Epson Offers The QX-16: A Sophisticated Microcomputer

BY JOHN LOMBARDI

The QX-16 is a dual processor machine with CPU/M-80, MS-DOS 2.11, and TFM-III operating systems. It includes 280A and 8088 microprocessors, along with 512K of memory. Delivered with the machine are CP/M-80, MS-DOS 2.11, and TFM-III operating systems. The first makes the QX-16 into a reasonably standard CPM-80 microcomputer using the Z80 microprocessor. In this mode, the QX-16 is a CPM-80 operating system. The second creates an MS-DOS microcomputer using the Intel 8088 microprocessor. In this mode, the QX-16 is a MS-DOS operating system. The third system is a standard brand known as the Vadsco 2 machines. Vadsco 2 is an integrated applications package running on the TFM-III operating system that handles the standard microcomputer tasks of word processing, spreadsheets, filing, communication, and addressing. Displaying an elaborately constructed sequence of menus and using all the special keys available on the QX-16 keyboard, Vadsco 2 offers an alternative to the MS-DOS/IBM-PC standard that has some advantages over the IBM keyboard, particularly where keyboards are used heavily and are connected Apple Macintosh.

Unfortunately, the Epson QX-16 is a dual processor machine. The firmware is intimately tied to the Vadsco software. Because Vadsco only runs on the IBM, and the Epson's BIOS was designed around the use of Vadsco, we will review the entire system as the hardware system. The Epson was designed around the use of Vadsco, and the hardware system is what we will review. As the operating system, we will look at how the machine operates in CPM-80 and MS-DOS mode. The Epson QX-16 is a dual processor machine. It includes 280A and 8088 microprocessors, along with 512K of memory. Delivered with the machine are CP/M-80, MS-DOS 2.11, and TFM-III operating systems. The first makes the QX-16 into a reasonably standard CPM-80 microcomputer using the Z80 microprocessor. In this mode, the QX-16 is a CPM-80 operating system. The second creates an MS-DOS microcomputer using the Intel 8088 microprocessor. In this mode, the QX-16 is a MS-DOS operating system. The third system is a standard brand known as the Vadsco 2 machines. Vadsco 2 is an integrated applications package running on the TFM-III operating system that handles the standard microcomputer tasks of word processing, spreadsheets, filing, communication, and addressing. Displaying an elaborately constructed sequence of menus and using all the special keys available on the QX-16 keyboard, Vadsco 2 offers an alternative to the MS-DOS/IBM-PC standard that has some advantages over the IBM keyboard, particularly where keyboards are used heavily and are connected Apple Macintosh.

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The key feature of the IBM QX-16 is its ability to run on a variety of operating systems, including CP/M and MS-DOS. It is also compatible with many software applications and can be used as a desktop computer or as a portable device. The QX-16 has a built-in keyboard and a composite video output, allowing it to be connected to a television or monitor.

Hardware

Summaries of reviews before September 2, 1985, and a four-terminal rating system. We now use five terminals.

- Apeax Xi (ACT) - The Xi is a desktop system designed for small businesses and home users. It is priced competitively and offers good performance.
- AT Plus 80 (Core International) - The AT Plus is a high-performance PC that offers excellent performance and reliability. It is a good choice for professionals and businesses.
- Bernoulli Box (Symphonic) - The Bernoulli Box is an affordable disk drive that offers good performance and reliability.
- Binartronics (Amigo Computer) - This disk drive manufacturer produces a wide range of high-quality drives.
- Binartronics (Beat-Tech) - This manufacturer produces affordable disk drives for the budget-conscious user.
- CM-6426 (Computer Memories Inc.) - The CM-6426 is a 20-megabyte hard disk drive that offers excellent performance and reliability.
- Micromax (Minimax) - Reliable and fast, this 20-megabyte hard disk drive can easily withstand normal usage and can be used in a variety of applications.
- Micromax (MicroTec Systems Inc.) - This company produces high-quality disk drives for use in a variety of systems.
- Multimac 224 (Multi-Tech Systems Inc.) - The Multimac 224 is an affordable hard disk drive that offers good performance and reliability.

Overall, the IBM QX-16 is a versatile and reliable computer that can be used in a variety of environments. It is easy to use and can be configured to meet the needs of individual users. With its built-in keyboard and composite video output, it is a good choice for anyone looking for a reliable desktop computer.