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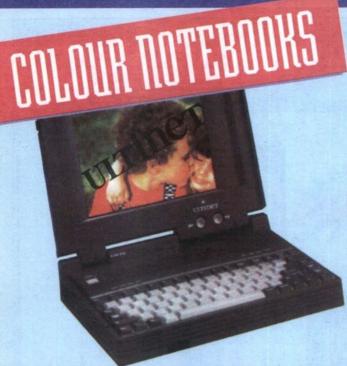
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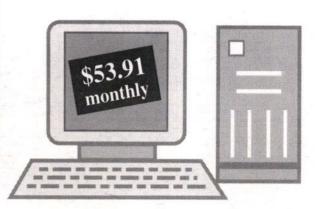


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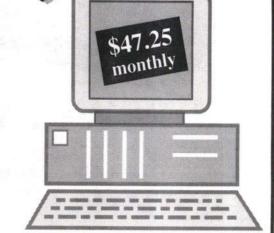
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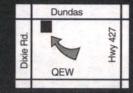
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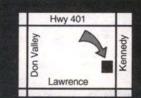
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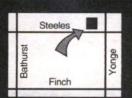




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From



f microprocessors (chips) are analogous to the brains of a computer, then the operating system is like the mother tongue. Productive work is done on top of the operating system—you add the applications programs (spreadsheets, wordprocessers and the

Mother tongues in the past few centuries were spread through the imperialism of the mother country. Just as English can't be said to be the "best" language, MS-DOS is certainly not the "best" operating system; however, through circumstance and good marketing, it has become the leader. MS-DOS and Windows have become pervasive, running on the lion's share of the world's estimated 80 million personal computers. Most of the computers that run MS-DOS also employ Intel chips for their brains.

Challenge to Intel and Microsoft

Intel (which makes the chips that run the majority of the world's computers) and Microsoft (which makes the best-selling operating system) are both being challenged for market dominance. The two big contenders for new microprocessors are the PowerPC from IBM/Apple/Motorola, and DEC's Alpha chip running NT. Both will offer upwardly mobile architectures that will no doubt challenge Intel's pricing structure.

Hot New DEC Alpha Chip

This month I had an opportunity to have a look at some of the new systems recently announced by Digital Equipment Corporation based on its new DEC Alpha AXP chip series. These chips are available now. They run about double the speed of the Intel Pentium (586) chip, are scheduled to run Windows NT within a month of the NT launch for Intel chips and start in pricing around \$7,000—very impressive systems and speed. The interesting thing about these systems, especially for corporate networks, CAD workstation users, desktop publishers, people who do 3-D rendering, etc., is that they are just the bottom-end of a series of systems that go up vastly in performance from where the Intel line stops. Of course you pay big bucks for the higher-end systems, but for many the price of one of these systems is cheap compared to the high-priced talent required to run them. If they can buy a workstation that runs at these speeds, and get twice the work done without hiring more staff, then they can quickly justify the purchase.

CISC vs RISC

Older style CISC (Complex Instruction Set Computer) chip design seems to be hitting the wall in terms of speed and a longer development cycle. Even Intel has recognized this and has incorporated many RISC (Reduced Instruction Set Computer) concepts into its Pentium chip. The other factor in this slowdown seems to be the efforts taken to maintain backward compatibility with older designs. RISC chip makers can start from scratch in their designs whereas Intel and Motorola have labored to ensure that software designed for the entire line continues to run on their newer model chips.

Speed and Compatibility

Performance will be a key issue in how these new operating systems and chips work together. Moving applications programs from one chip architecture to another is a non-trivial activity. In the short run, if software vendors try to "fake it" with emulations, they will penalize the users with lacklustre performance. Anyone who has seen PC emulations on the Macintosh or experienced hassles trying to run enhanced-mode applications under the Windows NT beta, will agree that speed, compatibility and driver support are all major issues. How fast these things get worked out will be a major factor in which ones succeed and which ones will fail.

Classic DOS

While Joe and Jane Average computer user may not need the power of these systems immediately, they can be cost-justified in many situations. If you wish your computer were five times faster than the one you have, you may be a candidate. Most of the new operating systems are fairly demanding of all aspects of your computer system. To run them, you will probably need more RAM, a larger hard disk, a faster processor and more patience while the bugs are ironed out. Ultimately, these systems will become the lowest common denominator for new machines being purchased, just as last year's high-end 486 has become this year's minimum purchase. Which operating system and chips will dominate is unclear, although dislodging Microsoft and Intel from the lead will be no easy task. In many ways, the DOS/Intel combo has become like Classic Rock. It is everywhere, it is the standard and like it or not, it is hard to avoid.

Enjoy the issue.

2 Affleton Publisher/Editor

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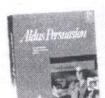


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Mailbox

Really mad

I read your paper every month but your May '93 issue really got me mad.

When you compared the different operating systems, your source for the Macintosh System 7.1 was wrong in many areas. First, your cover. You mentioned Windows NT, 0S/2 2.1, and DOS 6.0. I can understand why. They're operating systems for PCs. But really! You mentioned UNIX and AmigaDOS and left out the Mac's System 7.1! The leading computer vendor of

Then, on your chart, (pg.13), you made System 7.1 look very poor compared to Windows and the other systems because there were so many errors. System 7.1 can find files in the background. I even tried it to make sure! There is no limit to how many fonts can be in the System suitcase, and a third-party product is not needed. Also, there are other types of menus besides drag-down, like tear-off and pop-up. The system font can be changed in the menus using third-party products, including shareware. There is a language with System 7.1 HyperTalk. I know it's not as advanced as 'C,' but it is powerful and easy to use. Rebuilding the desktop (option+shift) can destroy some viruses. System 7.1 also comes bundled with At Ease, HyperCard and OuickTime!

Next time, you should receive your facts about the Mac environment from Apple, Apple Canada or two other sources and compare them. How soon we forget that in 1992 Apple sold more computers than any other computer company, (including IBM). System 7, I'm sure, was a big part of that!

