

Less Than \$25,000

Wang 2200SVP Scores High on Benchmark Tests

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Special to CW

Showing the same excellent performance noted on other Wang Laboratories, Inc. systems, the 2200SVP turned in favorable times in benchmark tests conducted for the Association of Computer Users (ACU).

The 2200SVP is the third system made by Wang Laboratories, Lowell, Mass., that we have tested during the various benchmark series. Others were the 2200VP, tested in Series 2, and the 2200MVP, in Series 3.

Like its family members, the lower priced 2200SVP did well in the tests. Its number-crunching speed was especially outstanding, as was performance in the scientific/engineering test, where the 2200SVP turned in a time of 2 min, 13.3 sec. In this test, the system is given a set of 50 linear equations with 50 unknowns, which it solves using the Gauss-Jordan method of elimination.

Fast Test Times

The accounts receivable test, which uses both processor and disk storage operations, is a more overall test of the computer's capabilities. Here, the time of 2 min, 23.0 sec was among the fastest we have seen for a system tested using floppy disk storage.

Some systems in this price range now offer hard disk storage, but for better comparability we are reporting the floppy-disk-based times in the Scorebox. Hard disk times, where

SCOREBOX

System: Wang 2200SVP
Current Price: \$14,600

SYSTEMS UP TO \$25,000

	C-1 Scientific Engineering Time (min.)	C-3 Accounts Receivable Time (min.)
Pertec PCC 2000	28:48.4	6:04.3
North Star Horizon	12:01.9	1:57.7
Cromemco System Two	14:52.6	2:48.0
Texas Instruments 771	22:05.4	3:38.1
Vector Graphic System B	19:30.0	5:56.5
Decstation 78	7:55.7	4:21.5
Radio Shack TRS-80 Model II	20:00.7	3:38.6
Apple II+	21:11.0	6:17.4
Digital Microsystems DSC-2	13:24.9	3:28.8
Ohio Scientific C3-A	12:10.7	15:49.3
Alpha Micro AM-1011	5:18.3	3:25.3
Data General CS/10 Model C1	58:21.0	
SD Systems SD-200	17:42.8	6:16.4
Wang 2200SVP	2:13.3	2:23.0
Altos ACS8000-15	to be covered	
NEC Astra 205	future issues	
IBM 5120		

* Tested with hard surface disk rather than floppy. C-3 time was 2:40.3.

sources. The Wang packages include business accounting software, word processing and a software development tool called Ideas. Newly released is Datamerge, said to be the first module in a data management utility, Powerful Resource for Information and Systems Management (Prism).

Dictionary-Based Software

Prism is said to be an integrated, data-dictionary-based software system that will control all phases of data management. It will handle functions such as data entry, selection and processing of data according to user-specified conditions and display or printing of results in a variety of formats.

Most software for business users of the 2200SVP will come from vendors that develop applications programs and market complete, turnkey systems. Wang has a long list of approved vendors that offer business and engineering software along with Wang hardware.

For the user survey portion of the report, our consultants (the University of Colorado, Business Research Division) contacted 11 users of the 2200SVP, using names supplied by the manufacturer. Most of the users had third-party software, but nearly half were also programming in-house.

Documentation was generally praised; training, however, got a

with its 2M-char. hard disk, ran the test in 29.1 sec.

Wang has announced the 2200 series of computers with several new features. These have removed several limits to expandability of the 2200SVP, making it an even more attractive buy.

The system as tested included a CRT and keyboard; a separate unit with processor, 32K char. of memory, a 1M-char. floppy and a 2M-char. hard disk; a dot matrix printer that works at 125 char./sec; and the Basic-2 language. The total price was \$14,600. Wang also offers leasing and rental plans.

The basic unit comes with 32K-char. memory and this was sufficient for the tests. The operating system and Basic language reside in a separate control memory. In addition, the system uses space compression techniques and allows parameter passing between programs, easing memory restrictions.

New Announcements

Expansion to 64K char. was available at the time the tests were run, but since then Wang has announced a group of improvements for the entire 2200 series of computers. Among these are a new top capacity of 128K char. for the 2200SVP, plus an optional 8M-char. Winchester hard disk drive.

The CRT terminal supplied with the system, Model 2236DE, offers user-programmable function keys and an alternate character set for simple graphics.

At the time the system was tested, it was available only in a single-user

This is the 43rd in a series of articles giving the highlights of benchmark tests conducted on popular small computer systems. The full reports were originally published by the Association of Computer Users, a 4,000-member nonprofit organization.

has made is that up to 16 tasks can be going on in the 2200SVP at once. These can be used either by a single user or by multiple users at remote terminals. The new feature, called multiprocessing, can be added to existing systems.

Cobol has been added to Basic for this system, allowing more of the existing business software written in that language to be adapted for use. However, all benchmark testing was done in Basic.

The interactive Basic makes the operating system transparent to the user, although there are some system commands such as CLEAR, HALT and RUN. The language provides a number of advanced features, such as MAT operations, PRINT USING, matrix operations for certain math problems and extensive error trapping. Our benchmark consultants noted that the file-handling capabilities are a bit awkward to use. For example, a modified program cannot be easily saved under its old name; to do this, one must first scratch the old program and its associated data files.

The program editor uses special editing keys and has other features for convenience, but is of conven-

screen,

Wang has announced several new software aids, but the company leaves much programming to outside

sons for choosing the VFP, they mentioned ease of programming, speed, available third-party software and power.

The hardware was given good marks for dependability, while service was rated "fine" to "excellent."

Hillel Segal is president of the Association of Computer Users, a nonprofit association with members in the U.S., Canada and several other foreign countries. A package of information about the Association of Computer Users is available from the group at P.O. Box 9003, Boulder, Colo. 80301.