AUGUST MEETING INFORMATION

The meeting is scheduled for August 20th, 1987, with a starting time of 7:00 p.m.. The meeting will be held on the Chemeketa Community College campus, in Building 2, Room 112.

We will have a question and answer session; so, bring your solutions, problems and programs to the meeting. We hope we can help one another.

CORPORATE BUSINESS

September will be the starting of our busy time of the year. We have had the summer to relax, vacation and forget about the workings of the user group. Well that is coming to an end, as next month we will be nominating people for the elected positions within the corporation. You can nominate someone at the September 17th meeting or the nomination may be submitted and postmarked, through the U.S. Mail, by September 30th, 1987. If you mail the nomination, send it to:

Harry Haley, Secretary
Willamette Apple Connection, Inc.
P.O. Box 7252
Salem, OR 97303-0053

We will let the members see the membership roster at the August regular meeting, so you may refresh your memory of the current members of the user group. We will also need three volunteers to serve as "Election Tellers" the first week in November. These voulnteers will have to be members which are not on the ballot.

To be eligible to VOTE or hold office, a person MUST be in "good standing", which means having your dues paid as of September 2nd.

FCC to Effect Telecommunications

In a Notice of Proposed Rule Making released July 17, 1987, the Federal Communications Commission recommended that companies using local telephone exchanges to provide interstate access to "enhanced services" be assessed an access charge. These "enhanced service providers" include companies such as CompuServe, GEnie and all other services that provide computer-based communications, information retrieval and network services.

Such companies would be charged as much as $5 an hour each time one of their customers used a local telephone exchange to access an interstate data communications network. The new rate structure would take effect January 1, 1988.

The FCC had "exempted" enhanced service providers from this charge because of concerns that an access fee would increase operating costs too sharply and threaten their economic viability. Now, according to the FCC proposal, that "exemption" is no longer appropriate -- these companies must pay more of the cost of providing local telephone exchange services.

The deadline for filing comments on this proposal is September 24, 1987. Send copies of comments to your Congressional Representative and:

Senator Daniel Inouye
Chairman, Senate Subcommittee on Communications
SH-227 Hart Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Ed Markey
Chairman, House Telecommunications Subcommittee
B-331 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Also send individual letters to:

Mr. Dennis Patrick, Chairman;
James H. Quello, Commissioner;
Patricia Diaz Dennis, Commissioner;
and Mimi Dawson, Commissioner

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

MEETINGS

The Regular Membership Meeting is held on the third Thursday of the month, with a start time of 7:00 p.m.. The meeting is held on the Chemeketa Community College campus, in Building 2, Room 112. The general public is invited to attend.

WAC JOURNAL

The journal is published monthly. Authors should submit their copy via MODEM to the Salem Public Library BBS (Apple SIG), or mail a diskette with the article written in ASCII text file form, AppleWorks or AppleWriter files by the 7th of the month. Hard copy should be mailed by the last day of the month preceding the publishing month.

DISCLAIMER

The Willamette Apple Connection, Inc. discourages the unlawful duplication of copyrighted software and other materials; and encourages prompt payment for "shareware" which members keep and use. Persons who do not adhere to these guidelines bear sole responsibility for their actions.

Desk Accessories for the Apple IIgs

by Bill Harkins, Southern Maine Apple Users Group

Those lucky ones out there that have an Apple IIgs to explore have a whole new world open to them in desk accessories. Previously limited primarily to Macintosh users, desk accessories are now available in a variety of flavors to IIgs users. However, it can be confusing because of the bewildering array of "families" or types of desk accessories available. We hope to shed some light on this situation in this article.

Desk accessories are programs, usually small, that the user can invoke to perform some immediate task when some larger program is running. When the desk accessory is finished, the interrupted program can continue. Most desk accessories on the GS (as opposed to the Mac) are loaded from disk and reside in RAM full time.

First of all there have been some "desk accessories" previously available to Apple II users. The Pinpoint and Jeeves people have had several types of accessories that could be called up from within AppleWorks. StyleWare has offered some accessories with its Multiscribe package. And various "desktop" simulations such as MouseDesk, have offered a few accessories of their own. There have also been Ampersand (&) packages that can be installed under ProDOS to be called up when you have BASIC.SYSTEM up and running. The problem with all of these is that until the GS was released, none of them had Apple's official blessing and hardware support. Therefore, they had very little applicability outside of the proprietary software they were designed to work with.

This has all changed now with the GS. Apple has "officially" supported, with the release of the GS system software, not just one but THREE different types of desk accessories!