Tony Vlismas Toronto, ON

Graeme Bennett replies: System 7 can find files in the background, eh? Okay, well try this. Select "all at once" in the Find options dialog, then choose a word or letter that is common to many files. Start the Find operation, then switch to a word processor (say, Microsoft Word). Now, how many words can you type per minute before the Find operation is done? None? One? I thought so. That's how many I got before I made that statement.

I disagree with you on the number of suitcases System 7 can support. Check your facts. I did. I also disagree with you on your claim that the HyperTalk "language" is bundled with System 7.1. Apple doesn't ship a programmable version of HyperCard with Macs anymore; just a run-time play-only version. For this reason, I opted not to classify the "tear-off menus" in HyperCard as "System software." I could only find "pop-up lists" inside modal dialog boxes. Doesn't that make them part of a dialog box, and not menus?

I bought a System 7.1 upgrade, and it did not come with At Ease. You are referring to a bundle deal. That is not "part of the operating system." You are correct about changing the menu font using third party products. One such shareware product is Greg's Buttons. Also, please accept my apologies about leaving Macs off the cover this time. If it's any consolation, we left Atari off, too. While your comment about destroying viruses is true, surely that can't qualify as "virus control". After all, reformatting your hard disk is "virus control."

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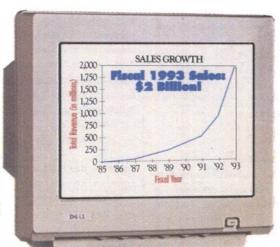
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Survey was conducted by Reliability Ratings, Needham, MA. The data is quoted from a publicly available 40-page report. Reliability Ratings, the research company, is not affiliated with Dell Computer Corporation and does not endorse its products. Survey responses are not specific to Dell Dimension products.



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Letters to the Editor

Continued from page 6

Re: Comparing Operating Systems

I was browsing the May '93 issue of your paper and found what must be a mistake.

Your article "Comparing Operating Systems" on page 13, under the row designated "Type of Multitasking", states that Windows NT (tm) is a "preemptive" operating system.

In fact, Windows NT is a preemtive, multi-threaded operating system, just as 0S/2 is. This is an important feature of an operating system and can affect people's decision whether or not to use a particular system.

I feel this omission hurts the credibility of Windows NT and I wanted to express my views in this area.

Timothy D.A. Cox TDAC Software Inc. Toronto, ON

Graeme Bennett Replies: Right you are. I knew that Windows NT is multithreaded, but accidentally omitted it from the chart. Oops. Of course, technically, it is not "wrong" to state that NT's multitasking is preemptive, it's just that it looks as though it is not multithreaded when compared to the others.

Very informative

I read your newspaper occasionally and enjoy it very much. This month's edition was very informative to me. In this issue, Graeme Bennett wrote an article called "Comparing Operating Systems." As a person who just purchased a computer, I wanted to know what type of operating system would be best suited for my computer. I also have another computer that is currently running on MS-DOS 6.0 and Windows 3.1. These programs run fine on my new computer (which is a 486DX-33), but I feel that these operating environments do not begin to utilize the potential of my comput-

With help from the article ("Comparing Operating Systems"), I have been able to find two environments that I am interested in running. These two environments are Windows NT and NeXTStep. I would like to know if you can send me some more detailed information on these two environments (such as Hardware Requirements and Suggested Hardware Configurations). I would greatly appreciate any information you can send on these environments. Also, I would like to know if you could supply me a beta version of the operating systems, or where I can get a copy to test.

Khalid Eidoo Mississauga, ON

Graeme Bennett Replies: We'll continue to report on these and other operating systems.

Contact Microsoft and NeXT for hardware requirements.

Best side-by-side comparison

The operating system chart featured in the May issue of *The Computer Paper* was the best side-by-side comparison of operating system features I have seen yet. I'm sure many professionals will wonder what possessed you to end off with, "The Amiga makes a good choice for a home computer."

Of course it does. Compared to the hassles of MS-DOS based systems, the Amiga should be first on most home-owners' lists.

However, this ignores the contributions that Amiga users have made to pushing forwared the state-of-the-art in video, multimedia and 3D animation. Not the kinds of things you do with a "home-computer." Still in 1993, other brands are fooling people into buying systems that fall short of what the Amiga was capable of in 1985, 1990 and far from what it is capable of today.

Comparing AmigaDOS to UNIX was a bit misleading too true, it features powers close to UNIX in some respects but it is far less complicated than UNIX's legendary hieroglyphics. A more accurate statement might be that it takes the best of MS-DOS and Macintosh environments and takes off from there.

Incidentally, since Windows NT is still not available at your local dealer, I might as well add that AmigaDOS 3.1 should be out by summer featuring a host of new features including built-in networking and Digital Signal Processor support. If you want to see where personal computing is going, start by looking where the Amiga is at.

Zolton Hunt Beeton, ON

Graeme Bennett Replies: But, but ... an Amiga does make a fine home computer. After all, the home is where most of us listen to and/or play music, and watch and/or record videos, animations, etc. That sounds like an Amiga would fit in there, don't you think?

I continue to maintain AmigaDOS has more in common with Unix than it does with MS-DOS or Macintosh. That's a compliment.



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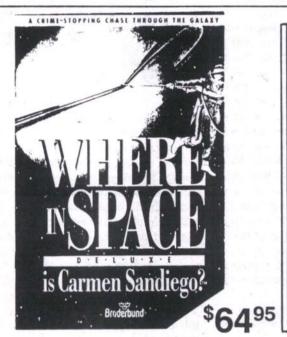
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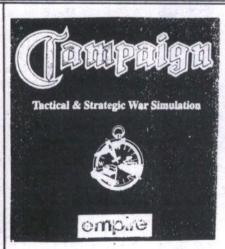


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what's new

Teckn-O-Laser moving to fill recycling gap

Laser printers, as we know them, were designed for simplicity. Since the retail cost often dips to under \$1,000, manufacturers have to have foolproof mechanisms to minimize service calls. They achieve this by putting the "guts" of the laser in a disposable cartridge. This makes service simple, since most of the breakable or wear-outable parts are replaced whenever you replace the toner. This has its downside in that it generates a lot of waste. The development of laser toner cartridge recyclers is a move to eliminate this waste. Last year, according to Teckn-O-Laser VP Richard Cook, disposed laser cartridges added eight million pounds of non-biodegradable plastic and metal waste to landfill sites. By 1995, the company expects to keep that much out of landfill sites through the use of re-manufactured laser printer cartridges. To encourage the reuse of cartridges, Teckn-O-Laser is donating \$1 per cartridge to the United Way.

