

# IT Counts



## Check Out Our New Designer Mini PC's



For 2005 we would like to introduce the new Designer mini PC range. The mini PC is a practical alternative to the large, and full sized tower or desktop computer. Despite its size the Designer Mini PC has many of the features you would expect to find on even a highly specified full sized PC.

Its designer looks and compact size means that it is not only ideal for a modern working environment but that it is equally suited for use in the home, where perhaps looks and tidiness are the most important factor.

This is a computer that is designed around the requirements of the user and this shows in every feature, from the easily located front facing USB ports, to the rapid start up time of less than a minute from cold to ready to use. Also including two drive bays, allowing expansion for extra hard disks or CD-ROM/DVD drives.



We recommend this unit as the ultimate combination of practicality and design. For more details visit our website or contact us on 01234 779001.



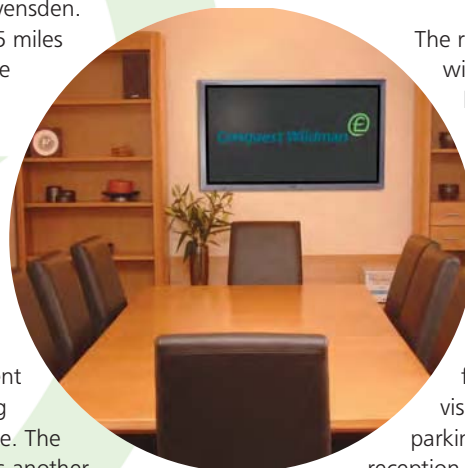
## New Year, New Home

**T**hanks to the continued support of our customers we've outgrown our old premises at Grove Place and have moved into a new custom built facility sited less than 10 minutes drive from Bedford Town Centre, close to the village of Ravensden. However we're still only 5 miles from Bedford town centre itself and within easy access to both the southern bypass and the A1.

The new premises offer us improved workshop facilities, and combined with the considerable extra storage facility on site enable a more efficient service both with building and repairing of hardware. The room for future growth is another obvious benefit both in terms of staff and services to our customers.

Our sister company Gregory Wildman (Chartered Accountants) have also relocated their offices which means we're now both operating 'under one roof'. We are now able to provide a more integrated service for

customers of both companies. This also allows us the benefit of more effective shared resources such as unlimited parking and sophisticated meeting and demonstration facilities.



The relaxed country setting will also benefit us, with landscaped gardens and the addition of full kitchen facilities and a staff rest room making the Granary a very nice place to work!

It is also ideally suited for our customers to visit us, with our ample parking, fully manned reception facilities and several meeting rooms.

The Granary offers us the best of both worlds, the charm of the British countryside combined together with a high tech facility built to better service the needs of our customers. We look forward to sharing the benefits this brings with you.

# Microsoft Ends Support for NT Servers



Windows NT Server has now become "end of life" and Microsoft have stopped providing support for NT Server products. This means they have stopped issuing security updates and patches, so what exactly does this mean for organisations still running the system?

At the very least they should be planning a migration to one of the new server technologies available, but as everyone knows, changing a product that is so often such a core part of a business, is something that requires thought and planning.

Whenever a product as major as NT server becomes end of life there is always a lot of

questions. To help our organisations still running NT server understand exactly what the current position is we have put together an email of questions and answers which we will be sending out to relevant parties soon. You may also find more information on the Microsoft Website, which gives more background details of the retirement plan and specific information about when each phase was scheduled to take place, you can find this at [www.microsoft.com/WindowsServer2003/upgrading/nt4/suppchng.mspx](http://www.microsoft.com/WindowsServer2003/upgrading/nt4/suppchng.mspx)

Released in September 1996 NT was not designed with the security and complexity of today's IT environments in mind. As problems arise with NT systems, without security updates to protect the server from viruses or hackers, or to allow it to work properly with modern hardware, these issues may be very difficult and eventually, impossible for IT Support companies, such as Conquest Wildman, to resolve. This is because as time goes by, more ways in which to exploit the old NT system by hackers and by viruses will be

found and shared, meaning ultimately that the NT system is more susceptible to these threats. Also, due to component failures or performance issues the hardware that an NT operating system runs on, will need to be replaced. It will become increasingly difficult to obtain hardware compatible with Windows NT, which will lead to longer downtime while systems are recovered from virus infections, or repaired after hardware faults.

Experts agree that the best advice is to upgrade to a modern server solution. The latest Microsoft 2003 server product is now pretty well tested and established. In most cases it provides a very good replacement for NT Server and is relatively cost effective, especially for small businesses as part of the Small Business Server packages which can include E-mail, groupware, and firewall. For those businesses still running NT server, it is time to think seriously about the future.

**For further information on this important issue, watch out for an in depth email on the subject from Conquest Wildman.**

## Ever Wondered What To Do With Your Old IT Kit?

For some time now Conquest Computers have been collecting unwanted IT equipment and refurbishing it for good causes. The picture on the right shows a small computer training centre in Ashaley Botwe, Ghana. The machines being used are just some of the many computers that our customers in England have kindly donated to Conquest Wildman for us to refurbish and use. With this equipment, the training centre in Ghana is giving children in Africa a very valuable opportunity to learn computer skills that they otherwise would not have.

Despite living less than an hours drive from Accra, Ghana's commercialised capital, many of the children who are being taught at the centre live in very basic accommodation, often without mains electricity, let alone a computer. The training centre is providing an opportunity for them to use a computer

themselves for real, and learn valuable computer skills from an early age, narrowing the gap between people living in the capital Accra where facilities are actually available, and the surrounding villages such as Ashaley Botwe where technology and training is thin on the ground. The centre also trains adults in the use of computers so as to make best use of the facility.

Thanks to our customers who donated the equipment, the efforts of the Conquest Wildman team and a group of volunteers who spent time collecting and preparing the kit ready for transportation, a year later Komla (the training centres teacher/manager) has been able to make sure that the training centre is not only providing a valuable resource to the local community but is



now almost totally self sufficient. It's not just one training centre either; from the numerous computers donated, we have been able to provide refurbished equipment for use in other similar projects, including local schools.

In the future we're hoping to collect enough equipment to be able to provide a similar training facility in Bosnia, and more individual computer systems to be used in small schools around Ashaley Botwe in Ghana. So if you're having computer equipment updated in the near future there is an alternative to putting the old equipment in the basement until you either clear out or move premises!