Three
Rivers
Computer

THE NEW GENERATION: A Need for Personal Computing

In the 1960's, timeshared computer systems evolved as the preferred method of providing resources to most professional users of computer systems. That interactive, rich environment provided many users with economical computational power as well as shared access to storage systems and peripherals.

Unfortunately the reality of timesharing includes a multitude of problems: highly variable response times, excessive start up costs, and an inability to deal with peak load situations like interactive graphics and speech processing.

In the 1970's microprocessors appeared, bringing low cost computing systems, small enough to set on a desk, and cost effective enough to be purchased by individuals. However, the limited resources that conventional personal computer systems offer inhibit their usage on a great many problems that face industry, government, and research workers.

Enter PERQ,* a product of Three Rivers Computer Corporation. Combining the quality of the time-shared computer environment with the economy of microprocessor based personal computers, PERQ provides each user with responsive computation power, high quality graphics, large storage capacity, and local networking.

The Leading Edge

Three Rivers Computer is the pioneer in personal computing for professionals.

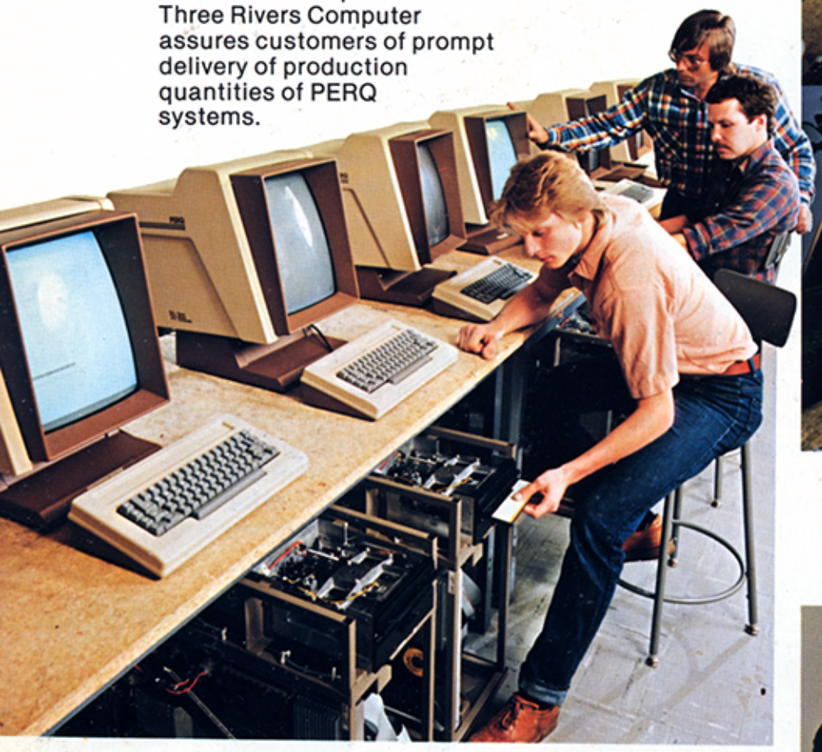
Three Rivers Computer was the first to recognize the practicality of providing a high powered, totally integrated personal computer system with the necessary balance of speed, quality, and capacity required to meet the total computing needs of professional workstation applications.

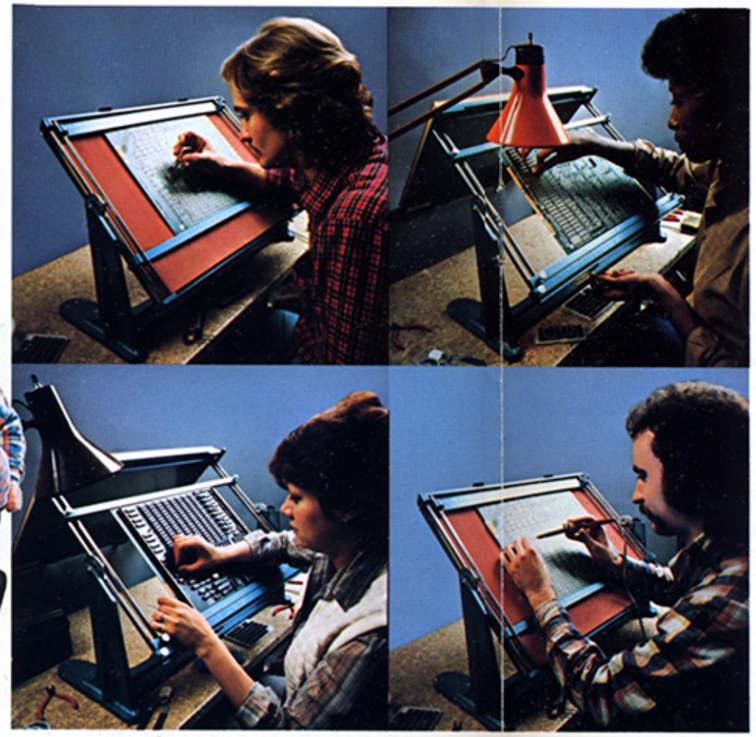
The corporate management of Three Rivers Computer perceived this new marketplace and assembled the engineering, manufacturing, support, and financial resources necessary to become the first manufacturer to deliver this new dimension in computer systems. As a result of this managed plan, Three Rivers Computer is the industry leader in volume deliveries of personal scientific computers to Government, Industry, Research, and Educational Institutions.