Teckn-O-Laser has recently moved its Toronto office to 850 Magnetic Drive, Downsview, Ontario.

Contact: Teckn-O-Laser (416) 663-8494.

Service Bureau brings high-end imaging tools to Joe **Photographer**



Digital imaging has had a big impact on the world of photography, but many of the fancy tools for image editing are out of reach

of mere mortals because of high-priced hardware and software. Toronto Image Works, a downtown darkroom rental facility and custom photo lab, is expanding its services to include computer workstation rentals, scanning, output services and educational workshops. The workstations are based on Macintosh Quadra 800s, with a minimum of 40 megabytes of RAM, along with 1 gigabyte hard drives loaded with Photoshop, Illustrator, QuarkXPress and a variety of other graphics software. Throw in a 4,000 dpi Leaf scanner, a high-res film recorder and Canon color laser printer, and photographers and artists will get a powerful set of tools with which to edit their images.

Contact: Toronto Image Works Ltd., 80 Spadina Ave., Ste 207, Toronto (416) 363-1999.

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Launch of Lexmark Printers



TORONTO —
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— has produced a series
of new laser
printers
aimed at
firms needing
high-volume

printers for their LAN network.

The 4039 series all print at 600 dots per inch resolution, and depending on the model, can print from 10 to 16 pages per minute. The printers utilize Print Quality Enhancement Technology (PQET) to provide sharp text and graphics, and come with 39 Type 1 scalable fonts. They have built-in PostScript and PCL5 compatibility, and come with SmartSwitch, a function that automatically detects which format is used in a document. The new Lexmark printers also incorporate a patented technology designed to ensure that envelopes are not creased when printed.

Lexmark also provides some useful options for their new printers. These include a duplexing attachment that simply snaps-on to the printer and a card that allows different systems (like Macintoshes and PCs) to share the printer. Lexmark also provides an upgrade path for these printers to expand their capabilities and meet future demands. They are rugged machines rated to print up to 75,000 pages a month.

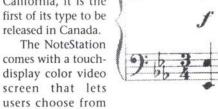
The suggested retail prices range from C\$2,425 for the 4039-10R to \$4,950 for the 4039-16L.

Contact: Lexmark Canada 1-800-663-7662.

Debut of NoteStation

TORONTO — Long and McQuade, a well-known music shop in Toronto, has unveiled the NoteStation, an interactive

kiosk that can print sheet music on demand. Developed by Music Writer, Inc. of Los Gatos, California, it is the first of its type to be released in Canada



thousands of available titles. After choosing a selection, customers can listen to the music, see the score and even change the key in which the music is written.

When finished, the NoteStation can either print the sheet music or download the information in a general MIDI format onto a 3.5" computer disc. The cost for a typical print-out is \$4.95, or \$14.95 for the disc option.

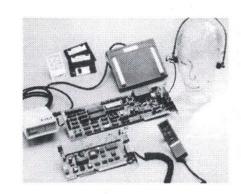
Contact: Long & McQuade: (416) 588-7886.

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what's new

Toronto Freenet goes public

BY ALLAN EARLE

The Toronto Freenet Steering Committee held its first public meeting last month with more than 150 people attending. The keynote speaker was David Sutherland, founder of the Capital City FreeNet in Ottawa, which became operational just two months ago and already receives 15,000 weekly calls from 3,500 registered users on 35 incoming phone lines with about 100 new members logging on daily.

Anyone with a computer and modem can access this network to peruse its databases, retrieve and send unlimited amounts of information throughout the region, across the country and around the worldfree. "We keep hearing we're in the information age," said Sutherland. "These (networks) are the windows that will allow it to come into people's lives."

The Toronto Freenet will provide similar services and "will likely have the world's largest Freenet because we will be the largest city to have one," according to Jud Newell, (founder of Canada Remote Systems - Canada's largest electronic bulletin board system) one of six Toronto Freenet founding members.

There are currently 13 Freenets world-

wide, including two in Canada. The first one was started in Cleveland Ohio in 1986 by Case Western Reserve University, offering direct citizen access to the governor of Ohio, and providing services like "Doc in the Box," at "St. Silicon's Hospital." It now monitors more than 350 subjects (including arts, education, government, health, law and recreation) for 30,000 registered users, (about 3,000 of them university students). Its 90-plus telephone lines handle 6,500 calls a day.

"The key component to making Freenets work are the volunteers and public involvement," said Laine Ruus, another founding member who is also the University of Toronto Data Librarian and teaches online-research courses. "We're hoping to get Toronto representatives involved from diverse interests groups like the disabled, ethnic minorities, the arts community environmental groups etc."

Those wishing to chip in should attend the next general meeting, May 26, 7-9 p.m., Rodgers Auditorium, at Ryerson University, 80 Gould St.

Contact: Allan Earle (416) 597-6947.

Turn your company logos into a font

MacKenzie Tarris, a BC-based company is launching a new software product called LogoFont. The package includes a range of characters such as recycling logos, wheelchair access symbols and credit card sym-



bols. In addition, the type font is customized for the purchaser to include their individual company logo, signatures and any other commonly used graphic element

they require. The company claims that users will see a number of benefits from this approach to clip-art management, including quick access to frequently used graphics, clearer on-screen representation, faster

print times and smaller documents. The quality of print output and the appearance of computer-generated faxes is also improved. Logos can be added from supplied PostScript files or generated from artwork. The cost of the font with one logo added starts at C\$88.92 including shipping and taxes. The resulting font can be supplied on either PC or Macintosh in TrueType or PostScript font formats.

