

mini' app'les

Newsletter

\$2.00

the Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc.

September Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Sat
			1	2 MINI' APP'LES 7pm	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 7pm	10 Fri&Sat Soft-ware Fair	11 1pm
12	13 7pm	14	15	16 7pm	17	18
19	20 7pm	21 7pm	22	23 7pm	24	25
26	27 7pm	28 7pm	29	30		N/A



Board of Directors - Mini' app'les Members Welcome - Norwest Bank, 5320 Lyndale Ave. S, Mpls - Greg Carlson, 544-8252



Macintosh Main - Computer Care: John DePew - Penn Lake Lib., 8800 Penn Ave. S, Bloomington - Mike Carlson, 377-8553



"SoftwareFair" computer expo - Sept. 10 & 11, 9:30-6:00 - Science Museum of Minnesota, 10th & Wabasha, St. Paul - Tom Gates, 789-1713



Programmer's Workshop - THINK C Program Coding - Brookdale-Henn Lib., 6125 Shingle Creek Pkwy, Brooklyn Ctr. - Keven Kassulker, 535-2968



Apple IVGS Main - Highland Park Lib., 1974 Ford Pkwy, St. Paul - Tom Ostertag, 488-9979



HyperCard SIG - Scripting Q&A - E. Lake Lib., 2727 East Lake St., Mpls - Peter Fleck, 370-0017



FileMaker Pro SIG - Open Discussion - Highland Park Lib., 1974 Ford Pkwy., St. Paul - Steve Wilmes, 458-1513



Fourth Dimension SIG - Metro II, 1300 Mendota Heights Rd, Mendota Heights - Ian Abel, 920-5520



Apple II Novice SIG - Running Your Apple II: GS Basics - Murray Jr. High, 2200 Buford, St. Paul - Tom Gates, 789-1713



Appleworks SIG - TimeOut: SuperFonts Graph - Murray Jr. High, 2200 Buford, St. Paul - Les Anderson, 735-3953



Macintosh Novice SIG - Add/Strip: Jon Wind - Highland Park Lib., 1974 Ford Pkwy., St. Paul - Tom Lufkin, 698-6523



Mac Programmers SIG - Murray Jr. High, 2200 Buford, St. Paul - Gervaise Kimm, 379-1836



Macintosh DTP SIG - Call for day & location - Bob Grant, 827-6294

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Board of Directors

President	Gregory L. Carlson 8216 32nd Ave. N. Crystal, MN 55427	544-8252
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Secretary	Leroy Sorenson 308 W. 22nd St., apt.101 Minneapolis, MN 55404	870-7366
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Publications Director	Keven Kassulker	535-2968
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SIG: Macs	Wade Brezina	(715) 485-3585
SIG: Apples	Erik Knopp	636-3244
Director at Large	Kevin Kassulker	535-2968

Cordinators

Beginners Consultant	Earl Benser	835-2523
Dakota County	Tom Michals	452-5667
Mac Users SIG	Mike Carlson (days)	866-3441
4th Dimension SIG	Ian Abel	824-8602
CAD & Engin. SIG	Bill Langer	937-9240
DeskTop Pub. SIG	Bob Grant	827-6294
FileMaker Pro SIG	Steve Wilmes	458-1513
HyperCard SIG	Peter Fleck	370-0017
Mac Computer Art. & Design SIG	Joy Kopp	440-5436
Mac Novice SIG	Tom Lufkin	698-6523
Mac Programming SIG	Gervaise Kimm	379-1836
MicroSoft Works SIG	Ken Edd	631-3679
North Shore Mac Users	Jim Ringquist	(218) 387-2234
Apple II Users SIG	Tom Ostertag	488-9979
Apple IIGS SIG	Mark Evans	935-7251
AppleWorks® SIG	Les Anderson	735-3953
Apple II DTP		
Beginner's Basic SIG	Tom Alexander	698-8633
Languages/Tech SIG	Wesley Johnson	636-1826
Tech. Adviser (hardware)		

Software Director's Staff

Mac eDOMs:	<i>open</i>
Apple eDOMs:	Bill Job, Randy Peterson & Tom Gates
eDOM Sales:	Mac - Allen Mackler & Mary Kosowski Apple - Les Anderson

Liaison Contacts (Contact with non-Mini app'les SIGs)

Medical	Stewart Haight	644-1838
CP/M	Jim Rosenow	(414) 261-2536
PACER Center	Karen Samuels	827-2966
TC/PC	Gervaise Kimm	379-1836

Introduction - This is the Newsletter of Mini'app'les, the Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc., a Minnesota non-profit club. The whole newsletter is copy righted © by Mini'app'les. Articles may be reproduced in other non-profit User Groups' publications except where specifically copyrighted by the author. (Permission to reproduce these articles must be given by the author.) Please include the source when reprinting.

Questions - Please direct questions to an appropriate board member. Users with technical questions should refer to the Members Helping Members section.

Dealers - Mini'app'les does not endorse specific dealers. The club promotes distribution of information which may help members identify best buys and service. The club itself does not participate in bulk purchases of media, software, hardware and publications. Members may organize such activities on behalf of other members.

Newsletter Contributions - Please send contributions directly to our Post Office, Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343 or upload them to our BBS at 892-3317.

Deadline for material for the next newsletter is the 1st of the month. An article will be printed when space permits and, if in the opinion of the Newsletter Editor or Manager, it constitutes material suitable for publication.

Meeting Information - Please phone calendar dates and changes to: Erik Knopp at 636-3244.


Mini'app'les BBS - 892-3317, 24 hours: 8 data, 1 stop, 0 parity

Mini'app'les Voice Mail - 229-6952

Advertising - call Lance Weber, 542-9331

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Story Contributor	Tom Ostertag	488-9979
Story Contributor	Tom Gates	789-1713
Story Contributor	Chuck Bjorgen	-
Story Contributor	Steve George	935-5775
Story Contributor	Greg Carlson	544-8252

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Next Month's Events

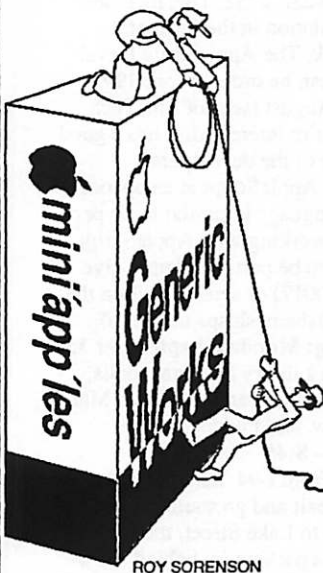
October, 1993

HyperCard SIG	7:00 Mon, Oct. 4	East Lake Lib., Mpls	Peter Fleck, 370-0017
Board of Directors	7:00 Thr, Oct. 7	-location pending-	Greg Carlson, 544-8252
Macintosh Main	7:00 Thr, Oct. 14	Penn Lake Lib., Blmngtn	Mike Carlson, 377-6553
Programmer's Workshop	1:00 Sat, Oct 16	Brookdale-Henn Lib., Brklin Ctr.	Keven Kassulker, 535-2968
Fourth Dimension SIG	7:00 Mon, Oct. 18	Metro II, Mendota Hts	Ian Abel, 920-5520
Apple II Novice SIG	7:00 Tue, Oct. 19	Murray Jr. High, St.Paul	Tom Gates, 789-1713
FileMaker Pro SIG	7:00 Thr, Oct. 21	Highland Park Lib., St. Paul	Steve Wilmes, 458-1513
Macintosh Novice SIG	7:00 Mon, Oct. 25	Highland Park Lib., St. Paul	Tom Lufkin, 698-6523
Mac Programmers' SIG	7:00 Tue, Oct. 26	Murray Jr. High, St.Paul	Gervaise Kimm, 379-1836
AppleWorks SIG	7:00 Thr, Oct. 28	Murray Jr. High, St. Paul	Les Anderson, 735-3953
Apple II/GS Main	-date pending-	-location pending-	Tom Ostertag, 488-9979
Mac DTP SIG	-date pending-	-location pending-	Bob Grant, 827-6294

Coordinators - Please contact Erik Knopp (on our BBS or at 636-3244) by the 1st of the month to have your meeting listed correctly.

Need Help? Have a question the manual doesn't answer? Members Helping Members is a group of volunteers who have generously agreed to help. They are just a phone call away. Please call only during appropriate times, if you are a Member, and own the software in question.

