Cyberpower Media Center Ultra Edition PC

SUMMARY: This Cyberpower media center PC includes a 3.0GHz Pentium processor and it wins our Editor's Choice Award for price and speed
PRICE: $1,299

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

This fast computer contains all the media center goodies

The Cyberpower Media Center Ultra Edition computer looks more like an item you'd use in an entertainment center and actually can as it includes a wireless keyboard, mouse and remote control. While this model does sport a small LCD screen in the front of the system we think it works better with a high definition TV. This fast computer contains all the goodies you would expect with a media center PC and it receives our Editor's Choice Award for price and speed.

The system is powered by an Intel 3.0GHz Pentium D930 dual-core processor with 2MB Level 2 cache per core and 1GB of DDR SDRAM that can be upgraded to 2GB. We were also impressed with fast 7200-RPM SATA2 hard drive with 8MB of cache that did an excellent job when playing back video. The Cyberpower Media Center Ultra Edition ships with a 16X DVD-ROM and an LG GWA-4161 DVD+/-RW optical drive with dual-layer for burning your favorite CD music and DVD movies. An NVIDIA GeForce 6600 PCI-E with 256MB of RAM is used with this computer and includes VGA, S-Video and DVI outputs. A dual NTSC-compatible tuner card provides viewing and recording capabilities with this system.

Cyberpower uses the GigaByte GA-8I945P-G motherboard with the Media Center Ultra Edition computer that provides an integrated 10/100Base-T

Ethernet port or the PCI 802.11b-g interface card to connect with your network. The motherboard also includes a SoundBlaster-compatible 8-speaker 7.1 high definition sound system with an S/PDIF connector for use with a powerful sound system product. Several high speed USB 2.0 ports are also available to add peripheral products to the computer.

Shipped with Microsoft's Windows Media Center Edition 2005 operating system installed on this unit you'll be able to watch one channel of programming while recording another. Using the computer's remote control you can also take advantage of the sliding window feature to pause and restart a show. Other software packages and add-ons can be ordered with system when ordering the product.

The Cyberpower Media Center Ultra Edition computer is an extremely fast system and one of the best looking media center PCs we've reviewed. Most of the components and be configured differently using the company's online ordering web application. The cost of the unit we reviewed was an affordable $1,299 which is a great value for the performance of this machine. More information and technical specifications can be found on the company's web site that is located at www.cyberpowersystem.com

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