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FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Most people over school age find learning a new subject from basic principles a daunting prospect, especially when the entire concept of that subject bears little relation to anything in their present experience. So how does the newcomer to the field of computing come to grips with the complexities of the subject?

It's difficult enough for the computer professionals – the operators, the programmers and systems analysts – to keep up with all the latest developments in computing, but at least these people can expect support from their employers and the suppliers of the equipment with which they work. Where do the amateurs and the hobbyists who must educate themselves in their own time and at their own cost, turn for unbiased advice?

What to do first? Go out and buy an inexpensive computer? There are so many, it's difficult to decide on a particular model without reliable advice. And having taken the plunge, what next? Perhaps the machine in question offers more than one programming language. Which one is most applicable to the user's needs? Which software packages offer the best value for money? Cartridges or programs on tape? Should the user buy a disk drive? Or will a cassette tape drive be sufficient? Do you really need a printer now, or should you wait until more refined printers come down in price? If you have children, how do you cope with their constant desire to play game after game, if you feel that the point of the investment was to foster computer literacy and help them with their school work?

The revolutionary advance of computer technology has been so fast and its encroachment into our everyday environment – home, office, factory and car – so comprehensive that many of us endow it with a mystique. It is, after all, not

Advance And Be Recognised
In the course of less than a decade, the computer has become an integral part of the fabric of our society — and every year changes and developments become more and more extensive. Keeping abreast of the situation demands a considerable effort, but for the newcomer the task is even more daunting. A well paced, comprehensive home study course is a great help