

The CPU Wars – The Next Battle?

I don't usually pay too much attention to the latest releases from the two CPU manufacturers, Intel and AMD. It takes a long time for the new models to filter down to regular PC users at affordable prices and this period also gives the manufacturers a chance to get all the bugs out of their models. In September it did get my attention for a change as AMD fired the opening salvos in the next battle, 64 bit computing. Again it will probably be well into next year before we have to worry too much about it, but this is next big step forward.

What does 64 bit computing offer? Speed and lots of it. Who needs it? Well in the past it was mainly gamers who took up the latest offerings first, but now we can add users working with large video files. AMD has the first offering, the Athlon 64, but their problem is that there isn't 64 bit Windows ready. Microsoft is working on Windows XP 64 which should show in the new year.

Intel, who many suspect have their 64 bit CPU, Pentium 5, ready to go spoilt the AMD launch party by releasing a 32 bit Pentium 4 EE, (Extreme Edition), which

out-performs the Athlon 64 running today's software. Aimed at the serious gamers who have always had a soft spot for AMD, the EE is really a repackaged Intel Xeon corporate workstation CPU.

Intel, the larger and stronger company, is sitting in a fairly comfortable position. In recent years they have managed to overtake AMD is performance although AMD have managed to keep competitive by pricing low. Intel has kept the Pentium 4 with the Northwood core in production as their top end CPU for three years which is a long time in recent CPU wars. For them this is a good thing as they can maximize profits on this production line.

So next year Microsoft will launch the Windows XP 64 operating system and to get the performance out of it we will be looking at either an AMD Athlon 64 or a Pentium 5. Is there anyone else out there who like me misses the Pentium 386 running Windows 3.11?

Whatever happens in this latest battle, one thing we all need is for AMD to survive as they are able to keep Intel honest.

Monopolies are never a good thing.

If you would like to keep up with the latest hardware news I can recommend a web site, www.tomshardware.com, which is one of the best available. If you are buying a new motherboard it's well worth looking to see if there are reviews there. I do before selling them anyway.

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Dispelling Three Business Buyer Myths

Continued from Page 17

but the broker will also introduce the buyer to new territory - and new possibilities.

Best of all, their service is free to the buyer. And what about the buyer who dreamed of doughnuts? He is purportedly now content, testing the wares in the mattress section of his own furniture store.

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How to Screw Up a Great Idea

Continued from Page 16

It was deemed unsafe and outlawed... and thus started the saga of trying to bring protein powders back onto store shelves.

To keep the long story short, the saga ended a few months ago when the FDA approved protein supplements for human consumption.

After lots of shattered businesses and years and years of lobbying, red tape, tax baht, redundant research and consumer bullying, protein is legal again, just as it was in the early 90s, but today, the only companies that can afford to sell supplements in Thailand are the transnational corporations like the GNC, while Thai businesses have a snowball's chance in hell. Nice.

How are the two stories tided together? Both of the issues described came to light under the pretext of protecting The Children®.

Don't get me wrong, I wholeheartedly agree that the supplement industry must be regulated and so should the adult entertainment industry (that's why it's called "adult"). I don't think that gratuitous displays of naked flesh should find their way onto the cover of regular magazines and we should also be protected against buying crap in a bottle.

But I do know that conservatism is about resistance to change and progress in any human endeavor has never been achieved by altering nothing.

To all the people who sent in the pictures of the Sydney Opera House draped in the English colours after the RWC, all we can say is, by the reaction we never realised how desperate you were to win something. Congratulations, it may be awhile til the next one.

Motorcycle Helmets



Wearing a helmet when riding a motorbike is required by law in Thailand. As is an international license for the class of vehicle you are driving. As of October 1st the police have been instructed to enforce the law that says all those riding a motorbike must wear a helmet, not just the rider. If you are renting a motorbike and plan to carry a pillion passenger make sure you get two helmets.