Members Helping Members



Macintosh	Key	Apple II	Key	Apple IIGS	Key
Adobe Illustrator	21	AppleWriter	2	AppleWorksGS	15
Beginners	13, 14, 18, 24	AppleWorks	2, 23	APW	20, 23
Canvas	5	Ascii Express	3	Complete Pascal	10
FileMaker II, Pro	1, 17	BASIC	5	Delux Paint II	23
Freehand	22	Dazzle Draw	23	General Information	3, 10
General	14, 17, 18, 24	DB Master	7	Graphic Writer II/III	15
Helix	16	Educational Software	23	GS/OS	3, 10
HyperCard	6, 9	General Information	23	HyperStudio GS	3
MacDraft	5	Home Acc'n't	20	Merlin 16+	15
MacDraw	5	PublishIt!	23	Mousetalk	15
MacPaint	5	ProTERM	23	PaintWorks Plus/Gold	15, 23
Mac OS	4, 18, 24	Quicken	23	Prosel	2
Microsoft Excel	5, 6, 17	Talk Is Cheap	3	TML Basic	3, 10
Microsoft Word	4, 5, 6, 14, 17	TimeOut	2	TML Pascal	3, 10
Microsoft Works	11, 17	TO Graph	2	Writer's Choice	15
Networking	5, 6, 13				
PageMaker	4, 6, 17	Apple III	Key		
PostScript	8	General	12		
Power Point	5				
QuickBasic	5, 6				
XPress	21				

- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------|----|--------------------|--------------|-----|--------------------|--------------|-----|
| 1. Steve Wilmes | 458-1513 | E | 9. Peter Fleck | 370-0017 | DEW | 16. Amie Kroll | 433-3517 | E |
| 2. Tom Ostertag | 488-9979 | E | 10. Randy Dop | 452-0425 | EW | 17. Michael Foote | 507-645-6710 | DEW |
| 3. Tom Gates | 789-1713 | EW | 11. Ed Spittler | 432-0103 | D | 18. Richard Becker | 870-0659 | EW |
| 4. Tom Edwards | 927-6790 | E | 12. Bob Rosenberg | 377-4300 | EW | 20. Steve Peterson | 922-9219 | EW |
| 5. Earl Benser | 884-2148 | EW | | 340-0234 | D | 21. Jodi Roste | 933-1698 | EW |
| 6. Dan Buchler | 435-3075 | E | 13. John Hackbarth | 715-246-6561 | D | 22. Nancy McClure | 227-9348 | DEW |
| 7. Ann Bell | 422-1115 | E | 14. Jim Horswill | 379-7624 | DEW | 23. Rand Sibet | 566-8571 | EW |
| 8. Fritz Lott | 377-3032 | E | 15. Tom Michals | 452-5667 | DEW | 24. Hugh Johnson | 780-6053 | DEW |

D-days (generally 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.), E-evenings (generally 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.), W-weekends (generally 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.). In any case, call at reasonable hours and ask if this is a convenient time for them. We appreciate your cooperation.

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Meeting News:

July Apple II Main Meeting

by Tom Ostertag

It was Monday and it was the Fridley Library, but only a week later than usual. The Main Apple II meeting started at 7:00, right on time. The meeting started with announcements about future Apple II meetings, followed by introductions and then Questions and Answers. There were several questions and as these were answered adequately, the meeting commenced. Lisa did say that she was going to ask a very intricate question to delay the formal presentation.

As a bit of background, Greg Carlson said he'd come and fill in for the lack of a Apple II Graphics oriented presentation. Well, Greg didn't make it either, so yours truly was forced to do a presentation of AppleWriter 2.0/2.1 Now AppleWriter is one of my favorite programs, so I gave a bit of history and an indication that AppleWriter 2.1 is available as Freeware from the Club's eDOMs. Topics included; command structure, WPL programming, glossaries (macros), and the infamous telecommuni- cations module. All in all, I thought it was an excellent presentation. (There were some dissenting opinions, however...)

When the Library closed, the meeting adjourned to the local Perkins for the Pie SIG. Topics on conversation were Lawyers, programmers, spreadsheets, etc. The hot fudge sundaes were excellent. (I didn't have one.)

The 9 August meeting will be on Data Recovery with Jim Hirsch and will be at the Fridley Library. Should be a good one so be there. There's still room on the calendar for an Apple II Graphics presentation, so...

July Apple II Novice SIG

by Tom Gates

The week was already a rush with three Apple II meetings all during the same week because of the 4th holiday. Didn't help that I was running late tonight as well as we were to get into the finer points of running your Apple II with ProDOS and finish up any DOS 3.3 questions from last month.

It didn't take long to see that the wonder- ful extension made to ProDOS - the use of subdirectories (or folders, if you will) - is a "MAJOR" source of confusion with II owners using ProDOS. Not having my Copy II+ program along (a must for any Apple II SIG leader), I stumbled along trying to better explain the uses of subdirec- tories. We fired up AppleWorks Classic and plowed forward.

By the end of the meeting we had at least answered some questions on using sub-

directories with AppleWorks, but had only scratched the surface of their general use for an Apple II owner. So this at least gave Les Anderson a topic to add to his list of AppleWorks SIG meetings. This also is convincing me more of the need to work in some kind of Apple II workshops that could take place maybe on a weekend where more than 90 minutes is needed to cover topics, or to just get into more indi- vidual problems/questions from the mem- bers.

Also, the A2 Novice SIG is looking for input from some of you more seasoned II owners. The suggestion has been made to put together an "Apple II Novice Package" that would consist of some DOS 3.3 and ProDOS disks with "must have" software. The "Frequently Asked Questions" paper we handed out at the first couple of meet- ings was also well received. Additions to that as well? Contact me with suggestions.

Mac HyperCard SIG

by Peter Fleck

No report since no meeting in July.

HyperCard 2.2 is due for release soon. No direct color support but it will suppos- edly handle color better. It may include a way to create stand-alone applications.

AppleScript has been released. A run- time version is available for \$20 from APDA at 1-800-282-2732. This includes online documentation in the form of a HyperCard stack. The AppleScript Devel- oper's Toolkit can be ordered for \$199. Check out the August issue of MacTech Magazine if you're interested. It has a good article from one of the developers.

I may feature AppleScript at an upcom- ing SIG. The language is similar to Hyper- Talk. If you're working with AppleScript and would like to be part of a demo, give me a call (370-0017) or send e-mail on the Internet (fleck@shemesh.spa.umn.edu).

Next Meeting: Monday, September 13
at the East Lake Library in Minneapolis,
2727 E. Lake Street, near Minnehaha Mall,
Target, Rainbow, and Podany's.

Times: 7:00 - 8:45

Directions: From I-94, take the 25th Ave/Riverside exit and go south on 25th (becomes 26th) to Lake Street, then left 1 block. There is a parking lot behind the li- brary, on-street parking (you don't have to plug the meters after 6 p.m.), and a church lot just east (don't use the church lot if any- thing is going on at the church, please).

Topic: General discussion of scripting. Maybe a quick look at an AppleScript if I have time to prepare.

Upcoming Meetings: Monday, Oct. 4
at the East Lake Library in Minneapolis.

From the *mini'app'les* Board of Directors (1992/1993 Directors) Meeting Minutes – June 3, 1993

Presiding Officer: David Laden, President
Members Excused: Tom Lufkin, Tish Cavalier

Preliminary

Attendance:

1992 Members present: David Laden, Tom Gates, Keven Kassulker, Bill Rhoades, Steven Lassiter, Greg Carlson
1993 Members: Jacque Gay, Hugh Johnson, Sam Goshorn, Roy Sorenson, Erik Knopp, Bob Demeules, Wade Brezina, Allen Mackler, David Laden, Tom Gates, Greg Carlson

Guests: Susan Goshorn, Denis Diekhoff, Jason Mooney, Randy Dop, Dick Peterson, Barney Barker, Jim Wheeler

Adoption of Agenda: moved, seconded and passed.

Minutes of May meeting not available: reading and approval tabled until next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

see attached.

Reports from other officers or committees: none

Old Business

Newsletter: Hugh Johnson said progress continues, but there is a need for more Macintosh related submissions.

Swap Meet Review: Tom Gates reported on the May 15 Swap Meet at Apache Plaza. Despite the difficulties in making arrangements (permission wasn't secured with Apache Plaza until the Monday before Swap meet, due to insurance snafu), the meet went off well. This swap meet was the first time TC/PC was invited, and comments were favorable. Cost of swap meet: 29 tables @ \$10 = \$290. Collected: TC/PC paid \$40 for their tables, and \$120 paid for other tables. Net Cost to club: \$290 - 160 = \$130. Tom added many people wanted a

fall swap meet too, which could happen around November, after the Science Museum Computer Fair.

Report of Election Results: see attached.
Discussion: the Bylaws amendments just failed to get a 2/3 majority of votes cast. David Laden said the boards interpretation of the current bylaws is in accord with the clarification that the amendment provided. However this illustrates the truth of the saying 'every vote counts'!

Motion to adjourn meeting of 1992 Board and resume with 1993 officers seconded and passed.

(Before the new board commenced business Jim Wheeler proposed a round of applause for David Laden).

Presiding Officer: Greg Carlson, President

Attendance as noted above.

Agenda adopted with additions: Fall Swap Meet, Erik to find a location for next months board meeting.

New Business

Participation in Science Museum Computer Fair update

Tom Gates reported the Fair will be Sept. 10-11, 1993, hosted again by the Science Museum with *mini'app'les* and TC/PC attending. Chuck Penson of the Science Museum will come to the July board meeting to discuss. Tom said we will have 10 booths, and this year the Museum will match us Mac for Mac (so we only need to find 4 Macintoshes). Members discussed the need for early promotion in newsletter. All members are urged to get involved. Contact Tom Gates to volunteer for planning, staffing booths, and set up.

