Platforms and Operating Systems

PowerPC	Intel 80x86	PowerPC	Sparc	MIPS	HP PA-RISC	DEC Alpha
PReP standard	IBM-compatible	Power Mac-compatible	SCD standard	MIPS standard	no standard	Alpha PC-compatible
IBM [/Apple]	Intel/Microsoft	Apple	Sun	SGI	HP	DEC
DOS/Windows (SoftWindows) [under AIX]	DOS/Windows	DOS/Windows (SoftWindows) [under System 7]	DOS/Windows (SoftWindows) [under Solaris]	DOS/Windows (SoftWindows) [under IRIX]	DOS/Windows (SoftWindows) [under HP-UX]	DOS/Windows SoftWindows [under OSF/1]
System 7 (MAS) [under AIX]	*System 7 (MAE) [under UNIX]*	System 7	System 7 (MAE) [under Solaris]	*System 7 (MAE) [under IRIX]*	System 7 (MAE) [under HP-UX]	??
Workplace OS w/ OS/2	*Workplace OS w/ OS/2*					
	OS/2 2.1					
Windows NT	Windows NT			Windows NT	*Windows NT*	Windows NT
Novell NetWare	Novell NetWare	*Novell NetWare*				
Solaris (Unix)	Solaris (Unix)		Solaris (Unix)			
NEXTSTEP (Unix)	NEXTSTEP (Unix)		*NEXTSTEP (Unix)*		*NEXTSTEP (Unix)*	
Linux (Unix)	Linux (Unix)	*Linux (Unix)*				
AIX [on RS/6000, PReP in future] (Unix)	SCO Open Desktop (Unix)	*A/UX (Unix) or similar*		IRIX [on SGI] (Unix Sys V)	HP-UX [on HP] (Unix Sys V)	OSF/1 [on non-Alpha PC DEC] (Unix)
Personal AIX (Unix)	Novell UnixWare (Unix)	MachTen (Unix) [under System 7]				
PCI slots	PCI slots (many Pent., a few 486)	PCI slots (2nd gen Power Mac)		PCI slots (not SGI)		PCI slots (Alpha PC's)

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NOTE: These operating systems are not all available at this time. Ones that are not yet available but believed to be by mid to late 1995 are shown in italics. Some of these will be available during 1994.

Companies: One or more company is the main supporter of each platform and are shown near the top of the chart. They promote and/or set the standards for that platform.

Standards: The standards that enable companies other than the listed companies to build their own compatible machines are shown near the top. Companies also produce computers that don't follow these standards, yet share the same processors. Each standard is controlled more or less by the listed companies. The PReP standard is mostly set by IBM, but will allow a lot of flexibility by third-parties. IBM-compatibles are freely produced and designed. Power Mac-compatible is currently shown because Apple is planning to allow third-parties to build and sell compatible systems within strict guidelines, as with SCD systems allowed by Sun.

PReP: No PReP compatible machines are available at this time, so obviously no operating systems are yet available for them. They are expected to be available by late 1994.

PRePcompatibility and Power Mac: There is a possibility of Apple's Power Mac's becoming PReP compatible by early 1995. If this happens, the PReP-compatible Power Macs should be able to run all PReP-compatible operating systems and System 7 may become a native operating system on the PReP platform.

DOS/Windows and System 7: Available as complete operating system environments for most major platforms as an add-on emulation package. DOS/Windows is available as SoftWindows. System 7 is available as Macintosh Application Environment (MAE) on several platforms and as Macintosh Application Services (MAS) on non-Apple PowerPC machines. MAS on a PowerPC machine runs Power Mac software at full speed because no processor emulation is required.

PowerOpen: AIX and A/UX should be PowerOpen compliant. Apple may or may not call their's A/UX.
Linux: Linux is a free UNIX ported to several platforms, including the Amiga and Atari, and ftp'able from various sites.
MachTen: While it should run on the Power Macs, it is not yet available in a native version.

Notebooks:
   PowerPC – affordable ones (PowerBooks) to arrive by early 1995; IBM AIX notebook available, over $10,000
   Pentium – available by end of 1994
   Sparc – SparcBook available running Solaris, over $10,000; affordable ones unlikely

Compiled and written by Brian Pine, May 27, 1994. Corrections, comments, and/or additions strongly encouraged. May be freely distributed as is.

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