

**E1.2 : LANGUE ANGLAISE APPLIQUÉE À  
L'INFORMATIQUE ET À LA GESTION**

*(partie écrite)*

Durée : 2 heures

Coefficient : 2

*L'usage d'un dictionnaire bilingue est autorisé.  
Les calculatrices sont interdites.*

**WHY UPGRADE ?**

Are hardware and software suppliers conspiring to make users buy more powerful computers than they really need, or are there genuine business reasons to buy faster and faster processor chips ? *Alison Classe* investigates.

Indisputably, some applications need a lot of computing power, but do they justify the endless  
5 upward spiral of PC processor speeds and the demands made on them by the likes of Windows operating systems ?

At the current rate of increase in the speed of processors, we are likely to be looking at a 1,000mhz PC processor by the millennium. And at the current rate of growth in the appetite of software, we could need it.

10 How much sense do these trends make for the average business using IT ? Given that many office productivity functions are basically the same as they were 10 years ago – the spreadsheet and word processor, for example – where is the incentive to upgrade ?

Derek Meyer, director of world-wide sales and marketing for the MIPS Group, an arm of Silicon Graphics, argues that the increase in processor performance over the past 10 to 15 years has developed  
15 three benefits that are, in fact, very relevant to office users.

«The first is that developers can now build applications with higher level languages, making them more reliable and easier to maintain, and giving you more capability for a given amount of work.

«The second benefit is that the software has greater functionality, and can do more things simultaneously. For example, a word processor will now spell-check in real time as you're typing,

20 whereas before this used to be a serial process, you checked the spelling at the end. There are similar  
examples in data-base management. All sorts of error and integrity checking can be performed while  
you're working.

«A third benefit is that computers can now work in a more humanistic way, as I call it. In the past  
we operated computers with punched or magnetic cards, then front panel switches, then terminals. Now  
25 we have mice and graphical user interfaces, and increasing opportunities for more human-oriented  
interfaces such as speech recognition. It makes the computer much easier to relate to, but it all  
consumes computing power.>>

W. Cappelli, area director with market analyst Giga Information Group, says, « As you get  
increasingly user-friendly applications, you have to invoke some immensely resource-consuming  
30 programming processes. »

The purpose of incorporating these techniques is usually for the software to « understand » better  
what the human wants, and Capelli says, « It's legitimate to ask whether that extra bit of ease of use  
justifies the increased hardware requirements. But it's undoubtedly a response to market demand. People  
wanted the Windows environment to be like and surpass the Mac environment, and users respond well  
35 as the machine does more and more for them. But it is resource-consuming to deploy. »

Adapted from **COMPUTER WEEKLY** – 25 SEPTEMBER 1997

## QUESTIONS

### 1. - TRADUCTION

(12 points)

de «Derek Meyer, director of ....» (ligne 13) jusqu'à «consumes computing power.» (ligne 26)

### 2. - EXPRESSION EN ANGLAIS

(8 points)

Write a conversation between Angela and Bill. Bill reproaches software and hardware manufacturers for inciting customers to constantly change their equipment. Angela disagrees and thinks that these innovations meet the users' real needs, whether personal or professional.

(150 mots)