

features



COVER STORY • PAGE 28

MY LOVE/HATE RELATIONSHIP WITH MICROSOFT

Dr. Richard Hallmark reflects on his relationship with Microsoft's Macintosh products over the years. Actually we think most Mac users have a love/hate relationship with Microsoft. They love Word 5.1 and hate everything thereafter.



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20 THINGS I WISH SOMEONE HAD TOLD ME WHEN I BOUGHT MY MAC

Jeff Pagano shows new Mac users how to save time and embarrassment by revealing many of the things he had to learn the hard way. One was "never solder anything to your Mac's motherboard while standing in a tub of water." It's like Jeff always says, "safety first!"



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THE SWAMI KNOWS...

In this month's editorial, Scott takes a look in his crystal ball to see what the future may bring for Mac users. What he sees may alarm you. It's...it's...an alarm clock. No, worse, it's an Apple ad using a Mac as an alarm clock!

C O N T E N T S

columns

8 MAC NEWS, GOSSIP, AND OTHER COOL STUFF

This month we look at a recent study, commissioned by Microsoft, that shows that Windows 95 users are significantly more productive than Macintosh users. So we thought we'd commission a few studies of our own. Our first study showed that a large percentage of Windows 95 users are boring weenies who believe anything Microsoft tells them, even if they know it's a load of crap. Our second study showed that Windows 95 users have a significantly smaller brain than Mac users. Let's commission more studies!

11 NEWS FROM APPLE

There's not a whole lotta good news coming out of Apple lately, so we thought we'd divert your attention and look at that Pippin™ thing Apple's coming out with. Man that's really gonna be something! They say it connects to your TV set, like Nintendo. It'll change computing forever! (Have you forgotten about the earnings yet? No? I'll continue.) How about that Pippin, huh? Boy that's something.

14 THE HIDING PLACE

This month Rod "MacDaddy" Harlan reveals secrets of Macintosh programmers that you can try. Here's one he left out. If you hold the Shift+Option+Delete+7+F11+Control+tilde+Enter+Tab+Capslock+Command+Spacebar, when you start up your Mac, you'll get an on-screen message that says, "You've got one too many fingers!" Those nutty programmers. They're in the wrong business.

17 PRESENT AT THE CREATION by Don Crabb

This month, Don looks at the Newton 2.0. You'd probably expect Don to give the new Newton a tongue lashing the likes of which hasn't been seen since Apple's CEO Michael Spindler returned to Cupertino to tell the board he turned down IBM's offer of \$55 per share, but Don really likes the new Newton operating system. He still doesn't like Apple, but he likes the Newton. Hey, it's a start.

32 MAC TO BASICS

In this month's beginners column, Jeff Hemmel (who uses the stage name Ozzy Osborne) takes a look at how to customize America Online to work for you. Actually, I'm dying to read this article. I always wanted to change my screen name from ScottGK to something easier to remember. Like SGK1380MT1.

32 DIGITAL VIDEO VIEW

This month Rod looks at QuickDraw 3-D on the Mac. Many people don't realize that Apple has made this technology available to Mac users, because Microsoft commissioned a study that shows that it doesn't really exist.

36 DOCTOR MAC — Everything you wanted to know about extensions but were afraid to ask

This month Jim "Dr. Mac" Goodman takes a look at extensions. Jim says there are some extensions that probably shouldn't be in your System folder. Stuff like: Static Electricity Doubler, Motherboard Frier, and RAM Crippler. You should also probably take out anything that starts with "Death, Toast, or Microsoft." Hey, he knows. He's a doctor.

38 PAINTER TIPS AND TECHNIQUES with David Roberts

David Roberts, who many people believe actually sang most of Paula Abdul's vocal parts on her "Forever your Girl" album, shows you how to create in low res, then convert to high res in Painter 4. Next month David shows you how to talk in a low voice, and then sing in a high one. It's a bit incriminating, to say the least.

reviews

24 WELL, HOW WOULD YOU SURVIVE? • ONECLICK REVIEWED

This is either the story of a man shipwrecked on a desert isle with all the latest software and a PowerMac 8500 with only four MB of RAM, or it's a review of some educational software. Hey, if that guy on the desert isle could run anything other than TeachText, I'd say that would be pretty educational in itself. Plus Dick Theriault looks at OneClick. It does about a million things but MillionClick would have been a stupid name, don't cha think?

30 ADOBE PAGEMILL

It's our in-depth review of the best thing to happen to the WWW since Netscape went public. And like most ground-breaking top shelf products—it's not available for Windows yet.

35 SUPRA FAX/MODEM 288PB

Jimmy "Jam" Workman reviews the new Supra 28.8 internal fax/modem for PowerBooks. I think Jim's review would have been much more complete if Jim really had a PowerBook to test it on. (Kidding!)

departments

7 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If it's happening in the Macintosh arena, there's a 50-50 chance it's listed here.

10 CYBERSTUFF

Check here for a look at what's hot from the online services. If you don't have a modem, just read the cartoon.

12 LETTERS

A collection of some of the finest death threats and mean-spirited email to come our way in quite some time. (Kidding!)

20 PROFILE OF THE MONTH

Our popular profile feature is back and this month we're proud to profile—Peggy Tuttle

34 MACINTOSH BBSs / FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

Two seemingly unrelated listings, both on the same page. Eerie isn't it?



Macintosh News

gossip and other
way cool stuff

BY SCOTT KELBY

Here's some scoops, gossip, and rumors we picked up on the street. Who knows if any of it's true, but what the hey?

R Well, the Apple buyout rumors are still in the air, especially with Apple's stock hovering around its yearly low. In fact, some Wall Street analysts commented that they didn't feel Apple's stock would fall below \$30 per share because of such strong takeover rumors. If there is a buyout in the works, our hope is that the new owner would be Hewlett-Packard. Canon or Sony might be nice, as well. Wouldn't mind seeing Disney pick up Apple either. (Heck, Disney uses so many Macs, they might just buy Apple to save a few bucks on their hardware outlays.) Well, the lower Apple's stock price goes, the more realistic a buyout becomes. So go buy some Apple stock, will ya?

R Another piece of Apple-related gossip is making its rounds. The word is that Apple is looking to sell Newton. Not just license it, sell it lock, stock, and barrel, and supposedly Oracle is looking at the offer, but nothing concrete yet. Frankly, I'm rather surprised to hear this one, as the Newton 2.0 is, from all accounts, a giant leap forward. Maybe that's why a buyer's considering it. Who knows...it's just gossip at this point.

R From the "Why didn't I think of that? It's because I'm not that sleazy" department. It seems that a couple of enterprising individuals saw the potential for big business to enter the World Wide Web, so they went out and paid the \$50 fee to register the domain names of many of the fortune 500 companies, thinking that eventually they'd all want to use their corporate name as their URL addresses (like Toyota.com, or CBS.com, etc.) Well, their goose is laying golden eggs as these companies try to register their Web pages and find that those domain names are already taken, but can be made available by paying a somewhat exorbitant fee to these guys. From what we hear, \$10,000 for the release of a particular domain name is not unusual. Rumor has it that this company also snagged the Windows95.com domain name, and then approached Microsoft, but MS wouldn't bite at the huge price tag. (I imagine it was significantly more than a measly \$10,000.)

R If you aren't already on Guy Kawasaki's Evangelist, you'll want to get on it soon. It's free, and every day you'll get emailed the latest Apple news, propaganda, great software and hardware offers for subscribers, Guy's words of wisdom and other truths, Mac-related job openings, and some

continued fourth column, next page.

Microsoft tips its hand

Remember the controversy a few years back when General Motors was accused of selling GM pickups with a design flaw in their side-mounted gas tanks that could cause the tank to explode if the truck was hit in an accident? Could you imagine General Motors running an ad that read, "Thinking about buying a GM pickup, but you're afraid that a side-impact collision might turn your truck into a ball of flames?" Hardly. It would give too much credence to the accusations.

I guess that's why I was surprised to see a Microsoft ad for Windows 95 running in USA today a few weeks ago. The headline of the ad read, "So you're staring blankly at your PC wondering, If I load Windows 95 will it fulfill my wildest computing dreams, or will it melt this sucker down?" followed by the subhead, "7 million people are already using Windows 95. No meltdowns so far." Now, let me tell you what I got from that ad: (1) It's Microsoft responding to news reports and articles about PC users that have installed Windows 95 and lost the contents of their hard drives during installation. They're obviously afraid it will impact sales, and since sales are just seven million versus the 30 million many analysts had predicted, I say they're justified in being concerned. (2) I noticed that Microsoft carefully chose the term "meltdown" rather than "erasing your hard drive." So it's technically true—Windows 95 has not "melted down" any user's machines, but since meltdown is a made-up slang, I believe the ad was designed to imply that Windows 95 hasn't "messed up"

anyone's machine. I think you'd find quite a few users that would disagree. The 20,000 daily tech support calls Microsoft was getting had to come from somewhere. And lastly (3) I applaud Microsoft for one thing—admitting that their Windows 95 customers, "stare blankly at their PCs."

CorelDraw still for amateurs

We've all known for years that Macintosh is the standard for professional graphic design. But occasionally we'll run across some misguided PC user telling us how great CorelDraw for Windows is and we just laugh, poke fun at them, and the way they're dressed. I don't think the professional design community, which is Mac-based, has ever really considered CorelDraw a professional level program, on par with Adobe Illustrator or Macromedia Freehand. So I was interested to see the latest issue of Publish magazine, the respected cross-platform design magazine, which features an in-depth review of CorelDraw 6.0 for Windows 95 and NT. The review, by CorelDraw for Dummies author Deke McClelland, spans nearly four pages and points out CorelDraw's strong points but also its many weaknesses. He summed it up the same way I always have, "...professionals are advised to steer clear of this sprawling software production." Since CorelDraw is the flagship product of most Windows designers, what does that tell you? That's right, we can still laugh and poke fun at them.

The NBC plot thickens

First a look at last week's episode: NBC airs

a special report that paints about as bad a picture of Apple, their management, and their future as is humanly possible. We ask, "Why would NBC run such a damaging report on Apple, timed right before the Christmas buying season?" It's puzzling. Then we see the next issue of TIME magazine with Bill Gates on the cover. Inside it shows a picture of Bill Gates with "an admirer"—who turns out to be Tom Brokaw, the NBC news anchor who ran the report on Apple. It turns out that Mr. Brokaw is a big fan and close friend of Bill Gates. Boy I bet Tom's buddy Bill was all smiles when he saw Tom's attack on Apple. But now, the plot thickens! This week it was announced that Microsoft and NBC have entered into an agreement to form a 24-hour all-news television network to compete with CNN. It's going to be called MSNBC. Imagine how Apple's gonna get lambasted when its competition actually owns half the network.

If that weren't enough, it seems that NBC has now canceled the NBC forum on America Online, to focus instead on Microsoft's new online service, MS Network. What gives between these two giants? Nepotism? Did somebody at NBC buy a MacIlvX when it first shipped? I don't get it!!!!

Speaking of bias in the news media: I just saw a report on CNN about Sun Microsystems and their servers for the Internet. When I heard the announcer say "Silicon Valley giant Sun Microsystems, a 3-billion-dollar company..." I sat up and took notice. I thought, hey...Apple's an \$11-billion company, more than triple Sun Micro's size, and yet I've never ever heard the national media refer to Apple as a "Silicon Valley giant." I guess that would break the media's rule of, "If it's about Apple, say something unflattering, or don't say anything at all."

Apple may report loss this quarter

I've got good news, and bad news. Which do you want first? The good news? OK. The good news is that Apple will most likely report that unit sales and revenues are up significantly over the same quarter of last year, which is good. They're selling more units and bringing in more money. Which is my not-so-subtle segue into the bad news, because Apple has slashed prices so low on most Macintosh and Performa models, they will most likely wind up posting a loss this quarter. In Apple's official press release they said it this way, "...the current trend is below the company's internal projections. The continuation of this trend would lead to a loss in the first fiscal quarter, which ends December 31, 1995." Ouch! But don't worry, this isn't the first time Apple's posted a loss. We weathered quarter after quarter, and let me tell you, for people who have to write about Apple, and genuinely care about the company, these are not fun times.

However, for the national news media, this is the greatest Christmas gift they could've received because it makes their job so much easier. They normally have to take good

Three Mac Today Readers Win AOL Contest!!!

For those of you who entered our fabulous Adobe Software Giveaway Extravaganza in the Mac Today America Online forum, here the info you've been waiting for, we have our three winners!

The two first-place winners are: (drum-roll please...) Carl Anderson from Hayward, California who won a shiny new copy of Adobe Illustrator 5.5; and Robert Lodato from North Babylon, New York who won a copy of Adobe PageMaker 6.0.

Our grand prize winner is Marshall Henderson from Arlington, Virginia who won a juicy shrink-wrapped copy of Adobe Photoshop 3.0.5. Thanks to everyone who took the time to enter, and a special thanks to our friends at Adobe Systems, Inc. who donated the prizes and made this giveaway possible!

We're working on another new giveaway contest with more incredible software and hardware giveaways. Look for details in next month's issue or drop by the Mac Today forum on AOL under Computing/Print & Broadcast. You can also use the keyword shortcut: MacToday to go directly there. See you online!





Macintosh News

gossip and other
way cool stuff

news and make it look as bleak as possible. Now they'll actually have something to work with, so expect some downright scary articles and headlines on the newsstands. When you read the bad news, keep this in mind: Apple's selling more Macs than ever in its history, and bringing in more money than ever! They've just priced the Macs so low, they can't make a decent profit. This has to be fixed, no doubt about it. The press will try to paint a totally different picture. Big surprise.

So what's Apple gonna do? Apple is taking this very seriously, and last week *MacWEEK* reported that Apple may be laying off anywhere from 800 to 2,000 employees. (Now close your eyes and imagine what the news media's going to do with *that* ammo. Just a "heads-up," it's going to be a long, cold winter for Apple in the press.)

Personally, I don't think Apple should continue to slash prices on their computers. The Macintosh has always been a premium product. It's the Rolls Royce of computers, the one that just won the J. D. Power & Associates Consumer Award, the one that even the PC magazines hail as having the best operating system. By God it *should* cost more, and Apple should make a profit on each one! Would it be a wise move for Lexus to drop the price of the ES-300 down to compete with the Ford Escort? Sure Lexus' unit sales would be way up, and revenues might go up as well, but Lexus' profit would nose-dive. Just like Apple's.

But should Apple resort to laying off employees? Probably. I'd start with the head of Apple's advertising, then find the group in charge of Mac model numbering schemes; they should go next. Should anyone get a promotion? I can think of only one *Guy* that should move up the corporate ladder fast and take the reins.