Contact: MacKenzie Tarris (604) 945-9090.

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what's new

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MISSISSAUGA - AST Canada Inc. has entered the pen computing market with the launch of its new PenExec pen/notebook computer, which incorporates hybrid design that gives users the choice of working with a pen or a built-in keyboard. The monochrome VGA screen can be used as a flat writing tablet, or it can be flipped away from the body of the machine to reveal a keyboard.



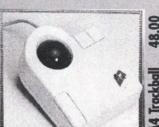
It weighs only 5 1/2 pounds and comes pre-installed with MS-DOS 6.0, Windows 3.1 and Windows for Pen Computing. It is based on an Intel 386SL 25MHz chip, has a PCMCIA slot, and AST claims a battery life of up to three hours.

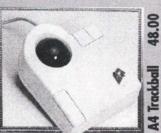
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Hewlett-Packard introduces HP LaserJet 4L

MISSISSAUGA - Hewlett-Packard has introduced the HP 4L, a new 300-dot-per-inch, four page-per-minute laserJet printer aimed at single users and home businesses. It occupies a small space on the desktop, and weighs only 7kg.

It comes standard with one megabyte of memory Memory Enhancement technology (MEt), a process that accommodates graphics-intensive printing. Built-in are 26 scalable typefaces, and all software drivers are included in the package.

The HP 4L comes with a unique powersaving function. It has no on/off switch, but remains idle until it is required to print something. Its idle state uses only five watts, as opposed to the 50 watts typical of other machines. The printer's "Economode" format lets users save on toner - HP officials claim it can cut toner usage in half.

Using the Bi-tronic parallel interface permits the PC and the printer to communicate with each other, and allow printer functions to be controlled directly from the computer.

The suggested list price for the HP 4L is

Contact: Hewlett Packard 1-800-387-3867.

Microsoft launches new multimedia encyclopedia

MISSISSAUGA - Microsoft Canada is now shipping Encarta, a new multimedia encyclopedia on CD-ROM disc. The disc contains articles, illustrations, sounds and pictures in a multimedia format, and it is arranged to provide users with an easy and logical way to look up information.

Encarta offers more than 25,000 articles on such subjects as history, arts, science, technology and geography. It provides more than seven hours of audio, including nature sounds, historical speeches and music. Encarta also contains more than 7,000 photographs, 100 animations clips, and 800 color maps.

In addition to being an extensive reference source, Encarta provides tools to aid its users, such as a built-in word processor with dictionary, and electronic bookmarks to note areas of interest.

The suggested list price for Encarta is C\$529.95. It will be offered at \$224.95 to students and teachers.

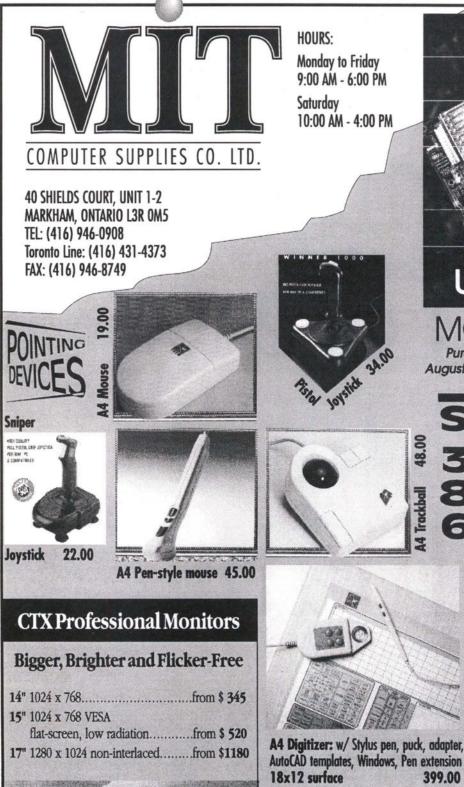
Contact: Microsoft Canada 1-800-563-9048.

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Involcing System (BU 127) Invoicing system with user access to a database of client and product information.

MUSIC

Planoman 3.2 (MU 101) Turn your computer keyboard into a piano keyboard - Play music through your standard computer.

Music Library System (MU 105) Great music database for cataloguing tapes, records, and CD's. Great organization. Blaster Musician (MU 111) Create sounds for the Sound blaster. Input through Staff, keyboard, or a synthesizer.

Music Transcription (MU 113) A music editor which allows you to input your favorite songs for the computer to play back or print out as SHEET MUSIC. Supports sound blaster.

Space Ace Demo (MU 131) Fantastic Sound and graphic demo that requires a Sound blaster card. VGA or SVGA. You won't believe the effects, Absolutely spectacular!

GAMES

NInja Master (GA 199) With your sword, throwing stars and knives, you enter into the fortress of AKUMA to do battle! Avoid the Noid (GA 206) Fantastic gamell Jump climb and summersault in order to deliver your pizza on time. Fantastic and hilarious graphics. You'll love this game.

Family Feud (GA 207) The classic game from television

Jeopardy (GA 208) Make it to double Jeopardyl Just like TV. Star trek (GA 309) You are the captain of the enterprise through space and protect your crew with phasers, photor torpedoes and shields. Two versions, GREAT game.