Three Rivers Computer continues to advance the capabilities of its products through an intensive development effort utilizing the *same* engineering staff who conceived and designed the original hardware and software for PERQ systems.

More Than an Idea

Just developing a superior product is not sufficient—quality manufacturing in high volume is necessary to meet the demands of the marketplace. The manufacturing facilities and expertise of Three Rivers Computer assures customers of prompt delivery of production quantities of PERQ systems.

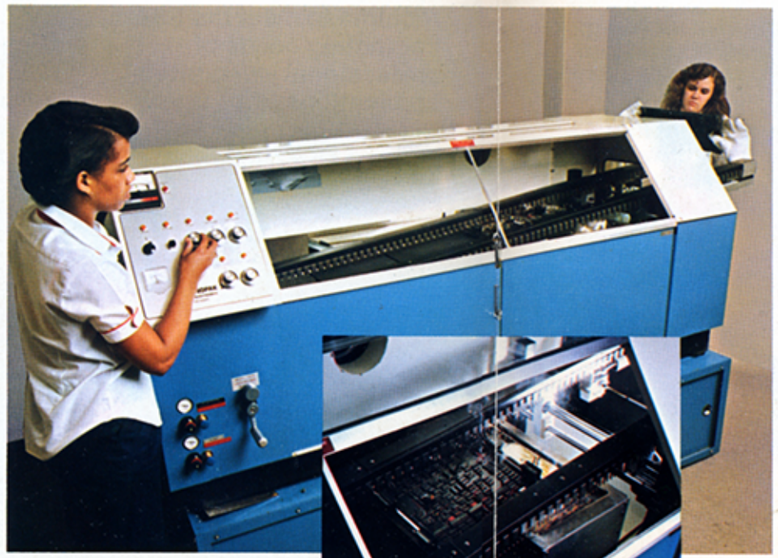




By design, PERQ is a compact, low parts count, high volume product utilizing state of the art, multiple sourced components whose availability is assured by a computer based material planning system.

Automatic test of printed circuit boards utilizing the latest in-circuit techniques is just one way in which the quality of the PERQ is assured. Rigid quality standards are an integral part of the entire manufacturing process.

Three Rivers Computer is a vertically integrated manufacturer with its own high volume assembly and test facilities which were brought on-line early to establish the basis to expand manufacturing capacity on an aggressive yet orderly growth curve.



The emphasis on PERQ quality does not stop at shipment. Customer systems are supported by an extensive Field Service Organization providing maintenance and software training, repair facilities, and manpower to assure that the PERQ continues to provide the same quality performance day after day.

The Unshared Computer

The term PERQ* is derived from the word *perquisite*—an exclusive right to added value. The design philosophy of the PERQ embodies the term perquisite by providing a personal computer system that accommodates people, rather than one that requires people to adapt to it.

PERQ is a complete single user workstation. It features:

- A fast, microprogrammed processor
- A minimum of 256K Bytes of main memory
- Integral Winchester disk
- Ethernet**10Mbit/sec local network
- High resolution, raster scanned graphics display
- Pointing device
- IEEE-488 and RS-232 interfaces
- IMB floppy disk option

and

- Powerful, fast, and easy-to-use operating system
- Multiple directory, hierarchically structured file system
- Screen-oriented text editor
- A plethora of utilities, graphics programs, etc.

The PERQ system has enough processing power and storage capacity to handle virtually any task unaided and unshared. The benefits derived from selecting PERQ include:

- Consistent, rapid response
- High quality computing environment
- Excellent text & graphic display with superior interaction
- Low initial investment
- Incremental expansion of facilities
- Computational facilities provided at the point of need
- Easy access to shared data and peripherals

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**Ethernet is a trademark of Xerox Corporation.

Human engineering: designing systems for the people that use them is evident throughout the design of PERQ. The display has a vertically oriented black on white format utilizing high quality proportionally spaced characters in a variety of fonts, which provides an image one would only expect in printed media. PERQ shows you documents the way you really prefer to see them.

PERQ is designed to live in your office, plug into the wall, utilize existing air conditioning, fit in with your furniture, and not take up too much of your valuable desk space. All of these considerations are part of Three Rivers commitment to develop systems for people.

Maintainability is another important facet of PERQ. From its innovative construction techniques that allow a repairman to replace any module in 15 minutes using only a #2 Phillips screwdriver, to its diagnostic display system that tells you what's wrong with your system, PERQ shows that maintainability is an integral part of its design concept.

Scientists and engineers use PERQs as research and development workstations. The power of the PERQ allows them to solve large problems without contending for the limited resources of a shared mainframe computer system.

OEMs use PERQS to develop application oriented workstations, which bring the solution to complex problems to a single user at a very attractive price. Computer aided design and power plant modeling are but two examples of applications traditionally the domain of large mainframe systems which are now moving to the PERQ.

Managers and office workers use PERQs to solve the complex problems of the office of the future on one system. The PERQ is a word processor, a mail system, a filing system, and a large computer all in one at your desk; and it can communicate with other Ethernet compatible office equipment.

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Three Rivers Computer Corporation
720 Gross Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15224
412/621-6250