What's likely to happen? Apple will cut costs by laying off employees and they may have to back off price slashing. That'll help, but since Apple's stock has taken such a beating over the bad news, there's a good chance that Apple might be too attractive a deal for some large company to pass up. I wouldn't be surprised to see one of the four rumored suitors, (IBM, Canon, Oracle, or Hewlett-Packard) buy Apple while the price is right.

backing away from windows 95

Just when you thought that Windows 95 was the answer to all the world's problems, you hear something like this. *PC WEEK* reports that a number of major PC manufacturers are backing away from pre-loading Windows 95 on their new units. In what *PC WEEK* called "major strategic shift" many PC makers will slowly back off preloading Windows 95 to corporate markets, citing a backlash from customers who don't want Windows 95 on their machines. They found many corporate sites are delaying the move to Windows 95 and are instead evaluating Windows NT. Gees, too bad.

It's a Mac-Powered Wiener!

If you thought working for Apple would be a cool job, it pales in comparison to cruising America's highways in a 27-foot-long Oscar Mayer "Wiener-mobile" while you crank out press releases on your PowerBook 145B. That's Jonathan Rhudy's gig. He and co-"Bun-badeer" Donna Grady drive throughout the Southeast in the 1995 Wienermobile, promoting Oscar Mayer wieners and making every hot dog-related pun known to man. We hooked up with them after Jonathan, a die-hard Mac user, picked up a copy of Mac Today at a Kinko's copy center and called us from the road. Jonathan told us he actually uses a PowerBook 145B to get them from event to event by using Microsoft Map to help chart their course. He also uses ClarisWorks for press releases and Quicken to keep track of his finances since he's on the road nearly every day.

Jonathan and Donna took the Mac Today staff out for a cruise in the giant four-ton orange wiener. I have to admit—it was a blast. It's a traffic stopper everywhere you go. We drove by an elementary school and the kids came pouring out. As cool as we thought Jonathan's Mac was, we were really impressed with the Wienermobile. Oscar Mayer spared no expense on this baby, inside and out, with hot-dog clichés down to the last detail. Inside it's like a decked-out Winnebago with relish-colored seats, hot dog-shaped glove box and instrument panel, 27-inch color TV, sound system, and a cool hydraulic gullwing door. It's hot dog heaven! Look for it on the highway, but don't ask Donna and Jonathan to pass the Grey Poupon, ask them to format a floppy disk for ya instead!

the biggest name on the web

For those of you who have been dropping by our Web site, using what must be the longest URL name in existence, we have good news. We've snagged a new shorter, easier to remember URL address. It's now just <http://MacToday.com>. Ahhh, at last! Now, there's a slight possibility that by the time you read this, the conversion from our old URL may not be complete, so if you don't find us at MacToday.com, you can always try our old URL (the biggest name on the web) at: <http://www.mindspring.com/~curtiss/MacToday/MacToday.html> (Whew!)

apple waves good-bye to taligent

In what may be Apple's first cost-cutting move, Taligent (a joint project between Apple, IBM, and HP) is being folded back into one of IBM's wholly-owned subsidiaries with IBM assuming all marketing and development costs. This move, announced just days after Apple's statement about adjusting their earnings, still gives Apple and HP licensing rights for Taligent technology, should it ever become anything anyone anywhere might want for any reason.

survey says...

Even though Microsoft's OS engineers must



great gossip. You subscribe by simply sending email to: listproc@solutions.apple.com. Make the body of your message: SUBSCRIBE MACWAY, followed by your real name. That's it, you're on the 'List. You'll get a confirmation, and then you're an instant insider. Get on the 'List and stop the hegemony!

R A rumor's been floating around for a while now that Novell is looking to sell its WordPerfect unit. The early rumor had the original WordPerfect team (product managers, engineers, etc.) doing some sort of employees' buyout, but the latest rumors are the WordPerfect team needs a financial partner. The juicy gossip is they reportedly have visited a large software company in Mountain View, California which has a taste for acquiring other companies, but it passed on the deal. Last we heard, no buyers, no backers, WordPerfect stays at Novell. Hey, there are worse things to own than possibly the best word processing program on earth.

R Picked up a great tidbit from Guy Kawasaki's Evangelist. It turns out that all the packaging and point-of-purchase displays for IBM's new Aptiva computer were done on a Power Macintosh 8100. Ouch, man! So next time you're in the computer store, pretend to be a PC weenie and have them show you an Aptiva. Then ask if it's good for professional graphic design. (Any PC salesman will give you a resounding "It's perfect for Graphic Design!") Then ask, if it's perfect for graphic design, why was this display and the Aptiva packaging designed on a Macintosh? (I love hassling PC salesmen. It's like shooting fish in a barrel.)

R There's a new rumor floating around that Radius has found a new partner to make low-end clones with, and that partner is UMAX, best known for desktop scanners. The high-end clones didn't pay off for Radius (to say the least) and maybe with UMAX they can take advantage of their license and get some clones rolling through that place. Love to see Radius get back on their feet.

R Another nice piece from Guy's Evangelist comes at Microsoft's expense. As you may know, Windows 95's coming out party was earlier this year at Comdex in Atlanta, in the massive "Windows World" pavilion sponsored by Microsoft. The staging and multimedia setup was enormous, with over 300 channels of lighting and over 32 channels for sound reinforcement. All run off Macintosh. That's right! DataTron Trax software, available only for the Macintosh, kept everything running smoothly at Windows World, according to the January '96 issue of DataTron's News & Views magazine which broke the story. Hey, with a crowd of tens of thousands, even Microsoft can't afford to take chances. They chose Macintosh! ☺

News From Apple

THE LATEST COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MOTHERSHIP

Compiled by
Jim Workman

fact or fiction?

Lots of news has been emanating from Cupertino lately. Some borders on rumor and the rest is much-needed fact. Let's see what's up.

First off, owners of the new Power Mac models will be glad to hear the news that Apple has updated its printing software with 7.5.2 Printing Update 1.1, which fixes problems that may occur on Power Mac 7200, 7500, 8500, and 9500 machines. It includes a new Serial DMA Printing Fix and Laser-Writer 8.



Jim Workman

Why the need for the printer update? Well it seems that many Power Mac users were experiencing some nasty surprises when trying to print. Frozen Macs were not unusual. Most users couldn't even exit the application. They had to restart the computer (some even had problems with this) and try again. Help is on the way. The files are available on commercial on-line services and Apple's Internet sites.

There was also some good news on the war front. Targeting holiday shoppers and business purchasers, Apple slashed prices by up to 25 percent on Power Macintosh and Macintosh Performa computers. These systems include the PowerPC microprocessor-based Power Macintosh 6100 DOS-Compatible, 7100, 7200, and Macintosh Performa 5215, as well as the Macintosh Performa 640CD DOS-Compatible. Buyers of the Performa 640CD DOS Compatible model will save about \$500 on the new pricing. Similar price cuts are in effect for the rest of the selected models. The new prices are now in effect at dealers' stores.

However, the news of the price slashing brings us to the rumor portion of this month's report. Layoffs may be looming soon for some 2,000 Apple employees. Despite strong sales and increased market share, Apple's profit margin is still thin. Profits have been hurt by Apple's inability to deliver enough high-profit-margin product to the marketplace. The feeling is that Apple will have to bring its operating costs into line with its revenue stream. Which is what is driving the rumor of layoffs. Apple last laid off a significant number of employees during the dark days of 1993. Apple's rebound, led by the Power Mac success, enabled them to bring total employment back to record levels. No official word yet from Apple on the possible layoffs.



Apple's P.R. Dept. was on Holiday break when we called for a photo of the new Pippin, so we asked the Mac Today labs to create an artists rendering based on what they know about the product. We're obviously off by quite a bit.

Apple's Pippin™ Unveiled at PC Outlook

Even though it's not scheduled to roll off the production line till 1996, Pippin is already the talk of the industry. Apple's inexpensive TV-based multimedia device is capable of bringing Internet access to the mass market. At the recent PC Outlook Conference, Apple CEO Michael Spindler showed complete Internet access using Netscape's Navigator browser, as well as a variety of CD-ROM titles including education, games, and interactive music.

Based on Apple's Macintosh operating system and using an ordinary television set as a monitor, Pippin is for those who want an easy-to-use device that provides high-performance multimedia and communications capabilities. Pippin features the advanced RISC-based PowerPC 603 microprocessor; high-resolution graphics and text optimized for TV video output; a quad-speed CD-ROM drive; full stereo sound output; serial ports and PCI peripherals; and a full range of networking capabilities, enabling easy Internet browsing and networked games. Pippin plays multimedia CD-ROM, audio CD, and Photo CD titles. Furthermore, all Pippin CD-ROM titles can be played on the Macintosh.

Pippin's first licensee is Bandai Co., Ltd., one of Japan's leading entertainment companies. Bandai expects availability in the US during the second half of the year. While Bandai will market and distribute Pippin through its worldwide consumer channels, it will be manufactured by Mitsubishi.

and the winner is....

The end of the year always brings awards and this year has been good for Apple. Apple has won a 1995 IMPACT Award for its Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS. Apple's ColorSync 2.0 color matching technology also won a 1995 IMPACT award. Publish Magazine bestows IMPACT Awards on those products and technologies that significantly advance the future of desktop publishing.

The Apple Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS delivers near-photographic-quality color printing coupled with the highest quality black text. The new printer offers superior color and mono-

chrome print quality, ease of use, speed, and affordability to customers in businesses, education, copy shops, service bureaus, and desktop publishing professionals who require high quality color and monochrome printing at a competitive price. Included at no extra charge is Apple's IMPACT Award-winning ColorSync 2.0 color matching technology, which ensures compatibility among color management systems, peripheral devices, and most popular page layout and presentation software applications.

Until the introduction of the Color LaserWriter 12/600 PS, high-quality color printing was dependent on costly

technologies that put it out of reach of those who could benefit from it the most. In addition to price performance for corporate users, small and home office customers enjoy easy access to the Apple Color LaserWriter in more than 750 Kinko's Copy Center locations throughout the US.

live from new york it's...

Apple has unveiled Apple QuickTime Live!, the company's new virtual venue for live, interactive, on-line entertainment. Apple QuickTime Live! makes it possible for people to view live events over the Internet, bridging the technology gap between real-time and virtual space.

Apple QuickTime Live! consists of a new World Wide Web site that will feature multimedia broadcasts of live entertainment, including images, videos, sound, and QuickTime VR, Apple's technology which creates virtual experiences.

Apple QuickTime Live! will be debuting at Bill Graham Presents San Francisco New Year's Eve on December 31, 1995. The event will encompass seven blocks of the San Francisco waterfront, and will feature bands such as Santana and the Gin Blossoms. Using technologies such as Apple's Quick-Take digital camera to capture live images, Apple's QuickTime VR software to stitch the images together, and Apple Workgroup Servers to connect to the Internet, Apple is able to gather live content from this seven-stage entertainment extravaganza and deliver it to the world on the World Wide Web.

Apple has plans to use Apple QuickTime Live! for future events, including the 1995 Sundance Film Festival, a ten-day event taking place from January 18-28, 1996 in Park City, Utah. From Sundance, Apple plans to make available interviews with film makers and capture the excitement of the film festival.

To access the live events on the QuickTime Live! web site free of charge, you can access the site at <http://live.apple.com>.

Apple Stock Watch

NASDAQ (Symbol AAPL)	
Closing price at press time: 32 1/2	
Change from previous month: -8 1/8	
52-week high.....	50 15/16
52-week low.....	32 1/2



present at the creation

The ultimate Mac insider takes a look at anything that needs looking at. Or yelling at. Like Apple.

BY DON CRABB

Welcome to the Newton." I remember it well. Sitting in the blessedly cool Symphony Hall auditorium in Boston in August of 1993. While the city's hot summer raged outside, those of us present at the creation of the Newton were calm and cool and already playing with the Newtons that Apple had passed out to some of the press. Although we were already taken in by the Newton mystique, we awaited the original NewtonMan, then Apple CEO John Sculley, to lay out for us the present and future of the Newton—Apple's hottest new computing device.



Don Crabb

The Newton defined a new product category—the PDA, or Personal Digital Assistant. As we learned that day, the PDA was not the same as a really small Macintosh. But, frankly, we didn't believe what we were told. We thought, "Hot damn! Apple's finally done it, created a one-pound PowerBook that works via handwriting recognition." We were wrong then and wrong later, when a Sculleyless Apple tried to tell us that the Newton was a different kind of computing device—and not the really small Mac we hoped it would be.

But we wouldn't listen. Until about six months later, when we'd used our Newtons, filled up their tiny built-in memories, struggled with their crappy 2400-bps modems and fake Newton mail, and went nuts trying to make handwriting recognition work at better than one word per minute.

Oh what a difference two-and-one-half years make. Like other seminal computer products that have launched new computing products, the Newton took all the heat for the failings of the early PDAs. It was expensive, slow, suffered from a small memory, and had practically no software other than its frightfully-basic built-in scheduler/address book.

But like all good computer-based products, the Newton got better. First came the 110, with a better form factor that was easier to hold, with a clearer screen and improved software. Then the 120 with an even-better screen and more standard memory. Now the Newton turns 2.0—its operating system, that is—and its forward progress from that hot/cool day in August, 1993 is impressive. Indeed, Apple's Newton Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) is one computer-based product that easily fits the "if at first you don't succeed, try, try, again" theory of product development.

newton 2.0 in a nutshell
For once, Apple is right about the significance of an upgrade product: Newton 2.0 is a major revision and is the result of more than two years of extensive customer feedback and user testing (you know my theory of customer satisfaction? If you aren't getting what you want from a product, start squeaking to the manufacturer—apparently many of you squeaked to Apple about

the Newton, too). Newton 2.0 advances the Newton platform by providing improved organizational and communications capabilities, as well as the ability to integrate Newton PDAs with Windows and Mac OS-based computers and enterprise environments.

The Newton 2.0 platform also provides a more flexible and extensible development environment for third party software and hardware developers (who use the Newton OS for their hardware or who write software for Newton-based PDAs).

newton 2.0 and message pad 120 = a real pda

Thanks to the improvements in the Newton 2.0 operating systems, the device now lives up to much of the hype Apple generated for it when it was first released in August, 1993.

The improvements in the Newton 2.0 OS come across the board, improving just about every aspect of its usage. Not too surprisingly, handwriting recognition (always a bit problematic on earlier Newton OSs) has been improved big-time, using a new version of ParaGraph International's CalliGrapher cursive-and-print recognizer, plus a new Apple-developed, print-only recognizer (code-named Rosetta during development) that does a best match for each character instead of each word you write with the stylus.

Both CalliGrapher and Rosetta worked particularly well on my cursive and block printing scrawls, although neither is yet a speed demon with this new Newton operating system. Once you've written your Newton notes, documents, calendar, and to-do lists, you can now display them in landscape (as well as portrait) orientation, which is especially useful for wide spread-sheets.

