

BBS In A Box Vol.II

a review by Donald Lloyd

Something mysterious happens to a person the first time they plug in their new Macintosh. The friendly "Welcome to Macintosh" window illuminating the screen gives the user a strange sort of rush.

Quite unknown to the unsuspecting new owner, a personality transformation is taking place. It's as if "something" slides down that mouse cord, oozes into the fingers, and before long is freely flowing in your veins. Symptoms include a growing appetite for new programs, magazines, catalogues - in fact, any medium that will communicate the newest, the latest in Mac technology. Soon you discover phone modems, devices that let your machine "talk" to other Macintoshes, by way of "middle men" - Bulletin Board Services (BBS).

While investigating the differences in "BBS's", you will notice that some have file sections -- enabling you to copy tons of shareware files by tapping a few keys. Wait!! Before you hyperventilate and drool on this article, I'd like to help you avoid a common BBS pitfall - indiscriminate overconsumption.

Let's imagine you've been a BBS user for several months. Naturally, you've been copying every dingbat file you could get your hands on. You're using up ALOT of space on your hard drive, but to trash a portion of your accumulated shareware wealth is, of course, unthinkable. So you begin to transfer files from the hard drives to floppys. Before long your work station area is knee-deep in those little plastic squares.

About this time a friend comes over who needs help with a certain project. You remember that just last week (or was it two weeks ago?) you copied a program from the BBS that could take your friend out of his dilemma. But how, for Pete's sake, could you possibly remember just which floppy "haystack" your proverbial needle was in?

Save yourself alot of grief (not to mention gray hair, high blood pressure and scowl creases) by purchasing **BBS IN A BOX**.

This CD-ROM from Mac Wizards contains the entire contents of the AMUG 1 BBS & the AMUG Preferred BBS. (Can you handle it?!)

BBS In A Box Vol. II contains over 1.3 Gigabytes of files on 22 different software topics. That's over 100 AppleLink items, 270 Adobe Screen fonts, 100 MUG items, 1,000 Art files, 350 Business tools, 400 DA's, 150 Films, 260 Fonts, 400 Games, 120 GIFs, 840 HyperCard tools, Mac Technical Notes, 200 MUG Newsletter Reviews, 80 MIDI files, 50 Movies (animation), 460 Sound files, 360 Programmer tools, 520 Telecommunication files, 50 System 7 tools, Decompression applications, 1,080 utilities for the Macintosh, 650 Word processing tools and support articles... plus much more! Now if that doesn't make you salivate, I don't know what will!

Just look at these special features:

*)Adobe Systems Inc. has graciously allowed **BBS In A Box Vol. II** to license for redistribution their most current collection of screen fonts. *)Volume II features PD Pig Out! , bundled with HyperCard 2.1 (licensed from Apple Computer) by MacWizards. This stack contains the descriptions for approximately 8,000 public domain and shareware files contained in Volume II. Ordinarily this product retails for \$19.95. *)A demo version spotlighting On Location's search engines is included.

This enables the user to find any file by simply typing a keyword into On Location or your favorite database. It won't take a three-hour scavenger hunt to zip to the Public Domain or Shareware file you need. (By the way, **BBS IN A BOX** is the only CD that provides BBS descriptions on over 640 megs of compressed Macintosh BBS software.)

*)In addition to its usefulness as a single user CD, **BBS In A Box** can (like its name suggests) be added to the file section of a BBS! Text file listings and other database tools provide compatibility with Mansion, Second Sight, First Class BBS, & Telefinder BBS.

*)Pete Johnson enhanced the programming section of Volume II with files from Glassell Park BBS. Having written over 30 great utilities for Second Sight BBS fans, his contributions to **BBS In A Box** include three never-before-seen Second Sight utilities - Copy Cat, Rescan, and Condor. *)Salient has provided a special Disk Doubler version 3.7 init for **BBS in a BOX**. This init allows users to decompress files easily from a Finder DD menu. (Special thanks to Lloyd Chambers of Salient.)

The AMUG "Best of" series section on Volume II contains only the updates since the Volume I release. Vol. II users wanting to purchase the previous 70 "Best of" disk images available on Vol. I may do so for a limited time (while supply lasts) at the bargain price of \$40.

With all the above "bells and whistles" available on Vol. II, what can we be looking for in Vol. III? Expect additional BBS System support, revamping some description areas, limiting compression to Compressor and Disk Doubler formats, many additional new files, greater system 7 support, MSDN links, showcasing more BBS file areas and more.

BBS In A Box will be updated every six months, which makes adding new files an easy task - as simple as inserting a new CD-ROM. Now that feeding the Mac-induced information craving is as simple as purchasing updates at \$50.00 each, replace those floppys with the AMUG **BBS IN A BOX**. It's much neater, faster, and hey, CD drives are great conversation pieces!

You don't have to have a doctor's prescription, **BBS In A Box** is now available over-the-counter by contacting AMUG or calling some of the better Mac Mail-order houses - like MacZone.

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