VGA GAMES

SUPER VGA GAME- Moraff's Entrap (HG 102) HIGHLY RECOMMENDED- Supports all monitors up to 1024 X 768 the killer robots throughout the various levels. FANTASTIC Mario Brothers (HG 103) Fantastic version of the popular arcade game. Just like the nintendo game. (VGA Req.) Prince of Destiny (HG 104) Fantastic arcade action game similar to GOLDEN AXE. EGA/VGA and sound card support. SUPER VGA GAME- Moraff's Blast (HG 105) One of the only super VGA game available, fantastic resolution and great fun

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flying kicks are Louie's arsenal. VGA
Bridge (HG 148) Lets you save and replay bridge hands, Bidding
and comments can also be replayed VGA
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klingons and Romulins- EXCELLENT GRAPHICSII
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market. This is Fantasticil A MUSTII

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for the magic ANKH stolen by the evil bytor in this Duke Nukem,
Commander Keen type game. VGA req.
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GALACTIX (HG 179) (2 disks) An opening similar to WING COMMANDER. This game had us spellboundli Destroy the evil Xidus fleet in your advanced battle craft. VGA req.

Xidus fleet in your advanced battle craft. VGA req.

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GOLF-Jack Nicklaus (HG 227) (2 DISKS) The best golf game
we have seen yet with full sound card support and the best in
graphics, overhead and thruway views ETC. VGA
MAJOR STRYKER (HG 231) (2 disks) APOGEE again!!
Fantastic space action as you defend earth from invasion. Full
sound card support with incredible graphics!! VGA

sound card support with incredible graphics! VGA

OVERKILL (HG 234) EPIC MEGAGAMESII Defend your
homeland against hoards of evil aliens. Blow them out of the sky
with your atomic battlecraft, Sound cardil VGA

SOLAR WINDS (HG 235) (2 DISKS) FANTASTICII our personal
favorite game from EPICII GREAT graphics and sound blaster
support. WING COMMANDER. As Jake Stone, fearless bounty
hunter, explore the galaxy!! VGA

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find the lost city of Atlantis in this game similar to KING'S QUEST
with sound card support. VGA

CLOUD KINGDOM (HG 241) Guide von the control of the control of

CLOUD KINGDOM (HG 241) Guide your blobule and explore the mystical kingdom in the clouds. Great graphics, VGA

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Scenarios great infroduction to our adult waters.

XXX In Motion (AD 103) (2 disks) Animation in bad taste. This one is a shocker with great digi graphics

Adult Games I (AD 104) Adult arcade games volume 1 East Meets West (AD 114) The best of the Orient for your enjoyment. A dazzling display of graphics.

XXX Printmaster Graphics (AD 115) 60 adult images for Print Master. Top off your collection with this onell

XXX Printshop Graphics (AD 116) 60 adult images for PrintShop. More pictures means lots more fun.

PrintShop. More pictures means lots more fun.

Strlp Poker (AD 118) Choose your opponent and have fun. Fantastic game with great graphics and game play.

Watch Ginger (AD 122) Believe it or not, a great nine minute video of Ginger Lyn doing what she does best.

EGA/VGA Pln up Slideshow (AD 123) (12 disks) Large collection of High Res females. Wonderfully flithyll

Strlp Blackjack (AD 127) We undress the lovely ladies in this one to the game of blackjack VERY enjoyable.

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XXX Adult VGA (AD 135) High-res moving VGA colour graphics that are some of the best and most erotic yet!

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Share JIzz (AD 136) Share and share alike, and boy do these girls like to share, especially this lucky guy

The Whistler (AD 137) HIGH-RES animated VGA. These graphics are without compare and will keep you hopping.

graphics are without compare and will keep you not repring.

THE PLUNGE (AD 138) Very graphic sex movie. The detail is phenomenal, much better quality than movies! OH ANGEL (AD 139) (2 disks) About a 5 minute long video in High-res colcur VGA graphics. MOVING ANIMATION KASCHA (AD 142) The most exotic European porn starl! This slide show tell all and is the hottest ever! VGA

Silde show tell all and is the hottest everII VGA
TWO TIMER (AD 143) XXX animated video see this two timing babe as she helps these two guys out (and in) VGA
POKEY (AD 145) A close up adult video that is sure to raise a colourful eyebrowil Black certainly is beautiful.
Silip n' Silde (AD 146) Superbly raunchy, sit back and enjoy this fantastic animated video! Slippery when wet VGA
MEGA PLUNGE (AD 149) XXX motion video!! Like Plunge butt much worse!! You've got to get this. THE BEST VGA
BUTT OUT (AD 150) This is not an add to quit smoking!! In fact after you see this XXX video you may start!! VGA
XXX Album (AD 154) XXX motion!! 3 erotic scenes on the screen at once!! TRIPLE your pleasure VGA
DIRTY ME 1 (AD 156) Animated action of AJA!! Top porn star performing for your pleasure!! VGA

performing for your pleasure!! VGA
DIRTY ME 2 (AD 157) AJA finishes her business with these two
lucky guys!! UNBELIEVABLE XXX VGA GIFT BUTT (AD 158) Never look one of these in the mouth, XXX motion at its finest, Superb and enjoyable VGA AJA (AD 159) Animated, It's nice to know that this superb starlet can take care of herself when alone!!

can take care of herself when alonell

DRIVIN IT HOME (AD 160) Animated, After getting a lift home, this young vixen shows her appreciation, VGA

Four Way Fun (AD 161) Animated XXX video in which the title says it all, Kick back and enjoy! VGA

McPOP (AD 201) Fantastic adult graphic, sex video game.

Extremely funny with great graphics. Just try and escape Madame Ching's Palace of Pleasure. EGA or VGA.

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McDoe (AD 204) The follow up to that great game Mcpop.

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SEX TOYS (AD 209) FUN FUN FUNII Lots of neat toys and very graphically how to use them. VGA & AD-208 req

LESBIAN (AD 210) Superb graphics feature this great collection

graphically how to use them. VGA & AD-208 req LESBIAN (AD 210) Superb graphics feature this great collection of all women action. The best, VGA & AD-208 req. of all women action. The best, VGA & AD-208 req.

DOUBLE TROUBLE (AD 211) Double your pleasure, Triple your fun!! Double action at its best!! VGA & AD-208 req.

GROUP SEX (AD 213) Some like to have fun in groups and this is one great XXX group!! GREAT, VGA & AD-208 req.

