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Volume 21, Issue 12

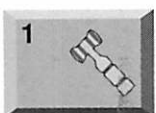


mini'app'les newsletter

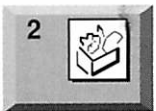
the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.

D E C E M B E R 1 9 9 8						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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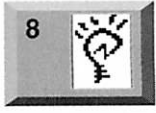
1 Board of Directors
mini'app'les members welcome.
Byerly's
7171 France Ave. S., Edina
Bruce Thompson, 612-546-1088



2 ClarisWorks SIG
Southdale Library
7001 York Ave, Edina
John Hunkins, Jr., 651-457-8949



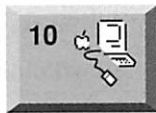
3 Telecommunications SIG
Epiphany Lutheran Church
1414 East 48th Street S, Mpls
Bert Persson, 612-861-9578



8 Newton/eMate SIG
Please call to verify location
Jennifer Hunt, 612-623-4754
jhunt@med.umn.edu



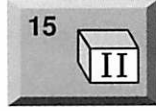
9 Microsoft Word SIG
2850 Metro Drive Rm 124, Blmgt
Tom Ostertag, D 612-951-5520 E
651-488-9979



10 Macintosh Main
Washburn Library
5244 Lyndale Avenue S., Mpls
Mac/Apple Auction
Denis Diekhoff, 612-920-2437



14 Apple II/GS Main
Augsburg Park Library,
7100 Nicollet Ave., Richfield
Tom Gates, 612-789-6981



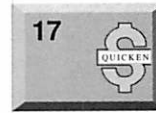
15 Apple II Novice SIG
New Brighton Fam, Service Ctr
10th Str NW & 5th Str
Tom Gates, 612-789-6981



16 Photoshop
Washburn Library
5244 Lyndale Avenue S., Mpls
Denis Diekhoff, 612-920-2437



17 Macintosh Consultants SIG
Embers
7525 Wayzata Blvd
St. Louis Park
Bob Demeules, 559-1124



17 Quicken/Investment SIG
2850 Metro Drive, Rm 124
Bloomington
Dale Strand, 612-835-5872



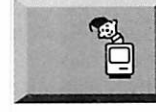
21 Fourth Dimension SIG
8200 Humbolt Ave South
2nd Flr. Conference Rm. Blmgt
David Ringsmuth, 612-853-3024



FileMaker Pro SIG
No meeting in December; see
you in January
Steve Wilmes, 651-458-1513



Macintosh Novice SIG
No meeting in December; see
you in January
Tom Lufkin, 651-698-6523



Mac Programmers SIG
Meeting Pending
Please call Gervaise Kimm for
information, 612-379-1836

Our BBS will be moving in December! It will be out of service for a time during the move. Please make copies of anything you wish to keep! BBS CONTENTS WILL NOT BE MOVED! Call the voice mail to keep up to date on the move (phone number changes etc...).

mini'app'les

The Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343

Board of Directors:

President Bruce Thompson
612-546-1088
bthompson@macconnect.com

Vice President Denis Diekhoff
612-920-2437

Secretary Jacqueline Miller
612-890-2071
jm@jmillerassociates.com

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651-426-5602

Marketing Director Brian Bantz
bdbantz@bitstream.net
612-956-9814

Publications Director John Hunkins, Sr
651-457-8949
jhunkins@tcilink.com

SIG Director Bert Persson
612-861-9578
bpersson@isd.net

Past President Eric Jacobson
651-603-9111
ej@jatex.com

Coordinators:

Membership Erik Knopp

Mac Software Bryan Lienke

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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.

Advertisers – For information, see Newsletter Ad Rates box within this issue.

Newsletter Contributions – Please send contributions directly to our Post Office, Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343 or upload them to our BBS at 612-824-4394.

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.

Editor/Publisher: Tom Ostertag 651-488-9979

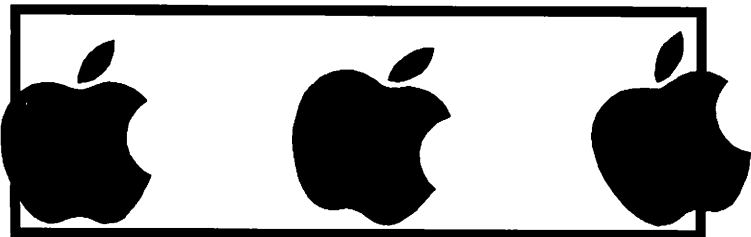
Newsletter Layout: John Hunkins

mini'app'les BBS – 612-824-4394, 24 hrs. Settings: 8 -1-0. Call in with FirstClass® Client software or any text-based terminal program.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Moving? Going to be away from home and leaving a forwarding address with the Post Office? Please send us a Change of Address when you are informing others. By using a moment of your time and a few cents to drop us a card, you save the club some money and you get your newsletter delivered promptly to your new address. If you don't inform us, the Post Office puts your newsletter in the trash (they don't forward third class mail) and charges the club for informing us of your new address. Change of Address should be sent to the club's mailing address: mini'app'les, Attn: Membership Director, Box 796, Hopkins, MN 55343.

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January 1999 Preview

Here is our tentative calendar for January 1999. Please pencil these events on your calendar. As always, when doubtful of a SIG date, time, or location, check with one of the following:

Our BBS, the Calendar Folder in the Conferences Folder
Our Voice Mail Telephone number
Cognizant SIG Leader

Tuesday	January 5	Board of Directors meeting
Wednesday	January 6	AppleWorks nce ClarisWorks SIG
Thursday	January 7	Telecom SIG
Monday	January 11	Apple II/GS Main SIG
Tuesday	January 12	Newton / eMate SIG
Wednesday	January 13	Microsoft Word SIG
Thursday	January 14	Macintosh Main SIG
Monday	January 18	Fourth Dimension SIG
Tuesday	January 19	Apple II Novice SIG
Wednesday	January 20	PhotoShop / Digital Imaging SIG
Thursday	January 21	Macintosh Consultants
Thursday	January 21	Quicken/Investing SIG
Monday	January 25	Macintosh Novice SIG
Thursday	January 28	FileMaker Pro SIG

Members Helping Members

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 or (or an e-mail) away. Please call only during the appropriate times, if you are a member, and own the software in question.