The Newton Notepad application now includes new stationery pages. The two most useful are outline and checklist pages. These new stationery pages also work with third party software, especially databases and spreadsheets.

If handwriting is not your forte, you can now attach a real keyboard to the Newton (just like its competitor, the Sony Magic Link), which is handy for copious data entry at your desk. This \$99 option is the same size as the PowerBook Duo keyboard and connects through the Newton's serial port.

Besides fixing Newton 1.x's problematic handwriting recognition, Newton 2.0 is also faster. Much faster. Much, much faster, in fact. As much as ten to twenty times faster than Newton 1.x on the same Newton 120, depending upon the task at hand (or at pen). Sorting is faster, searching is faster, handwriting recognition is faster, folder switching is faster, application launching is faster. The Newton 2.0 OS is so much faster it's almost like the machine

has been running on empty until you fill it with Newton 2.0.

businesses get it

Although the Newton had slow going in its first year, it has gathered sales momentum since the availability of the Message Pad 120, in early 1995. Because of the Newton's size, portability, built-in functionality, ease of use, and ease of development, it has become a top choice of medium-to-large businesses as a platform for delivering vertical market and in-house applications.

Applications like marketing field support, mobile data gathering, sales support, and in-the-field reference have all become popular. Salespeople, health care professionals, delivery truck drivers, teachers, farmers, and repair people are among those who are using customized Newton devices to help them get their work done.

Besides those building custom applications, many professionals and entrepreneurs have been attracted to the Newton in 1995. And that was fueled by the dramatic uptick in the number of off-the-shelf applications that you could buy for your Newton. Newton 2.0, with its improved developer's tools, ought to goose these numbers further.

PDAs like the Newton will become more popular as corporations continue to downsize, losing many of their support staffers. Result? Middle managers previously surrounded by assistants and secretaries find themselves in need of an electronic minder. The Newton 2.0 PDAs have been improved such that this large potential market is now also a strong potential one for Newton sales.

newton development tools get better, too

The primary tool for serious Newton development, Newton Toolkit (NTK) 1.5, was revised during the summer of 1995 to include the ability to profile your program's performance and to compile critical parts of it (Newton programs are normally stored in NewtonScript, which is interpreted). Apple dropped the price of NTK to \$299 in the United States (down from \$799 for Newton Toolkit and Newton Book Maker), instantly increasing the size of the developer community.

To these improvements, Apple has added more goodies to NTK 1.6:

- ◆ It supports Newton 2.0 devices.
- ◆ The Macintosh version is PowerPC processor "native."
- ◆ It offers additional support for debugging.
- ◆ It includes Book Maker, the Desktop Integration Libraries (DILs), and NewtApp in its US \$299 price. You can use Book Maker to create electronic, hypertext-linked books, documentation, and reference materials, using little or no programming.

One frequent Newton customer request

was the ability to transfer data directly between a Newton device and a favorite application (instead of doing so indirectly through the Newton Connection program). To make this happen with most commercial Newton apps, Apple provides the DILs, making the process of modifying existing applications as easy as possible.

With NTK 1.6, Apple engineers have created the first software framework (not unlike MacApp or Metrowerks' PowerPlant) for building Newton-based applications. NewtApp is a body of NewtonScript code for Newton 2.0 devices that simplifies the creation of applications that collect, display, and edit soup-based data. Soups form the primary data-storage structures of the Newton platform.

good news, bad news

Now for the bad news. Newton 2.0 is not a software installation. You can't do it yourself, you have to send your machine back to Apple, where they plug in new ROMs and send back to you the upgraded machine, along with a number of new utilities and applications that add a lot of value. The upgrade will cost you \$109, and is well worth it. When I upgraded by Message Pad 120, it took Apple about 10 days to pull it off—quite a bit more than the promised 72 hours and something of a problem if you rely on your Newton every day to keep you organized. Your local Newton dealer can set you up with the Newton 2.0 upgrade kit, or you can call Apple at (800) 767-2775 to order the upgrade directly.

If you own an older Newton 100 or 110, there is no direct upgrade to Newton 2.0, unfortunately, because the ROMs won't work in those PDAs. Instead, Apple will give you a \$100 rebate on the purchase of a new Newton 120 with Newton OS 2.0 installed. You can call (800) 767-2775 for more info and to place orders for Newton OS 2.0 on December 1, 1995.

If you already own a Newton 120, you'll want this Newton 2.0 OS upgrade in a heartbeat. If you own a Newton 100 or 110, you might skip a heartbeat at the "upgrade" price of a new 120, but it's still worth it if you really want to get the most PDAing out of your Newton Personal Digital Assistant.

CRABB'S BOTTOM LINE: Apple Newton 2.0 Operating System Upgrade. Rating: 9.5/10. The Goods: Really gets the Newton working like a PDA should. Price: \$109. URL: <http://www.info.apple.com/newton>. Phone: (800) 767-2775.

Don is a contributing editor and columnist for Mac Today, MacWEEK, Mobile Office, MacUser, Mac/Chicago, MacTech, Win95-User, ComputerUser, The Chicago Sun-Times, Features Syndicate, The Springfield Union-News, PC Magazine, and about a million other publications. Don welcomes comments at his Internet address: decc@cs.uchicago.edu. You can also check out his WWW Home page at <http://www.cs.uchicago.edu/~decc/>.

mac to basics

You don't have to be new to the Mac to get something out of this informative column, but it doesn't hurt.

BY JEFF HEMMEL

America Online is one of the most easy-to-use, highly customizable online services available today. So why is it that your favorite areas are typically buried beneath seven other windows; you always go well over your five included hours per month...and your screen name is still Bob57653?



Here is the on-line Mac addict who doesn't enjoy America Online. With its highly graphical interface, and simple, Mac-like traits, America Online (or AOL as hip Mac users like to say), is almost as simple to use as your beloved Macintosh. It may not be the ultimate online service we sometimes wish it could be, but for many of us, it certainly comes close.



Jeff Hemmel

Of course, even good things have their share of drawbacks, and AOL is no exception. Somehow, the five hours included in your monthly fee are never quite enough to do everything you wish to do each month, and with your favorite areas often about ten clicks away, that online time goes faster than ever. And then there is that silly screen name you got saddled with when you first signed up. Who would ever have thought that there were well over 50,000 Bobs already signed on?

Of course, it doesn't have to be this way. This month we'll show you how to beat the system—or at least, use it to your advantage. So follow along. We'll automate that email, whisk you to your favorite places, change your fonts...and maybe even shave a few digits off that screen name.

Time's a-wastin'. Let's start hacking up a perfectly good online service to suit our every whim.

getting personal

The first step in true America Online customization is to assign yourself a new screen name. A real screen name, not like that multi-digit conglomeration of your name that AOL offered when your first choice wasn't available. Now if you want you really can have the alter ego Stud Boy, LoveDoctor, or my personal favorite, your own real name. Heck, while you're at it you can actually assign yourself up to four more screen names. Imagine one for every member of the family, or maybe one for your every mood. Often people choose to have one screen name for personal use, and another for business purposes. Don't worry about billing problems—all charges will automatically remain under your original account.

To change or add screen names to your account, first go to the *Members* menu at the top of the screen. With one click

of the mouse, a menu will drop down which includes the option *Create a Screen Name*. Choose it, and then type in the new name of your choice (see figure 1). Your original master name will always stay, but you can select and use any name you choose. Of course, chances are that someone else may have already taken your name of choice, but you can avoid the long addition which AOL suggests and simply add a number or letter to make your choice unique.

While you're changing things, you might also want to remember to change your password occasionally to safeguard your account. Although it's a rare occurrence, some rather deviant types have been known to get hold of passwords and enjoy all that AOL has to offer—on other people's time. To keep this from ever happening to you, make an occasional visit to the *Member Services* area (you'll see this button in most areas of AOL). Click "OK" when prompted to

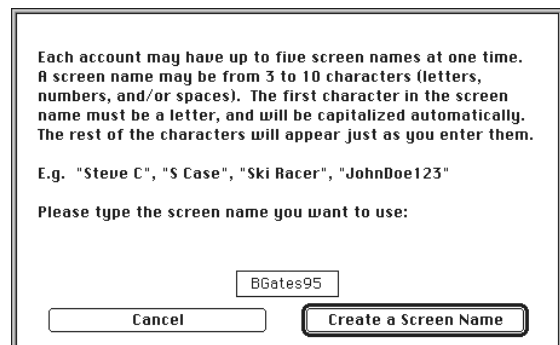


Fig. 1. Just like this guy, you too can enjoy one of the best online services available with your own unique name. Hmm, BGates95—Nah, it couldn't be.

enter the free area, then choose *Accounts & Billing*. From there simply follow the prompts to the *Account Security* area, where you'll be able to create a new password. One suggestion: come up with a simple phrase that's easy for you to remember, and then use the first letter of each word. Passwords of this nature are much more difficult to guess than variations on your birthday, telephone number, or address.

While you're within *Member Services*, stop and take a look around. You'll find information including your current month's bill, how to change your payment method, and answers to some of the more commonly asked questions. You can access this area directly by selecting *Keyword: Help*.

Which, ironically, is precisely what you'll be saying if you don't occasionally change your password and someone runs up a hefty access bill to surprise you.

a little fine tuning

Armed with a new usable screen name and a refreshed sense of security, next comes your opportunity to fine-tune the system itself. Yes, just like your dear old Mac, America Online allows you to tailor its system to suit your personal preferences. Whether it's changing the font used in chat groups and email, or deciding whether or not you like that little guy who announces "You've got mail!" you are in control.

Where do you start? Under the *Members* heading in the menu bar. You don't even need to sign on. Just drop the menu and choose *Set Preferences*, then sit back in awe of your newfound power.



Fig. 2. Tired of looking at that boring old AOL-designated font? Ditch it, and select your own. Something unique, like Zapf Dingbats should do the trick quite nicely...

For example, let's change that ever boring, generic font. Under *Preference Categories* on the left, highlight *Font Preferences* (figure 2). Now turn your eyes to the box on the right, and suddenly you can select an entirely new set of fonts. You can have one for the overall system, another for your mail, a third for your chat groups, or simply pick your favorite font and apply it to all three. Hey, this is *your* online system—you might as well like the way it looks.

And, for that matter, acts. Yes, you can even customize many of AOL's habits. While you're in the *Preferences* area, look around at the areas just waiting to be tailored to suit your personality. You can choose whether or not you wish to have AOL confirm your choice every time you elect to sign off, whether you want your chat groups double-spaced, or even how to handle



Fig. 3. AOL allows you to fine-tune the program to suit that every whim, whether it's mere, silly, or just little.

your finished downloads. Just select the main topic at the left of the *Set Preferences* dialog box, then make your choices and modifications at the right (figure 3). Don't you wish everything in life were that easy?

quick as a flash

The best, however, is yet to come. How often have you wished you could compose your mail off-line at your convenience? Or just quickly sign on and sign off to check your mail? You can, thanks to AOL's *FlashSessions*.

It's surprising how many AOL users don't know about, or don't understand, *FlashSessions*. *FlashSessions* allow you to sign on and off literally "in a flash" to send or receive email, or even download attached files. You can compose all the day's mail at your leisure, then send it "bulk rate" in one quick online visit. You'll save time, and that dreaded MasterCard bill will be a little easier to take.

To use the *FlashSession* feature, first you need to configure the *FlashSession* dialog box. Under *Mail* in the menu bar, choose *FlashSessions*. Next, highlight which of the features you would like to use in *FlashSessions*, and click the *Turn On/Turn Off* button to place a checkmark next to each feature (figure 4). For example, to sign on and send email, receive any waiting mail, and then sign off immediately, click to place a checkmark next to *Mail Outgoing* and *Mail Incoming*. Since you might like to schedule a *FlashSession* when you are not at your computer, next click *Enter Stored Passwords*. (Warning! Store your password only if you are the only one who uses your computer. Otherwise, you might find that time going by even faster!) Click to place a check in the box next to each screen name you wish to schedule *FlashSessions* for, and enter your password in the box at the right. When everything is set, click *Okay*.

Now, when you wish to activate a *FlashSession*, simply go to the *Mail* menu and select *Activate Flash Session Now*. A dialog box will confirm what screen names you wish to sign on, and then allow you to begin the session immediately or schedule it for a later time. If you are composing mail off-line, simply select *Send Later*, and the outgoing mail will be saved for your next *FlashSession*. Is that cool, or what?



Fig. 4. From the *FlashSession* Main Menu, you can elect to both send and receive your mail, as well as store your password for unattended sessions.

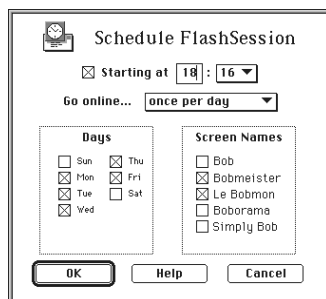


Fig. 5. Keep your clothes on there, Buddy. It may seem like that kinky thing that was popular back in the '70s, but scheduling your FlashSession allows you to send and retrieve mail at your convenience.

Now when you initiate a FlashSession, your outgoing mail will be sent on its way, your incoming mail will be grabbed for you to read at your leisure and, perhaps most important of all, your online connection time will be significantly reduced. What's that you ask? You want to schedule your FlashSessions to occur at some bizarre hour of the night while you are fast asleep, and AOL is speeding along with fewer members signed on? No problem.

Again select FlashSessions from the Mail menu, then click on the *Schedule FlashSession* icon. (You gotta love AOL—they do make things pretty self-explanatory.) From the popup menus available, select exactly when you want your Mac to sign on for a FlashSession, and you're set (figure 5). Just remember to leave your computer and modem on so that your session actually flashes! And remember: you'll be charged a minimum of one minute for each FlashSession for each screen name. Every sign-on is charged as one minute or actual online time, if longer.

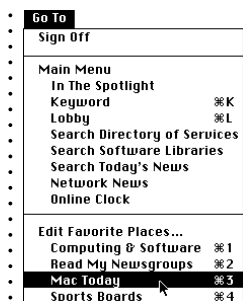



Fig. 6. Avoid opening all those windows and add your usual destinations to your list of Favorite Places for easy access. Of course, keeping all those windows closed could make the place a little stuffy....

these are a few of my favorite things

Okay, so maybe we've saved you a little time with all that mail business, but how about when you are just cruising AOL to your favorite places? What about all that time that is wasted maneuvering through window after window in search of your final destination?

Yes sirree, once again there is an answer. Under your AOL menu bar, drop down the *Go To* menu and choose *Edit Favorite Places* (figure 6). Up pops a box that allows you to designate a quick and easy keyboard combination for all your favorite hangouts. Better yet, it even lists them in the *Go To* menu for easy one-click access. Just type in the name of the area you wish to add, add its keyword, and you're ready for quick and easy access.