First and least significant is the the desktop software which Apple has released with the GS system disk. The desktop is basically a remake of Mouse Desk from VersionSoft previously sold by the now defunct International Software. It is not clear that Apple plans to support this product in the long run; most of the rumor mills indicate that this may be a temporary solution that Apple made use of for expediency in getting the GS on the market with mouse-compatible software. (For those who don't have a GS yet, the Desktop is the GS equivalent of the Macintosh Finder). The Desktop does support some desk accessories, however. The system is shipped with 5 Desktop desk accessories: date, puzzle, calculator, show text file, and sort directory. The first two are fairly useless while the last 3 offer some utility. The main problem is that they are usable ONLY from the desktop and nowhere else. They all are stored in the /SYSTEM.DISK/DESKTOP/DESK.ACC/ subdirectory and have a file type of $F1. And there does not seem to be any support officially or in the public domain world for creating more of these.

Much more useful are what are known as Classic Desk Accessories or CDA's (nope, I have no idea where the name came from or what makes them "classic"). These desk accessories are stored in the /SYSTEM.DISK/SYSTEM/DESK.ACCS/ subdirectory and have a file type of $B9 or CDA. These accessories are loaded at ProDOS 16 boot time into memory. So the more you load in, the longer the boot time and the more system memory is gobbled up. These desk accessories are accessed by the combination keypress of the Apple, Control, and Escape keys together. One of the very nice things about these desk accessories is that the menu is accessible from any Apple II application that does not disable interrupts. Even older applications will allow these to work. I am writing this with AppleWriter II which allows me full access to my whole list of accessories. There are two accessories which are built into the ROM (read only memory) chips of the GS. Those are the control panel, which gives you access to all the display and system parameters of the GS, and Alternate Display Mode, which makes the GS compatible with standard Apple II programs that create animated displays by rapid alternation or flipping of the two Low-Res graphics or text pages. There are beginning to a number of very interesting CDA's created both commercially and in the public domain. Glen Bredon, a well-known Apple II assembly language expert, has created at least a half-dozen useful little gems such as Notepad, Calendar, Dumpit, Typeit and so on.

You can get these from public domain libraries such as our own and major networks and Apple supporting BBS's (Bulletin Board Systems). To install them in your system, simply copy them into the subdirectory SYSTEM/DESK.ACCS/ of your startup disk. Then reboot your system and they will then be automatically be found and loaded into your system. You may have up to 13 desk accessories in addition to the two already in ROM. And with Glen Bredon's Master CDA you can have sublists of them to get hundreds.

The final type of desk accessory may hold the most promise for the future. They are the New Desk Accessories or NDA's. These have a lot in common with CDA's. They are stored in the same place as CDA's and loaded at the same time. They are available only from ProDOS 16 applications which use the FIXAPPLEMENU call to put them on an "Apple" menu item similar to Macintosh DA's. Some applications do this and some don't. For example, Multiscribe, GraphWriter, and PaintWorks Plus all support them but Music Studio does not. So if these utilities are important to you, make sure that your new applications support NDA's. There seems to be some support happening for these, but not as much as for CDA's. Some available ones include clock, locater (shows mouse position) and Meltdown (which gradually simulates a "melting" of your display picture. Nothing to get too excited about yet, but hopeful for the future. One of the advantages of this approach (NDA's) over the CDA's is that the desk accessories work in windows within a desktop and mouse environment and you could even have several active at a time. The CDA's on the other hand do not normally operate in a window but rather interrupt the running of the application and take full control of the GS during their operation and is normally not mouse driven.

The promising thing about NDA's is that they indicate Apple's future direction for the GS. Soon, hopefully we will have a true desktop/finder type of program that runs under native 16-bit mode on the GS with all kinds of New Desk Accessories to choose from. Stay tuned there will be lots more ahead.

References:
"Technical Introduction to the Apple IIgs" from Addison-Wesley Publishing Co., Inc.
"Apple IIgs Technical Reference" by Michael Fischer from Osborne McGraw-Hill Inc.

Government-Approved Washington Apples

If you're wondering what Apple® computers are doing in government, the answer is plenty! From the local town hall to the Pentagon, more and more Apple computers are being recruited for public service than ever before. In fact, Apple users across the country are putting their machines to work in all levels of government – from state and local all the way up to the federal level. And, according to what they say, they haven't reached the tip of the iceberg.

To date, Apple's biggest involvement with government has been through public education contracts – an area of shining success for Apple since 1978. But today, a new campaign is underway to broaden its support to other areas of government. With last year's opening of Apple's new Government Sales and Marketing office in the Washington, D.C. area, and this year's introduction of the new Macintosh™ computers aimed primarily at large corporate and government users, Apple is prepared to meet the government's needs head-on. According to John Sculley, Apple CEO, "One of our biggest commitments today is to serve the government market."

Here's a quick snapshot of just how Apple is serving the government, and how User Groups tie in to the picture.