Apple II / IIGS Software & Hardware	1, 6, 9
ClarisDraw	3
ClarisWorks	2,8, 9, 10
FileMaker Pro	2
FirstClass	2
HyperCard	12
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Microsoft Excel	3, 6, 7
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QuickBooks and QuickBooks Pro	7
Mac OS 7	9
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WordPerfect	5
Classic Macs	
Cross-Platform File Transfer	6
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PowerBooks	12

1. Les Anderson	651-735-3953	DEW
2. Brian Bantz	612-956-9814	DEW
3. Mike Carlson	218-387-2257	D
4. Eric Jacobson	651-645-6264	D
5. Nick Ludwig	612-593-7410	DEW
6. Tom Ostertag	651-488-9979	EW
7. Ardie Predweshny	612-823-6713	DEW
8. Owen Strand	612-427-2828	D
9. Bruce Thompson	612-546-1088	EW
10. Pam Lienke	651-457-6026	EW
11. Tom Lufkin	651-698-6523	EW
12. Ben Stallings	612-870-4584	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.

Please call at reasonable hours, and ask if it is a convenient time for them. By the way, these volunteers can also be contacted on our BBS. We appreciate your cooperation.

If you would like to be a Members Helping Member volunteer, please send an e-mail message to John Hunkins, Sr. on our BBS, or call him at 651-457-8949, with your name, telephone number, contact hours, and the software or hardware areas you are willing to help others.

Newsletter Ad Rates

1/12 page 2.25" Width x 2.5" Height \$5	Outside back cover . 7-1/2" Width x 7-1/2" Height . . \$50
1/6 page 2.5" Width x 5" Height \$10	Inside back cover 7-1/2" Width x 10" Height . . \$60
1/3 page 2.5" Width x 10" Height Vert or 5.5 H . . \$20	
1/2 page 7.5" Width x 5" Height (save 5%) . . . \$30	
2/3 page 5" Width x 10" Height (save 7%) . . . \$40	
Full page . . . 7-1/2" Width x 10" Height (save 15%) . . \$60	

All ads must be prepaid and submitted on electronic media. Ads of \$20 and under must run for a minimum of three months.

Mail inquiries to: PO Box 796, Hopkins, MN, 55343
Phone inquiries to: John Hunkins, Sr. 651-457-8949

Mac eDOM #985 - System Enhancements

Copyright © 1998 mini'app'les
November 1998
Submitted by Bryan Lienke



FinderPop

FinderPop is a pintware control panel which extends the Mac OS 8 Finder's contextual menus. Features include: user-selectable contextual menu font/size/icon size, automagic CM popup by clicking and holding without having to press the control key, disk, folder and StuffIt™ archive navigation, and a number of optional submenus — including Processes, contents of selected folder, Finder windows, FinderPop, and Desktop. Additionally, it enhances navigation via the Standard File dialogs. "Pintware" is a system whereby users, if they want to and can afford to, can get the programmer, an Irishman, a couple of pints by "regis-

tering" it with Kagi for \$8. (See the FinderPop about box or the last page of this, err, "manual".) Note that the Pintware concept is entirely voluntary and FinderPop is neither Crippeware nor Nagware; you are more than welcome to use FinderPop without paying anything.

Startup Doubler

Startup Doubler makes for quicker startups!

Its software acceleration compensates for sub-optimal disk performance to make extensions and control panels load faster. Startup your PowerBook faster at airports (and everywhere else!), zap through all those startup icons! Save time each time you startup your Mac! Those seconds spent waiting really add up: Startup Doubler makes startups up to twice faster, depending on the performance of your startup disk and

the number of Extensions and Control Panels in your System! Startup Doubler is shareware. You may evaluate it freely for up to 15 days, then to continue using it you are expected to pay a \$20 registration fee.



Dock Manager

Dock Manager is a small application that picks up where the Appearance control panel leaves off. It allows you to completely customize every visual aspect of the Application Switcher dock bar. As well as setting scroll options that aren't available and the keyboard switching key combination. It requires system 8.5 or greater and the AppleScript extension. Dock Manager is freeware and supports contextual menus and balloon help.

mini'app'les Gaming Group (mGG) Wants You!

By David M. Peck

Intrepid mini'app'les warriors are meeting on a regular basis for fun and socializing. Our interest is networkable Mac games and are always on the lookout for others who would like to participate. Finishing a game solo might make you feel like King of the Hill. But there is nothing as challenging or fun as human competition. Plus, Winter around here seems to be a perfect time for gaming! :-)

The primary game played by the group has been Marathon which amazingly has been going strong since 1993. Newer games may have fancier graphics, but Marathon offers the best networkable multi-player environment bar none. It has the best first person shooter, arena style game play as far as I know. The maps are attractive without the high graphic's overhead that would require a separate accelerator card. There are several flavors of Marathon. The group primarily plays Marathon II, Marathon Infinity, and

some Marathon Evil. Marathon requires EtherNet and carting your computer to the host's house for the game.

Other games played have been Warcraft II, Warbirds, WWII Sky Fighters, and recently, Myth. Myth is unique in that it is one of the few on-line (greater than 2, multi-player) games that actually works well over the internet. And no carting of your computer if you don't want to. Hundreds of Myth players meet on-line at Bungie.net to slug it out. And you can create your own games with passwords, to only allow your friends in.

As a rule for networking, a PowerPC Mac is required, with System 7.5 or greater and EtherNet. Myth on-line play from home requires a minimum 28.8 bps modem connection, 16 mb ram (32 mb recommended), and a CD-Rom drive (4x recommended).

The mGG has been meeting about once a month. If your interested in networkable Mac gaming, feel

free to drop a note on the mini'app'les BBS or give me a call at (651)423-5711. We'd look forward to seeing you!

Accelerator For Sale

By Harry Lienke

Like to have your PowerMac 6100 or 7100 or Performa 61xx run faster without investing hundreds of dollars? We invested in a G3 upgrade for our Performa 6115 and now have the older acceleration system for sale. The system consists of a 256k level 2 cache card (RapidCache 256S), a variable speed accelerator (PowerBoost Mach 6), and a thermoelectric cooler. We used it to run our 60 MHz Performa at 84 MHz; it's possible your machine may run at 90 MHz or faster. PowerLogix data indicates that the performance increase of the system is at least 70%. It's yours for \$50. Pam or Harry. 651-457-6026

For Sale — 99 percent Off!

The saga of an accidental computer-recycling project

by Ben Stallings, Twin Cities Free-Net

Now, let me begin by saying that I'm no neo-Luddite. I spend 8 to 12 hours a day on the computer, telecommuting to a virtual office where I serve people I've never seen. I resent cathode-ray tubes as backward, inefficient technology that should be phased out. I've been known to take my laptop on camping trips.

