Compact drive packs in data
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IT'S not quite having the world in the palm of your hand, but it's close enough for gadget geeks.

The Comsol Minidrive packs 2.2GB of data in a compact 66 by 56 by 15mm box that connects to a computer's USB port.

It works with USB 1 and the faster USB 2. The USB port provides the power to run the magnetic disk drive.

"The heart of this drive is a 1-inch hard disk," Comsol marketing director Bryan Hedley says.

"We've found it ideal for large data files, from engineering drawings to music or photographs."

The hard drive spins at 4200rpm and transfers data at up to 6.5Mbps, according to Comsol.

It comes at a cutting-edge price of $449, which is not expensive compared with Comsol's 1GB USB flash drive, which sells for $399.

It runs on Windows ME/2000/XP, Mac and Linux without requiring extra drivers or software.

It comes with built-in security to guard against unauthorised access.

It also has software to store email and browsing preferences.