THE ROAD TO MAC

A TUTORIAL FOR BEGINNING PROGRAMMERS

I. What is The Road To Mac?

Almost everyone who has ever tried to learn how to program the Macintosh would agree that it is a damnably difficult thing to do; in fact, the graphic interface that makes the Mac such a joy--and so easy--to use creates tremendous problems for those trying to program for the machine.

Sooner or later, however, almost all Mac enthusiasts get the urge to create their own programs--in part to accomplish something of use in their work or their studies, but in large part simply because true mastery of the Mac seems to require more than manual dexterity with the mouse and the keyboard. Lots of Mac applications--communications programs, spreadsheets, keyboard Macro builders, and Hypercard, for example--play to this urge, but, of course, none allows you to produce actual stand-alone Mac programs of your own.

Many Mac enthusiasts who want to go beyond macros and Hypercard scripts to real Macintosh programming find the process terribly difficult and frustrating. Some of the program examples included in compilers and in books on Mac programming use the compiler (rather than the Mac Operating System) as the basis for their operations, and create applications which are very obviously not real Mac programs. Other typical sample programs are more complex, and do create the Mac interface, but often move dramatically from simple and inherently useless applications (drawing circles on the screen or creating a window that says "Hello World") to very complex programs with hundreds of lines of code; the unexplained intermediate steps can baffle the novice. And, finally, many texts and manuals devote a great deal of time and space to highly technical discussions which are both interesting and comprehensible to computer science graduates but utterly baffling to the rest of us.

The Road To Mac fills the gap by providing a series of carefully-constructed, incremental tutorials in programming for the Macintosh. Each new variation builds upon the last, walking the user through Modal Dialogs, Modeless Dialogs, and Desk Accessories; the detailed explanations are as non-technical as possible, but by the end of the tutorial the user has mastered a wide range of programming skills and has created more than two dozen interesting, enjoyable, and useful applications to impress friends, family, or colleagues. The first program in the tutorial series is a very simple Modal Dialog; the last is a relatively complex and useful Desk Accessory. Both of these applications are included with this document, so that you can see where you start and where you wind up.

II. What do you need?

The Road To Mac is available in two versions, for TurboPascal and for ThinkPascal 3.0. In addition to one of these compilers and some practice in using it, you need a copy of ResEdit (preferably a recent, graphically-oriented version) and minimal familiarity with Pascal. If you meet these requirements, and are willing to spend a few entertaining and relatively painless

hours, this tutorial is for you. And while it was written for adults, even very young teenagers can learn to create programs with The Road To Mac.

III. What do you get?

The Road To Mac package contains a diskette with code and resources for the basic programs, as well as additional code utilized in several of the variations presented in the tutorial. The package also contains an 85-page handbook, with detailed instructions and comments and numerous screen shots showing how your resources should look. The author of the tutorial has more than twenty-five years of teaching experience, and you will find the explanations and instructions clear, well-organized, and easy to follow. We are so confident that you <u>can </u>learn from <u>The Road To Mac </u>that we offer a money-back guarantee: if you have the minimal skills outlined above but are unable to create these programs, your purchase price will be refunded to you! So if you've always wanted to learn Mac programming, this is your chance--with nothing to lose. Print out the enclosed order form today and get started!