That being said, I also refuse to join the rat race. I don't care that I could buy a new laptop that's 6 times faster than the one I have — I don't need a new laptop. I don't care that a 56K modem could speed up my Internet connection — 14400 b/s is good enough for what I do, and it has to be good enough for the thousands of people in the Twin Cities metro area who can't afford better.

Twin Cities Free-Net's (<http://tcfreenet.org>) goal is to build community through electronic communication for all. Since the Internet has become much more accessible and affordable in recent years — with terminals in the public libraries, monthly ISP rates as low as \$6.95 a month, and community organizations giving away free 1200 b/s terminals to all comers — the Free-Net has focused its attention on providing content, not access.

Still, before coming here I toyed with the idea of picking up a few old Macintoshes, refurbishing them, and

selling them to the public, donating the profits to the Free-Net. When another nonprofit handed me an old Mac SE, the idea became a reality. When I saw the stash of Mac SE/30s and Classic IIs at DRAGnet, a local EPA-licensed computer recycling center, it took hold with a vengeance, and I bought a dozen — keyboards, mice, hardware upgrades, and modems included. I found buyers more quickly than I could fix them up, and soon most of them were out the door for \$60 apiece or \$30 plus 5 hours' volunteer work. That's 1% of the original price: 99% off!

Then things kind of got out of hand. DRAGnet was on its way out of business, and its mountain of SEs and Classics would be trashed if someone didn't buy them. I thought maybe I could handle another 20, but before I knew it I had bought 40 computers and 48 modems. Now, we're talking 1988 technology here. The SE/30s and Classic IIs I had been dealing with before could run all the software I use on my 1994 laptop, but these ten-year-old boxes have essentially the same functionality as the original 1984 Macintosh... just more memory and disk space.

Still, they're more than adequate for word processing, painting, drawing, playing certain games, and of course accessing the Free-Net. They easily max out their 14400 b/s modems and can transfer files as well as anyone. The \$45 price tag is again

99% off their original price, and who's going to argue with a 10x speed increase over the little terminals you can get for free?

Sales have been sluggish. I have a closet full of Macintoshes, more at the office, and still more in the basement of a volunteer in the suburbs. I've had help from volunteers with testing and assembling the components, but in the end I do the quality control, not to mention one-on-one training for people who haven't had a computer before. The signs I put up in the neighborhood have attracted a number of people who cannot complete a coherent sentence. I have yet to break even, much less donate the profits.

Still, it was a good idea, and I'm confident I'll eventually get rid of the stockpile and make some money for the Free-Net. I've already helped get a number of people on-line, and it's very heartening to see the look of pride they get when they realize they own a computer and can use it to do meaningful things. If your community doesn't have a computer-recycling place that sells to the public, you might consider pulling together some volunteers and trying it, but I have a few recommendations:

1. Pick a single model of computer that's available in large quantities of identical configurations. That will save you hours and hours of time by simplifying testing, part replacement, configuration, and pricing.
2. If at all possible, start with a



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small number of units and a limited time span, so you can be quite sure of your demand and supply.

3. Find a convenient place to store and work on the computers before you buy them.

Good luck! Oh, and if you know anyone who wants an old \$45 computer, just let me know...

MacMain Christmas Auction

Wednesday, December 10, 7pm, in the Washburn Library Community Room (downstairs)

Members and friends of the Club are invited to donate Apple/Mac equipment and software for this event. The public will be invited to take part in the auction; proceeds to benefit the Club. If you have good goods to donate, please start gathering them together. Contact Denis, 612-920-2437, for more information.

Cache, Crash or Cash

What the heck is a cache?

by David K. Every, ©Copyright 1998

Cache - Pronounced like cash. (You will be ridiculed mercilessly by technophiles if you pronounce it "Ka-shay"). It means —

1. A hiding place for storing provisions. 2. A place for concealment and safekeeping. 3. Computers - A fast storage buffer.

Obviously we are most concerned with the last definition.

Computers have a few different types of caches, each serves its own purpose, but generally all forms of cache's fit the definitions. It is usually a fast pool of Memory, meant to sit between a fast device and a slower device (or bus) to speed up the transfer between the two. Not only are computer caches buffers, but they often have electronics or software support logic so that they can "think ahead".

Cache Functions

What do cache's do? Cache's serve a few different functions. Some caches are dedicated to only one function but most caches do all of the following -

Write caches are for when you have a fast device trying to send information to a slow device. Normally the fast device would have to sit and wait for the slow device to say "I'm ready for the next word". It would be like trying to hold a con-

versation with someone who had to translate each word you said with a dictionary. The cache lets you send a whole bunch of information out, and then go do something else while they translate. So the write caches often have logic or Software so that they flush themselves out (write) at the speed of the slower device automatically, so that they are empty and ready to go when you get around to using them again.

Imagine the sink in your kitchen. When you want to pour out a gallon of spoiled milk, you can dump the entire gallon into the sink, all at once, even though the drain may not be as fast as you are pouring into the sink. This is because the sink works like a cache - it is a buffer between a you and the drain. You pour into the sink - and it fills up as fast as you can put it in, and the drain will empty out at its own speed (which is a little slower). Even if you were pouring out 10 individual gallons of spoiled milk, by the time you get the next gallon and pour it into the sink, the previous gallon will have drained away (thanks to the cache and the temporary storage of the sink). If you do fill up the sink, you have to wait until it drains down enough that you can pour in the next gallon, but at least you can go do other things while you are waiting. That is basically what a write cache does.

The faster one side is (relative to the other) will help decide on how big a cache you need.

Read caches are for when you have a fast device trying to get information from a slow device. Read caches often have support logic to pre-load (prefetch) what you are going to need next. So they pre-read (slowly) all the information you are likely to need. When you ask for what is in the buffer, it can give it to you really quickly. When you've emptied the buffer, it can go and refill itself while you go on and do other things.

Imagine that same sink, but you are interested from the drains point of view. You let someone else fill the sink with water, one small glass full of water at a time. When you want the water out the bottom, you just open the drain and it comes pouring out (until the sink is empty).

Buffer caches are just a pool of what what you have already done. It remembers the last data or information, so that if you want to look at that data again (or execute that same code) it is already waiting for you. So if you go to repeat anything - it is already there (and easier to do a second or third time). Since a lot of computer programs is repetitive work, this happens more than you might guess.

Combinations - most caches are a combination of the all the above and

do some or all of those functions.

