Hardware Review: Logitech QuickCam Pro 4000

By Bruce Pechman, The Muscleman of Technology[SM]
bruce@mrbicep.com

If you're in the market for a new WebCam, look no further than the QuickCam Pro 4000 from Logitech. This brand new release from Logitech (August 2002) supercedes the QuickCam Pro 3000 model. The QuickCam Pro 4000 is the same WebCam I used to test and review Visual Communicator Plus last month (look for the .avi on our site shortly).

For the average street price of $99, you will be hard pressed to find a better value than the QuickCam Pro 4000. Logitech has been refining and fine tuning the QuickCam product line (and similar low cost cameras) for over five years. As a result, Logitech is not only well steeped in WebCam technology, but they are the market leader in this category as well. Keep one imperative point in mind when selecting a WebCam; software. Without great driver support and a robust software package, you will be greatly disappointed. Not to worry, this is where Logitech will exceed your expectations. It comes bundled with MGI's VideoWave SE and MGI's PhotoSuite SE. You also get Logitech's Instant Messaging Video Companion that allows you to share live video with AOL Instant Messenger, MSN Messenger, and Yahoo Messenger. Finally, the main application you work with is Logitech's "ImageStudio". ImageStudio is a feature rich intuitive software suite that allows you to learn and assemble quick video and stills. It includes built in goodies for creating fun projects and contains an album so you can find and access your creations fast.

So far so good, huh? Let's briefly talk about hardware high points and specs. The QuickCam Pro 4000 can capture 1.3 megapixels in camera mode, and 640x480 in video mode (good quality VGA CCD sensor). If you think that's impressive for a petite web camera, I have much more to gloat about. It can also Zoom! Yup, it has a digital zoom that can pan and tilt (you can zoom up to about five times the normal size). It also has a built in microphone, physical snapshot button on top, green LED "on" indicator, and a precision swivel base allowing you to move the round eyeball camera up and down and rotate 360 degrees. The neatest thing I like is the privacy shield. Just in case someone tries to get an unauthorized peek of my 47" bare chest (how dare they), I simply slide the privacy shield over the lens to prevent the Peeping Tom's!

Installation is a snap; just install the main program CD, and it will prompt you to plug the USB (1.1) connector into your computer. The QuickCam Pro 4000 includes a two year warranty backed by Logitech. Should you need a little hand holding for any reason, their Website is chock full of resources.
The system requirements are at least a PII running at 400MHz with 64MB RAM (or minimum RAM OS requirement, whichever is higher). It runs under Windows 98, Win ME, Win XP, or 2000. You will need 200MB of free HD space, CD-ROM drive, and available USB port. Some people are going to leave a mark on this world, while others

will leave a stain. Either way, both will look excellent with the Logitech QuickCam Pro 4000.