

For fast document output



Product: Lexmark C500n
Color Laser Printer
Manufacturer: Lexmark International Inc
Price: RM1,729 (network-ready)
Enquiries: Lexmark Malaysia
(Tel: 03-74920862,
URL: www.lexmark.com.my)

SPECIFICATIONS

Printer type: Laser
Dimensions: 480 by 420 by 385mm
Weight: 29kg
Processor: 200MHz
Memory capacity: 64MB
Connectivity: USB, Ethernet
Operating systems: Microsoft Windows,
Mac OS 9.x, 10.x
Paper tray: 250 sheets
Duty cycle: Up to 35,000 per month
Print resolution: 1,200 by 600dpi
Print speed: Monochrome at 31ppm,
colour at 8ppm
Toner cartridges: Standard Yield: Black
(2,500 pgs), Cyan, Magenta, Yellow
(1,500); High Yield: Black (5,000),
Cyan, Magenta, Yellow (1,500)
Media type: Plain paper, card stock,
glossy paper, envelopes, labels,
transparencies
Print media size: A4, letter, executive,
folio, statement, universal, envelopes
(9, COM 10, DL, C5, B5)
Media weights: Plain paper 60-90g/m2,
card stock 163-210g/m2
Warranty: One-year LexExpress

By Siti Syameen Md Khalili

SEGMENTED for home and small office-home office (SOHO) users, the Lexmark C500n has the typical look and weight of laser printers in the market. Though it leaves a big footprint, it's able to produce documents real fast once you get it connected and installed.

Unloading is easy when you have a helping hand to haul it out. After that, you can easily handle the installation of the machine's toner cartridges as the unit features front supply access.

The onboard control panel is simple with very few but important buttons for navigating the menu items such as Menu, Back and Cancel.

During tests, the onboard cancel button responded swiftly to cancellation requests, thus saving you from wasting toner on half-baked printouts.

The C500n accepts universal serial bus (USB) and Ethernet interfaces. The recommended option is Ethernet, but during tests the interface selected was the USB due to its popularity among home and SOHO users.

Network-compliant and USB-ready, the C500n is a little bit tricky to install. Note that for certain platforms, you may have to click "Replace existing driver" in the installation set-up regardless of the fact that you have never installed the driver for specific printer model before.

Also, the printer is particular about the paper used for printing. You will need to correctly define the paper type and size. Yes, do not mistake A4 for letter each time you send a printing task, even during test print.

Apart from these little hiccups, the C500n is a delight to work with. Like most laser printers, it takes a few seconds to process the printing tasks sent from your computer, even when the jobs sent for print are pretty large.

For text document, it is super fast, delivering five pages of full-page text document (black only) in 21:85 seconds, and that includes waiting time. (Note that timing for all tests starts from the moment the Print button is clicked on the computer.)

For printing brochures or flyers involving text of different colours and multiple font types, the machine completed five copies of the document within 53:01 seconds.

As SOHO users need to print cover page for proposals or menu, the machine was also tested for full-colour graphics printing.

Timings were recorded using three presets: high-speed, standard and high-quality printing.

The high-speed printing mode, which delivered a full-page graphics within 27:14 seconds, gives a rough draft printout which is acceptable for in-house or personal usage materials.

The standard printing mode is visibly better and a full-page graphics takes only 32:46 seconds to complete. The sharpest output comes with high-

quality printing mode, but it takes 42:73 seconds to complete.

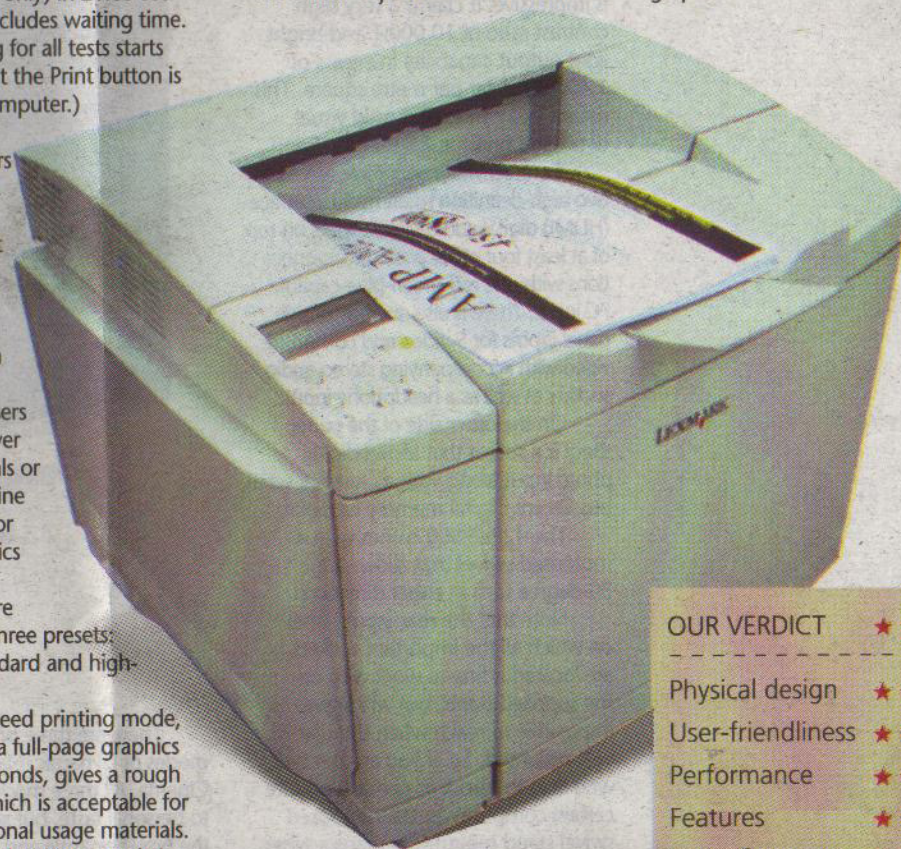
The C500n's interface also offers colour adjustment options for documents, graphics, photographs and more.

But for photographs, it is recommended that you choose the option "No colour adjustment" as sometimes

the colour processed printouts do not reflect what you actually see on your computer screen.

Still, a preset you might want to try out is the Colour Matching option.

Accessible via the printer's Properties interface, this option might work better when printing documents with graphics.



OUR VERDICT	★★★★☆
Physical design	★★★★☆
User-friendliness	★★★★☆
Performance	★★★★☆
Features	★★★★☆
Value for money	★★★★☆
Documentation	★★★★☆