Types of Cache

L1 Cache

The processor in your machine is very fast - often running at 200 or 300mhz. Regular RAM is faster than almost anything else in your computer, but can not keep up at anywhere close to the processors speed. So CPU designers put a special sort of fast memory inside the microprocessor chip. This is L1 cache, and runs at the same speed as the processor. Space on the processor is very expensive, so they can not afford to put a lot of memory in there (probably about 1/1000th of the size of your average total memory). Since computers programs are doing a lot of looping over the same code, over and over again, instructions and data stored in this cache get executed often. Even small L1 caches can speed up a processor by a large amount. The faster the processor goes relative to main memory, and the more data you are working with, the larger the L1 cache you will want.

L2 Cache

The fast memory that is on the processor itself (L1 Cache) is small, and the L1 cache and processor is still way way faster than RAM (up to 50 times faster). When something is not in the L1 cache, and the processor has to go out to main memory, there is a stall. The CPU basically has to wait for a long time (in its time) for the RAM to give it more information, and the processor can only twiddle its anthropomorphic thumbs. So between the really fast L1 cache (and the processor), and the really slow RAM (or ROM), we put a secondary buffer - the Level-2 (or L2) buffer/cache.

This buffer is often made out of a fast, but relatively expensive memory, called Static-RAM, and is up to 10 times faster than regular (Dynamic) RAM. People can afford to put 256k or up to a megabyte or two of static RAM, but most can't afford to put 16

or 32 Meg of the stuff in their home computers.

Most of the time your Processor wants to do something, it will either be doing something it has done recently (looping) and that memory will be in the L1 cache, or it will have logic to have already prefetched the information into its L1 cache. But computers are excuting literally hundreds of millions of instructions per second. A 1 miss rate still means that it will miss over a million times each second! L1 miss rates are closer to 10-20. So the L2 cache makes a difference as well. When it misses on the L1 cache, most of the rest of the time it will get a hit in its L2 cache. So it does not matter that main memory is much slower than the processor — because what the CPU wants will already be in the faster memory called the L2 cache.

Most people that are talking about caches are referring to L2 caches. Most home computers today have these 2 stages (levels) of cache.

L3...L4... Cache

Some systems are so fast that they have more stages or levels of cache between the processor and the main memory. Each of these levels just gets the next number in the sequence (L1, L2, L3 and so on). The Exponential x704 processor is built around a design that has 3 levels of cache, as is the DEC Alpha. L3 caches are rare but not unheard of (especially as we are getting 500+ mhz computers), but for now I have not heard of any more stages beyond that. I know of no L4 caches or beyond, but with the way computers are going (faster and faster), who knows?

Drive Cache

Just like the processor is much faster than memory (RAM), the memory is much faster than the hard drive. Some designers decided to use a buffer (cache) or RAM to sit between the hard drive and the computer. When the computer writes something out, it gets put in this buffer, and then it gets written out

slowly (the drives max. speed) while other parts of the computer are free to do other things. When the computer wants to read something, it can be pre-fetched or may have been something that was done earlier, and it is already in the disks read cache.

Not only can part of the computers main memory do this, but Hardware designers also add a small amount of memory (relative to the hard drives total storage) to the hard-drives themselves. This is a hardware cache, and is the norm for almost all hard drives produced today. Unfortunately people don't differentiate well between "the drives cache using main memory" and "the hard-drives cache", other than wording it how I just did. So be really careful on this terminology. They both serve the same function but do so in different ways.

Usually when people are talking about caches are referring to L2 caches, but drive caches (in either flavor) are not uncommon, and are discussed often enough to cause confusion.

CD-ROM Cache

Hard Drives are lightning fast compared to many CD-ROM's. So some smart engineers have decided to use either hard-drives or RAM or BOTH (in a multi-stage cache scheme) to speed up the CD-ROM's. They work just like a drive cache, and store the data temporarily in either the hard-drive or RAM, until the computer gets around to reading. Remember, CD-ROM's are READ-ONLY, so there is no such thing as a write cache for a CD-ROM. (There are CD-devices that you can write to, but they are not called CD-ROM's — usually they have a name like CD-R or PD-CD or Optical Drives, etc.).

There are also read-ahead buffers (caches) built into CD-ROM's, just like hard drives. These too are CD-ROM caches.

Network and Serial Buffers

Notice I did not say cache's. A Network and other serial ports are much slower than RAM or

Processors, so engineers have buffers for reading and writing to. A buffer is a type of cache. Yet for some inexplicable reason - network buffers (or serial buffers) are almost never called caches. Go figure!

Conclusion

So a cache can be put between any two devices that run at different speeds. The cache exists on the faster

device, and takes a small amount of that faster devices space to simulate a fast version of the slower device. Sometimes this is hardware, often it is software. Sometimes caches are used just as a pool to store, usually they have some logic of their own so that they can flush themselves out or prefetch what you need next.

Thanks to caches, our computers

and most of the sub-components work much faster than they would otherwise. Like a squirrel has a cache of nuts and you can have a cache of cash — computers have a lot of different types of caches, but the most confusing part of caches (for users) is keeping the names straight.

<http://www.MacKiDo.com/Hardware/Cache.html>

Say Hello to iPort

submitted by Bruce Thompson
Jason Litchford or Don Stratton, (615)
255-0990 iport@griffintechnology.com -
www.griffintechnology.com
Griffin Technology, Inc.
For Immediate Release

Nashville, TN — November 2, 1998 — Griffin Technology, Inc. today announced the iPort universal serial and video adapter for iMacs. Until now users of the upcoming iMac systems were restricted to the included 15 inch internal display and no serial ports. The iMate opens an entire world of standard serial devices to iMac users including printers, Midi devices, modems, lab equipment, serial input tablets, and digital cameras. "You will now be able use any Mac compatible serial peripheral with your iMac", says Paul Griffin, CEO of Griffin Technology Corporation. In addition to a serial port the iPort offers stan-

dard video out that supports all Mac and PC displays. Video resolution can go as high as 1600x1200 and mirroring is supported in standard iMac video modes.

At MSRP of \$70.00, Griffin Technology's iPort adapter will offer a great solution for all iMac computer users. The adapter is fully compliant with all Apple and third party serial devices and Mac and PC displays. It is also Geoport compatible. It should also offer localtalk support in future software upgrades. The iMate is slated to ship in mid November.

Apple has made a strategic and revolutionary change in the computer industry with the iMac by being the first to only support USB input devices. The iPort will ease the transition period to USB by offering a large number of compatibility options immediately for users.

Since 1992, Griffin Technology has been an innovator of exciting hardware and software products for the Mac market. Griffin currently manufactures numerous innovative video and audio adapters for the Mac. They also maintain the world's largest database of monitor specifications at www.nashville.net/~griffin/monitor.html.

