

BUYER'S GUIDE

DUAL- PROCESSOR Windows 2000 WORKSTATIONS



[Editor's Note: The Buyer's Guide summarizes vendor-submitted information. To find out about future Buyer's Guide topics or to learn how to include your product in an upcoming Buyer's Guide, go to <http://www.win2000mag.com/aboutus/index.cfm?action=lab>. To view previous Buyer's Guides on the Web, go to <http://www.win2000mag.com> and select The Lab from the QUICK NAV menu.]

With 900MHz and 1GHz CPUs becoming commonplace, single-processor workstations usually provide more than enough computing power for corporate business users. But designers, financial analysts, and multimedia and software developers still demand higher performance for CPU-intensive applications, so workstation vendors offer dual-processor configurations to address high-performance needs.

This Buyer's Guide provides information about workstations that are configured with two Pentium III processors (or equivalent) with speeds of 600MHz or faster, have a minimum of 128MB of RAM, and are priced below \$5000. Pricing includes a preloaded version of Windows 2000 Professional (Win2K Pro). Some workstation vendors were revising their product lines at press time and didn't submit information.

Although Win2K Pro supports dual-CPU systems, some applications can't take advantage of the second processor. Make sure to verify that your applications can support a dual-processor workstation. Applications that don't currently benefit from an additional processor can benefit in the future if the application's upgrade includes SMP support.

The Description column of this Buyer's Guide lists the markets that each workstation targets. Per our request, vendors provided only one configuration for each workstation,

so if your target application isn't listed for a particular model, contact the vendor to investigate other component options. Most vendors offer several processor, graphics, and disk subsystem options to let you optimize the configuration for your intended applications. The graphics subsystem is particularly important because some graphics cards are optimized for performance with 2-D applications, whereas other graphics cards are specifically designed for optimal performance in 3-D OpenGL environments. Complex 3-D applications are extremely CPU-intensive, so most vendors offer several 3-D graphics options. One benefit that some of the more expensive graphics cards offer is to off-load some of the geometry and lighting calculations from the CPUs.

Many of the listed dual-processor workstations feature Intel's 840 chipset and Rambus DRAM (RDRAM), a combination that significantly increases the system's price but improves performance at higher CPU speeds. One vendor offers dual 19" monitors with graphics-card support, a useful feature if your applications require an extremely large work area. For a higher price, some vendors offer dual-processor workstations configured with fast processors and, in a few cases, SCSI disk subsystems. Other vendors offer dual-processor workstations that cost less and are configured with slower processors and IDE disk subsystems. You should base your selection on your budget and the applications you run.

—Mark Weitz

BUYER'S GUIDE

Compiled by Sue Cooper

Contact Information	Product Name	Price	Description
Compaq 800-345-1518 http://www.compaq.com	Compaq AP550	\$5028	Features dual-Pentium III 733MHz processors, 128MB of RDRAM, 9.1GB Ultra 160 SCSI 10,000rpm hard disk, integrated Ultra 160 and Ultra ATA/66 controllers, 40X variable speed CD-ROM, and integrated Intel PRO/100+ network controller with Wake on LAN; includes PremierSound 16-bit audio, ELSA Synergy II graphics card, and V700 monitor; targets primarily CAD and computer-aided manufacturing (CAM) markets
Dell • 800-879-3355 http://www.dell.com	Precision Workstation 220	Call vendor for pricing	Features dual-Pentium III 600EB MHz processors, 128MB of RDRAM, and 10GB Ultra ATA/66 controller; has standard 19" monitor, with dual-monitor capability; targets 2-D markets such as AutoCAD, mechanical CAD (MCAD), graphic design, financial analysis, and software development
	Precision Workstation 420	Call vendor for pricing	Features dual-Pentium III 600EB MHz processors, 256MB of RDRAM, 10GB hard disk, and ELSA Synergy Force graphics card; targets 2-D and 3-D markets
	Precision Workstation 620	Call vendor for pricing	Features dual-Pentium III Xeon 733MHz 133 front-side bus processors, 256MB of Error-Correcting Code (ECC) RDRAM, two 64-bit 66MHz PCI slots, an AGP 4X Pro 50 graphics bus, and ELSA Synergy Force graphics card; offers a scalable high-bandwidth configuration for MCAD and 3-D applications
DTK Computer 800-289-2385 http://www.dtkcomputer.com	DTK Gráfica 550	\$4325	Features the Intel 840 chipset, dual-Pentium III 733MHz processors with 133MHz system bus, 128MB of RDRAM, Matrox G400 32MB AGP graphics card with dual-head display technology, Seagate 20GB EIDE 7200rpm hard disk, and 4X, 8X, and 32X CD-Rewritable (CD-RW) drive; targets MCAD, CAD, CAM, and financial markets
Hewlett-Packard 800-613-2222 http://www.hp.com	HP Kayak XM600 Workstation	\$3180	Features dual-Pentium III 600EB processors, 128MB of ECC SDRAM, 15GB Ultra ATA/66 controller, Matrox G250 AGP 2X graphics processor, and 48X variable speed CD-ROM; targets CAD, 2-D and 3-D animation and video, and financial institutions
IBM • 800-426-7255 http://www.ibm.com/intellistation	IntelliStation M Pro	\$4659	Features dual-Pentium III 733MHz processors, 256MB of RAM, 9.1GB 10,000rpm SCSI hard disk, and ELSA GLoria II 64MB video card; offers a choice of graphics solutions, an embedded security chip, and IBM service and support; targets visual, engineering, and financial markets
micronpc.com 800-249-1179 http://www.micronpc.com	ClientPro Dx5000	\$3790	Features the Intel 840 chipset, dual-Pentium III 733MHz processors, 128MB of RDRAM, 40X variable speed CD-ROM, Matrox G400 32MB AGP graphics card, 19" monitor, and 10/100Base-T NIC; comes pre-loaded with Intel LANDesk Client Manager 6.0 and MPrevent auto repair software; targets CAD, CAM, and financial markets
Polywell Computers 800-999-1278 http://www.polywell.com	PolyStation 840DM3	\$4800	Features the Intel 840 chipset, dual-Pentium III 866MHz processors, two 64-bit 66MHz PCI slots, and four 32-bit 33MHz PCI slots; includes a 4X AGP slot, Adaptec Ultra 160 SCSI controller, 18GB Ultra 160M LVD SCSI drive, 256MB of RAM expandable to 4GB, NVIDIA GeForce 256 32MB OpenGL 4X AGP graphics subsystem, 19" monitor, 9-bay full-tower chassis, and 10/100Mbit Ethernet; targets 3-D animation, CAD, and CAM markets
Quantex 800-346-6685 http://www.quantex.com	CreationStation 2000	\$3299	Features the Intel 440BX chipset, dual-Pentium III 800MHz processors, 128MB of ECC SDRAM, 30GB 7200rpm Ultra ATA hard disk, dual 19" monitors, Matrox G400 32MB AGP graphics card, Aureal Vortex2 sound, Altec Lansing ADA305 speakers, 40X variable speed CD-ROM, CD-RW drive, and 10/100Mbit Ethernet card; targets the design industry and day trading marketplace