Now instead of going to the Main Menu, then selecting Computing, then selecting Print & Broadcast, then selecting *Mac Today* just to get to your favorite computer magazine, you can select it right out of the menu bar. No muss, and no fuss. Just...us! (Sorry, I couldn't resist!) 

Reach the staff of Mac Today Magazine online:

You can reach our staff by addressing your AOL email to: MacToday. You can also send an "instant letter" directly from our new AOL Forum. Keyword: Mac Today.

To reach individual staff members and writers use the following AOL email addresses:

Scott Kelby — MacToday
 Jim Workman — MrJim1
 Richard Theriault — Theriault1
 Bill Carroll — WmmC
 John Couch — JohnneeseC
 Rod Harlan — MacDaddyRH
 Jim "Dr. Mac" Goodman — DrMacFL
 Jeff Pagano — ISkyPro
 Richard Hallmark — RichardH48
 Jeff Hemmel — JeffH1
 David Roberts — David_Roberts@fractal.com

BTW—if you're NOT an AOL member, you can email us through the Internet by adding @aol.com to any of the address listed above. (Example: Mac Today@aol.com)

profile of the month

Each month we profile a cool Mac user and then forward their comments to the CIA for their files.

This Month We're Proud To Profile:



Peggy Tuttle

Age: Access denied
 Born in: Englewood, NJ
 Resident of: Charlotte, NC
 Occupation: Graphic designer; president, Tuttle Design Studios, Ltd.
 Nicknames: *@#!
 Last Book Read: *Passage to Viet Nam*

Favorite Film: *Risky Business*
 Favorite Local Restaurant: Metropolitan (Charlotte, NC)
 Latest Project: Website design for New York investment firm
 Favorite TV Shows: Seinfeld, Soap (urgent need for humor in life).

Strangest Experience: Abducted by aliens and forced to work in a design studio.

Mac Set-up: Big mother Power Mac, scanners and printers and junk.

Favorite Software Programs: Photoshop, QuarkXpress, Freehand.

What was your first Mac? IICx with 8 megs of RAM (all a graphic designer would ever need, according to the salesman...).

Favorite D/A: Windowshade.

Favorite Utility: Suitcase (if it worked)

Favorite Windows joke: Sorry, I don't do Windows jokes.

Why did you choose Macintosh over DOS/Windows/Unix?

Previous nightmare experience with a DEC Rainbow 100—bonded me to Mac GUI forever.

Favorite Web Site: Wired

Favorite Online Service: ...is not eWorld.

Favorite Mac Game: "Beat the Deadline" (played every day at TDS)
 Favorite Magazines: CA, Ray Gun, Access.

Favorite Local Computer Store: None. They're all worthless.


If you were elected Apple CEO, what would you change first: My pay grade.

Shameless Plug: My first husband.

Biggest Thrill: Meeting some of the people I admire most in this field: Kit Heinrichs, Mac Magleby, Primo Angeli, Joe Duffy, and John Sayles, among many others.

Couldn't Live Without:

The people I work with who make it all fun: Heidi Davidson, Kerri Doscher, and Howard Tuttle (my most recent husband).

Local computer publication of choice: *Mac Today*, of course! 



twenty things I wish someone had told me when I bought my mac

BY JEFF PAGANO

So you've been using the Mac for a while, but there are still a lot of mysteries. You're learning as you go, and every once in a while you come across some wonderful piece of information that makes you say, "I wish someone had told me that!" In that vein, here's my collection of cool tips...

1. nothing lasts forever

I can't tell you how many times I've heard buyers saying they want a computer that won't be obsolete in five years. Oh, what a fantasy! Over the past twenty years, microprocessor performance has doubled every 18 months, and five years from now industry pundits predict computers will have (and need) 16 times the memory capacity of current computers.



Jeff Pagano

There, I've shattered your illusion. Ignorance is definitely not bliss. Plan on trading up to a new computer about every two years. Especially if your computers make you money. (There is a thriving market for used Macs.) What should you expect to get for your trade-in? About half what you originally paid. Maybe.

The IIsi you bought for \$1750 in 1991 is worth less than \$300 today. Now don't get all in lather and throw mud. Today that same \$1750 will buy you a Power PC with ten times the horsepower and twice the memory. The trend is computers are becoming less expensive and more powerful, which is great; but that really erodes the resale value of older computers. Just thank God you bought a Mac. Used PCs are absolutely worthless. Boat anchors.

2. put that disk away

This is one that never fails to generate a lengthy "Ohhhh." If you want to eject a disk, click on it once to select it, and choose *Put Away* (Command-Y) from the File menu, *not Eject Disk* from the Special menu.

What's the difference? Eject Disk gives you the disk back, but keeps a grayed-out image of the disk on your desktop, right? That's your computer keeping a list of all the files on that disk in RAM. If you use Eject Disk, you're telling the computer to keep that list of files, or directory, available. Periodically, the system wants to update the directory of that disk and finds it missing, hence those annoying "Please insert Disk: ___" dialogs that won't go away. You can hit Command-Period repeatedly until it goes away, but what a nuisance.

So use *Put Away*. It removes the disk entirely. There's a short delay while the computer updates the disk's invisible directory file, then spits it out.

3. the command key shortcuts

Speaking of *Put Away*, the keyboard shortcut is Command-Y. How do you know? Select any menu. See that cloverleaf thing with a letter/number to the right of the menu commands? That's the keyboard shortcut. And that cloverleaf means the Command key. *Novices* call it the Open Apple, propeller, or cloverleaf key, but not you. That's the Command key.

4. buttons

I see people double clicking buttons a lot. When I casually mention that buttons require just a single click, they look at me incredulously. Try it for yourself. Buttons get single clicks; double clicking is what you do when you want to *open* something.

Ever notice how some buttons have a nice fat black border around them? These are called default buttons, and you can hit the Enter or Return keys on the keyboard to select them without clicking the mouse. Sometimes. Which key(s) you can use may vary. If you're in a dialog box that has a text field, Return might just put a return in your text. If that's the case, try Enter.

And finally, hitting the escape key (esc) is the same as clicking the Cancel button in most dialog boxes.

5. the application menu

The Application menu is in the upper right corner of your computer screen. Clicking on it shows the programs you have open. You can switch between open programs by selecting a program from its list. I've seen users closing windows, or resizing them to get back to the Finder. Instead, use the Application menu to switch to another program.

The one with the checkmark next to it is the program that's running, despite what your eyes might tell you. Sometimes the checkmark in the Application menu is next to the Finder, but all you can see is your Filemaker Pro window. The expla-

nation: other programs running in the background will appear on your screen until you chose *Hide Others* from the Application menu. Now any background windows will be hidden, but not *closed*.

There are four ways to identify the active program: (1) the Application menu icon is that of the active app, (2) there's a checkmark next to the active program's name in the Application menu, (3) the menus displayed are unique to each program, (4) under the Apple menu the first item says "About (program name)..."

6. shutdown

When you're done for the day, switch to the Finder and choose *Shut Down* from the Special menu—everytime. This does two things: First, this quits any open programs, prompting you to save unsaved work. That means you don't have to Quit every open application at the end of the day. Let the computer do it for you.

Second, shutting down updates the computer's invisible directory. Here's a little story about what happens if you don't shut down. One afternoon I was reinstalling system software on a machine that kept "losing files" and finally would not boot. The boss wanted to know what was wrong, so I showed him a three-page error report generated by Norton Utilities. "What would cause this?" he asks. "Frequent power outages, or not using the Shut Down command," I reply, at which he turns to his secretary and says, "See, I knew there was something I forgot to tell you." She was just reaching around the back and killing the power when she was done.

7. unplug your computer

There's been a lot of talk about whether one should leave the computer on 24/7, or turn it off. Not only do I turn it off when it's not in use, I unplug the thing. I happen to live in the lightning capital of the world, and I don't care what type of surge suppresser I have, ain't nothing gonna stop a bolt of lightning if one creams my building. But don't think you're safe yet....

8. unplug your modem too

One day my beloved computer decided it wasn't going to talk to the modem any more. So I began troubleshooting. I attached the modem to another machine, discovered it was dead, so I bought a new modem. I attached it, only to discover the modem port on my machine was dead. Can you say "Motherboard replacement?"

I remember the loud thunder boom that awoke me from my Sunday afternoon nap. I rolled over, knowing my computer was unplugged. But my modem

wasn't. Now I unplug the modem *phone line* from the wall plate after I pull the power cord. (Oh sure, you think I'm paranoid. Well, let me tell you, lightning is *not* a warranty thing.)

9. back up

You say, "It won't happen to me." Look, I know backing up is a real pain. It's time-consuming and boring. Besides, everything's running fine. Who needs to back up? Hard drives are so inexpensive and reliable these days, why bother? Because your *data* is priceless. Protect yourself from lightning, fire, theft, or accidental deletions. Back up. Religiously.

Nowadays you don't have to shuffle floppy disks to back up anymore. There are removable storage, external hard drives, and network backup options that let you back up with just a few mouse clicks.

And if you don't? Oh boy. I've seen sufferin' in my day. Folks who curse that day when their machine wouldn't boot. Think about it. What if *right now*, everything on your computer vanished? Where would you be? Paddleless. I think I made my point.

10. folder organization

Some people are messy. Some people are neat. Some people just don't know that you can select *New Folder* from the File menu (only when you're in the Finder) to create, you guessed it, *new folders*. What would you do such a thing for? To organize your hard drive.

I like to create a folder for Programs, another for Utilities; I've got one for Telecommunications software, and a folder with my name on it for all my personal data. Inside my folder are more folders: Clients, Finances, Articles, etc. When I open my hard drive, there isn't a bunch of files scattered willy-nilly all over the place. Just five folders, with everything I need in more folders inside.

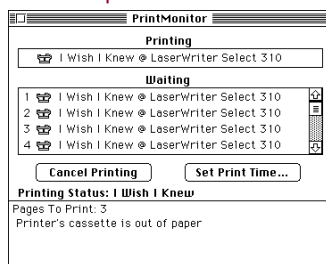
Make a personal folder for everyone that uses the computer, and save into that folder. That way they won't have to hunt too far for their data. While you're getting the hang of the Save dialog box, you may misplace a file or two. When in the Finder, select *Find* from the File menu, and type the name of the file you're looking for. This will save you, especially if you have no clue where the file is.

Some people make the mistake of saving their files into the same folder as the application that created them. This makes backing up a burden. When it's time to do a daily or weekly backup, I only have to worry about my personal folder, since I already have all my applications and everything else on the original disks. This cuts the backup chore in half.



File	
New Folder	⌘N
Open	⌘O
Print	⌘P
Close Window	⌘W
Get Info	⌘I
Sharing...	
Duplicate	⌘D
Make Alias	⌘M
Put Away	⌘Y
Find...	⌘F
Find Again	⌘G
Page Setup...	
Print Desktop...	

11. the printmonitor



Something's gone awry with the printer. You've tried 50 times, and the damn thing still won't print your spreadsheet. So you try again a few dozen more times. Still not printing.

Here's a clue: if you have Background Printing turned on (see the Chooser, below) don't ignore that printer icon flashing in the top right-hand corner (the Application menu, remember?) That's a little program called the PrintMonitor, trying to get your attention. It's only in the Application menu when it's trying to print something. After its job is done, it goes away.

To find the source of any printing problem, first switch to the PrintMonitor and see what it has to say. "The printer's cassette is out of paper." That's plain enough English.

You'll also see the 61 other copies of your spreadsheet all queued up. You can now select those items and click Remove from List. Unless, of course, you actually *wanted* 62 copies.

12. the chooser

If you're ever in doubt of your printer con-

nection, take a trip to the Chooser, and single-click an icon on the left, wait a few seconds, then single-click a selection on the right. Close the window and try printing again. By the way, the Chooser is also where you can turn Background Printing on or off and mount network volumes, if you're on a network.

13. aliases

While in the Finder, click (once) on any file and chose Make Alias from the File menu. This creates a small (2K) file that you can put anywhere on your hard drive, and double-clicking it opens the original. It's not a copy of the file, just a pointer to the original. This can help you get organized, but you don't have to worry about multiple copies of the same file floating around. This is a godsend, especially for frequently used files buried twenty folders deep. I keep aliases of the really important stuff right on my desktop.

14. get info

Like aliases, you can only do this in the Finder: select a file and chose Get Info (Command-I) from the File menu. This brings up a dialog box where you can get all the vital statistics about a file, including its size and location and, if it's an alias, find the original. This is also the place where you can adjust a program's RAM allotment. (See "Losing Your Memory," Aug., 1995.)

Troubleshooting

When your machine starts behaving strangely, here are the basic troubleshooting pointers everyone should know.

15. restart

First things first: Go to the Finder and select Restart from the Special menu. If your computer is frozen/crashed/locked up/bombed, try holding the Command and Control keys,

then hit the Power key. In new Mac models this restarts your machine. On older machines you'll just have to kill the power.

16. disable extensions

If a Restart doesn't cure your ills, try it again, only this time hold down to the Shift key while the computer is booting. When the words 'Extensions Disabled' appear, you can release the Shift key, and try again. Warning: network devices cannot be used when extensions are disabled.

17. rebuild the desktop

Occasionally, the invisible directory that keeps track of all your files—where they are, what program created them, how big they are—will get bloated and unruly. The next time you start your computer, hold the Option and Command keys down until you're asked to rebuild your desktop. Click OK, then walk away. It will take a while to construct a new index of all your files.

18. zap the pram

The PRAM (pee-RAM) stores a handful of important settings while the computer is off. Settings for monitors, printers, networks, startup disk, and control panels are all stored there. If it gets jumbled, you can reset it by holding Option, Command, P, and R just after starting your machine. (System 7 only.) The machine will chime once and start up again. Release the keys and let it boot. You will have to reset your control panels, network settings, etc.

19. reinstall

If it's just one application that's giving you fits, reinstall it. Be sure to delete all of the old files first, and trash any Preference files too. (They're in the System folder, inside a folder called, oddly enough, Preferences.)

Finally, when you've tried everything, and you still can't locate the problem, sometimes it's best to wipe the slate clean and start from scratch. Back up all your data, reformat your hard drive, reinstall your operating system and applications, then restore your backup. You can then copy anything important from your old system folder into the new one, but do so with caution. I always trash the old preferences folder, then add control panels and extensions one by one, restarting each time to see if the problem recurs. All this may be too much for some users, so get someone knowledgeable to help you.

