

CyberPowerPC Ultra R5RX

Easy on the eyes and the ears, this is a great choice for 1440p gaming with not a wasted pound in sight

SCORE ★★★★★

PRICE £833 (£1,000 inc VAT)
from tinyurl.com/377cyber

Genesis, Crowded House, Simon & Garfunkel: some bands are so middle of the road that a white line should be painted straight down the middle of their album covers. But that doesn't make their music any less enjoyable, which is exactly how I feel about the CyberPowerPC Ultra R5RX. This is a MOR gaming PC designed to deliver the maximum number of frames for your pennies, and it succeeds. It just isn't very exciting.

Perhaps that's unfair. I do like the chassis, with its white finish, grille cover and striking diagonal centrepiece. There's even RGB lighting to give it extra zing, and with a hinged tempered glass side it couldn't be easier to access the innards.

Everything is centred around a mid-range MSI Pro B850-S Wi-Fi6E motherboard, and it packs a few attractive features. The integrated Wi-Fi 6E chip is given away by the name: just screw the aerials into the two sockets round the back, where you'll also find 2.5Gb Ethernet port.

Less obvious, but equally welcome, is PCIe 5.0 support for one of the two M.2 sockets. With its eye on that frame-per-buck ratio, CyberPowerPC chooses not to splurge on the latest generation of SSDs (see p72), instead opting for girth with a 2TB WD Green SN3000 drive: its 5,128MB/sec sequential reads are fine for a Gen4 drive, reaching 4,370MB/sec for sequential writes. It won't be an issue



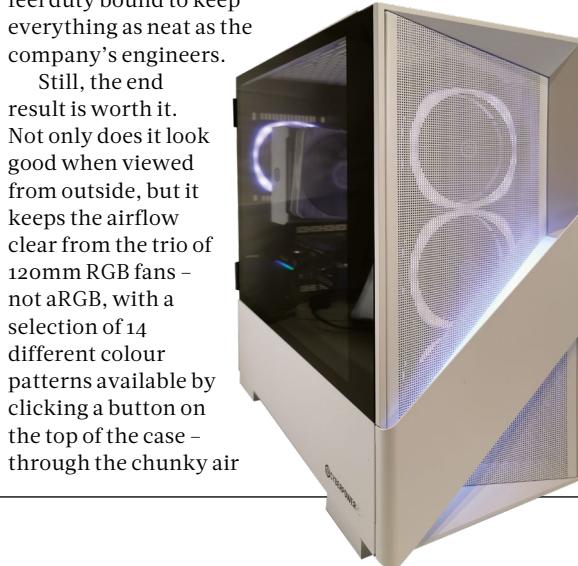
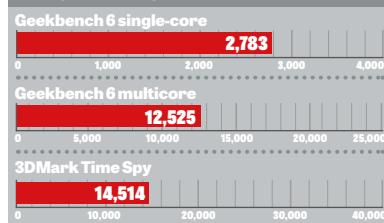
to add a Gen5 drive when budgets allow, and there's a caddy available for a 3.5in hard disk if you unscrew the right-hand side of the chassis.

The board offers four PCIe slots, with two effectively occupied by the double-height Radeon RX 9060 XT graphics card. The bottom PCIe x16 slot and a PCIe x1 slot are both ready for action, but you'll need to remove the GPU to use them. That's because CyberPowerPC focuses on keeping this PC

looking tidy, with the edge of the motherboard sitting tight against a fake bottom that hides the 650W PSU out of sight. This is also where several trailing cable wires disappear into, with clips keeping them neatly tied together – which is great until you need one of them to actually make an upgrade, at which point you'll feel duty bound to keep everything as neat as the company's engineers.

Still, the end result is worth it. Not only does it look good when viewed from outside, but it keeps the airflow clear from the trio of 120mm RGB fans – not aRGB, with a selection of 14 different colour patterns available by clicking a button on the top of the case – through the chunky air

BENCHMARKS



PC PRO
RECOMMENDED

cooler to the rear-mounted RGB fan that expels the hot air. And it does all this in a quiet, orderly fashion, with only a slight ramp up in noise when gaming. That's reflected in its modest peak power draw of 359W, although a 73W idle level hints that this isn't the latest generation of more power-efficient CPU.

CyberPowerPC instead opts for another mid-range component in the 6-core AMD Ryzen 5 7500F processor. This is a Zen 4 rather than Zen 5 chip, but still performs well: a single-core result of 2,783 in Geekbench 6 is strong, and the fact it

will cope well with more demanding tasks is reflected in its 12,525 result in the multicore section. Likewise 821 in Cinebench 2024. If you're ever in the mood to upgrade, the MSI board supports 8000 and 9000 series Ryzen CPUs.

Upgrading might give you a lift in a few games, but the CyberPowerPC Ultra R5RX more than delivers as a 1440p gaming system. At High settings, it returned excellent averages of 141fps in *Shadow of the*

Tomb Raider, 130fps in *Dirt 5*, 121fps in *Borderlands 3*, 87fps in *Far Cry 6* and 118fps in *Cyberpunk 2077*. Ray tracing proved more challenging in *Cyberpunk*, with a 61fps average in the RT Ultra preset, but that's still smooth (its low point was 52fps).

The CyberPowerPC Ultra R5RX isn't an early contender for PC of the year, but if you're looking for a 1440p gaming PC, the smooth-listening equivalent of that trio of bands I mentioned, then it's my current pick of the pops – even if CyberPowerPC ends up raising the price by £50 to £1,050 due to the unpredictable RAM and SSD costs currently affecting the industry. **TIM DANTON**

SPECIFICATIONS

6-core/12-thread AMD Ryzen 5 7500F processor • MSI Pro B850-S Wi-Fi6E motherboard • 32GB Corsair Vengeance RGB Black DDR5-6000 RAM • 8GB Radeon RX 9060 XT graphics • CyberPowerPC V4-NXP air cooler • 2TB WD Green SN3000 PCIe Gen4 SSD • CyberPowerPC Amethyst 360M Airflow chassis • MSI Mag A650BN 80+ Bronze PSU • Windows 11 Home • 217x 455x487mm (WDH) • 5yr warranty (1yr C&R, 2yr parts) • power: 73W idle, 359W peak