AMI 33-MHz 386 Motherboard Delivers Lightning-Fast Performance

The 33-MHz 80386 chip, which Intel plans to announce today, has already shattered speed records in tests performed in the InfoWorld Test Center. American Megatech Inc. (AMI) features this chip on its motherboard, which has surpassed the performance of the Everex Step 386/25 as the fastest computer we've ever tested.

While we are not doing a full review of the motherboard alone, the tests performed on it in this Impression are representative of the results you can ultimately expect to see from systems that incorporate this board.

Using the new Intel 33-MHz 80386 chip, the system board supports the Windows 3.0 operating system and the 80387. It provides a 64K memory cache using static RAM, and it is fully expandable with one 8-bit, six 16-bit, and one 32-bit I/O slot. Memory can be expanded to 8 megabytes of RAM on the motherboard by using 4 megabytes of 1-megabit DRAMs and another 4 megabytes using SIMM panels. The board supports 24 megabytes of system memory.

The AMI motherboard is a true speed demon. The InfoWorld Benchmark System 2 produced a relative index number of 9.1; this is the fastest motherboard the Test Center has seen to date. The Everex Step 386/25 scored a 7.2 in the November 14, 1988, Product Comparison of 25-MHz 386/25 systems. The Everex Step 386/25 CPU score is based on an index system with 1.0 being the IBM AT Model 58.

The AMI motherboard crashed even more records when we ran automated throughput tests. AutoCAD ran in 22 seconds—four seconds faster than the Everex Step 386/25. The Lotus 1-2-3 test ran in one minute and two seconds, four seconds faster than the Everex Step 386/25. The Dbase and Paradox numbers, though more dependent on hard disk speed and amount of memory in the system than CPU speed, were also improved.

The AMI 386/33 MK II AT motherboard will be available to OEMs and system integrators through Comdex, American Megatech Inc., 1346 Oakbrook Drive, Suite 120, Norcross, GA 30093, (404) 263-1881.

Lauren L. Black

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Quick, small, and effective are accurate words to describe this little editor, derived from a maintainer full-screen editor model. Designed for laptops and to preformat text without any formatting other than word wrap at the end of lines, Zedit excels at flat editing without search, program overhead, running in about 56K of memory. RICH is easy to use, although lacking much of a help system. Zedit can be configured to mimic most word processor editor command sequences and comes set for use as a WordStar work-alike.

The fulltext mode provides good information, although it's a little skinny on technical details. One of the program's more useful features is its multiple-window management, which allows it to run a window open at a time on different or the same files. In everything in memory, all changes to a file in one window are reflected in every other window or the same file. It has a large undo buffer that stores deletes in the reverse order of the deletion, although the Undo key does not capture changes deleted with the Delete key. The program supports macros and rebuildable keys and has a good line-drawing feature.

Many similar, if not identical, editors exist on the market. This one is relatively cheap, although PC-Write 3.0 is closer in price. However, it lacks anything resembling a printer driver: it cannot use proportional spacing in any significant way, it does not put simple enhancements such as bold, underline, or italics into the text except through the insertion of special codes. It does not do rectangular or column moves or copies and it cannot handle lines with more than 512 characters, as does Word Perfect Library's Program Editor for example. For users who do produce final copies, often send material using generic E-mail systems, or C, programming and want the capability to have automatic close parentheses, or want a neat, fun, simple, all-in-memory editor program for a laptop machine, Zedit may do the trick. At $19.95, the price is hard to beat, and the program comes with an unlimited money-back guarantee.

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