



Demand for IT Products Increase

Recession or no recession, the travel industry is booming. With the average working week falling, more people taking early retirement and the opening up of the Eastern Bloc, the outlook for the travel trade has never been better. Another sector which stands to benefit as a result of this is Information Technology. The 1980s saw the arrival of the personal computer; the beginning of the 90s has ushered in the arrival of the affordable portable computer. This, together with scanners, portable modems and even portable printers, means that the businessman on the move can now take his office onto the plane with him. Sophisticated E-mail packages enable him to keep in touch with his office or even to control his office hardware direct. But it is not just the business traveller who is using the latest state-of-the-art technology. More travellers means more travel agents which in turn means more desktop computers and more software: databases, accounts packages and bespoke systems. Travel agents are also major publishers of brochures and booklets, which means that sophisticated DTP and drawing programs will be more and more in demand.

Alexander Baron

Computers

Talking of computers, many people in and around the travel trade also use them at home, but what do you do if you have a problem? The answer to that question is join a user group. There are many user groups around, but if you have an IBM compatible, (an Amstrad etc.), the best user group to join is the Tonbridge-based PC Independent User Group.

This group has a helpline which is available 5 hours a day, 5 days a week and from 9.30am to 12.30pm most Saturdays. Most queries can be answered over the telephone but members requiring advice of a highly technical nature are requested to write in. They also sell computer books and stock a wide range of bargain basement shareware programs.

The Group operates a free bulletin board for members and non-members; if you have a modem you can log onto it 24 hours a day (0732 770539). Members also receive free the bi-monthly PC Independent magazine.

And for computer buyers, the Group has negotiated a special discount with a leading British computer manufacturer, so if you're buying a new computer, you can save your first year's subscription several times over.

The PC Independent User Group's individual membership is 35. Enquiries for business and corporate membership should be directed to Andy Kelly, Simon Brain or James Wright on 0732 771512 or fax 0732 771513.