

Macromedia and Sun Microsystems have announced they will work together to incorporate support for Java applets—small applications that can be downloaded into a client personal computer or workstation—into Authorware and Director and define multimedia class libraries for inclusion in future versions of Java. Macromedia will utilize its core technology and Java to build a new tool for publishing interactive multimedia information on high bandwidth Internet networks. Java applets will join a large list of media data types that Director and Authorware already support. Using Director and Authorware, Java applets can be animated and composited like digital video, 3D, or high resolution bitmaps, increasing their expressive power.

Meanwhile, Macromedia, Netscape and other developers have demonstrated Shockwave for Director, a new Internet publishing capability for Macromedia Director, which enables Director users to deliver "plug-in" interactive multimedia components in the Netscape Navigator 2.0 final release. Shockwave for Director's post processor, Afterburner, compresses standard Director files by approximately 60%, adds security, and optimizes content by media type for quick downloading. Shockwave for Director includes Afterburner, documentation on tips and techniques for Internet authoring, sample movies, and the Shockwave player which plugs into the Netscape 2.0 browser. Two weeks following the availability of Netscape 2.0 final version, the Shockwave for Director kit will be available FREE to authorized Director 4.0 users via <http://www.macromedia.com>.

And, in a related development, Natural Intelligence, Inc. has announced that it will soon begin beta testing on a the first development kit for creating applets in Sun's Java programming language on the Macintosh operating system. Features of applets written in Java range from simple text manipulation and 3D animated graphics to system or network management tasks—and best of all, users can instantaneously access and run these applications just by clicking on them from their Web browsers. (This means that in the future, your application software could reside on the Net instead of on your own hard drive. Java applets are platform independent and work with Sun's HotJava browser software or any Web browser that is "Java aware" (e.g., Netscape Navigator 2.0). According to Sunworld Online Magazine, literally hundreds of applets are currently being developed. A developer release of the product is planned for December 1995. Interested parties should email Natural Intelligence at [roaster@natural.com](mailto:roaster@natural.com), or visit their web site at <http://www.natural.com>.

connectix has finally released its RAM Doubler 1.6 updater. The much anticipated update provides compatibility for the PCI Power Macs (9500, 8500, 7500 and 7200) and for System 7.5.2's OpenTransport networking software. In addition, the company has implemented compatibility for other new Macs including the PowerBook 5300, PowerBook 190, Duo 2300 series and the Power Mac/Performa 5200/6200 series. The update also quashes a variety of annoying bugs, including a fix for certain Power Mac upgrade cards and Connectix Speed Doubler. System 7.5 users can now disable all extensions except for RAM Doubler by holding down the shift and option keys at boot up.

Some lingering problems remain. For instance, Hewlett Packard DeskWriter print drivers may exhibit slow performance or failure under extended memory (i.e. while running with either RAM Doubler or Apple virtual memory). Connectix discusses work-arounds in the update's READ ME file. Some accelerator products do not support Apple's Virtual Memory and are not compatible with RAM Doubler. These accelerators include the Radius Rocket, Fusion Data System's TokaMac, Mobius Speedster 040, Applied Engineering Transwarp, and MicroMac Carrera. All third-party PowerBook display cards, notably the Envisio display adapters, are not compatible with RAM Doubler.

The update is available from Connectix by calling (800) 839-3632 or (415) 571-5100. It is also available from the company's online forums on CompuServe (MacAVEN section 8), AOL, eWorld and <http://www.connectix.com>.

connectix has also begun shipment of VideoPhone, a package which combines the Connectix QuickCam digital camera with software that takes advantage of Apple's QuickTime Conferencing system extensions. The company claims VideoPhone will allow users to deploy video conferencing for well under \$200 a user, including the camera and software, and for under \$100 a user if the user already has a camera. VideoPhone comes with the Connectix QuickCam, but the software works with any standard QuickTime video device. With AV-equipped Macintosh models, you can plug in NTSC cameras, VCR's or TV tuners as an alternate input source.

VideoPhone requires the following:

- Centris, Quadra or PowerPC-based Macintosh (Except Quadra 605 or 630)
- 16 MBs of physical RAM recommended for full conferencing features
- Monitor capable of displaying 256 colors required; thousands of colors recommended
- System 7.1.1 or later (System 7.5 recommended)
- Microphone
- High-speed network connection (AppleTalk, EtherTalk or TCP/IP with ISDN, or faster, connection for wide area use)
- NTSC cameras supported on AV Macs

In the future, users can expect a color version of the QuickCam to be available—no word on when and how that upgrade will work—but the software can support color input from other devices now. Modem support is also planned for the product's first upgrade. And, registered users will receive an enhanced movie recorder that allows users of SMTP/MIME mail to send video messages electronically. Find out more about VideoPhone from the Connectix web site at <http://www.connectix.com>.

Adobe has released an update for the Photoshop 3.0.4. The latest version of Photoshop was inadvertently shipped with a bug that writes file previews at the wrong resolution. The Photoshop 3.0.5 Update contains an application that patches version 3.0.4 to correct the file preview problem as well as a crash-upon-quit error on Power Macintosh computers. Also included are several new plug-ins including a GIF89a Export plug-in which supports interleaved and transparent GIF images, and a PowerPC accelerator plug-in which accelerates certain functions such as Gaussian Blur and Unsharp Mask on 604 and 601 processors.

The update is only for Photoshop 3.0.4 or 3.0.4 LE and will not work on earlier versions. It should be made available in the Adobe area on CompuServe and AOL, the Photoshop area of the Adobe BBS, and Adobe's home on the web at <http://www.adobe.com>.