Name Change

The need for a name change was debated, and whether the contract that governs our

use of "*mini'app'les*" name could be renegotiated. For next board meeting Greg and David will find and research the contract; Roy will provide the name change committee report and findings on name registration process.

Newsletter Production proposal by Jim Wheeler

Jim summarized his proposal from last month for the new board. His goal: to organize the 2 P's of the newsletter, the People (or staff) and the Publication. He displayed a sample layout of newsletter illustrating his concepts of consistent layout and content. Jim stressed he welcomes all the constructive criticism he can get (but added that folks "who just want to complain are barking in a box.") Current editor Hugh Johnson said he welcomes working with Jim, and after discussion the board voted to approve Jim's offer to reorganize and publish the newsletter. Greg said he would get Jim the materials he requires. By next meeting Hugh will research the cost of getting a "business reply" postal contract (for membership and eDOM order forms). Jim asks that all submissions to the "future newsletters" area on the club BBS be in plain ASCII format.

Office space for *mini'app'les*

The board voted to decline the offer by James Folmer of office space.

List on Disk

Discussion of a request by a club member for eDOM publication of the same membership info as has appeared in past newsletters (name, phone number and zip code only – NOT address). Motion for eDOM membership list approved with amendment that prior to list publication, for 2 months the newsletter have prominent announcement of planned eDOM-distribution of membership list with reminder that members who wish to block publication of their name should inform the membership director. This preference would be added to the membership database if not there already.

Disposal of old eDOM catalogs

Board voted approval for disposal of old eDOM printed catalog inventory.

Executive Committee Meeting

June 17, 1993, Jacque's house, 7:30 PM.

Adjournment motion seconded and approved.

*prepared and submitted by
Roy Sorenson, Secretary*

Notes & Announcements:

Attention all Members: If you do not wish to have your name, ZIP code, and phone number listed in the soon-to-be-published membership roster, please send a note to the Membership Director at PO Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343.

The autumn **Swap Meet** is drawing near. No firm date yet, but keep it in mind and look in your closet and see if you have any nifty stuff to trade. Stay tuned for further details...

Don't forget the Minnesota Science Museum's "**SoftwareFair**" computer expo, running September 10-11 (Friday & Saturday), from 9:30 to 6:00. See the new Newton MessagePad in person. *Be there or be square!*

News from the Software Director

Mac eDOM #885 – Network Software AUG 1993

Mac eDOM #885, submitted by Tom Mehle, contains a variety of networking software and drivers.

Network Software Installer 1.3.3

You can use this Network Software Installer to install the following networking products:

- AppleTalk version 58.0.2
- Network Control Panel version 3.0.1
- AppleTalk Internet Router 2.0 (requires router installation disk)
- Update to EtherTalk version 2.5.2
- Ethernet driver version 1.0.4 for the Apple Ethernet NB Card
- Ethernet driver version 6.0.3 for the Apple EtherTalk NB Card
- Update to Ethernet driver version 1.0.6 for the Apple Ethernet LC Card
- Update to driver version 1.0.6 for the Quadra 700/900/950/800, Centris 610/650, built-in Ethernet port.
- Update to TokenTalk version 2.5.2
- Token Ring Control Panel version 1.0.1
- Token Ring driver version 2.5.1 for the TokenTalk NB Card
- Token Ring driver version 2.5.1 for the Token Ring 4/16 NB Card

In addition, this disk installs A/ROSE 1.2, another network-related offering.

The installer works on either Mac System 6 or System 7. Free from Apple Computer.

Mac eDOM #886 – Bolo AUG 1993

Mac eDOM #886, reviewed by Sam Goshorn, contains one game and an accompanying game editor. It has been extensively tested over the Internet against players in Britain and Australia using a Mac IIsi with System 7. It is quite addictive with its smooth color animation and great sound effects as well as with the challenge of human opponents.

Bolo 0.99.2

Bolo is a 16 player networked real-time multi-player tank battle game. It has elements of arcade-style shoot-em-up action, but for the serious players who play 12 hour games with 16 players working in teams in different networked computer clusters around an office or university campus, it becomes more of a strategy game. You have to play it to understand. Works best in color but also runs on a Mac Plus. Works equally well over networks or on a single machine against automated opponents. Requires System 6 or higher. Includes an updated version of the AppleTalk driver for the Mac Plus. \$25 Shareware from Stuart Cheshire.

BMapEdit 1.2

BMapEdit is a Bolo map editor. It reads, edits, prints, and creates map files for use

with Bolo. It works very much like MacPaint except you paint with terrain types (river, forest, road, pillboxes) instead of colors. Requires Color QuickDraw and System 6.0.4 or greater. A color monitor helps, but is not required. \$10 Shareware from Carl R. Osterwald

Mac eDOM #887 – Utilities 19 AUG 1993

Mac eDOM #887, reviewed by Sam Goshorn, contains utilities to enhance the Finder and System 7 environment, extensions to optimize PowerBook performance, and some HyperCard extensions. There are also two items to improve number crunching operations.

=Hyper Turtle=

Turtle Graphics for HyperCard 2. Suitable for ages 8+. Lets you use HyperTalk to animate an on-screen turtle. Draws in color in an external window. Drawings can be saved as MacPaint or MacDraw files. Includes help buttons. Requires system 6.04 or later. \$8.00 Shareware from J. B. Ward.

AliasMenu 1.1

AliasMenu adds menus to the Finder. These menus work exactly like the Apple Menu: they may contain any kind of items (applications, documents, aliases, etc.). The menu titles can be replaced by icons, which can be useful if you have a small screen. Requires System 7.0 or higher. \$20 Shareware from Benoit Widemann.

CommentKeeper 1.0

This is an extension that automatically saves your Get Info comments when you rebuild the Desktop under System 7 or 6. Under System 6, it requires the Desktop Manager. Free from Maurice Volaski.

PBTools 1.2

PBTools is a package that contains two tools for PowerBooks. SpinD 1.0 is an Fkey that spins down the hard drive but does not sleep the entire system. SafeSleep 1.2 is an Extension that requests a password whenever a sleeping Mac is awakened. Free from Bill Steinberg.

SoftwareFPU 2.41

SoftwareFPU is a control panel that allows most programs expecting an FPU (Floating Point Unit or Math Coprocessor) to work properly on Macintoshes without one, such as the IIsi, Macintosh LC series, Classic II and Color Classic, and some models of the PowerBook, Centris, and Performa series. SoftwareFPU is fully System 6 and 7 compatible. SoftwareFPU will NOT work on 68000 machines such as the Macintosh Plus, SE, Classic, Portable, and PowerBook 100. SoftwareFPU allows you to run almost all your programs now, while you wait for a software upgrade or save to buy an FPU card. \$10 Shareware from John Neil.

Sound Manager 3.0

The Sound Manager software consists of the Sound Manager system software extension and a new version of the Sound Control Panel. It adds support for 16-bit CD-quality audio, redirection of sound to third-party hardware cards, and plug-in audio compression/decompression software (codecs). It is completely backwards compatible with previous versions of the Sound Manager. Free from Apple Computer, Inc.

System 7 Pack! 3.4.1

System 7 Pack! is a utility that allows you to customize the Finder under System 7. Some of the features of the System 7 Pack! are:

- Increases speed of Finder copies by 300%
- Increases speed of Finder by removing zoom rects.
- Change Finder's menu command keys
- Add application-document links. (e.g. MacWrite → MS Word.) If you click on a document for which you don't have the application, the linked application will be started instead.
- Change the way the Finder displays the date in its windows
- Eliminate the rename delay

Requires System 7. \$29.95 Shareware from Adam Stein.

ToggleAT 3.0

ToggleAT is an FKEY for the PowerBook which enables you to toggle AppleTalk on and off with one keystroke. Turning off AppleTalk when not in use is one way to conserve battery power. Requires knowledge of ResEdit in order to install. Free from Jon Pugh.

TurboMath for HyperCard 1.0.0

TurboMath is a HyperCard Stack that contains an external function (XFCN) which is capable of evaluating complex mathematical expressions on large sets of data at speeds that are ten to twenty times faster than the speed of HyperCard alone. \$12 Shareware from Victor Chavarria.

Unlock Folder II

This little nifty can help the System 7 users out there who've run across the dreaded 'Name Locked Hard Drive' issue that occurs after having a System 6 user log onto the System 7 File Sharing server. The symptoms of this issue are that you cannot change the name of the hard drive even after you've turned off Personal File Sharing. Additionally, you will be unable to paste a custom icon to that hard drive. Requires System 7 or higher. Free from Kazu Yanagahira.

prepared and submitted by Sam Goshorn,
Software Director 🍏

New Platform Special Report — The Newton MessagePad: Something to Hold Onto?

by Neil L. Shapiro

Revolutions may be fought on a battlefield. Or a revolution can occur in the cloisters of the mind. Now we have a revolution that can be held in the palm of your hand: The Newton MessagePad from Apple Computer Inc. I was recently allowed to preview a MessagePad. The unit that I used for a few days contained software and interface that was not the final (although near to final) design and this should be borne in mind as it may change some of the items mentioned herein. As new MessagePads are released I will update this article accordingly. But, as a first look, here's what I saw.