Reaching out to Uncle Sam

Because the government is the nation's biggest business, it's not surprising that its needs are in many ways similar to those of large corporations – the difference often is simply a matter of size. No one publishes more than the federal government, for example, so obviously, desktop publishing is a major area targeted by Apple. Already, about 200 Macintosh computers are at work in the Pentagon alone, producing newsletters and other internal documents, reports Jim Fitch, cofounder of the Pentagon Macintosh Users Group. The Los Angeles Sheriff Reserves on the county level and the Long Beach City Council on the municipal level are just two other examples of groups using Macintosh desktop publishing systems to reach their constituencies.

But unlike some large corporations, the government has to accomplish more with less. It does not have the luxury of writing off equipment investments that no longer meet new industry standards. That's why communication among its existing minis, micros, and mainframes is a key issue when it comes to purchasing new systems. Many federal agencies request proposals that specify compatibility with the UNIX® operating system or connectivity with their existing MS-DOS® microcomputers and mainframes. Although Frank Sauer, manager of Apple's Government Sales and Marketing group, commented that "people are more interested in solutions than operating systems," the new Macintosh computers in particular are breaking the communication barrier.

And also unlike many private corporations, the government has a more pressing need for specialized applications. Besides the standard word processing, spreadsheet, graphics, and database office applications, many government agencies are looking for specific programs in the areas of advanced simulations, engineering, logistics modeling, thought processing, and many others. With the help of third-party vendors, such as system integrators like Falcon MicroSystems, Apple is committed to providing customized solutions to meet the special requirements of government.

One case in point is the C.A.M.E.O. program developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for use in public safety. C.A.M.E.O. (which stands for Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations) is currently being used by the Seattle Fire Department. Other programs, such as Map Graphics that digitizes the topology of an area, are helping firefighters and law enforcement officers with strategic planning and coordinating efforts in an emergency. According to Mike Agron, an Apple account executive for state and local government, there's even a program that draws composite sketches of suspects! As he remarked, "In high-stress jobs like these, you need low-stress applications to run on low-stress machines. The Macintosh provides the perfect solution."

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> In no small way, Apple users and User Groups within government are rallying to support Apple's efforts.

Apple is prepared to meet the government's needs head-on.

And predictably, Apple also offers government a solution to the high cost of training its personnel – a real challenge for the nation's biggest employer. In fact, the government has the highest expenditures for training of any other business. This situation suggests that the ease of use and minimal training requirements of Apple products is a key to greater productivity. A study conducted at the army training and documentation group at Fort Benning, Georgia, found that it takes approximately 20 minutes for a user to learn to use a Macintosh. Compare that with the 2 hours it takes to learn an IBM® PC, or the 20 to 40 hours it takes to learn most other computers, and the savings in training time (and tax dollars) begin to add up quickly.

But even with the right technology and the solutions to meet the government's needs, just reaching Uncle Sam is a tall order all by itself. To that end, Apple has deployed a network of account executives in the field, as well as consultants and other government-experienced personnel to help identify opportunities at all levels of government. Apple's new Reston, Virginia Government Sales office alone includes a staff of 50 professionals dedicated exclusively to serving the government market. And, in no small way, Apple users and User Groups within government are rallying to support Apple's efforts.

User Group Tie-in

Before Apple ever formally targeted the government market, a grass roots movement was already taking place. According to Don Kirkwood, Apple consultant in Washington, D.C., some of the first Apple products that appeared in government offices were brought there by the people who owned them – people who had bought Apples as personal computers and found a need for

them in the workplace. It may be these same people who call Apple executives with advance notice when the government is planning to buy microcomputers. People call us on the phone or write letters saying there's some procurement going on and they'd really like Apple to go after it.

And wherever the action is, you'll find User Groups leading the way. Today, Apple User Groups are springing up everywhere within government agencies – a dozen so far this year – and they're helping spread the good news about Apple technology. "User Groups have taken a proactive stance in helping us identify what's going on in government," Don Kirkwood said. "They share information about the needs of their particular department or agency and provide us with the contacts we need." Don, who works closely with Apple's Government Sales and Marketing group, praises User Groups as a valuable resource in identifying new opportunities for Apple in government.

And so does Apple's Mike Agron. As he puts it, "Apple User Groups are a microcosm of the overall enthusiasm that is permeating government." He points out that User Groups are a focused network, and there are lots of champions within government – from people in the field to high-level executives – who recognize the advantage of Apple technology.

We at Apple applaud our User Group "heroes" in government. Those of you in local User Groups like Mac-Nexus in Sacramento and in agency-specific groups like the Pentagon Macintosh User Group and Mac Star in the Los Angeles Sheriffs' Department have helped Apple look its best. Thanks to you, we're getting the government seal of approval across the U.S.
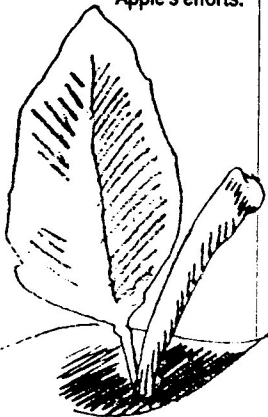
So stay tuned to Quick Connect. We'll be providing more information on our government groups in future issues.