20. the source

This is a somewhat diverse collection of tips, but I'll clue you in to my source. No, it's not years of experience or an apprenticeship in Cupertino. It's *The Manual*. That's right. The very one that came with your Mac. Apple has done an outstanding job—it's easy to read, thorough, and nicely designed. Whenever I'm asked for a way for novices to teach themselves the Macintosh, this is my pick. There isn't a third party book that comes close.

Expect to spend three one-hour sessions. Don't cram more than two hours at a time—your brain might explode. Spend an hour reading, and then if you don't get up and walk away from the computer—play!

One hour of reading each day for three days will give you a good solid understanding. Once you're done with the Mac Basics manual, pick up the manual for your word processor and start there. The best thing to do is not waste too much time wondering about it all. Pick a method and dive in. ☞

product review

BY JIM WORKMAN

supra's 288PB—the speed you need!

If you own a PowerBook then you know how handy these computers can be, whether for business or personal use. However, if your PowerBook doesn't have a modem then you're only taking advantage of half of what it has to offer. The new Supra FaxModem 288PB is an excellent choice for PowerBook owners.

You may ask why the need for a modem or the need to upgrade the 2400-baud modem that many PowerBook users started out with. The answer is simple—speed. The FaxModem 288PB operates at 28,800 baud for data transfer and 14,000 baud for fax transmissions. If you have a 2400-baud modem then you'll be downloading a file at a rate of about 260 characters per second. A 14,400 modem would transfer the same file at about 1,600 characters per second, and the 28,800 modem at about 2,600 characters per second. That increase in speed will translate into savings of many dollars when you consider that the bulk of modem use on PowerBooks happens on long distance lines.

The FaxModem 288PB comes with several soft-

ware packages, and software is what really drives its usefulness. PSI's FAXcilitate software handles the sending and receiving of faxes. Everything that you'll want to do with your faxes can easily be achieved from FAXcilitate. You can fax from within any application or you can use the Rapid Fax DA and fax a quick note. A group fax feature lets you collect a number of faxes to a single receiver and send them together to save on phone charges. You can also send a fax to several different numbers with ease. Those belonging to a fax broadcast service can set up a fax that will be sent to thousands of people at one time. The FAXcilitate software compares very favorably with FaxSTF, another excellent fax application.

Also included is MicroPhone, a telecommunications program along the lines of ZTerm. I've used Zterm for years to log onto PC bulletin board systems. MicroPhone is as solid as ZTerm with a few exceptions. I prefer Zterm's download window, which shows the transfer rate of the current file and the rate of the previous file. This is a small quibble because MicroPhone does the overall job very well.



I installed the FaxModem 288PB myself and it only took me 15 minutes and two instances of taking my PowerBook 145 apart. PowerBooks are delicate and this isn't the time to put on your Indiana Jones hat and go charging into their insides. Be safe: Have an authorized service center install your modem. If you don't own a modem for your PowerBook then it's time to add one. If you have one already and it's not a 28.8 modem then you should consider this one. Savings on long distance charges and Internet connection fees will offset the purchase price in no time.

The Supra FaxModem 288PB has a street price of less than \$275. Check around for the best deal. You'll be very happy with this fax modem. ☞

the scoop



Supra FaxModem 288PB

Supra Corporation
7101 Supra Drive
Albany, OR 97321
Tel: (503) 967-2400

Street Price: \$275



life in the mac lane

A TOTALLY BIASED LOOK AT MACINTOSH COMPUTING AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT GETS IN MY CRAW.

EDITORIAL BY SCOTT KELBY

THE SWAMI PREDICTS...

Yes, it's time for me to put on my big Swami turban, study the tea leaves in my cup, and pull out the Apple adjustable crystal ball for a psychic look into what the coming year may hold for us Mac users.

But before we begin, here's my Swami semi-pro soothsayer disclaimer. I have three levels of future predictions: Strong Vibes (events that I feel have a strong chance of occurring based on events taking place today, and I have reasonable arguments for why they're likely to occur); Medium Vibes. (events that I feel have a pretty good chance of happening, but if pressed some of my arguments might fall apart); and Eerie Afterworld Vibes (weird, unexplainable feelings based on gut instinct alone and total lack of any substantive information or commonsense reasoning. Predictions at this level should be read aloud in a spooky-sounding voice for maximum effect). Let us begin. Join hands please. Wait, wait...I'm getting something, a message from beyond....

STRONG VIBES the coming apple merger/buyout

I predict that by this time next year, Apple will have been the subject of either a buyout or a merger. So why the buyout prediction? Since Apple's CEO reportedly visited IBM to try and cut a buyout deal, I'd say that's a pretty good sign the company's for sale. (The Swami always looks for signs.) Likely candidates: Hewlett-Packard (rumors already abound on this theory), or perhaps Disney, or even IBM. (Don't laugh, we've already heard the rumor that Apple's CEO has been driving around the country with a big stack of color brochures in the back seat, and IBM was one of his sales calls.)

This may not be bad news for us at all. Depending on who buys Apple, it might be the beginning of a beautiful relationship, but no matter who it is, I predict it will be the end of the name "Apple." Whoever does buy Apple will probably want to strengthen their own brand name (just like Adobe did when they bought Aldus by promptly retiring the Aldus name). But I imagine the product's name, Macintosh, will live on.

microsoft will lose some of its clout

I remember when IBM was so wildly successful that they were the most profitable company on earth. Anything they touched turned to gold, and they were the darling of the media. I also remember that just a few years later IBM posted the largest single-quarter loss in business history and the company was in trouble. The moral: Nobody stays on top forever. Microsoft, at this point, is way too big to really hit the skids, but I think you'll see some cracks

forming in the hull. With the exception of NBC's unadulterated and undisputed Microsoft worship, I also think you'll see the national press in general focusing a more critical eye on Microsoft. Investors may have some say in this prediction as well, with Microsoft's stock down nearly 20 percent since July while some technology stocks, like Netscape, are helping their investors upgrade from coach to first class in a hurry.

the "bell" tolls for local internet providers

I think 1996 will see the end of most local Internet providers. AT&T, MCI, and "Big Telephone" in general are all supposedly preparing to jump into the Internet market as Internet providers. It'll be tough (read: impossible) for local small Internet providers to compete against AT&T's multi-million-dollar ad campaigns, flashy mailers, and the convenience of having your Internet access charges tacked right onto your monthly phone bill. AT&T also has the advantage that they control the phone lines, ISDN lines, T1 lines, and so on. I genuinely hate to see the big boys crush small businesses, but I can't go against my Ouji board.

MEDIUM VIBES: agency review time

I think next year Apple will finally dump their long-time ad agency BBDO, based on pressure and unending criticism from almost everyone in the Western hemisphere. At this point I'm sure Apple would point out, "We sold over one million Macs last quarter using what you consider to be the worst computer ad campaign out there." My response: "Imagine how many you *would* have sold if you had one of the best ad campaigns!" Why has Apple kept BBDO this long? Hey, I only predict the future, I can't explain the past.

netscape may fall out of bed

I predict that by late next year many investors will abandon Netscape in search of the next up-and-coming technology stock and send Netscape's stock into a free-fall. In fact, I predict it will drop so low that they may become the victim of a takeover. (Let's see...how about Adobe Netscape? That has a nice ring to it.) I know, I know,

it sounds crazy to say anything even remotely critical of the Internet's poster child, but I think Netscape's a somewhat vulnerable company. Investors haven't been buying Netscape stock because of its phenomenal earnings or incredible profits; they've been buying it because they wanted a piece of the latest hot trend—the Internet. But as you well know in the stock market, this year's darling can be next year's dog.

The fact that everybody's getting into the Internet "game" may be where Netscape's weakness lies. Think about it—Netscape basically has only one main product: a browser utility that sells for around \$49. Since everyone, including Microsoft, is throwing a bazillion dollars at the Internet, what happens if somebody comes out with, God forbid, a better browser or a cheaper browser than Netscape's? What's Netscape's fallback position? Uh-oh. I think it's gonna happen, sooner than anyone thinks. Look out belowooooow...

quark will be bought out or merge

I see a tough year ahead for Quark. They're essentially a one-product company, and as good as their product is, they've got very stiff competition ahead from Adobe.



"Apple will fix just enough small insignificant things to keep us from torching their headquarters."

Adobe's "open architecture" among programs is designed to make you dependent on Adobe programs, and that clearly leaves Quark out of the mix. *Frankly I don't blame them.*

And while Adobe's moving aggressively into the Internet, Quark is back there still trying to introduce a print-based "me-too" product called QuarkXPress to compete with Adobe's Photoshop. My prediction: Big, costly mistake that's too little, way too late. It will cost Quark a fortune in time, money, and loss of focus, and that turn of events will have "for sale" signs up at Quark. So who will buy them out? My prediction: Macromedia. By acquiring Quark, they'd have a decent shot at going head-to-head with Adobe. Could happen!

look for ibm mac clones

Since IBM's OS/2 seems to be going nowhere, and IBM feels the monopolistic heat from Microsoft, they're going to wade a few feet deeper into the Apple pool and produce IBM-brand Macintosh clones. I know, this is probably no big revelation; my prediction here is that it's going to happen sooner than any one had thought. IBM Mac clones by next fall, in a computer store near you.

newton will catch on

I predict that with its new operating system and availability of software like FileMaker Pro 3.0 for the Newton, it will finally catch on and Apple will recoup their massive investment. John Sculley will climb to the top of the highest moun-

tain and yell, "I told you so" and it will echo back "And that should mean something to us because—?"

adobe will buy fractal design

No scoops or inside info on this one, except that it's well known that Adobe has already invested around \$2,000,000 in Fractal Design. Adobe is known for being king of the graphics domain and Fractal Design's products may be too good for Adobe to let them fall into someone else's hands (like Macromedia). I'd look for this buyout before next fall.

EERIE AFTERWORLD VIBES:

apple consolidates their product line

It's going to be a year of reckoning for Apple and they'll do a lot of looking at past mistakes; and of course they'll repeat most of them, but they'll fix just enough small, insignificant things to keep us from torching their headquarters. Like (a) consolidating the product line and (b) coming up with regular names for their machines, (like IBM did with Aptiva and Compaq did with Presario) instead of complicated number schemes.

actress sandra bullock will marry rod "macdaddy" harlan

You may laugh at this at first, but when the light hits Rod just right, he looks at lot like Brad Pitt. (Granted, it has to hit just right.) This isn't as far-fetched as you might think. Rod ran into Sandra last year on the set of the movie *The Net* when she was filming in San Francisco. She looked at him, he looked at her, and I swear they had a moment. Listen for wedding bells in June. (That's why they call me "the Swami") Look for their first child in March of '97. (That's why they call him the "Mac Daddy.")

things that will go quietly away

QuickDraw GX, user group bulletin boards, the executive who approved the "kid's alarm clock" ad for Apple, and software written for 68040 Macs.

won't ship in '96

Copland (Apple's System 8). Sorry, I see it right here in my crystal ball. I do see a System 7.6 and 7.7 though, with the look and feel of Copland by summer.

it's getting cloudy, i'm losing contact...

Well, that's it—my predictions for 1996. I have a pretty good idea that some of these will actually come true, and it's entirely possible that one or two of them never will. But I do predict that next January one of our readers will send me a letter pointing out which predictions were wrong. I have already formulated the appropriate response from the Mac Swami, "I guess I was wrong." (Actually the Swami knows all and sees all and is never wrong—he's just off by a few months, or years, or decades....) ☞



our AOL pick of the month

startup screen kit 1.0
Ever wanted to design your own Startup Screen? AmberVision's Startup Screen Kit allows you to do it easily. The Kit provides drag-and-drop installation of PICT documents as startup screens, adjusted to fit your monitor's size and number of colors. It also allows you to open color and black-and-white startup screens in any application that can open PICT documents. It's freeware and can be found on the *Mac Today* forum on AOL.

eworld's pick of the month

address master pro 1.1
Address Master Pro is a convenient shareware application for storing and printing addresses. Each entry includes fields for business, name, address, phone number, and notes. Data can be printed on standard or custom labels. You may export the data as a text file for use in another software package. Options include font selection, sorting by any field, and automatic bar-coding for US ZIP codes! Shareware. Find it in the *Mac Today* software forum on AOL.

our hot shareware pick

versatile pro 1.6.3 (fat)
VersaTile is a clever little shareware launcher that allows you to customize a floating palette that can include buttons for your favorite files and applications. VersaTile allows you to put virtually any desktop item on a palette for quick one-click access. It supports System 7.5's drag and drop features allowing you to drag documents into folders, apps, even the trash! Find it in the *Mac Today* forum on AOL. (keyword: MacToday)

cool web site of the month

MacCentral
<http://www.atcon.com/maccentral/home.html>



This Macintosh "ezine" has one hot Web page! In fact it recently received a "Top 5% of all Web Sites Point" rating making it one of the hottest sites on the entire Web. MacCentral is an excellent monthly ezine with current Mac news, reviews, and much more. It's a must-see site! Here's their URL: <http://www.atcon.com/maccentral/home.html>. Trust me, you'll love it!

this month's cool font

**WELCOME TO
MICROSOFT'S
CHAMBER OF
TERROR!!**

(Blood Feast. Shareware \$5.)

For my money Blood Feast is a darn scary font. It's based on the 1960s B-Horror movie by the same name. I used this font on a project last week and frankly, I've been having nightmares. Take my advice, don't install this font after midnight!

Find it in the *Mac Today* forum on AOL or look for it any time you hear eerie organ music on a foggy night.

computer exchange used mac pricing index

model	avg. sale price	monthly change
Mac Color Classic 4/80	\$650	\$-50
Mac IICI 5/80	500	-25
PowerBook 165c 4/80	1225	-75
PowerBook 140 4/40	850	-100
PowerBook 520c 4/160	1375	-225
PowerBook Duo 280c 4/320	1750	-50
Centris 650 8/230	800	+25
Quadra 700 8/200	750	-50
Quadra 840av 8/500 CD	1450	-175
Performa 6112CD 8/250	1250	-75
PowerMac 7200/75 8/500	1375	-125
Apple 17" Multiscan	600	-25

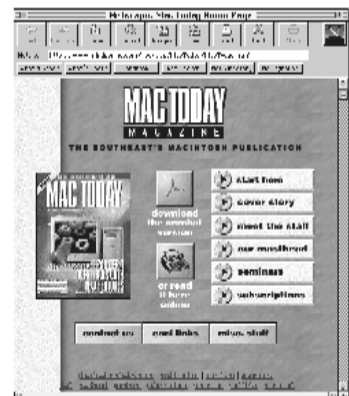
Prices reflect sales for the month of 12/1/95. Prices are an average of all configurations. For more specific info contact the Computer Exchange 800/304-INDX. (4639)

mac today's web site <http://www.mactoday.com>

If you haven't stopped by the *Mac Today* WWW Home page, you're in for a treat (meaning we serve free ice cream there.) Our Web page has just gone through a remodeling phase, courtesy of the fine people at Curtiss Web Designs in Atlanta. Stop by. It'll turn your life into one long beer commercial where you're surrounded by beautiful people who never have to pay their bar tab.