POCKET PARADIGMS

The Newton MessagePad is Apple's first machine featuring Newton technology and Newton Intelligence and is from their PIE or Personal Interactive Electronics Division. There will be other Newtons in the near future as well as other lines of machines rumored to be also released soon from the PIE people. So, while the MessagePad is "a Newton" it is not "The Newton" anymore then either a Quadra or a Centris is "The Macintosh." Rather, the MessagePad is just one model of Newton and that is an important distinction to make.

A Newton MessagePad is billed by Apple as a "communications assistant" and is a handheld, pen-based device featuring such things as handwriting recognition, connectivity, automatic helps and much more all in a slim package that measures about 4" by 7" by 1". Of that measurement, the LCD screen area upon which the user must write, as well as read from, measures 3" by 4.5".

Just below the screen are seven permanent icons. These icons are used to access the MessagePad's various built-in programs and features. The Names icon, when tapped, will take one to the Name File; the Dates icon to the Datebook, Calendar and To-Do List areas; the Extras icon to areas involving connectivity as well as an assortment of things from guided tours to setting preferences; the Undo icon will undo the last two entries; the Find icon is used to find ASCII strings in recognized type; the Assist icon takes one to the Intelligent Assistant which helps to automate many processes; and in the center is an icon composed of a large dot with an up-arrow above and a down-arrow below to move through displayed material.

The MessagePad will also accept one PCMCIA plug-in card (type 2.0) for extra RAM memory or a modem (although too

thin a slot to accept a PCMCIA hard disk drive). The plugged-in RAM card may be used as more memory for the MessagePad and may also be used to backup the MessagePad and restore it in case of need and third-party or expansion software may also be delivered on and run off such a card.

RECOGNITION ROUTINES

Writing on the screen and testing out the handwriting and pen-based interface of this Newton will be the first thing that the new user will try. Such writing is carried out using a supplied "pen" that tucks neatly into a built-in carrier on the side of the case. This special pen features a plastic point that will not scratch the glass.

The Notepad area is always available on-screen and it's there most will begin their experiments. In this section it's assumed that the user is in this Notepad area. The MessagePad's handwriting recognition is turned on by touching the pen to the mini-icon that toggles that feature (highlighting when it is on).

Some will first scrawl a message such as "This is a test" on the screen while others will immediately try to sign their names. Of those first-timers who sign their names, users with names such as Bill Smith or Don Jones will fare better than those with more unusual names. The MessagePad uses its Newton Intelligence to decode handwriting into type and much of that intelligence is dependent on internal word lists. But if you have a name like Shapiro (which my MessagePad continued to recognize as "Fillipino" at first) the problem is quickly remedied. Newton Intelligence is smart enough to learn — and quickly — from the user.

When it happens that the MessagePad commits such a faux pas, the user takes the pen and taps twice on the word. An on-screen list of words appears with the unit's best guesses displayed in a menu fashion. If the word meant appears as a secondary choice, the user just taps on the proper word and the type changes to that corrected word. If, however, the MessagePad doesn't appear to have a clue there is a picture of a keyboard and the user taps that to allow the onscreen keyboard to appear. The pen is then used to press the letters (and shift, space and other keys) on this virtual keyboard to enter the proper translation. The odds are good that the next time such a word is entered that the Newton Intelligence routines will know how to decode it. Some words may take a few trainings.

Note that the more you use a MessagePad the more reliably your machine will

recognize your handwriting. Toward that end the settable preferences choice in the Extras icon allows for handwriting practice. In that mode the user is presented with words to write from the MessagePad's list. But the best way to train a Newton MessagePad is to simply allow it to get to know you. As you use it from day to day, if your routines are like most people's, you will have a certain vocabulary that repeats and it won't be long before you customize your own MessagePad to read your own handwriting.

The flip side to this is that it can be a bit difficult to share a Newton between two or more users. When such sharing is done, there is a choice to turn off this learning process so that if you must share your Newton with a person who insists on writing far differently (or even a little differently) from you it will not ruin all your training efforts. This is worth calling out for the new MessagePad owner — if you share your Newton, make sure that you have checked the choice "Configure for guest user" in the Handwriting Styles area of the Preferences menu in the Extras drawer.

While in the Preferences area the user can help the Newton along a bit by looking at various styles of handwriting for each letter in the alphabet and some punctuation. Each character is shown in a little mini-movie as to how the pen would move in different handwritings to achieve that letter (this is in the Letter Styles area). If you do not ever use a particular stroke sequence or letter formation you can immediately tell the Newton. However, the automatic learning function will update this area as you use the machine — and the automatic learning may actually be more reliable than entering this manually.

When handwritten text is recognized it will be displayed in a user-settable type-style. There are two typefaces available — a "fancy" one that is a light serif and weighted and a "simple" one which is sans-serif, not weighted and monospaced. Type-sizes are 9, 10, 12 and 18 points and styles are plain, bold and underline. Word and letters may be individually selected (see below) and styled.

Besides text recognition there is also shape recognition. Turning on the shape-recognition icon means that the Newton can make shapes that are not exactly drawn symmetrical, smooth them and close them. (Or just one or two such functions depending on settable preferences). So it becomes easy for a non-artist to draw perfect circles and curves.

A caveat here is to try to keep only one icon or the other turned on. I found that if both text and shape recognition were on (and I assume this will likely be true in the release version also) the MessagePad as you would suspect had a difficult time distinguishing between small circles and the letter O and the number 0 if entered alone and not embedded in text.

If text recognition and shape recognition are both turned off then the Newton will save your handwriting as handwriting and not convert it to text — Apple calls this “ink.” This is faster and of course there are no recognition errors to slow you down. On the other hand non-recognized text because it is a compressed graphic takes up somewhat more memory than recognized text. More importantly, only recognized text can be searched through for automatic finds of word matches.

It was a little disappointing to me that the Newton Intelligence, in at least this first MessagePad, will not allow handwriting to be recognized at a later time. I would like to see a feature whereby blocks of handwritten text already stored as graphics could be selected and then recognized. Apple tells me that they tested such “deferred recognition” but that users did not like it. Apple also ran into problems in that “we couldn’t store the strokes and timing info for too much ink because it used too much memory.” But, who knows what the future may hold?

I will reserve judgment as to how reliable the handwriting recognition works or as to the speed of the same until I am able to work with a finalized unit as I was specifically told by Apple the beta unit I was allowed to preview had been far surpassed by the release version in those areas. This will be an important consideration and I will report more fully on it when I have bought my own production unit.

Selection is done as all things on a Newton with the pen. To select a word, block of text and/or graphics the pen is held down and a line drawn through or around the selection and then that selection highlights. Once highlighted, the pen is held down on the block and then the block follows the pen around and can thus be dragged to any position. It becomes very easy to, for example, move words “into” a drawing to add and position graphics within a memo. To place something in the clipboard you just drag the text to the screen edge and then pull it down to copy it into something else.

Erasing an area is intuitively easy as you just draw a zig-zag squiggly line through what you do not want and that material vanishes. Other pen-based movement allows for rough editing such as drawing a proofreader’s “carat” or v-bumped line between words to add word spaces to insert new words into a line of text.

The Notepad area allows for notes to be entered sequentially to the memory limit of the MessagePad. To enter a new note a horizontal line is drawn across the screen and a new note’s header (showing the time and date the note was first entered) appears. At that point the up- and down-arrow in the row of permanent icons may be used to scroll from note to note. Or, the dot in the middle of the arrows (that at least one Apple person called “the bellybutton”) may be panned and a list of notes’ headers and first lines appear as an overview and individual notes may so be immediately called onto the screen by selecting them from that overview list. Notes may also be grouped into separate user-named or included categories, filed and called up by category.

NAMES TO CONJURE WITH

The Names File is a formal database/addressbook that works on the idea of cards as stored in a card catalog. Adding names is done by filling in an info view area line by line. Each line is entered via text-recognition in a box that pops up for each entry. These linefields include salutation, first name, last name, title, company name, address, city, state, zip, country, EMAIL address, four phone fields (which can individually be labeled as for home, work, fax, other, car beeper, mobile or left as just being labeled phone) and birthday. Fields cannot be added, rearranged as to order, nor labeled other than as provided.

I found that this area of data entry was the only one in which I found myself wishing for a real keyboard. When you are on the phone to a client who blurts out their name is Mr. Slartibartfast or some such moniker you can bet that the MessagePad is going to give you the silicon equivalent of saying “Duh?” when you write it down the first time and you’ll be facing the virtual keyboard to hunt-and-pen the name into the field. As mentioned previously, this is yet another reason why I hope to see the ability to turn off text-recognition, write in a name or other information, and then have it processed for recognition at a later time when virtual keyboards aren’t going to cramp your business style.

Once you do have the names and other fields entered (or brought in from a Wizard, another Newton or a Mac — see the connectivity section below) the MessagePad allows you to work with these records in many different ways.

