

Windows 98 is just a few days away from its official release date. Every magazine we've seen so far has been reviewing this latest version of Windows. So far, from what we've seen, Windows 98 looks to be a good buy for *home users*, but we're still cautioning business users to wait at least six months before upgrading. I don't know if you remember the initial release of Windows 95, but there were *lots* of problems with it. We didn't recommend it until Service Release 2 came out. Now, it's fine. We want to avoid a repeat of this scenario with Windows 98. Do yourself a favor: *don't upgrade your business to Windows 98 yet!* We'll give you the OK when we're sure all of the bugs have been worked out. As far as your home PC goes, as long as you don't have anything critical on it, go for it. Windows 98 is supposedly faster, more stable, and supports advanced features - especially for game enhancement. Even Microsoft admits it's a consumer operating system. We'll be evaluating it over the months to come and will keep you posted. (The majority of respondents in a recent *PCMagazine* poll said they had no intention of upgrading).

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Q: When putting a CD into my computer's CD-ROM drive, I generally just give the tray a little nudge, and it goes right in. A friend of mine says I shouldn't do that - and that I should push the little button. What's correct? > *Virginia, Amherst NY*

A: We recommend you push the little eject button. It may not make much of a difference - CD-ROM players are designed to work just fine the way you mentioned, but if you get a drive that's not 100% up to spec, it may make the difference between a working CD-ROM drive and one that needs to go back for warranty replacement because the drawer was knocked off its track. Just our recommendation. > *Don*

Q: We only have a small office with 3 computers. We are constantly swapping disks back and forth. Is it really cost effective to network our computers? > *Ed, Depew NY*

A: Most certainly. To network your three computers together, it can cost as little as a few hundred dollars. All you need is a network card for each machine (around \$30 each), some cable between them (cost depends on your office layout), some networking software (Windows 95 or 3.11 For Workgroups has it built-in), and the service for one of our technicians to set everything up. If you would like details on how easy it is to network your office, call and request document **806226**. > *Steve*

Q: When I type a value into an Excel spreadsheet and click on the "Currency Style" (\$) button, it left-justifies the dollar-sign in the cell. Is there any way to get it so the dollar-sign is right next to the number? > *Brandon, Clarence NY*

A: Yes. Actually, we believe this is a misnomer from Microsoft. The button on the toolbar actually sets the *accounting* style. The *currency* style has the dollar-sign up next to the number. Here's how you change it: highlight the cell, right-click on the cell, select Format Cells, click on the Number tab, select Currency from the list. Note that the Accounting style is also on this menu. > *Iain*

Q: How can I change the icons of the folders and programs on my desktop? I want to change the way things look. > *Bill, Niagara Falls NY*

A: To change an icon, right-click on the item and select Properties. If you see a button labeled "change icon," you can click it to make the desired change. Some things, like folders, do not have this option. In order to change the icon of a folder, you have to first make a shortcut to the folder, then change the shortcut's icon. For instructions on how to create a shortcut, request document **806227**. > *Jason*

TIP: To find out how much free space is left on your hard drive, go into My Computer, right-click on your drive, and select Properties, general tab.

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