For Dealer and OEM pricing, Griffin Technology Corporation can be reached at (615) 255-0990 or by fax at (615) 255-8040. For more information check out the website at www.griffintechnology.com.

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Spectrum Internet Suite

Submitted by Greg Buchner

Now you can access the World Wide Web directly from your Apple IIGS!

Using Spectrum 2.1 and its XCMD/XDisplay technology, Seven Hills Software has developed the Spectrum Internet Suite - a combination of XCMDs, XDisplays and scripts designed to put you on the World Wide Web, right from your Apple IIGS - all without the need for GNO/ME, TCP/IP, or other programs!

All you need is Spectrum 2.1, Spectrum Internet Suite, and a UNIX

shell account or a Genie account!

Building on the power and strength of Spectrum and its associated plug-in XCMDs and Displays, Spectrum Internet Suite combines an XDisplay with a new XCMD and powerful Spectrum scripting to provide a one-stop solution for accessing the Internet.

What is an XDisplay? This is simply a plug-in Spectrum Online Display that not only behaves as a display, but also behaves like an XCMD responding to Spectrum script commands. The Web Browser XDisplay is a custom display that

can display standard text as well as display HTML tagged text. The XCMD side of the Browser display has a host of special functions that support the display and Internet access.

The Window Manager XCMD, which was first previewed at KansasFest '96, is central to the Spectrum Internet Suite. It controls the display of many support windows used by the browser script. It can also be used in its own right as an XCMD by any Spectrum script.

The Spectrum Internet Suite scripts are a powerful set of scripts

that will allow you to manage your Internet environment, send email (including multiple recipients and CCs), but primarily will allow you to surf the Web on your IIGS.

Features include:

Navigation

- Optional Toolbar for quick access for frequently used commands
- Proxy server support
- Progress bar reports processing status
- Bookmark facility for visting favorite sites
- Perform Basic Authentication security
- History list maintained to return to a visited page in the same session
- Browse files on local/network disks as well as the web
- Type in URLs without the need of http://
- Automatic URL completion for standard www. and .com addresses (type "apple" and it will load "http://www.apple.com/")

Web Page Generation

- Supports the latest HTML 3.2 standards
 - "Netscape Navigator Client Pull" Dynamic Updating
- Frame cells are accessed by links (like Lynx 2.6)
- Exclusive Spectrum specific HTML tags: play Apple IIGS sound effects like this: , speech like this: , and built-in icons like this: from a web page! (the computer viewing the page must be running Spectrum Internet Suite and have appropriate sounds and speech software installed for these tags to work)
- Color text
- Multiple fonts and styles
- Emedded IMG tag translation
- Anchors and <base href=...> tags

Other Features

- Display HTML source code
- Save HTML source code to disk
- Save formatted web page to disk or

system clipboard - you can even use it for HTML to Teach conversion!

- Print web page contents or HTML source code to any Print Manager supported printer
- Using a UNIX shell account allows sending (only) of Email via Spectrum Internet Suite (email does not work from Genie because of proprietary mail routines used by Genie)

Click on a thumbnail below to see a full sized screenshot of Spectrum Internet Suite in action:
Or click here to see the same screen in both Spectrum Internet Suite and Netscape Navigator for the Mac.

You can also click here to see the same comparison screen displayed with a more detailed analysis.

Still want more information?
Click here for the manual!

System requirements:

- Spectrum v2.1
- A modem with correctly wired hardware handshaking cable
- A Genie account or a dial-up Unix shell account from your Internet Service Provider (no files are placed on the shell system you are using, so no filespace is needed)
- An Apple IIGS running System 6.0.1 with 4Mb of RAM
- An accelerator and hard disk are highly recommended

Spectrum v2.1, running with its full complement of XCMDs and the Spectrum Internet Suite, requires at least 4Mb of memory to browse the Web. A great deal of processing also needs to be done to build an HTML display, so an accelerator is virtually a must. It is also advisable to run Spectrum from a hard disk for speed and maximum storage capacity.

Retail price \$25.00

Working from places around the globe, and virtually around the clock because of it, here's the team that put together the Spectrum Internet Suite:

- Dave Hecker, Seven Hills Software (Florida) for his team leadership

and contributions to scripting.

- Tim Buccheim (California), for his inspiration on how to accomplish this task without using TCP/IP.
- Ewen Wannop (England), for his programming skills in writing Spectrum, the various XCMDs and XDisplays, and for numerous suggestions and other contributions.
- Geoff Weiss (Maryland), who, because of his knowledge of Internet technicalities, had the challenging task of writing, debugging, and leading the development of the scripts which produced an extremely powerful Spectrum Internet Suite.
- Richard Bennett (Australia) for his contributions and suggestions on the communications side of things.
- Ken Lucke (Oregon) for graphical support, web page design, scripting tips, and alpha & beta testing.

Thanks go out to our entire Beta Test Team: Cindy Adams, Tim Buccheim, MaxJones, Tim Kellers, David Kerwood, Joe Kohn, and Greg Nelson.

Searching for Apple II information on the World Wide Web is easy - just click here to be taken to a page where we have listed some of the SIS Team's favorite sites. You can also do a search through most of the major search engines directly from this page.

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SpellTools 1.3.3

Review: Newer Technology's Freeware
by Frank Petrie
copyright 1998 Frank Petrie

Whatsa matter, Bunky? You say you've got a separate spell checker for each and every one of your applications? And you're constantly updating each and every dictionary separately? And wouldn't it be fantastic if you had one single spell checker that would work with all of your applications? Is that what's bothering you, Bunky?

Well, your worries are at an end. In the great computer-user tradition of demanding something for nothing, I give you SpellTools, freeware from Newer Technology (the people who bring you GURU and high-quality upgrade cards). SpellTools provides "seamless integration of spell checking and other text tools into existing Macintosh applications."

All of SpellTools functions are controlled from a floating palette, which can be oriented either vertically or horizontally. Another plus is that you can place your floating palette in a different location for each separate application you use it in. So, if one position is good for your e-mail program, but not so good for your browser, no problem. Place it where it best suits your work habits in each application and SpellTools will remember its location everytime.

SpellTools comes packaged with a wide assortment of plug-ins for many existing applications. But what

if you have a program that isn't mainstream? Nothing to it. Simply drag the desired application icon on to the SpellTools icon and SpellTools automatically creates a plug-in for the desired application. That's it. (Pull up the dialog in a second window while you're reading this one.)