Each record may have with it an associated, freeform notes field. In the notes field you can jot down information supplemental to what’s in the card fields. You can use the area to track phone calls, mark favorite orders, draw graphic figures and so on.

A record may be shown onscreen as just an index-card style of card, or a card can be

shown with its note field. Or, the info view that was filled in can be shown instead of having the information presented as a card. The cards themselves can be shown in four different styles with the fields positioned flush left or right, centered, or flush left with the phone number flush right at the top.

Cards can be found by using the Find permanent icon which will search cards for text or dates, or by scrolling the cards via the arrow icons or using the bellybutton (I love that name) icon to call up a list or overview of cards available.

Phone numbers may also be automatically dialed either through the speaker or an attached modem.

Cards may be printed, faxed or sent EMAIL and this is further discussed in the connectivity area of this review.

Although the capability of the MessagePad’s Names File certainly is within the bounds of expectation for an electronic personal organizer such as a Sharp Wizard or Casio B.O.S.S. and in many ways exceeds those bounds, I found myself wishing for more functionality. For example there was no way to delete a set of cards. If, for example, a salesperson wants to delete all Chicago clients she could call up such clients one by one by using the Find command on the word Chicago. But each card found would have to be individually deleted. This reviewer kept reaching for a “groups” command that simply wasn’t there. But Apple assures me that “There are at least two third-party ‘contact manager’ type applications that will provide this capability.”

I do think that the Names File will prove very useful to anyone who simply needs an addressbook without many frills. Once the promised third-party additions become available the Names File will become even more powerful.

THE DATEBOOK COMPLEAT

More than any other aspect of the MessagePad, the Dates area demonstrates why — leaving aside simple portability — a pen-based interface can be not just as good as mouse and/or keyboard — but better. The Datebook/Calendar and To-Do List section are what most advanced users are likely to turn to when it comes time to demo the power of Newton.

When the Dates area is called up the user is in the main Calendar with the present month and date shown. Arrow keys either side of the months name allow months to be scrolled forward and backward in time. And a touch of the pen to a date in the calendar area brings up that date’s appointments. But then there are additional, hidden commands which add much to this functionality.

Shortcuts (such as tapping the year) allow the user to see eight calendar months

at a glance, to see several days at one time, to select dates either horizontally (sequential days) or vertically (certain day in each selected week), to see a two-week agenda of appointments or to even see a graphic representation of a month where appointments on each day are shown as dark bands.

Scheduling and juggling appointments is easy. Just as selecting words in a word processor became a way to show off the mouse on a Mac, this process nicely shows off the pen interface on a Newton.

Appointments are written in at the hour they begin. The handwriting recognition translates that to type. At the beginning of an appointment a diamond appears which can be "pulled" out into a vertical line. The endtime of the appointment is scheduled by pulling this line down the list of hours. Once an appointment is scheduled, it's fast and simple to change. The pen is held down to highlight the vertical line and then the line is dragged so as to begin at a different hour and, if needed, the line is adjusted in length so as to cover a different amount of time as well as a new position in the day. In a like manner the appointment line can also be dragged between dates so as to change not only the time but the day of the appointment. It's also possible to have two appointments that overlap as the lines may be positioned indented from simultaneously scheduled ones.

I have seen similar interfaces using the mouse but the pen in this handheld format is more ergonomic, more intuitive and has a tremendous "gee whiz" factor such as everyone usually feels the first time they move and resize a window on a Mac.

Along with each appointment can be a notes field where the user can add supplemental materials including graphics. A note field can also be a stand-alone in that it's a note for the whole day or the calendar field showing but not associated with any one particular appointment.

Alarms may also be scheduled as reminders for any appointment. The alarm can be scheduled to go off minutes, hours, or days ahead or just when the appointment comes due. The alarm triggers and on-screen message and can optionally play a sound. Alarms can also be set to repeat. They can be made to repeat every week, every other week, every month, every year, or on any one week of each month.

Each datebook page of appointments also has a to-do list associated with it. The to-do list allows you to schedule various items that you need to do and to label them as to priority. Then, when you do finally do them, you may check them off. When completed, they stay on that date but, if not completed, they will roll over to the next day.

Information from the calendar may be printed, faxed and otherwise shared but see

the connectivity discussion for more information on these features.

It's clear that the Datebook/Calendar may be a very big reason for many people to go the Newton route.

CONNECTIVITY – THE SERIAL STORY

On the side of the Newton MessagePad is a 9-pin serial port such as on all current Macs and on modems that connect to the Mac. Using that connection point I was quickly able to hook the Newton to my LocalTalk network and have it access my LaserWriter IINTX using dialog boxes on the Newton MessagePad similar to those found in the Macintosh Chooser. The MessagePad happily printed cards, appointments, notes and graphics on the networked laser printer.

But a lot of the connectivity ability of the Newton MessagePad and other Newtons to come will depend on the true functionality of Apple's announced Newton Connection software for Macs and PCs as well as third-party solutions. I was unable to preview a "Printer Pack" but Apple tells me that this will allow direct connection to "lots of printers" without connecting to the Desktop and that this will be done by printer drivers in ROM residing on the connector itself.

I have as yet been unable to personally work with Apple's Newton Connection software or any third-party solutions. The following discussion is based on my understanding of Apple's own press releases now in context of having worked with the Newton MessagePad itself. As I obtain more experience with these solution this article will be updated.

It appears from Apple's press releases (of 6/29/93) that the Newton Connection software will allow a Newton to be connected to a Macintosh (or an IBM PC) through the serial port. Once connected it will be possible, according to Apple, to backup information from the Newton to the Mac's hard disk and then restore it to the Newton.

The files will also be synchronized and this means that if information is changed on either the Mac-resident file or the Newton-resident file the older records will be updated when the machines are connected. Synchronization at the record level (as opposed to file level) means that if you and your secretary both add names to the address book then not just the most recent file but the individual names will be synchronized.

The press release also states that their will be applications for both the Mac and IBM PCs which will enable the Newton information as to notes, letters, name cards, appointments and so forth not only to be synchronized but also to be created and edited on the computer to be sent to the Newton and vice-versa. Apple states it will also be possible to use the Newton Connec-

tion software to move special and optional packages ranging from system enhancements to applications from the Mac to the Newton.

There is further supposed to be released a Professional version that will include translators so that users will be able to "directly share their Newton information with popular Windows and Macintosh graphics, word processing, spreadsheet, database and PIM (Personal Information Management) applications."

On the one hand this is very good news. On the other I expect that many users will be expecting a built-in capability but will find it to be offered as an extra-cost option. It does not take too long using the Newton to realize that if you have a Mac (or PC) it would be counterproductive and downright wasteful not to connect them. Neither does it seem entirely a happy event that such connectivity is a separate program rather than one of the permanent icons. Apple is announcing pricing of the various connectivity kits at the launch.

If the majority of people who buy the Newton MessagePad own Macs and IBM PCs it is likely that Apple will find themselves heavily criticized for almost any price point by the majority of such demographic customers. On the other hand, should the majority of MessagePad users turn out to be computerless consumers such as statistically those who now buy the majority of Wizards and B.O.S.S. organizers it might have been a wise move on Apple's part to keep this separate from the main unit and thus hold down basic entry-level costs. Like so much with the future of these machines – we must wait and see.

Unfortunately, we must also wait, see, and pay if we want to make the Newton all it should be by connecting it to our Macs.

There are also third party solutions on the way to add even more functionality to the MessagePad's serial port. Such things as directly downloading and uploading software on existing major networks (such as CompuServe) might quickly become possible following the introduction and launch.

Likewise, following the launch it should be clearer as to Apple's own plans for some sort of network involving the Newton. Many choices in the MessagePad seem to indicate that it will be possible to automatically log onto a dedicated network from Apple to send information between Newtons. According to Apple spokespeople, "The MessagePad ROM contains a NewtonMail Client which will work as soon as NewtonMail becomes operational later this fall."

There is also a choice in many of the menus to fax such things as notes, cards, appointments and to-do lists to fax machines. The preliminary manual stated to connect the Newton to a "Newton fax modem." Unfortunately such was not avail-

able to me. I did attempt to use a Practical Peripherals PM14400FXSA v.32bis and then a DoveFax modem but both failed – the PP modem with a “modem not supported” error message and the DoveFax with an even more sinister “modem not found” dialog. I assume that the Newton modem does not use Hayes-compatible commands or that some sort of driver software might be needed for non-Newton modems. (Or, this could be attributed to the beta version software in the Newton I was previewing.) Apple, however, has assured me that drivers will be available for both external serial and PCMCIA modems but could not yet comment as to which exact modems will be supported.

Again, as more information becomes available watch for future versions of this article.

CONNECTIVITY – BEAM ME ABOARD

Newton owners will soon be beaming around the universe – or at least around the universe of Newton MessagePads. Two Newtons (or a Sharp Wizard series 9000) may be connected via infrared beams instead of a cable over which they can share information.

