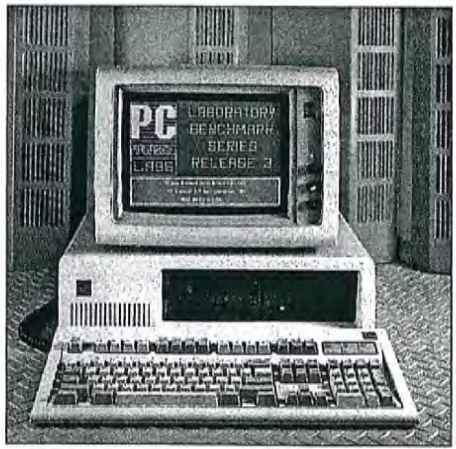
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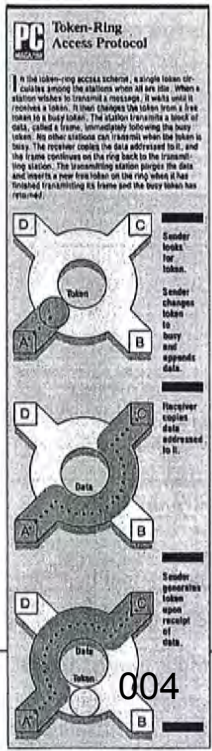
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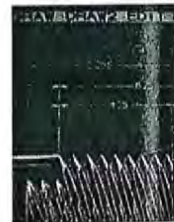
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PC Labs Benchmark Tests 4.0

dent that traditions, if not standards, abound.

In this third annual best-of-the-year issue, the editors of *PC Magazine* get personal about the products and trends of 1986. We spend most of the year objectively evaluating products. This is our traditional chance to add a healthy subjectivity to the magazine. Turn to page 115 for a no-barred look at the best and worst of 1986.

Another tradition at *PC Magazine* is ensuring that our benchmark tests are absolutely current with the rapid pace of technology. For years, users everywhere have relied on the tests to quantitative, comparative, and repeatable measurements. In this issue, we are introducing Release 4.0 of our benchmark test series which contains some familiar benchmark tests and new tests: BIOS Disk Seek, and DOS Disk Access tests.

The new BIOS Disk Seek test supersedes the popular Disk Access benchmark test from Core International. Both tests report disk random seek time, the most common hard disk performance measurement. But our new DOS Disk Access test avoids situations and uses DOS calls to access disk sectors directly. It's different from the BIOS Disk Seek test in that it will work with all hard disk. This lets us compare a wider variety of devices, from hard disks to write-once, read-mostly (WORM) laser disks.

It's difficult to switch tests because users want to compare results with the old. With this in mind we're now retesting our industry-standard products, particularly the IBM PC, XT, and AT to provide a consistent set of base-level comparisons.

We used the new benchmark tests to evaluate IBM's new AT Model 286 and removable hard disks for two articles in this issue: "The AT Clone from IBM" on page 155 and "Dr. Bead on Bernoulli" on page 217.

And in the *PC Magazine* tradition of giving readers the hands-on evaluations of hot new products, we review the CPD-1302 Multiscan monitor and Tandy's \$799 1000EX computer.

We encourage all readers to obtain a copy of the PC Benchmark Test Series, Release 4.0. You can download the test from the PC Magazine Interactive Reader Service by calling 696-0360 (300 or 1,200 bps, no parity, 8 data bits, 1 stop bit). For more information, contact PC Labs at One Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

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