AMATEUR ACTION 1 (AD 219) The best action is amateur action! The girl next door!! VGA & AD-208 req. AMATEUR ACTION 2 (AD 220) Volume II of this amazing and exotic set!! Join the fun, VGA & AD-208 req.

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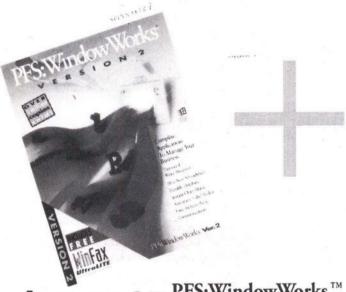
SHOW

IMEC East 1993

The first Interactive Multimedia Conference and Exhibition, recently held in Toronto, was a good place to find out what is locally available for multimedia developers and users. The twoday event (April 28-30) was sponsored by Edmonton's The Canadian Multi Media Magazine. Attendance was sparse — a reflection perhaps, of the still relatively small interest in multimedia — but there were exciting products on display. Below, is a list of some of the participants and their exhibits.

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SPINNAKER /

The "Instruct" System

Many universities across Canada have a mainframe computer that gives students access to everything from simple text processors to various information services, but students at the University of Guelph can access a system called Instruct, which combines animation and graphics with text, and allows the student to interact with simulations. Many courses are available, and include subjects as diverse as Geology, Literature and Sociology. Another popular program at the university provides remedial help for students in many subjects through an interactive multimedia platform.

Portable Multimedia

Increasingly, multimedia is being incorporated into corporate presentations. Presenters have two options: one is to lug a full desktop computer system and all the multimedia peripherals around with them to handle multimedia's computing-intensive demands: the other option is to invest in one of Dolch's portable multimedia computer systems. The company was the first to incorporate color flat panel screens on a portable computer, and the dazzling color screen on the MACH machines are some of the best I've seen. Dolch's MACH systems have multiple expansion slots that can incorporate sound cards, control CD-ROM drive and any other peripheral device needed. They are also liquid-cooled, eliminating the need for noisy fans. Dolch also provides its own JPEG video compression board and a full-motion video board.

Suggested prices range from C\$18.520 for a 486SX-25 MHz monochrome PAC system to \$20,975 for a 486DX-50 MHz MACH, though you can expect street prices to be lower.

Multimedia Training

One of the major growth fields for multimedia is in education and training applications. One firm that has made a substantial investment in this area is the National Education Training Group (NETG). Already a leader in creating instructional videotapes, NETG has a list of training applications the size of a small phonebook, which includes a large number of Interactive Video and CD-ROM multimedia packages.

Fractal Pictures

In any multimedia application, pictures and graphics tend to take up the most space on CD-ROMs. Many of these pictures already use some form of compression to remove redundant information in the image, and fit the picture into a smaller space. On display at the show was Sho-Me, which uses a fractal-based compression algorithm. Sho-Me is able to squeeze complex, detailed pictures to a small fraction of their uncompressed size.

Sho-Me is currently available for \$199.95.

While the relatively small attendance at the show may mean no follow-up exhibition from IMEC anytime soon, expect similar and larger events to come as multimedia begins to catch on in the marketplace.

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Choosing a Portable Computer

BY GEOF WHEELWRIGHT

Choosing a portable computer is getting to be a very complicated business. Once upon a time, battery-operated computers were merely pale imitations of their desktop counterparts — and could only be relied on for note-taking, on-the-go spreadsheet work and address book/diary functions.

While all these functions were useful, they never really lived up to the notion that a portable computer could actually replace a desktop system — which would mean providing the same amount of memory, speed, flexibility, expansion options and quality of display; that was not surprising, however, as the desktop computer has always been something of a moving target.

As portable computers moved from the Zilog Z-80 to the IBM-compatible 8088/8086 processor, desktop systems upgraded from the 8088 to the 80286. By the time portables started using the 286, desktop systems were commonly being powered by the 386 and 386SX. And over the past couple of years, as the 486 (in its various incarnations) has become the desktop processor of choice, the 386 and 386SX have become commonplace in notebook systems.

It is fair to say, however, that notebook computers have almost caught up these days. A wide range of processors are commonly used — from 25 MHz 386SX to 50 MHz 486DX — in notebooks, while hard disks, memory capacities and interfaces are pretty much the same as you would find in desktop machines.

The real issue in selecting an appropriate portable, however, does not lie solely in whether or not you could use it as a replacement for a desktop. Instead, there are a whole range of technological and design issues to be considered — each of which could significantly impact on just how well the portable does the job you want it to do.

Display

While the question of display quality is often a matter of personal preference on desktop computers, it is a vital issue where portable computers are concerned. It doesn't matter how fast your system is — or how much capacity it offers — if you can't see what you are doing.

There are four main screen technologies used in portable computers: supertwist LCD, passive matrix color LCD, active matrix color LCD and gas plasma. The most common is the "supertwist" liquid crystal display (LCD) — which uses the same type of display as a handheld calculator or LCD watch. Older portables will tend to have LCD screens that are somewhat muddy and hard-to-read while most modern notebook systems offer crisp, clear displays that are

often easier to read than their desktop counterparts.

One of the things to look for in an LCD screen is whether or not it has a backlight. If you are likely to be using your notebook computer in any situation where there is low-level light (such as taking notes during a business presentation conducted with an overhead projector), then a backlight is a prerequisite for your notebook. Otherwise, you will simply be unable to read what's on the screen.

The case for backlit screens does not, however, extend to all situations. Backlighting does cause a greater drain on battery power and will likely mean that your system can operate less time between recharges. This is partially mitigated by the fact that most backlit portables offer you the option of being able to switch the backlight on and off. Despite this, you will find screens optimized for use with backlights do not tend to be quite so readable when used without the backlight.

Passive matrix color LCD technology is the cheapest LCD color technology available and is thus used on the highest-volume color computers. It offers quite serviceable color - yet without the crisp and bright appearance you are probably used-to on desktop systems. It is most appropriate for those who need the extra dimension that color computing brings to their applications, but who don't rely on that ability. It would clearly be inappropriate for those doing high-end desktop publishing, professional illustration or complex presentation graphics - while more than suitable for those who need color for basic spreadsheet charting, project management or games.

