



One-Stop Print Solution

EPSON ME OFFICE 960FWD

By Kevin Boey

● Epson's ME Office range is a new series of printers designed to offer maximum economy benefits for small business users who want a single product instead of multiple office appliances. Headlining the series is the 960FWD, an all-in-one printer which offers high-yield and low cost printing.

Like most AIOs, it comes in a compact form factor which can be comfortable on any workspace. This space-saving footprint is crucial since small business users will most likely have limited or precious storage space. Connectivity is handled by the regular USB2, over LAN or even via wireless-N as it comes with it's own internal wireless



The ink cartridge cradle holds four individual color tanks



Despite being an inkjet, tiny details are also rendered crisp



Very good copying with high color accuracy can be had from the scanner

chipset. Apart from that, users will definitely love the additional PictBridge-enabled USB port on the front as well as the SD/xD/MS and CF card reader which enables fuss-free document and photo prints with just a touch of a button. Wireless printing is made simple via the printer's supplied drivers - simply install and follow the onscreen prompts.

Taking control in the form of the flip-out panel, users are also able to scan, copy and fax without computer assistance. A small, but usable 2.5" LCD screen makes it possible to review and even crop your images before print, while users can also navigate options on the onboard menu. Despite the fact that the 960FWD is designed to save costs with its built-in duplex capability and new 143 inks that have extra-high capacity cartridges, this printer is surprisingly nippy and offers high image quality.

For instance, five pages of monochrome text can be printed in 21 seconds, while 25 pages of black text and color images only took three minutes and 35 seconds. Color copying from scan to finish takes only 30 seconds while a black and white copy zooms-in at 13 seconds. Scanning a page at 300 DPI will eat up 12 seconds of your time, with extremely good quality to boot while our heavy PDF file managed to clock 42 seconds on this printer. A color image at maximum quality settings still takes about a minute or two, although the results are impressive with good color gradation across all hues, even with high-yield inks. We simply loved how accurate colors are, even without prior profiling. Although these speeds aren't the quickest for an AIO, they're pretty fast for an inkjet with only seconds off the fastest offerings out there.

Paper handling is basic with an absence of a mixed media tray. Despite that, the front paper tray is capable of holding up to 250 pages without breaking a sweat which is perfect for offices that print sparingly. The

foldout output tray can be a wee bit unstable for that many pages, therefore users should clear their jobs once they're done.

For an AIO that's aimed at small businesses, the Epson ME Office 960FWD is definitely one of the top printers on the market, not only because of its price and features, but because it offers good quality output whether it is scanning, printing or copying.

SPECIFICATIONS

Functions	Print Technology	AIO Multitasking	Connectivity	Price
Print, Copy, Scan, Color Fax	Epson Inkjet	Yes	USB 2.0, Ethernet, Wi-Fi	RM899

Print Technology: Inkjet Color
 Media Type Supported: 4R, A4, Letter
 Print Resolution: Up to 5760 x 1440 DPI
 Scan Type: Flatbed, ADF
 Optical Scan Resolution: Up to 2400 DPI
 Modem Speed: 33.6kbps
 Dimensions: 446 (W) x 360 (D) x 226 (H) mm
 Weight: 7.6kg
 Warranty: 1-year
 Contact: Epson Malaysia Sdn Bhd
 Telephone: (03) 5628 8288
 URL: www.epson.com.my

Available at

PLAZA LOW YAT
shopping centre

Verdict:

9.0

Physique: 9.0
 Features: 9.0
 Performance: 9.0

GOLD

HWM
MALAYSIA

User Friendliness: 8.5
 Value: 9.0

VERDICT SCORES ARE OUT OF 10.

A very good jack-of-all-trades which offers good value for SMBs