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Further information on the Risc PC 486 card

Now that we are near the release of the Risc PC 486 card we felt it appropriate to remind you of a few technical details, particularly since a number of questions have been raised on the memory requirements of Risc PCs when used with the PC card. In order to answer the question, it is important to understand the basic principles of how RISC OS and DOS/Windows programmes work.

A Risc PC requires a minimum of 2MB of memory to function. Most DOS applications require 1MB, and most Windows applications require a minimum of 4MB. The PC application that looks after the Risc PC 486 card also requires 1MB.

Therefore, in round numbers, a Risc PC running a DOS application requires a minimum of 4MB. A Risc PC running a Windows application requires a minimum of 7MB.

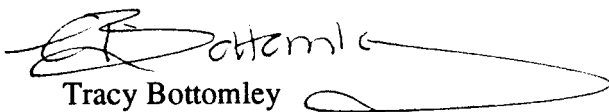
Given the typical uses of the Risc PC 486 card a memory requirement of 8MB DRAM and 1MB VRAM is a good balance between cost, performance, and functionality.

As can be seen, it is possible to run with less memory but the user's response times and perception of the product will be impaired.

It should be noted that the Apple Power Macintosh requires at least 16MB of memory to single-task PC applications and that these will support neither 386/486 programmes nor MPC II titles.

In summary, the Risc PC 486 card offers excellent performance with minimal cost overhead (£99 vs £399 for the Power Macintosh) and allows true multi-tasking to take place between RISC OS and DOS/Windows worlds.

Yours faithfully


Tracy Bottomley
Sales Desk Supervisor

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