fter a series of delays, the much awaited System 7.5 Update 2.0 debuted March 11th. As part of a special report, we present four articles to help you get going with Update 2.0, discover hidden features and cool accesories, and learn the history of System 7. Please click on one of the following text headers to go directly to that item.

 new System Software installation present many opportunities for problems to crop up. We would like to offer some tips that you might want to take into account.

Run Norton Disk Doctor or Apple's Disk First Aid and
    clean up all anomalies with your hard drive.

Back up everything on your hard drive.

Update your hard disk driver software using a locked floppy of
    Apple's Disk Tools or your own formatter software.

Take screen snap shots of your General, Memory, and TCP/IP Control
    Panels in case this information has to be re-input after the next step.

ZAP your parameter to make sure it is clean before you do the install. (Hold
    down Command-Control-P-R while booting until the machine spontaneously
    reboots).

Perform a "Clean Install" from your original System 7.5 (or 7.5.1 or 7.5.2)
    starting up from the CD—or disk—that came with your Mac. (Hit Command-
    Shift-K and choose to make a clean install before clicking on the Install button).

Install the System 7.5 Update 2.0 from locked floppy disks.

Restart your computer and let the Installer INIT remove unnecessary items.

Restart your computer again with the Shift Key held down—to disable
    extensions—and then hit Command-Option to rebuild the desktop files.

Transfer necessary control panels, extensions, and preferences from the
    "previous System Folder" that your clean install created.

Apply the AppleShare 3.6.1 Patch from Connectix—especially if you are using
    Speed Doubler.

Note: No express or implied warrantee is given or intended.

ystem 7.5 Update 2.0's most sublime new component may be Energy Saver 2.0.1. The
control panel goes far beyond its predecessors to deliver smart new functionality to those of
us who periodically wander away from our Macs.

Though the primary goal of Energy Saver 2.0.1 is self-evident, the control panel can function
as a no-nonsense screen saver and facilitates scheduled startups and shutdowns. Users can

set independent times for "sleep" of both the display and hard disk, as well as authorizing a complete shut down after a specified period of inactivity.

Energy Saver 2.0.1's coolest feature, however, is its intelligent shut down procedure. Suddenly called away from you Mac? No worries. Energy Saver will save all open documents and shut down your system. When you return and startup your Mac, Energy Saver will open all the applications and documents you were working with when you left. You can start right where you left off.

he control panel provides the user with a variety of choices for document auto-save. If there are unsaved documents when a shut-down is initiated, you may choose to have the system sleep instead. If auto-save is chosen, titled (previously saved) documents will be saved using their current names and locations, and untitled (never saved) documents will be named and saved in a folder of your choosing (the default is the Desktop folder). Should you like, you may also choose to forgo auto-opening of current documents and applications at the next startup.

e've come a long way, baby. Just to remind you we have put together a brief synopsis of the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of the Mac OS.

After over a year of delays, Apple finally introduced its long awaited 32-bit operating system. Among System 7's many advantages:
  Breaking the 8 MB RAM barrier
  All Macs can act as file servers
  An intelligent System Folder tidies up files
  No more Font/DA Mover

A new round of Macs required a new version of the System Software. Apple claimed there were no fixes or advantages to it but many people switched in order to run rewritten SANE routines for better math performance.

uneup 1.1 was immediately withdrawn due to problems but version 1.1.1 helped fix a major bug which could make files disappear.

or the first time, Apple decides to make people pay for the privilege of using its System Software. The new version is finally extensible through special System Enabler files so that a new computer requires only a new enabler and not a whole new version of the System Software. (Remember 6.0.4, 6.0.5, 6.0.7 etc.?) Font support continues to evolve as font files get their own subfolder in the System Folder.

pple bifurcates the System Software. This version supports PowerTalk for those who are willing to purchase it. Most aren't.

Apple ports a significant but incomplete portion of the System Software to PowerPC native coding—claiming that the 10% of the OS which had been ported was responsible for 90% of the action.

pple ports more of the OS to PowerPC native and provides a slew of new features. System 7.5 attempts to solve the problem of introducing new technologies such as PowerTalk be making it available as an optional install to everyone. Again, most choose not to use it. The same goes for QuickDraw GX and its desktop printing metaphor. Despite a four year wait for this promised technology, Mac owners are

reluctant to run an optional install for RAM heavy software that is not supported by any major application program. Nevertheless, the new System brings many other external convenience features into the fold including:

  Hierarchical Apple Menus
  A menubar clock
  Stickies (post-it notes for the desktop)
  Windows collapsible into their title bars

he Mac OS gets its own logo and startup screen. This four disk set fixes many networking and file sharing problems and adds the most requested feature since Macintosh computers appeared on our desktops: Shutdown from the keyboard!

tarting with the PowerMac 9500 Apple intros a new networking scheme for its PCI-based models—Open Transport. Ooof!

o doubt you will want to establish your new System 7.5.3 as rock-solid stable before trying any new tricks. Nevertheless, we know you will get itchy to try new things. So here is a brief list of some of the interesting additions, patches, and hacks to System 7.5:

etStickies is a system extension for System 7.5 or later that adds AppleTalk network functionality to Apple's "Stickies" application. You can send and receive stickies to/from other users that have NetStickies installed. Clipboard text can also be sent. NetStickies is freeware, developed for MacHack 1995.

pple's Extensions Manager allows you to toggle on and off files in your Control Panels and Extensions folders. This patch adds the ability to change selections in the Startup Items, Shutdown Items, Apple Menu Items, Fonts and Control Strip Modules folders. Radioware by Bill DeFelice

owerShare is a shareware ($15) program by Bill Sanford that allows anyone using System 7 File Sharing to control the amount of CPU time allocated to File Sharing. Without PowerShare, System 7 Personal File Sharing defaults to 50% of the CPU time allocated to File Sharing. PowerShare allows you to allocate anywhere from 10% to 100% of the CPU time for File Sharing.

impleText Color Menu is a free drag and drop utility from Alessandro Levi Montalcini that installs a Color menu and a Goodies menu (with Window and Find functions) inside Apple's SimpleText text editor (versions 1.1, 1.1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.3.1 only).

his INIT wakes up certain dormant features in the Finder that comes with 7.5.3.
The secret features include:
    Control-Drag an item to make an alias to it
    Command-R to Reveal the original item of an alias
  Command-Delete Moves selection to the Trash
    Enable/Disable the zoom rectangles when opening/closing windows and griding

Note: No express or implied warrantee is given. Use at your own risk.