

Take a walk on the WWWild side

The problem with any computer—even a laptop—is that in order to use it, you have to sit in one place.

But wait! Walking, chewing gum and checking your e-mail all at the same time isn't a problem any more, thanks to Virginia-based Xybernaut Corporation, makers of the new "poma"—the personal optical mobile assistant.

Xybernaut's K50 poma, available very soon, is a portable computer system consisting of three components: a main CPU that fits in a pocket, a VGA liquid crystal display which is worn cyborg-style on the forehead, and an optical pointing device used as an interface tool.

Poma's computer, manufactured by Hitachi, weighs just under 11 ounces (including its 7.4-volt lithium-ion battery). It has a 128MHz 32-bit RISC processor, 32 MB of RAM, a Compact Flash slot, one USB port and even an AC/DC adaptor/charger. The headmounted display unit is a one-inch full color 800 x 600 SVGA screen weighing less than three ounces which sits just below eye level. Its view is comparable to looking at a desktop monitor from about two feet away.

Poma's USB port lets you connect its touch optical mouse pointing device so you can navigate the Internet, play games, access your e-mail or even use the built-in MP3 player.

Xybernaut also plans to offer a line of accessories and peripherals to go with the poma, including a metal carrying case, rechargeable battery packs, a pouch and a 1 GB external micro-drive. Alas, it's a Windows-only device, so Mac fans may be disappointed.

You can place your poma order (at a cost of about \$2,400 per unit) by visiting www.xybernaut.com.

Then you'll be able to give new meaning to the old vaudeville line "Walk this way..." 🌐

Xybernaut's introduction of its personal optical mobile assistant (poma) means that soon you'll be able to walk and surf at the same time. The poma comes equipped with a Windows-based mini-computer with 128MHz processor, head-mounted color screen and optical pointer, all for roughly \$2,400 (Cdn).