Let's look at each button individually:

Spell Tool

This is the main function of the program. Simply highlight the text that you wish to check and click on this button. It comes with a user-definable dictionary which can be manipulated through keyboard shortcuts. Also, there's a field in the SpellTool window that highlights the offending word in its context. Very nice.

Speech

Highlight the desired text and, as long as you have the Speech Manager extension installed, you can have your selected text read back to you.

Stamps

A very useful and customizable feature. Besides the usual date and time stamps, you can create custom stamps with ease. You can make new stamps from a text selection or build them from scratch. Very handy for salutations and closing lines that you use repeatedly in business correspondence (I use it with my e-mail client

constantly).

Text Tools

An array of useful options such as word counting, uppercasing and lowercasing of text, stripping or adding ">"s in e-mails, and stripping lead spaces (not as extensive as the shareware program textSOAP, but handy all the same, and Hey!...it's free!).

Preferences

Shortcut to SpellTools prefs file. Allows you another way to edit your stamps, your plug-ins, and your user-dictionary among other things.

In spite of its ease of use, SpellTools comes with a brilliant hands-on tutorial that walks you through each function of the software. Within no more than three minutes any newbie will have mastered this program.

If FinderPop is the greatest free-ware utility of all-time (and make no mistake about it, it is), then SpellTools is a very close second. I can think of no reason that this shouldn't have a permanent place in your bag of tricks.

Oh, and did I mention that it's free?

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Originally written by Frank Petrie, SJAUG Board Member, for the Southern Jersey Apple User Group Newsletter. He's also a member of MUGSNJ, the Macintosh Users Group of Southern New Jersey, and a contributing writer for ATPM (About This Particular Macintosh). phranky@jersey.net

Hands-on an iMac peripheral: Epson Stylus Color 740

by Dennis Sellers,
dsellers@maccentral.com
October 24, 1998, 11:00 am ET

The Epson Stylus Color 740 is the iMac inkjet of choice in Apple's "Small Business, big Ideas" symposium that's touring the country. And for most [Image] small businesses, it is indeed a fine choice. The 740 incorporates Epson's PerfectPicture Imaging System, a blend of features

that give you Micro Piezo inkjet technology and smooth AcuPhoto Halftoning. Micro Piezo technology supposedly produces the smallest ever ink droplets. Epson says this means 1440 dpi printed color images that are "noticeably richer, deeper and finely detailed" and black text that's "laser sharp."

I pitted the 740 against Hewlett Packard's DeskJet 697C in printing a

file with millions of colors. I used premium inkjet paper in both printing jobs. To my eyes, the HP printer printed a slightly more vivid image, but the 740 beat it hands down in terms of speed.

The speed and quality of the 740 doesn't come cheap in terms of memory, however. The printer driver uses the free portion of your Mac's system memory as its working mem-

ory with the available memory displayed as the "Largest Unused Block" in the About This Mac dialog box. The memory requirements for printing a letter size full-page color image are 5MB minimum for foreground printing (12MB recommended) and 10MB for background printing (21MB recommended). If you use background printing with less than 21MB of memory, printing may be sloooooowwwwww.

You'll also need 10MB of hard disk space for the driver files, and additional free space for printing. The size of the required free space depends on the print job. As a rule of thumb, it's about the double the document file size.

What I liked

The 740 gives you several printing options. "Finest Detail" gives sharper edges in text, solid graphics, and line art, but also increases your Mac memory requirements. (If you're printing at Photo-1440 dpi, Finest Detail is automatically turned on; this improves print quality but reduces the print speed). "Custom Watermark" lets you save PICT files as watermarks. Images in other formats can be used as watermarks because QuickTime (2.1 and higher) automatically converts them to PICT

files.

The flexibility of the 740 is much appreciated. It has built-in serial, parallel, and USB interfaces so you can connect your printer to a Mac or a PC. You can even connect all three at once; the printer automatically switches between interfaces as it receives print data.

I also really liked the Epson Monitor3 utility. If you enable background printing, the Monitor3, lets you manage print jobs with a variety of general, layout, prepress and separations options. And you can handle a wide range of paper sizes.

The Stylus Color 740 comes with Adobe PhotoDeluxe 2.0 and Broderbund's The Print Shop PressWriter, as well as lots of clip art files. All in all, it's a good bargain for a street price of around US \$280.

What I didn't like

My copy of the 740 didn't come with a USB cable. (Of course, I had an evaluation unit so that may explain it; still, better make sure you've got a cable if you buy a 740.) Epson suggested I use a standard USB cable. However, I decided to be adventurous and instead see what happened if I plugged the 740 into the iMac with ? brace yourself ? HP's parallel-to-USB conversion cable. My

740 didn't blow up. In fact, the combo worked just fine.

Since the iMac comes with only 32MB of RAM standard and you need 21MB for dependable background printing, Virtual Memory is needed. However, when VM is turned on, the 740 driver takes a long time to send print jobs to the spooler. You can turn VM off, of course, but then you have to be careful not to use up your entire available RAM.

There are some glitches with programs such as Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Aldus SuperPaint, Adobe Photoshop 2.0 and earlier, WordPerfect 3.0, PixelPaint Pro 2.0, and Speed Doubler. We don't have space to look at all the problems here. But the snafus - and workarounds - for them are well documented in the README on the installation disk. Be sure and read it.

Epson is renowned for their fine inkjet printers. The Epson Stylus Color 740 will only continue this reputation. If you want spiffy color printing at a reasonable price, either the 740 or Hewlett Packard's 697C will serve you well.

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UMAX Astra 1200U scanner

Hands-on with an iMac peripheral: UMAX Astra 1200U scanner

by Dennis Sellers,
dsellers@maccentral.com
October 28, 1998, 5:10 pm ET

The Astra 1220U is touted by UMAX as "the easy-to-use USB color scanner for home and office." Okay, let's see. Easy to use: check. USB: check. Color scanner: check. Suitable for home and office use: check

All well and good. But what I really like about the scanner is its value. The 1220U package comes with four applications and a darn nice scanner for a street price of around US \$149.

It provides single-pass, 36-bit color output quality by using

UMAX's patented Bit Enhancement Technology or B.E.T. You can scan up to letter size (8.5 x 11.7-inch documents) at a hardware resolution of 600x1200 dpi (dots per inch); 9600x9600 dpi is the maximum output resolution.

B.E.T. lets the 1220U capture over 68 billion colors and 4,096 shades of gray. My scanning of both text and graphics backed up UMAX's assertion that you'll get sharp details in the highlight and shadows, and finer details in the brightest and darkest points.