By the time you read this our new web address should be: <http://MacToday.com> (If it's not up yet, then try our old address: <http://www.mindspring.com/~curtiss/MacToday/MacToday.html>)

Simple eh? BTW that weird character in the address is the Tilde key (hold the Shift key and then the key right above your tab key). While you're there, visit our Cool Mac Jump list to other cool Macintosh sites. It's...well,...cool. ☺



mac life • by chuck downs





software reviews

BY RICHARD THERIAULT

- Well, how would you survive?
- OneClick does everything?

Grolier's *How Would You Survive?* is a multimedia adventure to three earlier cultures. It's recommended for ages seven to twelve. I'm obviously qualified to review it.

Education seems to be in crisis today because so many of our youth seem to have been turned off of learning—on the theory that knowledge is uncool. From the thousands of CD-ROMs not worth the plastic they're "printed" on, a small group seems to be emerging, in a conspiracy to undermine that idea and fool kids into thinking they're still cool because they're having video fun, even though they're actually learning something. Without proper control, these might even have the narcotic effect of getting kids hooked on knowledge.



Dick Theriault

come live with me...

HWYS? is one such CD-ROM. It's mouse-button time travel with a twist. You, the time traveler, are taken back to three earlier civilizations: the ancient Egyptians, the Vikings, and the Aztecs. There, you experience the real lives of the people—the customs, sights, and sounds of daily life. How did the children play? What did the people eat? What were their clothes like? Their beliefs? Their homes?

newfound friends

In each civilization a young companion greets you and is your guide throughout the visit. From a graphic table of contents you can choose among many aspects of the civilization. Help is always available, as well as a survival kit containing a map, a timeline of the civilization, and a "How Do We Know?" explanation of how scientists learned so much about ancient life.

Pop-up question marks appear at random. Click on one, and a picture with a question appears, to stimulate curiosity. You answer these only for your own satisfaction; and for the stumped, a second click jumps to the part of the world that holds the answer.

worlds apart, together

Each culture includes a theater where from one to five mini-movies present various aspects of life. In each civilization, the icons representing the other two are always present, so you can leap from one to another instantly. This makes for quick, easy comparison of, for example, clothing in each of the three, without having to go through the whole journey in each to do it. Graphics are colorful and clean, well-suited to youthful users, with occasional surprise animations just to keep the juices flowing.

There's also a game button, to be pressed only after some exploring's been done. The game embodies the title, because it tests you on how well you would have survived in each civilization, based on what you've learned in your visit.

a satisfying journey

Unlike so many others, this CD-ROM is well-designed and executed, and should provide hours of fun while insidiously causing learning to happen. Kids of seven can find their way through and understand the pictures and stories. Kids of 30 are likely to find themselves caught up in the fun in spite of themselves. Kids of any age will discover that life was very different in other places, in other times, before TV and Nintendo—which couldn't hurt any of them! Buy it for your kids. Enjoy it with them, or sneak it in alone. ☞

OneClick™

Here's a tough one, fraught with mixed emotions. OneClick is that Reviewer's Nemesis—a product that I strongly admire, but don't like. It's a "me" thing, not an "it" thing.

OneClick lives to make you more productive, to enable you to invoke almost any action you can imagine with one mouse-click or a keyboard shortcut. It creates a set of button bars which are your friends and pals through thick and thin, ever-present on your screen unless you banish them with a keystroke because they're in the way.

Would it meet Guy Kawasaki's DICE test? Is it Deep, Indulgent, Complete, and Elegant?

Deep, yes. This is probably the most customizable, scriptable, flexible, adaptable utility I've seen. OC allows you to create your own button bars for every application or situation you want, and to modify the button bars in apps that already contain them. You can write a script for any imaginable action or sequence, to be triggered by a single button-click. There's even a separate complete manual on scripting.

indulge my desires

Indulgent? Mostly. Your buttons can be any size or shape you want, in one-pixel increments, with assorted appearances made available through the OneClick Editor. They can be graphic buttons representing applications or actions; or blocks of text describing what they will do—in the font and size of your fancy. Button palettes integrate so seamlessly into the applications for which you create them that they seem to be part of the applications. Like a puppy, OneClick wants to be what you want, and you could get totally lost in customizing it, to the point where you did little else.

The libraries of buttons that come with the product may not cover every possible desire, so you can create your own button graphics or text at will. The standard palettes are the Finder (present only when you're in the Finder, and representing a variety of Finder activities); the Launch Strip, which you set up for launching any combination of applications or actions that your heart desires; the System Strip, which accesses various System contents or activities; and a Task palette, which

displays buttons for every open application and allows switching among them at a click.

Comments by others have been in the vein of "One of the best utilities in years" and "Killer app—nothing comparable." (Except it's not an app; it's a control panel.)

paranoid schizophrenic?

Man, if it's that great, what's not to like? Well, the Complete and Elegant categories miss the mark with me, though they may be on target for others—especially those with large screens. The palettes float above any windows and are always visible. That's a feature, and on a super-screen, is probably a joy forever. But on my 14-inch monitor they are usually in the way, obscuring part of any working window. True, with a toggling keystroke they vanish and return. Again and again and again and again, as the working situation changes. I'd prefer to call them back when they're missing, but not to have to keep dismissing them constantly. Points off for "disindulgence" of small-monitored folks.

The mostly-terrific implementation stops (or falls) short in the strangest places. Click on the button for the hard drive, and up pops a menu of all folders at the drive level, with cool triangles indicating hierarchical menus to forage through. Hah! Not a chance. The hierarchical arrows don't work. That's an unacceptable flaw, in my book, so this brilliant buttoneer loses major points with me for inelegant performance and functional incompleteness. Other users might not care.

Any button, bar, or other object can be assigned a color. But instead of using Apple's Color Picker, OneClick presents a grid of 256 preset colors, many of which are so garish and intense they're unusable. Also, there appears to be much duplication among them, although they're assigned different color numbers. Elegant this is not.

summary time

If buttons are the wave of the GUI future, OneClick could make that wave a tsunami. The unwary could find themselves clicking their way to oblivion, while judicious users could find their productivity and efficiency escalating nicely.

I genuinely feel that, for the small screen, OneClick's incredible versatility is offset by screen clutter which has to be controlled through positive user action. With a large monitor, and a temperament that can restrain buttonmania, it's probably a godsend.

The good news: you're protected by a no-questions, full-satisfaction 60-day money-back guarantee, so you can try it risk-free. It doesn't "click" with my equipment and my operating style; and the flaw may be mine. The 3.25 rating is as high as it is because OneClick is so very good at what it does—and as low as it is because of the flaws cited. For the right user, it could rate four Macs. And remember that MBG. Worth a try! ☞



the scoop



How Would You Survive?

Grolier Kids Division
Grolier Electronic Publishing
90 Sherman Turnpike
Danbury, CT 06816
800-285-4534

Est. Street Price \$30



the scoop



OneClick™

WestCode Software, Inc.
15050 Ave. of Science, Ste 112
San Diego, CA 92128
(800) 448-4250
email: WestCode@aol.com

Est. Street Price: \$89
(60-day MBG)



the enemy camp

BY RICHARD K. HALLMARK, PH.D.

My Love/Hate Relationship with Microsoft

Over the past few months I have had a lot of criticism for Microsoft and Windows 95, but there is no question that a Microsoft program was a major part of my decision to buy my first Macintosh back in 1985. At the time, I was a research chemist and was using Microsoft Multiplan on my TI-99/4A to perform calculations necessary for my job. The company had only one computer at the research center and that computer could only be programmed in an archaic version of BASIC. Talk about the dark ages. The company president, a chemical engineer, even commented to another engineer that he couldn't imagine why a chemical engineer would need a computer.

in the beginning...

I had been browsing around the local Apple dealers for several months and had seen Multiplan running on a Macintosh 512k. The black-on-white display with visible borders, and the ability to use a mouse to select cells, quickly convinced me that this was the computer I wanted. When one of the stores offered a free Microsoft program with the purchase of a Mac, I took the plunge. The salesman still remembers the day I made the purchase. Instead of him telling me what he thought I needed, I told him I wanted a Macintosh 512k, an external floppy, an ImageWriter printer, and both Multiplan and Chart to go with MacWrite and MacPaint, which still shipped with every Macintosh in those days. I also bought a box of ten 400kb floppy disks for \$49!

In June of 1985, I received a letter from Microsoft offering a discount on a new product to be called *Microsoft Excel*. I sent my order in the next day and the program shipped, as promised, on September 30, 1985. I have the second oldest copy in Pinellas County (the oldest copy was delivered the same day about five or six hours earlier).

and it was good

I quickly fell in love with the program. It did have some faults, but it ran rings around *Visicalc* and *Lotus 1-2-3*. While my co-workers laughed at the 9-inch screen on my Mac, they came to me for quality printouts of spreadsheets and graphs.

In those days Microsoft was basically an operating system company. Almost all of their application programs were strictly for the Mac. Lotus still ruled the spreadsheet market and an IBM PC version of *Excel* had to wait for the advent of Windows 3.1. Because the programs were written on the Mac for the Mac, they generally conformed to the user interface guidelines published by Apple.

As time progressed, there were new versions of *Excel* with unusual version numbers like 1.5 and 2.2. Since these were written for the Mac, they continued to follow the user interface

guidelines. From time to time little problems appeared. When the Mac Plus was released, *Excel* revealed some strange memory management characteristics. It could use only one megabyte of RAM and under MultiFinder that had to be the first megabyte of RAM. When the 68030 Macs first appeared, *Excel* did not recognize the math co-processor because poor programming only checked for a 68020 and assumed that if the processor was not an 020, there was no math chip. Later, when some 68030 machines were shipped without a math co-processor, *Excel* assumed there was one and promptly crashed.

then there was word...

With all of these little glitches, *Excel* remained the primary spreadsheet for the Macintosh. Every one who tried to compete gave up. In the word processor arena, *Microsoft Word* slowly gained a similar status. When Microsoft made me an attractive offer, I made the switch to *Word*. *Word 3.0* was another example of programming strangeness on the part of Microsoft. It took several months to get the bugs out.

"Microsoft had taken two excellent Mac programs and crippled them by grafting a Windows user interface onto them."

Through *Word 5.1* and *Excel 4.0*, both products continued to conform relatively nicely with the user interface guidelines. They now included a growing number of auxiliary files like dictionaries and other add-in features. Even so, a Mac user could still configure them the way he or she wanted, moving files to different locations and manually removing unneeded files. My relationship with Microsoft remained a friendly one.

...darkness was upon the face of the deep

All of this changed dramatically with the introduction of *Word 6.0* and *Excel 5.0*. I started getting ticked off when the Windows versions appeared months before the Macintosh versions. Here were two programs that existed for years only as Macintosh programs. When they first appeared for Windows, they made only slow penetration of that market. Only after Lotus dropped the ball by not releasing a Windows version of *1-2-3* did my beloved *Excel* make significant inroads. Why was I being forced to wait for programs which started on the Mac and had only much later been ported to Windows?

When both programs finally appeared last year, I got my answer: Microsoft had taken two excellent Macintosh programs and crippled them by grafting a Windows user interface onto them. They had even managed to make them install like Windows programs.

My system configuration is somewhat unusual. I have two internal hard disk drives on my Quadra 840AV. These drives are partitioned into four volumes. One partition contains my system files, fonts, a few utilities, and about 100 MB of scratch space. A second volume

contains only application files, a third my documents, and the fourth volume contains a single file which is used by my Orange Micro 486 card for running Windows.

My usual practice has been to install new software to the system partition and then move it to the applications partition. This lets me configure things as I see fit. Microsoft *Excel 5.0* would not let me do this. After installing and moving the program, I could not use help or the spelling checker. The only way to get these features to work was to reinstall the program on the applications volume and leave the Microsoft folder exactly where the installer put it.

and night followed day

My question to Microsoft: Why was this program designed this way? Macintosh users have been configuring their own hard disk drives for years; we do not need lazy programmers deciding where files *must* be located. Let the user decide where files are located and store those locations in a *preferences* file. I did notice that *Word 6.0* does allow you to move files and will prompt you to search for the file when needed.

It gets worse. One of my clients had *Microsoft Office* installed on her hard disk. To make things easier, the person who installed the program thought that things would be simpler for her if all the extra files in the *Excel* folder were hidden in another folder (still in the *Excel* folder). *Excel* would not even run under these conditions. The latest version of *PowerPoint* warns you not to move any of the files after installation.

without form and void

In earlier columns I talked about some of the user interface changes that Microsoft decided Macintosh users needed. As I said then: If I wanted a Windows 95 user interface, I would go buy it. I chose the Mac because of its ease of use and user interface consistency across programs from different vendors. For me, the new features of *Excel 5.0* were enough to cause me to learn the new interface. As for *Word 6.1*, it's still on the floppy disks it came on. When I upgrade to a Power Mac, I expect that I will be another candidate for the ad that includes the line: "Used to use Microsoft Word." I am also looking for a new spreadsheet so that I can be described as "Used to use Microsoft Excel".

I certainly wouldn't want to encourage ill-will, but for purely academic research purposes, those of you with Internet access can reach the Official Anti-Microsoft home page at: <http://www.hum.auc.dk/~trekan/antims/Anti-MS-homepage.html>. There is also the official Microsoft Hate page (the language is not suitable for children) at: <http://microsoft.is.lame.org/~chris/HATE/>.

Dr. Hallmark is the president of Hallmark Consulting, a Largo, Florida-based Macintosh consulting firm. He can be reached at (813) 536-1020 or via email at richardh48@aol.com.



Letters

EMAIL • LETTERS • SNAIL MAIL • POSTCARDS • FAN MAIL • DEATH THREATS

thinks compuserve is easier

I read Scott Kelby's "Life In The Mac Lane" editorial reprinted on Guy Kawasaki's Evangelist. Like the writer, I agree Macs are best. However, I don't agree with your AOL vs. CompuServe argument. I use both services but prefer CIS because it is MUCH easier to use. I also point new users toward CIS rather than AOL.

Compuserve Information Manager (CIM) is much faster than AOL because you don't have to wait around for background graphics and button graphics to download to your machine. Like the Mac, CIM has a standard interface for forums. From Apple to Xerox, all forums have a message section, a library section, and a chat section reached by clicking a visually identical button. There is also a button that allows you to read waiting messages.