When two Newtons are placed head-to-head (at a range of approximately one meter) such things as notes, cards, appointments and to-do lists may be “beamed” from one Newton to another (or the Wizard series 9000). A nice touch is that incoming beams may be set to be automatically received or that they need confirmation. If a need for confirmation is checked then incoming beams are stored in an area called the In Box and may be checked later and then moved to the main area of the MessagePad.

Just as the In Box stores incoming material (beamed or faxed or serially connected) the Out Box will store outgoing material. It is thus possible to set up a session ahead of time on your MessagePad for later information exchange when the other Newton is present or when the connection will be made. Both the In and Out boxes fully list their contents and the status of those contents.

AN ABLE ASSISTANT

The Newton’s permanent icon called Assist when penned will call up the Intelligent Assistant program. The Assistant features a dialog box with a pull-down menu and one line. On the line you write text which is acted upon by the command you choose from the menu.

The commands in the Assistant’s menu allow the user to schedule, find, remind, send, fax, print, call and otherwise act upon whatever information has been entered. For example, to call a phone number you would write the phone number and then choose

call from the Assistant’s “Let Me” menu – forming the string “Let Me Call 555-1212” and the number would be dialed via the modem or speaker as set in your preferences.

But an interesting thing about this is that you do not have to be actually within the Assist area. If you are in the Notepad and you type “Call 555-1212” and highlight the command line, then pen down on Assist, the Newton will present you with the same dialog boxes to put through your call as if you were running the Assist program directly.

Likewise the Intelligent Assistant makes it simple to do such things as schedule appointments, add to your to-do list, print or fax notes and much more all without the modality of having to be in one special program to do it (although the special program is there and with additional helps should you choose it). So just write in the Notepad “Buy Dog Food” and highlight it and the dialog box that results will have it added immediately to your to-do list. (Or write “Buy AT&T” – your option).

In some respects the Intelligent Assistant rather points the way toward the future of Newton and PIE technologies. The idea is for these intelligent peripherals not just to act as pen and paper might, or even as you might expect a desktop computer to perform. Rather, the goal seems to be to have assistance in your daily life at your beck and call ready to respond to simple English commands to accomplish relatively complicated but omnipresent daily chores.

The Newton MessagePad’s personal assistant might not be a human-looking, robotic servant ready to respond with a happy “Yes, Master!” as it leaps to do your bidding but it may well be the first step down a long road toward something far more real, far more achievable, far more revolutionary.

EXTRAS, WE HAVE EXTRAS!

In the Extras permanent icon (or the Extras “drawer”) are accessed some of the areas we have already spoken about such as the In and Out Boxes, the computer and Sharp connectivity controls, the setting of personal preferences and type styles. But there’s much more included as well such as the Tables area, the Calculator and Time Zones as well as onscreen slide controls to set the MessagePad’s volume level and contrast adjustment as well as a visual indication of remaining battery life.

The Tables are basically spreadsheet templates that are not called spreadsheets. Metric conversion, currency exchange, loan payments, net present value and a capital asset pricing model are the included templates. The user just has to do such things as write in various variables to have the MessagePad instantly display the results.

There’s even a game included that makes

spending a few hours writing words so as to train the recognition routines to your handwriting fun.

IN CONCLUSION

The Newton had to be something special to justify the hype and to serve as a marker for the beginning of a whole new technology from Apple. The new pen interface works well overall and, in some areas, proves that the pen can be far mightier than the keyboard and even a bit stronger than a mouse for certain uses.

There is no doubt that future Newtons and other releases from the PIE folks will be more powerful, offer more bang for the buck and feature far more goodies – just as the Macintosh 128K has been somewhat surpassed by the Quadra 950! The pioneers who buy a Newton MessagePad in these early days will, and perhaps not in a very long timeframe, see it surpassed by other machines from Apple.

So, should you wait to buy a Newton?

In my opinion – Don’t Wait!

I think the time to buy is now because if you can use the Newton MessagePad’s capabilities then it will serve you better than any other such organizer presently on the market.

1994 is going to be a lot like the heady days of 1984 when the Macintosh was released. Get in now on the thrill and challenge of a whole new technology, a new way to think about your life and how to schedule it. You won’t be able to completely enjoy the future without living in today.

Today it’s the Newton MessagePad that will deliver tomorrow into your grasp.

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See the Newton at the Minnesota Science Museum’s “SoftwareFair” computer expo, Friday and Saturday, September 10-11, from 9:30-6:00.

rings. If you also have an answering machine hooked to your phone/fax setup, life gets tricky. You'll then want to consider a line switcher that can "listen" to an incoming call and send it to the appropriate answering device. I use a line switcher on one of my DTP Exchange BBS lines to sort out incoming faxes from BBS user calls. It works well, although I required help from the manufacturer's tech support department to decipher the manual that came with the switcher.

Faxing by modem or machine is a slick way to transmit documents quickly and economically to another person or company. For desktop publishers, it's a good way to send quick proofs for customer approval. I've used it to send in software upgrade request forms and requests for special plays by radio stations. I guess you can even order a pizza by fax. I've never tried that.

There is another, more subtle benefit to faxing. When was the last time you called a major business and talked to a real person without first going through an elaborate

menu-driven voice mail phone system? Next time you have a need to get through to someone in a business setting such as computer customer or technical support, try a fax. Somehow it gets their attention more quickly than a voice mail message.

What's the answer? Fax modem, or fax machine? If you have a daily need to send or receive faxes, a traditional fax machine is probably the solution. If your faxing needs are lighter, and you're involved in telecommunications with on-line services and local BBS systems, a fax modem is your best bet.

My solution was to buy both.

Editor's note: Chuck Bjorgen is the Sysop of the DTP Exchange BBS, a Twin Cities-based Macintosh bulletin board with a focus on desktop publishing, graphics and other general Mac topics.

Call 612-633-8406 to download the special TeleFinder! User graphic user interface software for a trial demonstration of the BBS. 🍏

Is your fax software causing conflicts?

Depending on the type and speed of your fax modem and how you use it, you may experience problems that result mainly from the fax software sending conflicting initialization code to your modem. High-speed modems, in particular, can be affected negatively. If your fax software is active, during startup you'll notice a final dialog that says "Initializing modem..." appear on your screen. That particular modem string may very well be perfect for faxing, but may also make regular high-speed telecommunications impossible.

The best way around this is to use a startup document manager such as Apple's Extension Manager 2.01 to create separate sets of startup documents, one for regular high-speed modem communications, and one faxing. For non-fax sessions, simply disable such INITs as FaxMonitor (FaxSTF) or whatever System Extension (INIT) your fax software uses. Your other option is to physically remove those files from your System folder.

Soft PC Professional / Soft PC for Windows

By Bill DeFelice and Steve Nanchy,
Macintosh Owners, Users & System
Enthusiasts users group,
Fairfield County, Connecticut

During a user group meeting Q&A session a member posed an interesting challenge. Our member asked for help in making his PC data at work usable on his Mac at home. While moving the data was not a problem, the obstacle was the software he needed was a special custom application that been only written on the pc platform. Knowing it takes quite a bit to make us cry "big blue" he turned to us for help.

A recent discussion in a past group Q&A session brought up Insignia Solution's SoftPC family of software for the Macintosh. Insignia put us in contact with Richard Mo of Allison Thomas Associates, the people who handle their user group public relations. Mr. Mo was very courteous and arranged for review copies of two exciting products - SoftPC Professional 3.0 and SoftPC for Windows.

Blue Boy in a Mac?

Insignia Solutions took on the incredible task of emulating an IBM (there, we said it) PC-compatible computer entirely in software. For the simplistic, this means not voiding your warranty by installing boards, no dip switches to change, just load and go.

The primary difference between the two packages we reviewed is the operating environments. SoftPC for Windows is to be run on a Quadra class system or system with an '040 processor, while SoftPC Professional will run on any Mac for an '020 class processor on up. Although not reviewed here, their Universal SoftPC is an entry-level offering allowing use on computer such as a Classic. All SoftPC products require a hard drive and various memory depending upon the product used. We recommend that for maximum performance you allocate as much ram as possible, although the standard memory settings give adequate performance.

Hang on to your ears folks - it's show time!

The product manuals are well written, helping guide the first-time DOS user take their first steps. We were a little disappointed that there was only a handful of Windows documentation included, but with so many other reference books available on the subject this hardly seems worth mentioning.

While some of those who participated in the test considered the process very annoying, loading the software was rather straightforward. After loading a minimum of software onto your hard drive, you launch the SoftPC application. Once you've

entered your personalization info you can create a hard drive containing the pc operating system(s). This "drive" is set up a file so the user need not get involved with drive partitioning, formatting, etc. The software then asks you to insert the remaining disks until it builds the first drive image. You have the option of having up to two hard drives available for use (C: and D:) with C: being the boot drive. Once properly configured your SoftPC will boot up - complete with startup beep and drive chirp. **Pardon me, have you seen my A: ?**

Once booted up you are now running MS-DOS version 5.0. We could hardly contain ourselves! We type every DOS command known to mankind. It performed amazingly well. A Superdrive equipped Macintosh can read pc software on both 720k and 1.4m floppy disks. We loaded various application software onto the drive and gave it a shot. It ran as expected - very pc-like.