Adobe has announced the availability of Adobe PageMill web authoring software for Macintosh, at the introductory price of \$99 US. Adobe PageMill software simplifies the traditional process of web authoring by allowing users to easily create, edit and update web pages without the complexities of HTML (Hypertext Mark-up Language). Apple has announced it will enhance the value and functionality of its Apple Internet Server Solution for the World Wide Web by including the new PageMill software.

PageMill allows edits and format changes to be automatically translated to match HTML capabilities. Users can view their edits on the screen exactly how the page will appear in popular browsers without ever seeing HTML code. A user can quickly create links between files or add images to text by simply "dragging and dropping" the desired material. Adobe PageMill supports advanced HTML features, including clickable image maps, fill-in forms, text/check boxes and pop-up menus.

Adobe PageMill software is available immediately at an introductory price of \$99 until January 31, 1996. In addition to normal software outlets, the product is expected to be available for purchase on the Adobe World Wide Web server (<http://www.adobe.com/>) by mid-November, 1995, and will include electronic versions of all documentation. Customers interested in purchasing Adobe PageMill via Internet distribution can call (800) 411-8656 for more information.

Quark, Inc., announced in October that it would release a maintenance upgrade to its flagship desktop publishing program before the end of October. The QuarkXPress 3.32 upgrade will be free for owners of version 3.31. The update finally combines the 68K and PowerPC versions on one CD with a smart installer that will place the appropriate version on the user's Mac. 68K Macintosh owners will now receive the value added software (worth over \$2000) that PowerPC users have been getting on the QuarkXPress for PowerPC CD-ROM.

Among the new features in QuarkXPress 3.32 :

- Streamlined Collect for Output (Users can now create the report without collecting the files).

- Additional Apple Events support.

- Support for optimized EPS files from Adobe Photoshop 3.0.

- LaserWriter 8.x driver support (Fixes the Courier type substitution problem).

The new QuarkXPress will also offer support for the company's QuarkImmedia multimedia software which is due to ship in first quarter 1996. Quark claims the new Immedia product links the design controls of QuarkXPress to the creation of interactive multimedia for the CD ROM, kiosk, Internet and print markets. QuarkImmedia consists of two components: the multimedia design software and a viewer. The design software—a series of QuarkXTensions—lets publishers create interactive multimedia projects that include pictures, text, sounds, movies, scripts and linked text. The Viewer lets the user display projects created in QuarkImmedia and will be available for Macintosh, Power Macintosh and Windows. The Viewer is not dependant on the design software and Quark plans to distribute it royalty free. It will be able to connect directly to the Internet to view QuarkImmedia format files and will allow access to HTML web pages by launching an HTML-compatible Web browser as a helper application. Pricing and distribution for Immedia have not been determined.

WB, Inc., manufacturer of the Hammer brand of storage products, has announced a major upgrade to its Hard Disk ToolKit and RAID ToolKit. Version 1.8 is now optimized for the Power Macintosh with PCI, System 7.5.2, the native SCSI Manager, 2 terabyte volumes, Fast &Wide SCSI-3 and all of Apple's new driver rules. The new driver should ensure compatibility with the PCI Macs including the 7200, 7500, 8500, and 9500.

The new HDT features TurboBoot. TurboBoot tracks which extensions and control panels load during boot-up and intelligently precans these files into RAM (before they're ever requested by the Mac) thus substantially reduce start-up time. FWB claims the TurboBoot feature makes extension and control panel loading 30%-100% faster and has been proven to be both safe and effective for speeding system start-up.

HDT Diagnostic is an automated diagnostic tool designed to protect data integrity by anticipating disk problems. HDT Diagnostic performs a surface scan of system storage automatically at boot time. It displays the drive's ready status and assesses possible data integrity problems. Any increase in unmapped bad blocks will be flagged as an indication of media defects. HDT Diagnostic can monitor drives, arrays, or removable media and supports

user configurable testing for customized operation.

Native drivers increase performance on Power Macintosh CPUs by taking advantage of the new native Device Manager in System 7.5.2. This allows Power Macs to execute all read/write requests in native Power PC mode. The new version can create 2 terabyte partitions (2000 gigabytes in a single desktop icon). Additionally, the RAID ToolKit can now stripe up to 15 Fast&Wide SCSI-2 mechanisms together into huge mega-volumes.

Hard Disk ToolKit owners can upgrade to the new version 1.8 for just \$29 US (RAID ToolKit owners \$49). HDT Personal Edition and CD-ROM ToolKit owners may trade-up to the complete Hard Disk ToolKit for \$49. HDT, HDT\*PE, or CDT owners can step up to the RAID ToolKit for \$119. Order upgrades from the FWB Software Upgrade Department at (800) 581-4392 (510/252-2090 outside the US) or fax them at (510) 498-2609. For more information, log on to FWB's new web site at <http://www.fwb.com>.

laddin Systems has posted updates to two of its utility packages. The StuffIt Deluxe 3.5.1 update upgrades the StuffIt Deluxe and SpaceSaver 3.5 packages to version 3.5.1. Specifically, it provides new versions of the SpaceSaver and Magic Menu control panels. The company recommends all StuffIt Deluxe/SpaceSaver users update to 3.5.1 as this new version has significant improvements over previous versions.

Aladdin Desktop Tools 1.0 to 1.0.1 Updater updates the Aladdin Desktop Tools 1.0 package to version 1.0.1. More specifically, this updater will provides new versions of the Desktop SpeedBoost, Desktop Makeover, Desktop Shortcut and Magic Menu control panels, as well as a new SpeedBoost Monitor. There are no new features in the updated components of Aladdin Desktop Tools, but their overall stability and robustness are significantly improved.

Both new updaters are available at Aladdin's forums on CompuServe and eWorld and also at their web site at <http://www.aladdinsys.com> or their FTP site at <ftp://ftp.aladdinsys.com/pub/>.

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