Like all USB devices, the scanner is extremely easy to install. And since USB devices are "hot swappable" you can plug it in without

powering down your iMac. The accompanying CD also lets you "batch install" the VistaScan drivers and applications, if you wish. It's a nice time saver.

The 1220 runs quietly and unobtrusively. It's light yet feels sturdy. And its details are well thought-out. The lid covers the entire scanning surface to prevent excessive light from leaking in if you're scanning an extra large document. Also, there's about a quarter-inch of extra width space around a standard page, a convenience when dealing with slightly oversized documents.

If you should run into problems, UMAX has extended support hours (including Saturdays) as well as tech-

nical assistance that's available from the UMAX Web site.

The 1220U comes with a sweet bundle of software. Adobe PhotoDeluxe's extremely user-friendly interface lets you create calendars or cards, touch up photos, create screen savers, or change backgrounds. For example, it will walk you step by step through things like removing red eye and improving your photo's quality.

Presto! PageManager is a desktop management system. Scan pictures and images into PageManager and you can then drag and drop 'em into other applications to be emailed, faxed, copied, edited or printed. You can also annotate/stamp your files as approved, draft, received or rejected. (VistaScan is the scanner software application that lets you scan from

another software application such as PageManager.)

Presto! PhotoAlbum lets you create a digital photo album, then add sound or music. You can create your album using included templates or design your own with the Custom feature. (My one complaint, oddly enough, about PhotoAlbum is that I had trouble finding the Quit command once I was through with the application.)

Caere Omnipage LE (Limited Edition) OCR converts paper documents into computer-editable documents with better than, according to UMAX, 99 accuracy. I didn't see 99 accuracy; maybe 95, but for most of us, that's fine.

Presto! ImageFolio is a cataloging and image editing application. UMAX Copy Utility, a handy little

program, turns your printer into a copier by allowing you to scan documents and photos, then send them directly to a printer.

System requirements are an iMac (or other USB-equipped Mac), Mac OS 8.1 or later, 16 MB RAM minimum, 170MB available hard disk space, and a CD-ROM drive.

If you regularly need to scan documents bigger than letter size, the 1220U won't fit your bill. If you rarely need to scan documents bigger than letter size, I don't know of a more impressive scanner-software bundle at the 1220U's dirt cheap price tag.

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Hands-on with MacLinkPlus Deluxe: translate this!

by Dennis Sellers,
dsellers@maccentral.com
October 8, 1998, 5:00 a.m. ET

I hadn't planned on MacLinkPlus Deluxe being my next "hands-on" subject, but someone e-mailed me a Windows file I couldn't open in any of my applications. So this seemed like a fortuitous time to test-drive DataViz's popular file translator program. If you want a short, sweet mini-review, here it is: I installed MacLinkPlus Deluxe 10 in a couple of minutes, rebooted and opened the troublesome file immediately. It also successfully opened some other iffy files, including a questionable email attachment.

That pretty well sums up how well MacLinkPlus Deluxe works. But for those who'd like a few more details, read on.

The ability to open practically any type of Windows and Mac file is useful. Add to that the ability to translate one type of file to another — such as, say, a WordPerfect for Windows file into a ClarisWorks or Office 98 file — is invaluable. I won't list 'em all here, but MacLinkPlus Deluxe can juggle over 21 types of

word processing files, over a dozen spreadsheets and databases, and 17 graphics formats.

The ability to convert files between different word processors, spreadsheets, databases and graphics formats, that's icing on the cake. MacLinkPlus doesn't just translate the files in some plain vanilla form; it preserves things like formatting and embedded graphics. You can add files to the application for viewing or translating in a variety of ways, including a Control-click option made possible by Mac OS 8's contextual menus.

Not only does MacLinkPlus Deluxe translate text files — including "unreadable" email attachments — it can open them in its own window for your viewing pleasure. In fact, it not only displays text files, but also graphics files.

Still not enough? Okay. MacLinkPlus Deluxe can decompress and decode Compact Pro, MacBinary, Gzip, Stuffit, TAR, Z, Zip, Binhex, MIME and uuEncode files simply by double-clicking on them. Or you can peruse the contents of archive before you decide whether to

proceed.

I haven't run across it, but some MacLinkPlus users have run across problems with Microsoft Office 98 and Easy Open. In these cases, double clicking a Word 98 or Excel 98 document makes Easy Open jump in and ask MacLinkPlus to perform a translation.

DataViz says the problem is due to having multiple copies of Office on different drives, including partitions on the same drive. If you run across the problem, there are solutions and workarounds, all of which are documented in a ReadMe file.

The only glitch I ran across was that, sometimes, I had difficulty getting graphics files to appear in MacLinkPlus Deluxe's View window. For some reason, I occasionally had to click the View option once or twice to get the files to appear.

Finally, of course, MacLinkPlus Deluxe doesn't support EVERY file in existence so you may run across something that can't be easily opened or translated. The application manual offers several suggestions for dealing with such situations.

System requirements are a Mac IICI or later, Mac OS 7.1 (or later) for 68k Macs and Mac OS 7.1.2 for Power Macs, 8 MB of RAM, 20 MB of hard disk space, Mac OS 8.0 and a Power Mac for accessing contextual menu features, and QuickTime for viewing GIF and JPEG files. Doing an install of MacLinkPlus Deluxe over an older version of MacLinkPlus can take up to 24MB of free disk space. A full installation and all its parts needs around 22MB of disk space

(plus additional space if and when any temporary files are created).

There are not a lot of utilities on my "must-have" list, but, in this cross-platform world, MacLinkPlus Deluxe has joined the chosen few essential items.

For more information, visit www.dataviz.com.
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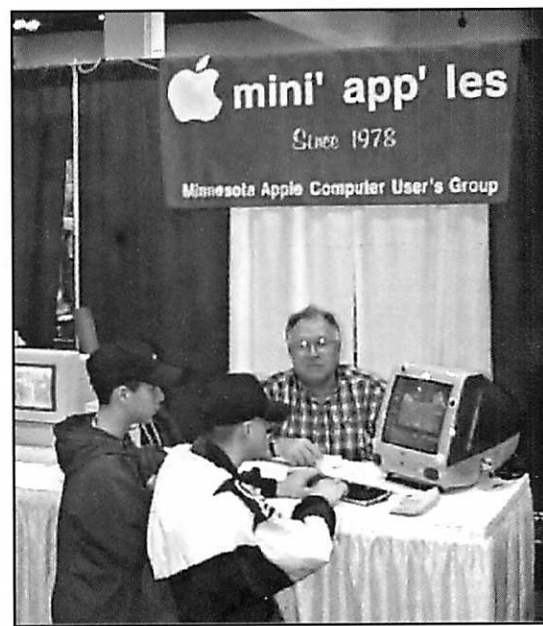
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Hamfest: Thank You!