If you can't stand the heat, open those Windows!

The main feature of SoftPC for Windows is running Microsoft Windows which closely emulates the Macintosh operating environment. A simple command from DOS gets you into Windows. It was shocking to think we were running Windows and the Macintosh operating

system side by side. We did notice a performance deficit while running Windows. We have to expect this is not as evident on the higher end Quadra or a system with a fast accelerator. We did notice that SoftPC doesn't check to see if it is indeed running on an '040 class computer, probably since '040 accelerators wouldn't necessarily show up in the Gestalt call.

All this and a CD to go (and more)

An added bonus is if you have an installed CD-ROM drive, SoftPC includes a DOS extension that allows use of the drive. You then have the ability to access all sorts of information. Not a bad deal. We did notice an incompatibility with FWB's new CD-ROM Toolkit version 1.0 but Apple's current driver (4.0.2) operated fine [Note, version 1.01 of CDT works fine, but was unavailable during the original writing of this article.]

You can also set up a "network" drive which allows you to go between PC and Mac files without much fuss. This network drive is set up as a normal folder on your Macintosh drive where you can drag files in

had have them read under SoftPC, assuming you have an application that will properly access the data of such files. Without much fuss we accomplished this and more. Using Macintosh communications software we downloaded some popular pc shareware. We then placed them into the network drive folder and were able to use them on the fly.

You retain output to your printer and modem by simply configuration settings available via pull-down menus. You can hide the menu bar and vary the size of the SoftPC display in case you are jumping between SoftPC and Mac applications. SoftPC also allows your Macintosh mouse to emulate a Microsoft two button mouse. Since Macintosh mice only have one button a keystroke emulates the other button. We tested the mouse compatibility with various programs. The only program that brick walled the test team was America Online version 1.3 for the PC. After configuring the AOL software for "nothing else works" a real strange thing happened – the mouse worked fine. This may be a quirk in the

AOL software since it operates using a subset of the GEOWORKS operating system. **Our conclusion.**

In our own opinion, SoftPC is a great package for a Mac person who needs occasional access to pc type data. While Windows performance was slow, you have to remember this is all happening in software emulation. The cost savings of SoftPC verses the price of purchasing a low-end pc system is enough to make us smile. While a pc power user would be frustrated with the relative moderate performance, this is certainly a good quality alternative. As for our member who needed to access his pc data at home, he ordered SoftPC and reports it solved his problem.

MOUSE would like to extend their thanks to Insignia Solutions and Mr. Richard Mo of Allison Thomas & Associates for the assistance with this review. We'd also like to extend a big thanks to Steve Nanchy III, our business users leader and our resident "DOS-twiddler" for his help in the benchmark testing sessions. 🍏

The History of the Apple II – part 5

THE DISK II [v1.1 :: 12 Dec 91]

*Compiled and written by Steven Weyhrich
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THE DISK II

Let's put some more trash into Mr. Fusion to fuel the next leg of our trip. How about one of those KIM-1 computers over there in the corner of the Computer Faire auditorium? We might have to break it up a bit to make it fit... Okay, now we'll just make a small jump, to December of 1977. By this time the Apple II had been generally available for about six months. Most customers used their television as an inexpensive color monitor, and used a cassette recorder to store and retrieve their programs and data. Apple's major competitors were the TRS-80 and the Commodore PET. The products made by these two companies, together with Apple, could be considered as the second generation of micro-computers; they all came fully assembled and ready to use out of the box, with a keyboard and cassette interface. The TRS-80 and the PET even came with a monitors and cassette recorders. The strength of the Apple was expandability and graphics, while the strength of the others was cost (both the TRS-80 and the PET sold for around \$600, half the price of the Apple II).

By late 1977, Apple had introduced some enhancements to the II, including their first version of a floating point BASIC (called

"Applesoft") on cassette, and a printer interface card to plug into one of the slots on the motherboard. But the Apple II still needed something to make it more attractive to buyers, to stand out above the TRS-80 and the PET. One area that needed improvement was its program and data storage and retrieval system on cassette; it was a continued source of frustration for many users. The cassette system used on the TRS-80 was more sophisticated than that of the Apple II, allowing named files and easier storage of files and data on the same tape. On the Apple II it took VERY careful adjustment of the volume and tone controls on the cassette recorder to get programs or data to successfully load. The Apple cassette system also needed careful attention to the location on the tape where a program was stored, and was no more accurate than the number on the recorder's mechanical tape counter (if it had one).

Apple president Mike Markkula was one Apple II user that was dissatisfied with cassette tape storage. He had a favorite checkbook program, but it took two minutes to read in the program from the tape, and another two minutes to read in the check files.¹ Consequently, at the executive board meeting held in December 1977 he made a list of company goals. At the top of the list was "floppy disk". Although Wozniak didn't know much about how floppy disks worked, he had once looked through a manual from Shugart (a Silicon Valley disk drive manufacturer):

"As an experiment Woz had [earlier] conceived a circuit that would do much of what the Shugart manual said was needed to control a disk drive. Woz didn't know how computers actually controlled drives, but his method had seemed to him particularly simple and clever. When Markkula challenged him to put a disk drive on the Apple, he recalled that circuit and began considering its feasibility. He looked at the way other computer companies – including IBM – controlled drives. He also began to examine disk drives – particularly North Star's. After reading the North Star manual, Woz knew that his circuit would do what theirs did and more. He knew he really had a clever design."²

Other issues that Wozniak had to deal with involved a way to properly time the reading and writing of information to the disk. IBM used a complex hardware-based circuit to achieve this synchronization. Wozniak, after studying how IBM's drive worked, realized that if the data was written to the disk in a different fashion, all that circuitry was unneeded. Many floppy disks sold at that time were "hard sectored", meaning that they had a hole punched in the disk near the center ring. This hole was used by the disk drive hardware to identify what section of the disk was passing under the read/write head at any particular time. Wozniak's technique would allow the drive to do self-synchronization ("soft sectoring"), not have to deal with that little timing hole, and save on hardware.

Wozniak asked Randy Wigginton for help in writing some software to control the disk drive. During their week of Christmas vacation in 1977 they worked day and night creating a rudimentary disk operating system, working hard to get the drive ready to demonstrate at the Consumer Electronics Show in the first week of 1978. Their system was to allow entry of single letter commands to read files from fixed locations on the disk. However, even this simple system was not working when Wozniak and Wigginton left for the show.

When they got to Las Vegas they helped to set up the booth, and then returned to working on the disk drive. They stayed up all night, and by six in the morning they had a functioning demonstration disk. Randy suggested making a copy of the disk, so they would have a backup if something went wrong. They copied the disk, track by track. When they were done, they found that they had copied the blank disk on top of their working demo! By 7:30 am they had recovered the lost information and went on to display the new disk drive at the show.^{3,4}

Following the Consumer Electronics Show, Wozniak set out to complete the design of the Disk II. For two weeks, he worked late each night to make a satisfactory design. When he was finished, he found that if he moved a connector he could cut down on feedthroughs, making the board more reliable. To make that move, however, he had to start over in his design. This time it only took twenty hours.

He then saw another feedthrough that could be eliminated, and again started over on his design. "The final design was generally recognized by computer engineers as brilliant and was by engineering aesthetics beautiful. Woz later said, 'It's something you can ONLY do if you're the engineer and the PC board layout person yourself. That was an artistic layout. The board has virtually no feedthroughs.'"⁵

THE DISK II: COST

The Disk II was finally available in July 1978 with the first full version of DOS, 3.1. It had an introductory price of \$495 (including the controller card) if you ordered them before Apple had them in stock; otherwise, the price would be \$595. Even at that price, however, it was the least expensive floppy disk drive ever sold by a computer company. Early production at Apple was handled by only two people, and they produced about thirty drives a day.^{6,7}

Apple bought the drives to sell with Woz's disk controller from Shugart, right there in Silicon Valley. To cut costs, however, they decided to go to Alps Electric Company of Japan and ask them to design a less expensive clone. According to Frank Rose, in his book "West Of Eden":

"The resulting product, the Disk II, was almost obscenely profitable: For about \$140 in parts (\$80 after the shift to Alps) [not counting labor costs], Apple could package a disk drive and a disk controller in a single box that sold at retail for upwards of \$495. Better yet was the impact

the Disk II had on computer sales, for it suddenly transformed the Apple II from a gadget only hard-core hobbyists would want to something all sorts of people could use. Few outsiders realized it, but in strategic terms, Woz's invention of the disk controller was as important to the company as his invention of the computer itself."⁸

NEXT INSTALLMENT: The Apple II Plus

NOTES

- 1 Gregg Williams and Rob Moore, "The Apple Story, Part 2: More History And The Apple III", *BYTE*, Jan 1985, pp. 167-168.
- 2 Paul Freiberger and Michael Swaine, "Fire In The Valley, Part Two (Book Excerpt)", *A+ MAGAZINE*, Jan 1985, p. 45.
- 3 Williams and Moore, "Part II", p. 168.
- 4 Freiberger and Swaine, (Part Two), p. 45.
- 5 Freiberger and Swaine, (Part Two), p. 46.
- 6 "A.P.P.L.E. Co-op Celebrates A Decade of Service", *CALL-A.P.P.L.E.*, Feb 1988, pp. 12-27.
- 7 "Apple and Apple II History", *THE APPLE II GUIDE*, Fall 1990, pp. 9-16.
- 8 Frank Rose, *WEST OF EDEN: THE END OF INNOCENCE AT APPLE COMPUTER*, 1989, pp. 62.

submitted by Gregory L. Carlson 🍎

Toe Magic (part 1 of 2)

by Scott Barber

On the first Friday of December, (Apple Squires President) Margaret Comer called and asked if I'd like to go with her to see a special student at a local high school. When I asked why, she explained that the student was disabled and was working with a computer interface that allowed her to type and draw pictures with her IIGS. Her teacher recently joined Apple Squires with the idea in mind to expand the software, on a limited school budget, available to the student.