Apple Computers as Public Servants

Apple computers are now actively on duty on desks around the country doing all sorts of government work – from scheduling municipal garbage pickups to monitoring experiments aboard the Space Shuttle. Here's just a sampling of some of the creative ways Apple products are being used by personnel at all levels of government.

The U.S. Coast Guard enlists Macintosh computers to chart investigations, map waterways, analyze harbor traffic, and track hazardous materials, as well as handle reports, budgets, records, and personnel assignments.

Some FBI offices and many police departments rely on Apple computers for detective work. The computers chart complex case information for everything from small crimes to homicides to international smuggling operations.

The Arizona Department of Transportation employs Macintosh computers to monitor airport operations, access airplane registration and owner information, and help with facilities management – all of which earned Arizona national recognition for this innovative state aviation program.

A Florida state legislator uses his Macintosh to track bills through the legislative process of the House of Representatives.

Public libraries use Apples to assist with book ordering, recordkeeping, inventory processing, and interlibrary communications.

The city manager of Dayton, Ohio, updates employees with a monthly newspaper published on his Macintosh desktop publishing system.

The Parks and Recreation Department of Little Rock, Arkansas, used Apple IIe computers to help create 44
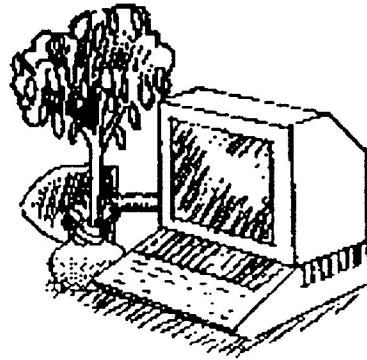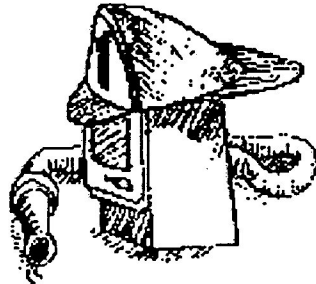
city parks by managing work order programs, inventories, and the day-to-day operations over the last ten years.

Grand Canyon Airport keeps track of its daily operations with Macintosh computers. Plans are currently underway for a Macintosh-run airport control system to manage every facet of the facility, including airport layout and pavement conditions.

City police and firefighters in Modesto, California have mapped the community, targeted hazards, charted investigations, and planned fast, effective emergency services with the help of Macintosh computers. The computers also aid with fire prevention tactics, arson investigations, forensic analysis, vehicle and equipment maintenance recordkeeping, water pollution monitoring, and the tracking and identification of offenders.

Nationwide Computer Learning Month Set for October

An exhibition of computer-inspired activities, a time capsule to be opened in 2001, national contests, and "back-to-school" nights for parents are among the activities planned to celebrate Computer Learning Month, October, 1987.

Co-sponsored by Apple and organized by leaders in the computer and education fields, the national nonprofit campaign will encourage students, educators, parents, and community leaders to explore the potential of computers as learning tools.

Celebration activities planned for Computer Learning Month include national student and teacher contests.

Students are invited to submit computer-generated art, noncomputer art on computer themes, essays, and open-ended creative group projects. Teachers are invited to submit innovative lesson plans that use computers to enhance learning. Prizes for winning entries include computer systems donated by Apple and software packages donated by leading software publishers. Deadline for entry is October 22, 1987.

Look for the User Group role in Computer Learning Month in the next issue of Quick Connect. And, for more information on contests, prizes, and activities, contact:
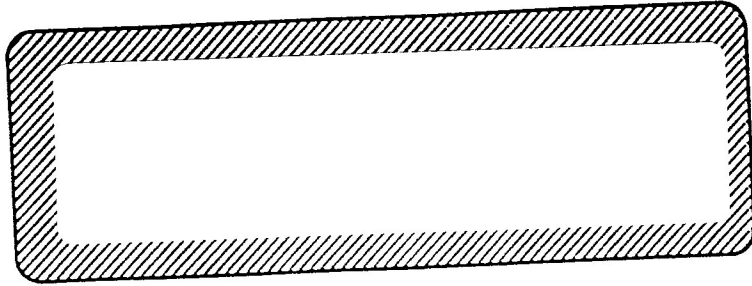
Computer Learning Month
P.O. Box 19763
Washington, D.C. 20036-0763

COMPUTER LEARNING MONTH

OCTOBER '87