XEROX

Xerox CopyCentre 232
Xerox CopyCentre 232H
Xerox WorkCentre 232
Xerox WorkCentre 232H
Xerox WorkCentre Pro 232
Xerox WorkCentre Pro 232H
Xerox CopyCentre 238
Xerox CopyCentre 238H
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Xerox WorkCentre Pro 238H
Xerox CopyCentre 245
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32ppm, 38ppm & 45ppm

EDITOR'S CHOICE 2006

Sum-up: Xerox's comprehensive line of mid-range copier MFPs gives users full freedom of choice.

This seemingly massive family is all based on a single engine that runs at three different speeds each packaged in six different ways. The 232, 238, and 245 models were introduced in 2005. These new models now make up the higher range of mid-range Xerox copiers. Their technology and design that supports fully concurrent multifunctionality.

Differentiation: They are pretty nearly identical, differing mostly in terms of speed. The main difference, for example, between the WorkCentre 232 and the WorkCentre 245 is in terms of speed. Note also that this series also has siblings at 55ppm, 65ppm, and 75ppm. These will be covered in our upcoming *High-Volume Copier & Multifunctional Guide.*

All the models with "H" in their names come with the 3,600-sheet high-capacity feeder standard. Otherwise, each is identical to the corresponding models without the H.

The CopyCentre models are standalone copiers, while WorkCentre models include standard printing, and the WorkCentre Pro models include advanced printing features. Optional upgrades are available to convert a CopyCentre to a WorkCentre or a WorkCentre Pro, or a WorkCentre to a WorkCentre Pro. However, the most cost-effective way to get added functionality is to buy the configuration you want right from the start. (You can also add the high-capacity paper feeder to any model.)

There are also some differences in terms of image memory. CopyCentre and WorkCentre machines come standard with 128MB of "pre-collation" memory, used for collating multipage, multicopy documents. That can be expanded to 512MB. WorkCentre Pro models start with 384MB, upgradeable to 512MB.

The print controllers for the models also have some differences. The controller that comes with the WorkCentre has 128MB of RAM (upgradeable to 256MB), and the WorkCentre Pro's controller comes with 256MB. The fax option uses its own memory.

These models offer some security and accounting enhancements over their predecessors. One point that Xerox is proud of is that the machines can go from job to job with no pause in between, something not all competitors can deliver.

Xerox CopyCentre 245 — This is the copy-only version of a 45ppm family that offers multifunctional versions based on the same modular and flexible technology.

Paper handling: Like other Copy Centre and WorkCentre series, these models come standard with dual 550-sheet paper trays and a 100-sheet bypass. They also feature a standard 75-sheet reversing document feeder.

There is one paper input option, a 3,600-sheet stacker, consisting of a 1,600 and a 2,000-sheet drawer. That adds up to a total of 4,800 sheets. As noted above, that stacker is standard on the H models.

On the output side, there are a variety of offerings. First, there is a 300-sheet offset catch tray priced at $400. There are also three optional finishers.

The first one, called by Xerox the Basic Office Finisher, has a 1,000 sheet finisher that can single-position staple up to 30-sheets and offset jobs. That finisher also has a 250-sheet top tray. It costs $1,148.

The second finisher, the so-called Office Finisher, offers single- or dual-position 50-sheet stapling. It handles 2,000 sheets in the main tray and 250-sheets in the top tray. It costs $1,550. This finisher has an optional, separate 2-hole legal or a 3-hole punch.

The third finisher, the Professional Finisher, features a booklet maker with saddle stitching that can make up to 60-page booklets. It is also capable of V-folding up to 15 sheets with stapling. It can also staple up to 50 normal sheets and holds up to 1,750 sheets. That option costs $4,600. This finisher comes with a standard 3-hole punch, though a 2-hole legal punch is available as an option. Xerox offers an offline convenience stapler with 50-sheet stapling.

Concurrency: As with other Xerox models, concurrency is excellent. You can scan, copy, print, or fax any number of jobs only limited by memory. There's even an interrupt button that will allow you to stop an ongoing output job, prioritize some other job, then have the first job resume. Again, the only limitation is memory.

Xerox touts a PrintAround capability with these models, which intelligently manages the job queue, saving for later processing any jobs that need unavailable resources (such as paper from a particular tray that is empty) and proceeds to the next job. This is designed to eliminate bottlenecks.

Multifunctionality: These models feature some solid added functions. First, there is excellent printing. That print function comes with standard Ethernet, along with PCL and PostScript. That's a nice plus, as you'll often have to pay a lot extra for those features.

Scanning is not available for the CopyCentre models. You'd have to upgrade them into WorkCentres to be able to get that feature. Scanning is optional on the WorkCentres and standard on a WorkCentre Pro. A WorkCentre machine has basic scan-to-email as an option, but doesn't have full network scanning. As a result, the scanning function offered on a WorkCentre model offers LDAP support or network authentication. If you want scan-to-email and full network scanning, you need to start out with a WorkCentre Pro. With Xerox's SMARTsend software, users can send to multiple destinations with one scan.

As has been the case for several years now, Xerox's scanning capability is one of the strongest in the industry. One nice feature on both the WorkCentre and WorkCentre Pro is the ability to scan jobs with different paper sizes, as the scanner will automatically adjust for differing sizes.

Along with optional Internet fax and network fax (available only on the WorkCentre Pro models), all three model families offer optional conventional walk-up faxing. Note that the WorkCentre and WorkCentre Pros models also offer fax capability for digital documents, directly from the print dialog box. The fax option is based on a 33,600bps modem, and there is also an optional second line. Missing from the list of capabilities is JBIG compression. Incoming faxes can take advantage of two-sided printing, stapling, and hole-punching, if available.

Like most competitors at this level, Xerox has an array of security features to offer. They include hard disk overwrite (optional), secure scan transmission, password protection and network authentication, and time and date stamping, as well as accounting software for tracking all activity on the machine.

Xerox has an impressive line of internal workflow solutions available, both home-grown and third-party. It also offers its SmartKit solution for user-managed supplies replenishment (including rollers).

Conclusion: Xerox is getting smart at taking a single, well-tested design and then hanging a wealth of variations on the same basic design, rather than (as it used to) offering a confusing array of machines based on different engines and with different accessories and software.

We think Xerox has come out with a set of winners. We single out the 232 and 245 lines for our Editor's Choice Awards, but clearly the 238 models are right up there as well.