Two key words in that statement convinced me to go: "interface" and "IIGS." Even though I had made my decision, I probed on.

I asked her what made this situation special, because I've seen instructional interfaces before. That's when she told me that her interface was: her right foot. Gears began turning.

That night, I sat down trying to contem-

plate what kind of interface could access all the keys on a keyboard with only an on/off switch. To be honest, what I envisioned was exactly what I got; even though neither I, nor Margaret, nor even the student knew it when we arrived the next day.

Margaret met me at my house, and on the way to the school she briefed me on what details she did know. The girl has cerebral palsy. She is unable to speak verbally, is confined to a wheelchair, and communicates with a switch under her right foot. The switch operates her wheelchair and her built-in communicator. The school had recently purchased an interface compatible with her foot switch, and she had been hooked up for about two weeks.

When we arrived, the student was drawing a picture using Platinum Paint. Her foot switch has a long cord with a 1/4" miniature phone jack on the end. This then plugs into a device called an AFC (Adaptive Firmware Card) which translates her

switching into characters and commands for the IIGS.

The AFC is actually two different cards. Evidently, the makers of the AFC couldn't access everything they needed from just one card. Internally, the AFC takes up slot 6 and 7. The two cards are interconnected with several wires and three sets of ribbon cable. A fourth ribbon cable is run out the back of the machine to a 'remote interface.' This interface has only a connective box that has an on/off switch and two phone jacks for the student's interface. The reason the box is remote is to prevent plugging and unplugging the interface directly into the card, where damage could be done. The remote box is glued firmly to the right side of the IIGS case using foam tape.

The AFC cards allow the user extreme control over the computer. They run both internally AND externally to the computer if necessary, and then allow the user to turn power on with another click of the switch.

The AFC menu is a simple interface. Various characters of the alphabet are highlighted in groups of five for one second, then the next group, then the next until the highlight "moves" off the screen. If the switch is again pressed while the highlight is on a group, that group's characters are then highlighted one by one. When the switch is again hit, the highlighted character has been chosen, or a reserved menu will pop up in the main menu's place.

The menu can also access "joystick/mouse" mode. This menu flashes the following characters on the screen in a repeating cycle: ^ (up), > (right), V (down), < (left), C (click mouse), B (click mouse and hold), X (exit from mouse menu). With these commands, the arrow can be moved anywhere on the screen, applications can be double-clicked, access to NDA's [New Desk Accessories - under the Apple menu on graphical programs] can be made, and files, believe it or not, can be copied from icon to icon. Everything that can be done with a mouse is available to the user.

Because of the nature of this interaction, one article cannot adequately describe what has transpired with the student. In the next article, I'll go into the special software features of the AFC card, and begin describing how the student first interacted with the AFC.

P.S. - Because of the student's special handicap, word processing is still a time consuming task. *Knowing other User Groups read this newsletter, and knowing companies like Quality Computers and Apple read it too, I'm asking for help:* If someone knows of a 'word bank,' a program that allows a user to use macros to type words and phrases quickly using few keystrokes, that works with AppleWorks 3.0, AppleWorksGS, Teach, or any other commonly used word processor, I'm very interested. The student can now type seven words a minute with her interface, with the hope of around ten wpm as she gets used to the more streamlined configuration constructed for her. I've done some work with HyperStudio, but my success has been limited.

From "Worm's View" newsletter of the "Apple Squires of the Ozarks" Springfield, MO via "Neat Notes" newsletter of New England Apple Tree, 5/93

Submitted by Steve George whose minor edits are in []'s.

stgeorge@pnet51.orb.mn.org or stgeorge@pro-algonquin.cts.com 🍏

AppleWriter Quick Tip #3

by Steve George

Here's an example of the catalog generated using the information in Tip #2 published in last November's issue of this newsletter.

HYP2 (04/02/91 21:41) V005

Type	Blocks	Name	Created	Time	Modified	Time	Length
Direct	2	PNBT	04/02/91	21:46	06/06/91	23:00	1024
Direct	1	GAME	04/02/91	21:46	06/11/91	01:00	512
Direct	11	POINTS	04/23/90	11:41	05/13/91	14:01	5632
Direct	7	DRSK.ACCS	12/02/90	14:45	06/01/91	01:18	3584
System	1	FINDER.DATA	04/23/91	02:29	05/12/91	10:15	172
Direct	1	INITS	05/06/91	01:32	06/14/91	03:08	512
Direct	2	MINI	12/31/90	13:53	06/14/91	02:06	1024
System	38	UNZIP	03/17/91	22:17	03/20/91	23:28	52045
Text	723	N.ZIP	06/08/91	02:36	06/08/91	03:07	367872
Text	1860	NODELIST.151	06/08/91	03:26	06/08/91	03:27	947585
Direct	2	ZIP.STUFF	05/27/91	05:31	06/02/91	03:07	1024

1197 Blocks Available of 20480 Total

Now if all you're interested in are the names of the files or sub-directories, an easy means of stripping out the excess info is to use AppleWriter's <F>ind/replace function. But first, get rid of the last line and the first and third lines (the ones starting with HYP2 and Type), as they aren't needed and don't conform to the remainder of the catalog. When you've done this, your catalog will begin with an empty line (just a <return> character) and end with a <return> (though two or more is okay for this to work...)

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If this is a new
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Which personal computer(s) do you use?

- Apple II
- Apple III
- Apple IIe
- Apple IIc
- Apple IIc+
- Apple IIGS
- Laser
- Other _____
- "Toaster" Mac - 68000
(128, 512, Plus, SE, Classic)
- Other 68000 (Mac Portable,
PowerBook 100)
- Mac 68020 (II, LC)
- "Toaster" Mac - 68030
(SE/30, Classic II, Classic III,
Performa 200)
- Mac Iix, Ilicx
- Mac Ilsi, Ilici, Ilix, LC II,
Performa 400
- Mac Iivx, Performa 600
- PowerBook 140-180
- PowerBook Duo 180-230
- Quadra 700-950
- Centris

**What attachments or
peripherals do you use?**

- QuickDraw printer
- PostScript printer
- Modem
- Scanner/digital camera
- Drawing tablet
- Voice mail
- MIDI
- Other _____

**What are your areas of
special interest?**

- Business applications
- Household applications
- Educational applications
- Desktop publishing
- Programming
- Networking
- Games
- Other _____

- Check if you want your name
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other side)
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Disk size	eDOM #	Title or Description	Qty.	Price @	Total

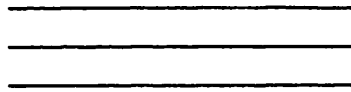
Current Apple System Software

	Version	Date	Format
Apple II, II+ IIc, IIe			
DOS 3.3 System Master	n/a	09/10/85	5.25"
Apple II System Disk	3.2	07/16/90	5.25/3.5"
ProDOS 8	1.9	07/16/90	5.25/3.5"
Apple IIGS			
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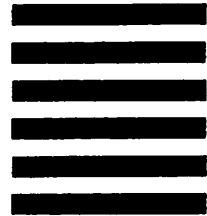
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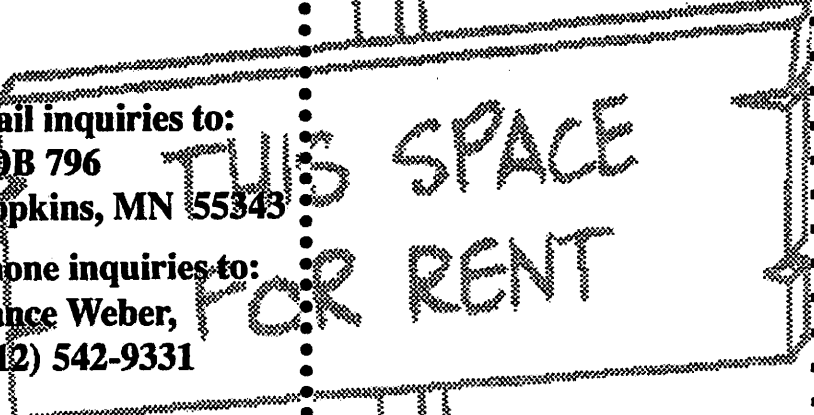
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