Active matrix LCD color is what every portable user is after — but few can afford. It most cases, it produces a display that equals or exceeds the quality of that used on desktop systems. When implemented on a powerful machine, it really does go a very long way to realizing the dream of a desktop system that just happens to be contained within a laptop computer.

The final category of display — gas plasma — is not used a great deal any more, although you still do see it on some of the lower-cost "lunchbox" computers produced by Far East manufacturers. While it does produce an orange tinge to the screen and generally sucks up lots more power than a similar LCD screen would, gas plasma screens can be quite nice to work on and

tend not to produce the kind of eyestrain you sometimes get on the cheaper and nastier varieties of LCD.

Keyboard

Second to the screen, the keyboard is the most immediate fact of life to consider for any notebook computer user. Use a keyboard that tries to use an innovative keyboard design to minimize space and you may find that you'll be unable to find your keys when your want them. If the keys are bunched too close together, you'll be unable to hit one without mistakenly hitting another at the same time.

Similarly, if the keys on the keyboard are too small — you won't be able to accurately hit them at all. The responsiveness of the keyboard is also important. If you are using your notebook computer while travelling, you may not hit the keys with the same force and intensity that

you would use if you were sitting at a desk.

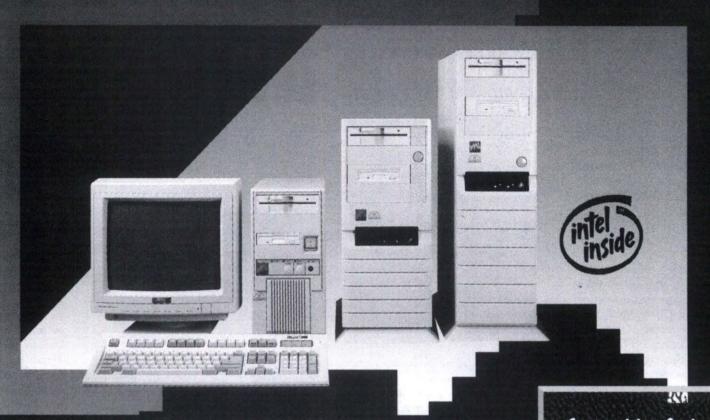
On addi-

On additional keyboard consideration is the sound of the keys when they are being used. For those who plan to use their notebook computers to actually take notes during meetings and presentations, other attendees may not take kindly tho the "clack-clack" noise of your keyboard. Notebook systems with "silent" keyboards would be your best bet here.

Battery life and type

This is probably the biggest complaint of most notebook computer users: my battery never lasts long enough. Just as your plane takes off for a 12-hour trip halfway round the world, you flip open your laptop computer only to learn that the battery has just about run out of juice. With no way to recharge the machine while en route, you thrust it under the seat and madly begin scribbling the notes that you should have been typing.

Continued on page 36



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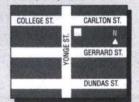
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BY GRAEME BENNETT

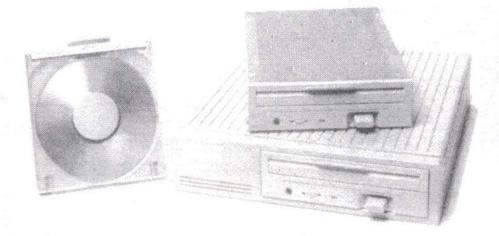
It was the best of drives; it was the worst of drives....

This is a tale of two CD-ROM drives: The UAC DM-5024 (based on a Texel mechanism) and the Apple CD-300 (based on a Sony CDU-8003 mechanism). Both are double-speed units with PhotoCD compatibility - in short, the kind of drives that are a good choice for Macintosh multimedia applications. The real story here is about the software. But first, let's look at the dri-

Both drives performed impressively for CD-ROMs. Both double-speed drives were able to play average-sized QuickTime movies directly from CD-ROM with no interruptions or visible jerkiness. Older single-speed CD-ROM drives, on the other hand, are terrible in this regard. I do not recommend single-speed drives for this pur-

The CD-300 is Apple's third-generation CD-ROM drive but the first of its drives to feature multisession Photo CD compatibility. It is known as a "double speed" drive (When reading data, it spins at 300rpm; when playing audio CDs, it slows down to 150 rpm) and is considerably faster than the company's previous models. Like Mac floppy drives, it is capable of auto-ejecting discs.

The UAC DM-5024 drive is an external unit for the PC or Macintosh. (An internal version is also available. It is known as the



DM-3024.) The unit comes with Trantor software for the PC or Macintosh. In either case, the Trantor software is a "universal" driver, compatible with the vast majority of CD-ROM drives on the market. The PC version includes drivers for DOS, Windows, NT and OS/2 2.x. I tested the DOS, Windows and OS/2 drivers, which installed and worked like a charm. The Trantor driver is an excellent choice for OS/2 users, who have a limited selection of compatible drivers.

The Mac version 3.10 of the Trantor software, unfortunately, is not as solid. It appears to have compatibility problems with System 7.1, although it works fine on earlier system software releases.

Fortunately, the Trantor driver is not the only option. After I experienced these problems with the UAC drive, the distributor's rep told me that he had heard of roblems with the Mac software and told me about a new driver that was in beta testing. I obtained and tested the new driver and it is phenomenal. Developed by a company by the name of MacPeak, the driver is known as CD Spot. It almost doubled the speed of the UAC drive. The 1.8MB file that had previously taken 29 seconds now copied in just over 15. Other operations were similarly accelerated.

The CD Spot driver worked with the Apple drive, too. Incredibly, it almost tripled the Apple unit's speed. The 1.8MB file-copy that had previously taken the CD-300 28 seconds now took only ten. For comparative purposes, it is worth noting that it takes only seven seconds to copy a file of this size from one partition of a fast hard disk to another. Needless to say, I recommend this driver to owners of the Apple and UAC drives.