But the BIG plus is the concept of message threads. These allow you to pick a topic and read all messages replying to that topic while excluding those that do not. Compare that with AOL, which forces you to scroll down a list of messages in chronological order. Try asking a question in the Graphic Simulations F/A-18 Hornet discussion folder on AOL and coming back a week later and trying just to read their answers.

Another big plus on CIS that has no comparison on AOL is CIS Navigator which lets you set up sessions and review them off-line. Talk about ease of use. You can even browse the database of available forums off-line.

furnari@gdls.com

Dear Furnari:

You make some great points, but I still hate Compuserve. Indeed CompuServe has some nice features, but a DOS-like interface in a Mac environment just doesn't float with me, I don't care how many features you pack on. (Note: CompuServe's Macintosh Interface Manager saw the editorial as well, and emailed me to let me know a new significantly more "Mac-like" interface is on the way for Compuserve. Amen!)

"gates" compatibles

The December issue was outstanding, but I have come to expect nothing less from my favorite Mac magazine, with a special thank-you for the 'life in the fast lane' editorial containing the 'twelve reasons.' Outstanding! Now I'll just keep a couple of copies of that issue on hand to hand to friends when they ask "should I buy an IBM or an Apple?" Interesting isn't it, the way that folks still call them "IBM-compatible" when in reality IBM is for all practical purposes out of the picture, and they should be calling them "Gates-compatible."

While I'm not usually critical I must point out one small omission (dripping with sarcasm). Ummm, you left the hyphen out of 'anal-retentive' in your pull-quote.

Take care,

DAVE

MacGuyDude via AOL

the more tools the merrier!

I just discovered your magazine on-line. Good job!

One quibble with Scott Kelby's review of Illustrator 6 in your Dec. issue and his criticism of the scale tool.

While it would be nice to simply grab a handle and resize, consider the extra abilities the scale tool gives. In particular the ability to scale an object or group of objects about a defined point. How many times have you tried to resize something in Photoshop and had to go through the following agony—select, move, scale, check for placement, undo, select, move, scale, check for placement, undo, etc? The Illustrator way IS better.

SPENCER K. WHETSTONE

spencew@netside.com

thinks crabb's too crabby

I hate to sound disrespectful, cause I like you guys at MacToday a bunch. Honest.

However...I see Don Crabb's bitchy articles in several other Mac magazines, do I HAVE to be subjected to them in MacToday? I mean, I concede that the Mac and Apple have their problems, what system or company doesn't? But I turned to MacToday to help me feel good about my decision to use a Mac. I don't need his doom and gloom. In The December issue, Scott took great care and pride in telling us about the rise in sales of Macs, and especially the J.D. Power and Associates survey that ranked Mac as #1 in customer satisfaction. I was elated! Then, just a few pages farther, here comes Don's article, and it completely denigrated that whole survey.

Hey, as I said before, I know there are problems. I'm not closed to hearing them. My point is that I hear the problems in every other magazine out there. I thought MacToday was going to be different: my haven, my way of getting away from all that.

I guess not.

AMY AREND

BGFan@aol.com

Dear Amy:

We haven't changed our editorial focus one bit and we'll remain a positive voice in the Macintosh arena. I've been a big fan of Don's column in MacWEEK for years and even though I don't always agree with Don, I found his column both interesting and thought provoking, and we're delighted to have him writing for us. But you might have to treat Don's column the same way I treat John Dvorak's column in MacUser. I think John's a great writer, but he makes me so mad with his negative attitude and anti-Apple rhetoric that I was becoming consumed with finding Mr. Dvorak's home address, driving there, and clubbing him mercilessly with a boat oar. So I stopped reading his column to stay out of prison. You can stop reading Don's as well, but I think you'll miss out on some very insightful stuff.

the big apple

I'm an Apple computer technician, and I have to tell you that this publication is great. I live in New York City and I have it delivered monthly. It is very informative and puts a smile on my face everytime I read it. I mostly read your publication on the good ol' NYC subway system while on my way to work. People look at me like I'm crazy when I start laughing while I'm reading.

Keep up the good work over there. You guys are doing a great job.

JOSHUA H. HIRSCHMAN

macguy@ix.netcom.com

amiga lives on

Re: "Deja vu all over again?" Bill Wilson's letter from last month's letters column.

The news of the Amiga's demise is greatly exaggerated! The entire Commodore line was bought out by German computer giant Escom, way back in April. A1200s have been for sale in Europe since October and A4000's are being manufactured and sold in the US and Europe since November. A PowerPC version is due for release in the spring of '96.

RICHARD L. SMITH

sfpokbzg@scfn.thpl.lib.fl.us

both sides of the fence

I have always thoroughly enjoyed your magazine, and now that I have been thrown, kicking and screaming, into a PC environment at work, it has taken on new depth and meaning to me. Damn, those people are annoying! How can they be so sanctimonious about their PCs when they've never tried a Mac? Those of us who have worked on both are qualified to make a judgment, and it ain't even close! I come home from work and hug my Mac close to my breast and sob quietly. (Am I getting too dramatic?)

By the way, if you ever have difficulty with in-store distribution, I'm willing to

testify. I stop by my neighborhood computer store (hint: they sell COMPUTERS in the CITY I live in) strictly to pick up MacToday. Of course, while I'm there I have to wander around. If they didn't carry the magazine, I'd have to frequent a competitor that does. Can I have a Witness! AMEN!

RHESUS FLA

Via AOL

anti-apple press bias

You guys are right, Apple NEVER gets good press it seems. It's always doom and gloom. I mean, give us a break! How many personal computing companies that were around 10 years ago are still in business today? Not many. Even the snobs at ATT couldn't keep their personal computing division going, with all their resources and all. Maybe Apple doesn't kiss enough butt or something. Of course, we all know that the revered leader of Microcrud (oops) has a deeply stained nose?

Keep up the good work!

AL VAN MALSEN

vmAlsen@jax.gttw.com

travelers aid

I recently visited a city outside Atlanta, called Marietta, for some job interviews. I stayed at a Holiday Inn hotel nearby.

When I got to my room, I noticed that the phone had a selection of pre-set handy speed dial numbers for traveling executives. Would you believe that one of the pre-set numbers was a direct line to Microsoft customer service.

RANDY

brandy39@seff.satelnat.net

thinks macs suck

In my opinion Macs suck because they are totally copying off of the Amiga. If Amiga wasn't the best computer ever, and if Apple didn't copy it, then Macs would rule. Sorry if I upset you saying this but I love Amigas and have to stick up for them.

P1ROMAN1A via AOL

Dear P1romania:

What color is the sky in your world? ☹

drop us a line...

You can send us an instant email letter right from our AOL forum (Keyword: Mac Today) or through our username: Mac Today (on AOL or eWorld) or MacToday@aol.com (via Internet). Fax (813)733-1370. We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and/or length. All letters become property of Mac Today.



Calendar of Events

Compiled by Jim Workman, sacred keeper of the calendar,
carrying on a time-honored tradition that's endured for over a 50th of a century.

photoshop seminar comes to orlando and jacksonville
KW Computer Training is taking its popular Adobe Photoshop Seminar Training Tour '96 to Orlando at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort on Saturday, January 27 and then on to the Prime Osborn Convention Center in Jacksonville on February 17.

This unusually affordable (only \$99) training seminar features a full day of in-depth training sessions on Adobe Photoshop 3.0, the industry standard for digital photo retouching and image manipulation.

The training conference is designed to offer a day of real-world tips and tricks the pros use to get the most from the time they spend in Photoshop. Sessions include Scanning and Half-tones, Down and Dirty Tricks, Photo Retouching, Digital Pre-Press for designers, and a Compositing and Layers class.

Tuition for the full-day event, including all seminar materials and handouts, a bonus goodies disk, and giveaways, is just \$99, making it a can't-miss event for anyone who uses this powerful program. Last year's Orlando Photoshop Seminar '95 was sold out in advance, so reserve your seat today by calling toll-free 800-201-7323.

macworld expo comes to san francisco

Apple devotees take note: The event that you all should attend at least once in your lifetime, MACWORLD, will take place at San Francisco's Moscone Convention Center this January 9 through 12.

It isn't an exaggeration when we tell you that every serious Mac enthusiast just has to attend this event at least once. (Warning: One time and you're hooked!) Virtually every Macintosh vendor will have a booth and will be showing the latest products available for the Macintosh. Last year's show was notable for several new product launchings, Connectix's RAM Doubler chief among them. With the growth of the Internet and the Macintosh multimedia explosion, it should be an exciting show. (Last year's Expo brought in a record-breaking 72,000+ attendees.)

Anyone interested in attending MACWORLD should have plans in place. Available hotel rooms and cheap plane fares have a way of disappearing fast. Call 800-645-EXPO for more details.

sunbelt graphics '96 in atlanta

Sunbelt Graphics '96 is shaping up as the South's premier computer and graphics show. Coming to Atlanta this March 7 through 9, attendees will see vendors that normally would be seen only at national shows like Seybold or Graph Expo. National vendors at the show will include Apple, 3M, Xerox, Scitex, Heidelberg, Polaroid, Sun Microsystems, Canon, and Adobe Systems.

There will be over 75,000 square feet of exhibit space focusing on digital prepress and

postpress technology. This year's show will be held at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. For Info Call 800-228-1894

"Internet in a day" seminar comes to tampa

If you or your company has ever dreamed of creating your own site on the Web, here's the info you need, presented in a simple plain English format. The "Internet In A Day" seminar comes to the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Tampa, on Saturday Feb. 3, 1996. Presented by KW Computer Training, and hosted by *Mac Today Magazine*, attendees will learn the latest and most effective steps to designing their own Internet Web pages.

Classes include: Intro to the Web; (A look at Netscape Navigator, and other essential Web tools), How to create Web pages visually with PageMill—the ground-breaking tool for designing your own Web pages without learning HTML), Using Acrobat PDF format on the Web (presented by Adobe); How to design Web graphics using Photoshop, and much more. This seminar is ideal for any individual or company that is considering adding a home page to the Web or updating their existing pages. Perfect for Web novices thru intermediate level users. (See the ad on pg. 17)

The cost of this full day of training is \$99 per person. Tuition includes class handouts, a CD-ROM disc from Adobe, and a goodies disk full of helpful items for Web design and access to the Internet. Reserve your seat today by calling 813-733-6225. Seating is limited and filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

nymug to hold macfair

The New York Mac Users' Group (NYMUG), will hold its tenth annual MacFair on Saturday, March 23, at the New York Hilton and Towers in midtown Manhattan.

There will be an Exhibition Hall featuring exhibits of computer hardware, software, peripherals, and services. Confirmed exhibitors include Apple Computer, Claris, Fractal Design, Microsoft, and Tektronix. The MacFair Technology Theater will offer hour-long presentations on featured products. There will also be programs featuring *Macworld Magazine* Editor-in-Chief Adrian Mello and David Pogue. Attendees will be able to try out computers and software on their own in a Hands-On Computer Pavilion.

Admission to MacFair is \$15.00, and includes access to all activities and one door prize raffle ticket. For more info call 212-722-3913.

Macintosh Calendar of Events

Our "at-a-glance" listing of Mac-related events. Some events may have more detailed info at the top of this page

January 9 – 12, 1996
Macworld Expo
Moscone Center—San Francisco, CA
For Info Call (617) 361-8000

January 27, 1996
Photoshop Seminar Tour '96
Walt Disney World Dolphin Resort
Orlando, FL
For Info Call (800) 201-7323

January 19 – 21, 1996
Graphics of the Americas
Miami Beach Convention Ctr.
Miami Beach, FL
For Info Call (800) 749 4855

February 1 – 3, 1996
Midwest Graphics '96
Minneapolis Convention Center
Minneapolis, MN
For Info Call (703) 264-7200

February 3, 1996
Internet In-a-day seminar
Sheraton Grand Hotel
Tampa, FL
For Info Call (813) 733-6225

February 21 – 23, 1996
Multimedia Orlando '96
Hyatt Orlando—Kissimmee, FL
For Info Call (540) 347-0055

March 23, 1996
NYMUG's MacFair
New York Hilton and Towers
New York, NY
For Info Call (212) 772-3913

March 24 – 26, 1996
Sunbelt Graphics Show
Georgia World Congress Ctr.
Atlanta, GA
For Info Call (800) 228-1894

April 18 – 20, 1996
Concepts Prepublishing Conf.
Orange County Conv. Center
Orlando, FL
For Info Call (703) 264-7200

April 19 – 21, 1996
ComputerMania
Tampa Convention Center
Tampa, FL
For Info Call (415) 578-6900

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Don Martin, Barbara Huffman,
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COVER DESIGN
This month's cover was designed by Douglas Gormick using Adobe Photoshop. Note: There's no scans, he drew the whole thing from scratch in Photoshop. I hate him.

HOW WE DO IT
Mac Today is produced using a computer that has the features of Windows 95 without erasing the contents of your hard drive. Imagine that.

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software review

BY SCOTT KELBY

pagemill: a new era in web design

Adobe PageMill puts WEB DESIGN back in the hands of DESIGNERS!

"...It's a **click** here, a **click** there, and Poof! It's a **Web** page!"

Now this...this is big. Really big. Huge, out-of-control, mondo-crazy big! This isn't just another new product rollout. It's the start of a revolution in Internet publishing that will change World Wide Web forever, much the same way Desktop Publishing changed traditional typography and design forever. In a nutshell, what PageMill does is allow users to design WWW pages by simply dragging and dropping files and graphics, without any knowledge of HTML code or script writing. PageMill effectively takes the design of Web pages from the hands of technicians and HTML code writers, and makes it available to anyone who dreams of being on the Net. The fact that it's incredibly simple to use and costs only \$99 will probably make this the hottest product on the planet for some time to come.

To really appreciate PageMill, you'd have to understand how daunting and time-consuming a task it can be to learn and write HTML code (the DOS-like language currently used to create Web pages). HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) is about as graphically fun as transcribing an insurance policy disclaimer. Essentially, you write line after line of computer code that the Web translates into text and graphics. Here's a sample of some HTML code used to display a few lines of text and a couple of simple buttons:

```
<BR> <A HREF="EnterpriseSolutions.html"><IMG SRC="%20GIFs/MM%20Button%20ES.gif"WIDTH="142" HEIGHT="30" ALIGN=bottom NATURALSIZEFLAG="3" BORDER="0"></A>>An organizational listing of this group.<BR> <A HREF="Channel.html"><IMG SRC="%20GIFs/MM%20Button%20CM.gif" WIDTH="140" HEIGHT="30" ALIGN=bottom NATURALSIZEFLAG="3" BORDER="0">
```

By looking at that script, you can see that learning HTML is not for everybody, and even though millions of people surf the Web daily, seemingly only a handful of them have actually spent the time—and frustration—to learn this complicated and somewhat arcane scripting language. These "Web Designers" were looked upon as gods, for they held the magical key, the "secret code" to creating pages on the Web. Even graphic designers had to rely on these "HTML tech-wizards" to create Web pages for them. Until now.

