CyberPowerPC Infinity Z890 Elite PC

A fast performer and excellent choice if you'll take advantage of the Core Ultra 9 285K processor

SCORE ★★★★★

PRICE £2,499 (£2,999 inc VAT) from tinyurl.com/367cyberpower

CyberPowerPC takes a different approach to Scan and Wired2Fire, partnering its GeForce RTX 5080 graphics card with an Intel Core Ultra 9 285K processor. While Intel's Arrow Lake desktop CPUs haven't set the world alight, there is much to like about this flagship of the range. Not least its eight P-cores and 16 E-cores, which thrive on multicore tasks.

This showed itself in Geekbench, where its result of 20,374 was around 10% faster than the Scan and a few hundred points in front of the Wired2Fire. And that lead became much clearer in Cinebench 2024, with a 2,290 result around 30% ahead of its rivals. Not that it was a winner-takes-all situation: I also benchmarked all three systems using PCMark 10, and here the AMD-powered units were fractionally ahead. Still, what matters is that this is a blisteringly fast system.

Naturally, that extends to games. As the photo reveals, the MSI Suprim OC card dominates the interior of the chassis, with gigantic radiators sucking away the heat. And to great effect, with the CyberPowerPC system duking it out for top spot with Wired2Fire throughout our gaming tests.

All these results were at the system's performance fan settings, and that means noise. Not quite as much as the Wired2Fire, but enough that you can't ignore it when sitting on a desk. Fortunately, if you load up MSI Center – and download the relevant modules – then you can control fan noise based on scenarios (Extreme Performance, Balanced, Silent) or let MSI's AI Engine take charge. Dig deeper and you can add apps to scenarios of gaming, work, meeting and entertainment, so that

the PC knows to cut fan noise during a Zoom call, for instance.

With the fans under control, the Infinity Z890 Elite becomes a fantastic desk companion, even if its fan noise remained higher than the ultra-chill Scan. The Lian Li Lancool 207 chassis is the most compact here, and the two RGB front fans add visual impact behind the metal grille at the front. Aside from the single rear fan, the only other RGB of note stems from the pair of 16GB Kingston Fury Beast DDR5-6000 DIMMs. These are partially blocked by the fan blowing air onto a Be Quiet Dark Rock Pro 5 cooler that reflects both parts of its name.

Working inside the case is going to be impossible unless you remove the graphics card, but a single button press unlocks the slot so this isn't a horrendous task. This also opens up access to the single available PCIe x16 Gen 4 slot. Not that there's anything obvious missing from the gamer-orientated MSI MAG Z890 Tomahawk Wi-Fi motherboard, with two rear Thunderbolt 4 ports, RAID support, 5GbE LAN and Wi-Fi 7. That's on top of seven USB-A ports plus one USB-C port, and four of those (including

the USB-C port) support USB 3.2 Gen 2 for 10Gbits/sec transfers. The front-mounted USB-C port goes even further, with support for USB 3.2 Gen 2x2 (20Gbits/sec).

There are four M.2 sockets, all covered by MSI's heatsinks and, like the graphics card, removable by a single button push. One M.2 socket supports PCIe Gen 5, but CyberPowerPC keeps costs under control by choosing a 2TB Kingston Fury Renegade Gen 4 SSD. This returned 7,021MB/sec sustained read speeds and 6,702MB/sec writes in CrystalDiskMark 8, so it's fast. As a side note, the graphics card's slot also supports PCIe Gen 5, which you may be grateful for when it's time to upgrade.

Finally, we need to talk about price. It isn't a coincidence that this PC costs around £200 more than its rivals this month: not only is Intel's Core Ultra 9 285K processor more expensive than the Ryzen 7 9800X3D, but so is the Intel Z890 motherboard required to support it. Right now, that's the premium you're paying for Intel's top-end consumer CPU, which also includes Intel's first-generation NPU. This isn't powerful enough to qualify for Copilot+ PC status, but might occasionally come in useful.

With a five-year warranty and so much quality, I find it hard to fault what CyberPowerPC is offering. If you want Intel, or simply know that its higher core count will benefit your workflow over the more gaming-focused Ryzen 7 9800X3D, then it's a great choice that's worth the £200 extra. **TIM DANTON**

ABOVE The Infinity Z890 Elite is a fine advert for Intel's Core Ultra 9 285K CPU

PC PRO RECOMMENDED

"With a five-year warranty and so much quality, I find it hard to fault what CyberPowerPC is offering. It's a great choice"

LEFT A Be Quiet Dark Rock cooler helps keep temperatures down

BELOW The compact chassis is brightened up by two RGB fans

SPECIFICATIONS

24-core (8 P-cores, 16 E-cores) Intel Core Ultra 9 285K processor ● MSI MAG Z890 Tomahawk Wi-Fi motherboard ● 32GB Kingston Fury Beast RGB DDR5-6000 RAM ● 16GB MSI Suprim GeForce RTX 5080 OC graphics ● Be Quiet Dark Rock Pro 5 air cooler ● 2TB Kingston Fury Renegade PCIe Gen 4 SSD ● Lian Li Lancool 207 chassis ● MSI MAG A1000GL 80 Plus Gold PSU ● Windows 11 Home ● 219 x 456 x 456mm (WDH) ● 5yr warranty (1yr C&R, 2yr parts) ● power: 63W idle, 589W peak