By Denis A. Diekhoff

What a presence mini'app'les had at the Hamfest. There was an unending crowd around the table to look at the iMac that Brian Bantz was able to borrow from his granddaughter Noell. There was also an Apple IIGS, and they both ran from Owen Aaland's battery powered inverter. Bert Persson put it all together, and even brought an additional 100# of

batteries as backup. Tom Ostertag took advantage of the weather to bicycle to the event to help people the booth. Many others from the Club helped out and lots of literature was passed out. It was a great show, thanks to all! Here are a couple pictures of the booth (we had to ask people to move back for the shot, it was a zoo).



Hands-on an iMac Peripheral: Imation's SuperDisk

by Dennis Sellers
fdsellers@maccentral.com
October 17, 1998, 10:30 a.m. ET

If you need removable media for your iMac, your only choice at pre-

sent is the Imation USB SuperDisk. And it fills the job adequately despite one major problem.

In case you haven't heard, the SuperDisk drive reads traditional

(1.44 MB and 720 KB) floppies and a new 3.5-inch diskette that holds 120MB of data. The SuperDisk technology was developed by Imation, Compaq, Panasonic and O.R.

Technology as a replacement for the 1.44 diskette drive. Even though the SuperDisk diskette has over 83 times the current capacity of a standard 1.44MB diskette, it looks and feels like a regular floppy.

The SuperDisk for the iMac, however, is as sharp looking as Apple's new consumer machine. It has the same color scheme and is aesthetically pleasing. It's also a cinch to install and use. And it offers all the benefits of USB devices, such as hot swappability.

As with a floppy drive, the SuperDisk won't set any speed records. Just for comparison's sake, I pitted a Zip disk against a SuperDisk when copying a 41MB (Quicken Deluxe) file. Using the stopwatch on my Timex, these are the results:

Once I inserted the Zip disk (on my G3/300), it took 6-7 seconds for its icon to appear onscreen. Once I began the copying process, it took 2 minutes, 11 seconds to copy the 41MB file.

Once I inserted the SuperDisk into my iMac, it took 9-10 seconds for its icon to appear onscreen. Once I began the copying process, it took five minutes, 5 seconds, to copy the 41MB file.

As you can see, the SuperDisk was much slower than the Zip disks. And Zip disks ain't exactly known for their cheetah speed either.

Unfortunately, there's one very annoying problem that will probably affect many iMac users. As reported on iMacInTouch, multiple-floppy installers fail with the Imation drive on the iMac because they can't eject the first floppy. If you've got a favorite application that comes on multiple floppies, that's a major headache. iMacInTouch has also reported that Connectix's Virtual PC won't recognize the Imation floppy.

On the bright side, I had no trouble with other problems about which I'd heard. There were reports that the iMac would freeze if you tried to copy a 20MB or larger file to a

SuperDisk. As I mentioned, I copied a 41MB file with no crashes or freezes.

I'd also read that the SuperDisk wouldn't recognize "unwriteable" floppy disks with installation programs on them. Again, I had no problem when I tried this with, among other apps, RAMDoubler.

If you can live with these glitches and need a good-looking, US \$150 bridge between your floppy collection and the iMac, the SuperDisk is worth your consideration. And with 91 of survey respondents saying they would prefer a disk drive that can use both their existing floppies and high-capacity diskettes, this may be a consideration on many iMac users' minds. (Just so you'll know: Caravan Opinion Research Corporation International conducted the telephone survey for Imation.)

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Ongoing Deals for mini'app'les Members

The following businesses have agreed to provide ongoing discounts to members of mini'app'les. Please identify yourself as a member of mini'app'les to qualify for these discounts. For questions related to these discount offers, please contact Tom Gates, 612-789-1713 evenings and weekends, or e-mail on our BBS.

Power Protection Products

Surge Protection strips, Battery backups, line conditioners, etc. Contact Keith Kalenda at Business Security Products, 612-789-1190. 1/3 off APC SurgeArrest line of products 25% off APC BackUPS, SmartUPS and related products.

CartridgeCare, Inc.

CartridgeCare, Inc. of Roseville is offering Mini'app'les members an additional \$5.00 off the cost of laser printer cartridges. They handle supplies for, and do repair work on equipment from a number of manufacturers. For example: Apple,

Canon, HP, IBM, Epson, Sharp, Brother, Panasonic, Okidata, Minolta, to name a few. They also provide free next-day delivery and core pickup in the metro area.

For additional information about the user group discount and other services, contact Michael Gigot at 651-331-7757.

Peachpit Press

Peachpit Press offers mini'app'les members a 40 percent discount on their books. Our contact person for Peachpit is Keary Olson, he can be contacted at SIG meetings, on our BBS or his home phone, 612-724-0031. Peachpit books may also be ordered on our BBS; go to 'Conferences', 'Special Offers', 'Peachpit Books'. From time to time, Keary will have Peachpit catalogs at SIG meetings. You may also check Peachpit's web page at <http://www.peachpit.com/> for current and soon to be released books.

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receive the 40 percent discount, Peachpit requires a minimum number of books be ordered. Therefore, please allow sufficient time. Minnesota sales tax and a \$ 0.50 shipping charge will be applied to each book ordered.

Macmillan Computer Publishing

MacMillan Computer Publishing offers mini'app'les member a 30 percent discount on their family of books (Hayden, Adobe Press, Que, Sams, Brady, NRP, and Alpha). MacMillan books may be ordered by calling an 800 number. Use the mini'app'les account number, 10782880, when ordering. Minnesota sales tax and a s/h charge will be added.

MacMillan's web page is at <http://mcp.com/>. MacMillan Publishing produces frequent listings of new titles that have been added to their catalog. Mini'app'les will attempt to have these available on the BBS in addition to the catalogs.

Benefits of your mini'app'les membership include:

A one year subscription to our monthly Newsletter

A free account on the mini'app'les BBS (45 minutes/day)

Communicate with other mini'app'les members plus get up to date information on mini'app'les events and meetings. Get assistance from other members. Download freeware and shareware.

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Just a few of the many items given away free in the last year included: Connectix QuickCam, Microsoft Encarta, Books from Peachpit Press and MacMillan, RamDoubler, SpeedDoubler, Lind PowerBook battery Conditioners and Rechargers, Microsoft Art Gallery, and Apple System 7.5 software.

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