

CERISE QUAD CORE WORKSTATION
(XEON X3360)

A Powerful Office Workhorse

Make no mistake: The next-gen Cerise business system is not your typical boring, underpowered workstation. This quad-core Clydesdale is made for graphics, music, film, architecture, and science pros who need power. And as our testing revealed, this system is good at its job.

The Cerise workstation has the same Silverstone chassis as its predecessor; all the improvements are under the hood. The high-end consumer-level components have been replaced with updated pro-level components. The system is powered by an enterprise-oriented, Yorkfield-based Intel Xeon X3360 quad-core processor (2.83 GHz), dual 6MB L2 cache, and a 1,333-MHz front-side bus (FSB). All this adds up to a processor that can input, process, and output lots of data in a short period of time. It also has the Intel S3210SHLX server motherboard with 4GB of DDR2 800-MHz SDRAM with ECC (error correction code), an extra memory chip that prevents data errors from crashing your computer. (ECC memory is usually found in servers.) Add to that a 500GB hard drive for the OS and a 1TB RAID Level 5 array, as well as a Creative sound card and a FireWire card.

This system's benchmark test scores on real-world applications were very similar to the previous generation's, as were its scores on our Photoshop CS3 and Windows Media Encoder tests. But the new workstation's CineBench score jumped noticeably (11,088, versus 9,523). Unfortunately, this system was incompatible with the SYSmark tests.

Although some consumer multimedia powerhouses, such as the HP Pavilion m9200t, have a little more power than the Cerise (as shown on our benchmark tests), this system comes free of the crapware that slows down consumer systems. If



Cerise Quad Core Workstation (Xeon X3360)

\$3,524 direct; with 17-inch widescreen LCD monitor, \$3,764



PROS Quiet operation. Xeon quad-core power. ECC memory for mission-critical calculations. Windows XP, not Vista (but Vista is supported). Lifetime tech support. No crapware.

CONS No DX10 3D support. It's big. May require more specialized support from your in-house IT staff, or a call to Cerise. XP Home instead of Pro. Limited technical-support hours.

For more: go.pcmag.com/cerise3360

you're a business owner whose livelihood depends on multimillion-dollar projects, this quad-core workstation should be on your short list.

—Joel Santo Domingo

Specs: 2.83-GHz Intel Xeon X3360 processor; 4GB 800-MHz DDR2 SDRAM with ECC; 500GB, 7,200-rpm SATA hard drive; four 250GB, 7,200-rpm SATA hard drives in a RAID Level 5 array; 512MB nVidia GeForce 8600GT graphics card; dual-layer DVD±RW drive; 17-inch widescreen LCD monitor; eight USB 2.0 ports; four FireWire ports; Creative Labs X-Fi Xtreme sound card; Windows XP Home Edition.

PERFORMANCE TESTS

▲ High scores are best.
▼ Low scores are best.
Bold type denotes first place.

	MULTIMEDIA TESTS			
	3DMARK06 ▲ 1,280 x 1,024**	CINEBENCH R10 ▲	WINDOWS MEDIA ENCODER ▼ min:sec	PHOTOSHOP CS3 ACTION SET ▼ min:sec
Cerise Quad Core Workstation (Xeon X3360)	3,176	11,088	0:59	0:24
Cerise Quad Core Workstation*	5,459	9,523	0:56	0:26
HP Pavilion Elite m9200t*	12,076	10,338	0:40	0:25

* Reported for comparison. **Anti-aliasing/Anisotropic filtering was set to 0X.