PageMill is structured to let you design your Web pages, much in the same way you'd design pages in a graphics program. In fact, I've heard PageMill referred to as the "PageMaker" of the Internet, because it's so intuitive to use. You just drag and drop objects, type text, and PageMill does all of the HTML scripting for you, seamlessly, behind the scenes.

a warm, fuzzy place

The first thing I noticed about PageMill is that it looks like a Web browser, with its gray (default) background and slim menu bar across the top. The program operates in two modes: an Edit mode, where you do all your design work; and a Preview mode, where you see the finished work the same way the Web browsing public will see it once it's actually on the Web. You spend most of your time



doing three things: Entering and formatting text; dragging and dropping graphics; and accessing the menu bars to create forms, pull-down menus, and buttons. It's click here, click there, and poof: it's a Web page!

how it handles text

Basically, you just click your cursor and start typing. A floating palette called the Attributes Inspector is there to allow you to format your text in any of the text formats HTML supports. You simply highlight your text and choose a style, just like in a word processor. A pull-down menu on the Attributes Inspector lets you choose from a variety of formats including bulleted lists, indents, numbered lists, directory lists, and about a dozen more. It also lets you specify the default color for text, the default color for text that has a link, and the color for items you've already visited. It even lets you determine a background color for your page by just choosing from the Apple color picker. Very simple and straightforward.

how it handles graphics

One thing that blows everyone's mind when I show them PageMill is how easy it is to create backgrounds for your Web pages. You just grab a background texture (you can create these in Photoshop or Texture maker), drag it onto the Attributes Inspector, and it does the rest. Nice tiled backgrounds in about two seconds flat. Couldn't be easier.

To import a graphic, you just drag any GIF, PICT, or JPEG image right onto your page and Whoomp, there it is! (The Web supports GIF and JPEG formats, but if you drag in a PICT, PageMill will automatically convert your graphic to a GIF for you.) After importing an image, you can double click on it and be transported into PageMill's graphics editor. Here with one click you can make a graphic's background transparent (a common request, especially for things like logos) or choose to interlace the graphic (that's the Venetian blind effect you see on the Web for drawing large graphics). There are other powerful features in the graphics editor, like image mapping, but there's not enough room to list them all here.

linking to other pages

You can create as many Web pages as you like and link them to your new home page in just seconds. The process of adding links to your pages, or to other Internet sites is pure elegance. To link one

page to another, you just drag the page's mini-icon to anywhere you'd like a link—over text, over graphics, on a button, you name it! To test your link, just toggle over to the Preview mode, click where you set up your link, and immediately jump to your other page. To create a link to someone else's page, you just type their URL address in the lower left hand corner of your page. It's all so simple and well thought out.

other nice features

Creating forms and fields is a breeze. Want a check box? Just click on the Check Box button and it puts one there for you. Need a radio button? One click and it's there. You can create additional copies of almost anything by simply "Option+Dragging" them. (This is second nature for Illustrator and Photoshop users.) With one click you can add pull-down menus, comment forms complete with scroll bars, password fields, and even submit and reset buttons. PageMill buttons already include animation, so each button you include responds to the end user with a visual blink.

anything missing?

I've shown PageMill to literally dozens of my Internet buddies and general HTML techno-dweebs, and they all fell right outta their chairs. I haven't run into an Internet guru yet that doesn't agree that PageMill will change the face of the World Wide Web forever, but they have pointed out a couple of things they'd like to see in PageMill that aren't yet included.

They felt the most glaring feature omission is that you can't create tables from directly within PageMill. (PageMill does allow you to enter raw HTML code directly from within the program, so HTML code writers can customize their pages on the fly.) Granted, most people will never need to build a table, but if you do, you'll have to use HTML code to get there. They also brought out the fact that, "sure it's simple to create forms in PageMill, but once I've designed the form, then what? How do I get their input back to my mailbox in a usable, database-like format?" They felt Adobe needed to include some sample "form gathering" HTML scripts to help PageMill designers gather their form info. Without that CGI script, you'll still need to lean on HTML code writers to organize the information on your forms.

For most people's needs, PageMill is a godsend and offers almost everything you'll need without any prior knowledge of HTML. In a few instances, like creating tables and forms which need CGI scripts to collect the information, it's still 95% of the solution. But not to worry, this is just version 1.0. and I imagine you'll see these two areas addressed in coming months. PageMill is also a little buggy in some instances, but again, it's version 1.0. Nothing to lose any sleep over.

the final decision

If you've ever dreamed of having your own Web page, but didn't want the nightmare of learning HTML, this is for you. It's elegant, simple, fun, and it's priced right (only \$99). I think Adobe could've charged triple this amount and still sold truckloads. This program signals a new era in the growth and evolution of the World Wide Web, and it will probably transform the Web the same way Apple, Aldus, and Adobe transformed the print media back in 1984 with the desktop publishing revolution. *Vive la revolution!*



the scoop



Adobe PageMill 1.0

Adobe Systems, Inc.
1585 Charleston Road
Mountain View, CA 94039
Tel: (800) 833-6687
Web site: www.adobe.com

Current Price: \$99



digital video view

SOFTWARE • HARDWARE • AND ANYTHING ELSE I CAN THINK OF

BY ROD HARLAN

This month we are looking at QuickDraw™ 3-D which is a new group of extensions from Apple that have a lot of people puzzled as to their importance and/or benefit to their Digital Video system. In this two-part article, we'll examine this new technology and how it applies to those of us involved in multimedia work.

the basics

QuickDraw 3-D enables your Macintosh computer to display three-dimensional graphics by using applications designed to take advantage of it. It also provides a common file format, called 3DMF (3D metafile), for exchanging 3-D documents. To run QuickDraw 3-D you need:

- a PowerPC™-based computer
- 16 megabytes of memory (RAM)
- System 7.1.2 or later



Rod Harlan

the benefits

For most users, the biggest problem with 3-D is that it takes a long time to render even the simplest of scenes. Recently, after completing a 20-second animation in Infini-D, I set it to render at a high quality setting and quickly realized it was going to take close to 100 hours for it to render my 20 second animation! To help alleviate this problem, QD3D is open to hardware acceleration.

Specially developed chips, like the "Glint" from 3D Labs, will be incorporated into low-cost PCI boards from Apple, Matrox, YARC, Radius, and other companies very soon. These 3-D chips are designed exclusively for the purpose of accelerating the rendering of 3-D polygons to *real time* (on the fly) and the boards will provide speeds in the neighborhood of 300,000 shaded polygons per second. This is enough to make a good-sized model fly across the screen, without a flicker, at 30 frames per second. This incredible improvement in performance will cost us between \$300 and \$2,500, depending on video options, buffers, and higher quality levels of texture mapping and anti-aliasing support.

Even if you don't buy an accelerator board, QD3D will still have a positive effect on your work life. Traditional 3-D has forced artists to spend their time working with a bounding box or wireframe representation of their objects, which can be both difficult and artistically limiting. Any change typically requires a user to re-render the scene, for many minutes, just to see the effect of the change. QuickDraw 3-D includes a very fast, software-only renderer of good quality. No more working in wireframe mode—you can work with an actual shaded model of your object! Yippee!!

the bundle

However, for all this to take place, software developers have to adopt QD3D and its robust, open-file format (3DMF) into their programs. Luckily, many companies have already started to do so. Although I have not seen the implementation, I know Specular's Infini-D,



auto*des*sys's form*Z, Strata's StudioPro and Cumulus have added QD3D to their latest upgrades. Soon QuickDraw 3-D's plug-in capability will also play an important role, as users drop new features into existing applications as easily as dropping new plug-ins into Adobe Photoshop. This will create many possibilities for using 3-D in other types of applications.

For example, you'll be able to drop a 3-D model into a video sequence and animate it over time so it blends seamlessly into the 3-D scene. Or a graphic designer will be able to change the position of a model used in a layout program and render it to meet editorial demands. Because 3-D rendering is now built into the system software, these kinds of effects will be relatively easy for developers to produce. Software companies such as Xaos Tools and Strata have already announced 3-D rendering plug-ins for creating 3-D type and logos for QuarkXPress and soon you'll see 3-D-based plug-ins for programs like FreeHand, Illustrator, and Photoshop, as well.

Next month we'll look more closely at the 3-D metafile format and how QD3D shading can increase your productivity. Until then, sample models, applications, technical specs, and a list of participating vendors and products are available on Apple's QuickDraw 3-D World Wide Web site at <http://www.info.apple.com/qd3d>.

it's discovery time

Recently, I came across a CD-ROM collection called the *Multimedia Toolbox*. It contains ten full-length CD-ROMs for Macintosh and Windows that provide most of the elements you'll need to put together your multimedia projects! Here's a list of the CD-ROMs in the package.

Multimedia Dreams is described as Clip Art for the New Age and it comes with 400+ 24-bit screen resolution images (640 x 480 pixels) that are derived from original photographs, collages, drawings, and paintings. *The Ultimate Button Collection* has over 10,000 24-bit royalty-free buttons for use in your multimedia projects. If you're doing multimedia, you need buttons (also great for Web pages). *Font Pro Volume 4: Creative Type* contains over 125 novelty typefaces, including numerous dingbats and symbol styles. If you're like me, you need another font collection like you need a rubber crutch. However, after saying that, I just finished an animation project where I needed a dingbat character that I found on this CD. The moral of the story is: whatever it is, it's better to have it than to need it.

Patterns of Nature II showcases 100 royalty-free images to use with your projects. The categories are: Fungi, Streams, Flowers, Leaves, Dew, Patterns, Animals, Webs, and Ice. I use them as backgrounds; just lessen the opacity, give it a blur, or add a white mask and you're in business. *Reflections: Portfolio Series Volume 7* is another collection of over 100 royalty-free images with categories like Boats, Nature and Bridges, City and Buildings, Windows, Colorful, Vehicular, etc. Although I'm not sure when I'll use them, this disc really has some nice photographs of beautiful architecture. *KaleidaScapes* is a group of 150 colorful patterns and backgrounds at a screen resolution of 1024 x 768 pixels. Images this size are ideal for presentations that are shown on a 17-inch monitor.

Sound Library 2000 has over 2,000 digitally recorded sound clips in categories such as Animals, Beeps, Household, Musical Instruments, People, Sounds of Nature, and many more! I don't like listening to the collection through a HyperCard document, but I do enjoy having that many sounds at my disposal. *Multimedia Trax* is a great source of royalty-free music that contains twenty professionally-recorded songs in 44-KHz 16-bit stereo. It features a variety of styles ranging from TV/commercial to drama, techno, rock and roll, funk, and many more. I really liked this CD! *epsPRO Volume 3: Cartoon Stock* has nearly 600 high-quality, fully resizable EPS images. The cartoon-like quality of the images added a new dimension to my collection. The last disc is *3-D Worlds* which delivers over 300 royalty-free, 3-dimensional landscapes (à la KPT Bryce). These are gorgeous, modern and futuristic looking landscapes that I am begging for a chance to use in one of my projects! I'm really impressed with Tony Quinn who designed all these images.

This collection is a good deal at only \$40 on most store shelves. However, *Mac Today* has been able to arrange a special deal for our readers that will get you all ten CD-ROMs for only \$24.00! That's \$2.40 apiece. Even if you use just one item off any of the CD-ROMs in one of your projects, this package has paid for itself.

To take advantage of this offer, mail, email or fax your name, address, phone, email address and credit card info (a personal check from a US bank is OK) to: Mark Engelhardt, CEO/ Wayzata Technology Inc., #9511T / 21 Northeast Fourth Street / Grand Rapids, Minnesota 55744. Please reference offer #9511T and add \$4.00 US/Canada Shipping (\$8.00 International).

Or fax him your request at 1-800-CD-ROM- FAX or email him at MarkEngelhardt@Wayzata-Tech.com. Make sure you tell them you saw it in *Mac Today* magazine and that you give them reference offer #9511T.

Rod Harlan operates his own Digital Video firm and can be reached at MacDaddyRH@aol.com.



BY ROD "MAC DADDY" HARIAN

Well, the New Year has come and Santa left me a big ol' bag of tips-'n'-tricks. Before we get into the grind of 1996, I thought we'd look at some of the more diversionary tricks hidden in the Mac OS and its applications.

If you drag Balloon Help over an icon, often you will see an interesting dialog. Two good examples are QuickTime and QuickDraw 3D. Drag Balloon Help over the QuickTime icon and you'll see "Time: N. A nonspatial continuum in which events occur in apparently irreversible succession from the past through the present to the future."

Do you find yourself logging on to eWorld only at night and getting confused by the sunnystart-upscreen? Then, in eWorld's Town Square window, click in the extreme upper-left hand corner, and watch the day turn to night. I know this works for version 1.1, but I'm not sure about other versions.

Here's a real fun tip for any of you with one of the newer Power Macs running System 7.5.2! If you type "secret about box" (without capitals or quotation marks) in a text application that supports the Clippings Extension (the Note Pad or Stickies, for example), highlight the text, and drag the text to the desktop, you get a picture of Apple headquarters with a flag in the foreground and the logo "iguana iguana powersurgius" on the flag (see figure 1). By moving the mouse around, you can control the direction the flag is waving. After a while, the picture on the flag will change to something else, other than the iguana. If you decide you don't want to wait, hold down the letter *P* as you drag to the desktop and you will see a picture of the design team on the flag (see figure 2; try to spot the iguana). If you hold down the letter *Q*, you'll see a pink flag with a message that says that QuickTime must be installed to see the images.

- Some of you may remember a similar “secret about box” that was available in System 7.5.0 but was discontinued in 7.5.1. In that scenario, a game of Breakout (the classic arcade game) broke out (I know, bad pun).
- So, if you have System 7.5.0, try the above instructions and see what happens for you!

- Lastly, do you ever wish you could get more out of the Calculator DA? (I know I've had many a sleepless night.) Then make it work with Scientific Notation! Pressing E when using the calculator will switch it to this higher form of math. While you're at it, try typing E, then 9999, and then push the "=" sign. This will give you *Infinity*. And while infinity may be a number to Apple, infinity divided by infinity (E9999/E9999) *does not* appear to be and will give you the reading "not a number."

• Here's a few other secrets that don't take much explanation but you might find enjoyable nonetheless. In Stickies type "Antler!" and press return. You will then see a funky picture and credits. Make sure you type just "Antler!" right after you create a new note. If anything else is written previously or if there is any editing done, this trick will not work.

- The Mac Daddy is a digital video freak
- who craves Chinese food and more RAM.
- Send him comments, tips, or a recipe for
- General Tsao's Chicken via email at:
- MacDaddyRH@aol.com

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