2006

BERTL's BEST

Best 20 to 29 ppm Monochrome Office MFP
Toshiba
e-STUDIO232

The BERTL's Best Award for Best 20 to 29 ppm Monochrome Office MFP has been earned by Toshiba's e-STUDIO232 for its space-saving design, ease of use, and affordability demanded of a workgroup device—with the versatility and functionality offered by devices with higher price tags.

2006

Recently introduced, the Toshiba e-STUDIO232 stands out in the workgroup arena as offering a wealth of features and diverse functionality usually limited to devices considerably faster and costly.

The Toshiba e-STUDIO232, with a print speed of 23 ppm, is at the slower end of a series of workgroup devices which all share a common backbone and feature set. The device benefits from sharing the power and speed required to make the faster sister products competitive against their peers.

A key element to the Toshiba e-STUDIO232 is the attention to the end user experience. While the device may not always carry out a specific copy or print job quite as fast as a compet-ing unit, it is the overall time required to get the job started where Toshiba shows its strength. The walk-up semi-VGA touch screen interface is larger than many rival devices and includes a tilting capability which can reduce overhead glare in certain office environments and make the device easier to access by wheelchair users.

The copy menu system is well designed with good graphic aids assisting first time or occasional users get to where they want to go with the minimum effort or confusion. The optional document feeder has a 100-sheet capacity and can handle copy scanning of 45 ppm at 600 dpi, with lower resolution scanning at up to 50 ppm.

A unique feature on the Toshiba e-STUDIO232 is the template system through which users can easily program their own commonly-used settings and functions and repeatedly access these settings as needed as an index of one-touch selections.

For example, one user may regularly scan at a certain resolution and send those scans to a particular set of email addresses. Another user may copy using specific image quality settings and produce hard copy sets with certain finishing options. With Toshiba's template system, each of these users can save these and other parameters in their own templates for future use rather than have to rebuild the jobs each time they visit the device, or search through a general job store.

Another user-friendly feature on the device is the e-Filing document management application that comes standard, utilizing the large document storage capability of the 40GB hard drive. Users are able to store documents into specific public or privately-accessed folders. Once stored, these documents can be reprinted, edited, attached to communication actions, and more providing a versatile on-demand document facility.

The device's versatile paper sourcing options are also top of the class in its sector with a maximum paper supply of 3,700 sheets and a wide range of finishing capabilities including multi-position stapling, hole punch, and saddle-stitch booklet making.

Workgroup communication capabilities are well covered with fax, Internet fax, scan to email, scan to SMB, scan to FTP and scan to e-Filing all available. Users can also combine these communication capabilities routing incoming faxes directly to email addresses or folder locations for remote or secure access.

As buyers look to utilize MFPs as on-ramps between the hard copy and soft copy world, the Toshiba e-STUDIO232 provides easy integration with third-party hardware and software using its alliance with eCopy's ScanStation, ReRite, and other middleware vendors.

In line with other Toshiba products, the e-STUDIO232 utilizes e-BRIDGE single-board technology powered by a fast, IBM PowerPC Processor running at 333MHz with 256MB main memory, and 32MB of page memory. Connectivity options include standard 10/100BaseT with an optional wireless LAN module and Bluetooth providing Wi-Fi and portable device printing capability.

Using the TopAccess device manager, users can set up one-touch scan buttons on the control panel.

Print functionality is well-supported with PCL and PostScript coming as standard within the print option. The print drivers follow a standard design which allows for easier switching between the two. The functionality built into each driver is also to a high standard with advanced document production capabilities and some novel print submission features such as scheduled print where users can designate a time to release a job to print. This can alleviate bottlenecks when large print jobs need to be processed, allowing users to schedule them for quiet times in the day.

Security functions include 1,000 department codes and 10,000 role-based user codes. Authentication is handled by an LDAP server. Each user enters their network user name/password to access the device. The password length is restricted only by the network operating system. The administrator's password is 10 alphanumeric digits.

Other secuity features include fax forwarding to secure mailboxes, a hard drive data overwrite kit, and private print capability.

The Toshiba e-STUDIO232 leaves few holes for the competition to exploit and offers a great bang for the buck proposition for the small company or workgroup looking for an all-round document production and distribution solution.

Spotlight on Toshiba

Toshiba's earliest history is rooted in two companies. In 1875, Tanaka Engineering Works was founded by Hisashige Tanaka, a well-known inventor who had previously built mechanical dolls and a perpetual clock. Under the company name Shibaura Engineering Works, Mr. Tanaka's company became one of Japan's largest manufacturers of heavy electrical apparatus.

Meanwhile, Hakunetsu-sha & Co., Ltd., was established as the first Japanese plant manufacturing electric incandescent lamps. In 1899, the company was renamed Tokyo Electric Co. and had diversified into a manufacturer of consumer products. In 1939, Shibaura Engineering Works and Tokyo Electric Co. merged and the name "Toshiba" was created as a blend of both company's names.

Today Toshiba is one of the world's largest integrated manufacturers of electric and electronic equipment, employing over 170,000 people worldwide. The company currently has 364 consolidated subsidiaries worldwide.

One of Toshiba's most notable accomplishments was achieved in 2000, when Toshiba became the first manufacturer to win all five BTA Channel Choice Awards. The company is involved in more than 500 major technologies, specializing in information and communication equipment and systems, electronic components and materials, and power systems, industrial equipment and consumer products.

Toshiba's commitment to quality is reflected in its corporate mission statement: "We, the Toshiba Group Companies, based on our total commitment to people and to the future, are determined to create a higher quality of life for all people, and do our part to help ensure that progress continues within the world community."

BERTL's Best Office Awards

Recognizing the Best in Digital Imaging Technology and Innovation

For 11 consecutive years, BERTL has recognized the best devices and software in the digital imaging marketplace with BERTL's Best awards. Winners are selected after rigorous analysis of the hundreds of digital imaging devices, software, and management utilities in the world-wide marketplace.

This year, the awards are presented in three segments.

Office Awards	**Spring, 2006**
Software and Solutions Awards	**Dates to be announced**
Production Awards	**Dates to be announced**

BERTL's Best Office awards honor digital imaging and document management solutions for business offices of all sizes and vertical sectors. Imaging solutions covered by these office awards include:

Digital Duplicators	**General Office Monochrome**
Executive Office MFPs	**Innovation Awards**
General Office Color	**Software and Utilities**

BERTL's analysts review current product lines and new product introductions to identify the select group of devices and software that stand apart from the others.

Overall business process value is the key consideration in judging which product is BERTL's Best. BERTL analysts take the role of the end user and ask: "How well does this product work in my real-world business setting?"

BERTL combines its wide-ranging knowledge of the competitive landscape and contact with buyers about their product and supplier experiences to identify worthy products. BERTL analyzes network management utilities, concurrency and contention, print and copy productivity, image quality, return on investment, competitive advantage, accessibility, design and build quality, standard functions, modularity of design and upgrade path, installation, and more.

BERTL is 100 percent independent. It receives no funding from the industry and all product evaluations and reports are published at BERTL's own expense for its subscribers.

BERTL publishes the world's largest library of business competitive intelligence for the digital imaging market at www.BERTL.com