

LESSON 168

WILL IT WORK IN MY VERSION OF WINDOWS?

There are several versions of the Windows operating system. There were two versions of Windows 95, the original and an upgrade that was offered as what Microsoft calls a "service pack". Windows 98 came in two versions, 98 and 98 Second Edition (SE). Windows NT came in several versions for both network servers and individual work stations. The latest version is Windows 2000. The latest version is Windows Millennium (ME) Edition.

Microsoft will release still another version of Windows in October, called Windows XP.

Having said all that, how on earth can we determine what hardware is compatible with what version of Windows? Microsoft has taken care of that issue by creating a special page on the Microsoft web site.

Take a look at www.microsoft.com/hcl/default.asp. This page lists hardware devices like USB hubs, printers, motherboards, modems and just about any other hardware device that works with Windows. When you select a device and click on the Search button, Microsoft displays lists of available hardware (the type you selected) and places an icon in any of the four Windows operating systems listed: Windows 98, ME, NT 4.0 and Windows 2000.

These pages list the product type, the name of the company that manufactures the product and the product name. For example, under Modem/Analog, the hardware list page displays Modem/Analog under Type, 3Com Corporation under Company and then the product name, including a part number and a description.

Always check for "minimum requirements" printed on the box or in the manual for that hardware device. If Windows 95 isn't listed, it may not work with your Windows 95 computer.

