Best 50 to 59 ppm Monochrome Office MFP

Toshiba
e-STUDIO520

The BERTL's Best Award for Best 50 to 59 ppm Monochrome Office MFP has been won by Toshiba's e-STUDIO520 which caters to the diverse needs of a departmental environment by offering excellent image quality plus a rich feature set that can be fully utilized and personalized by Toshiba's user-specific template technology.

In a field of many competitors for general office use, the Toshiba e-STUDIO520 stands out with particular strengths in several areas, namely:

A well-implemented functional template system through which users can easily program their own commonly-used settings and functions and repeatedly access these settings as needed. 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.

The Toshiba e-STUDIO520's well-designed control panel interface means that the system can be used easily by a wide range of people from temporary employees to executives. The interface also makes it easy to use Internet-related functions, as well as locate and manage documents that are stored on the system.

Meanwhile, the device's versatile paper sourcing options are valuable for both general office and vertical market applications. Standard configuration varies depending on geographic location with some regions including four paper cassettes (500 sheets each), while others include two 500-sheet cassettes and a large capacity tray (2 x 1,250 sheets - A4), an automatic duplexing unit (Stackless ADU), 100-sheet Stack Feed Bypass, and 100-sheet RADF. A large-

capacity (4,000-sheet) feeder is an available option.

Versatile document production and finishing options are of important significance to any departmental device that is to be shared among a wide range of users. The e-STUDIO520's options include multi-position stapling and saddle-stitch finishing, a hole punch unit, and post-process inserter unit.

As buyers look to utilize MFPs as on-ramps between the hard copy and soft copy world, the Toshiba e-STUDIO520 provides easy integration with third-party hardware and software using its new alliance with eCopy's ScanStation.

Other features that help set the e-STUDIO520 apart from the crowd include next-generation e-BRIDGE single-board architecture, very good resolution, and numerous security features that are becoming especially important considering new legislation.

While single-board designs are known to improve serviceability and reliability, Toshiba's latest e-BRIDGE single-board technology uses a faster, IBM PowerPC Processor running at 600 MHz — in combination with a 64-bit/66 MHz system bus (doubling the throughput of previous Toshiba implementations) to process jobs more quickly. A single e-BRIDGE board handles copy, print, scan, networking (Ethernet 10/100), and other functions.

Instead of adding function boards as is done by some competitors, additional functionality is built right into the e-BRIDGE board; this functionality is 'awakened' with USB-connected, key-chain-style 'enablers.' Enablers can be purchased individually to awaken additional scanning, printing, and data protection functions. The enabler scheme carries with it distinct advantages. For example, a technician call is not required to install software, add boards, or change jumpers. Secondly, enablers can be used on separate machines of the same model, eliminating the need for multiple enablers for multiple machines in high-production operations.

Toshiba implemented several changes to improve images (with resolution of up to 2400 x 600) while retaining high relative speeds for Segments 4 and 5. The galvanic mirror speed has been increased and the process unit has been slowed down compared to previous models. Toner size has been reduced from 10.3 to 8.5 microns while developer is down from 68 to 42 microns. An 8-bit scanner has replaced the previous model's single-bit version. Lastly, a new dual-speed paper handling system slows paper down through the process unit while increasing its speed elsewhere in the path. All of this adds up to make a machine that does well with text and line art while not sacrificing halftone image quality.

Available wireless modules further increase the versatility of the system. A wireless LAN module creates a Wi-Fi printing 'hot spot' in which users with 802.11b/g-capable notebook PCs, for example, can easily print without connecting to a hardwired network. The e-STUDIO520 also supports Bluetooth communications through an add-on module, enabling walk-up users to print from their Bluetooth-capable PDAs, for instance.

Long-life toner supplies can be changed without disrupting print runs.

Toshiba e-STUDIO security functions begin with 1,000 department codes, each having 6-digit alphanumeric passwords; and 10,000 role-based user codes, each with 10-digit alphanumeric passwords (set by the Administrator). Through these codes, machine functionality (e.g., permission to copy or print but not to scan) can be customized at both departmental and user levels. SMTP and authentication features can prevent the sending of documents without authorization — especially useful for send-to-email users.

The Disk Data Overwrite option, which installs inside the chassis for better security and ensures erasure of data previously stored on the hard drive. A scrambler board option encrypts data (to 128 bits) as it is written to the system's hard drive, then decrypts the data as it is written to the laser imaging unit. The board's encryption code is sealed and known only to the user; not even the technician or factory knows the code.

The Toshiba e-STUDIO520 leaves few holes for the competition to pick at, and delivers an advanced feature set in a user-friendly format.

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."

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