I spoke to Greg Stanwood, president of GMS Datalink Corporation and the distributor of the UAC line of drives. He told me that while the company felt that Trantor's PC driver was "really nice," it's Macintosh driver wasn't up to par. "When you look at the Apple [Trantor] product," he said, "it leaves something to be desired. That's why we developed the driver. Of course, if it is successful, the golden egg is that the manufacturer takes it as the standard product." According to Stanwood, the increase in speed is due to the driver's intelligent caching algorithms. He said the driver also works with removable media, floptical and magneto-optical drives.

The UAC drive does not eject discs automatically, as does the Apple unit. After my initial tests of the UAC drive with the Trantor driver, I had come to the conclu-'sion that this was a real problem. It seemed to hopelessly confuse the Mac (with endlessly looping "Unexpected Error" dialog boxes and the like) if I happened to push the eject button at the wrong time - delib-

Continued on page 23

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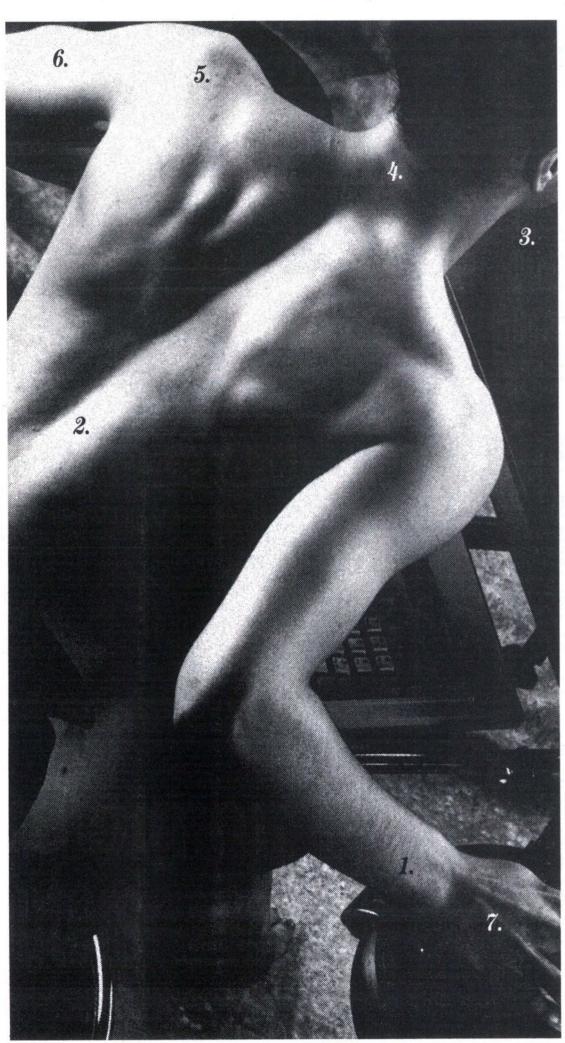
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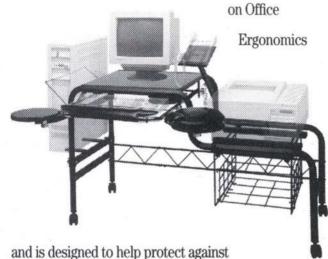
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Audio for Multimedia

BY GRAEME BENNETT



The first item to consider, of course, is the audio hardware itself. Aside from some models preconfigured as "multimedia PCs," most IBM-compatible computers have very poor built-in sound capabilities. PC owners, therefore, have taken to adding SoundBlasters and other audio cards to their computers with great fervor. Now that most games directly support these cards and Windows 3.1 supports sound effects and playback of .WAV and MIDI files through these cards, a sound card can greatly enhances a user's enjoyment of his or her computer.

(in)fidelity produced by the tiny speaker in

your computer.

Although Macs and Amigas have much better built-in audio hardware than most PCs, they, too, can be improved upon with third-party options. We have discussed details of audio cards in recent issues of The Computer Paper (the April '93 issue mentioned several), so I won't repeat that information at length here. Briefly, though, I recommend a board that is capable of 16bit "CD quality" audio playback if sound fidelity is important to you.

Of course, you can't get CD quality audio from a tinny little speaker. Here, then, are a few powered speakers we've heard about recently that are especially

designed for computers. (Computers need powered speakers or an amplifier and speaker combo.)

One thing all of these speakers claim is "magnetic shielding." This helps prevent distortion of your monitor's video display when a speaker is placed in close proximity. Also, shielded speakers should be less harmful to the data on your floppy disks. Nevertheless, it is prudent to never place disks on or near any source of magnetism, including speakers, motors or monitors.

amplified speakers it calls "Composers." These units range from under C\$60 to about \$200. I tested the \$100 and \$200 models. Audio quality was good in both cases. One speaker is the "master," with a single audio input and volume, treble and bass controls; the other plugs into it. A stereo minijack-to-RCA cable is included (The speakers have stereo-type RCA jacks on the back). The only trouble with these units is that you need an external mixer if you want to use more than one audio source (say, a sound board and a CD-ROM player).

Alternatively, you could choose the new speakers from Altec Lansing or Apple. Both companies have recently released powered speakers with two audio inputs and a mixer - ideal for users with a CD-ROM drive and a sound board, or a computer and a VCR, etc. The Altec Lansing ACS100 system looks like some sort of futuristic biffy with its fold-up tweeter assemblies. These speakers have one extremely nifty feature that may justify their US\$180 price tag for computer audio buffs. These speakers include a digital signal processor that simulates stereo from a monaural signal. A high-end model, the AC\$300, comes standard with a type of speaker known as a subwoofer. As the name suggests, it produces a big bottom-end.

(Shades of Spinal Tap.) A subwoofer is optionally available on the ACS100s.

Apple's just-announced AppleDesign Powered Speakers are slated to retail for US\$179. An Apple Canada spokesperson said the products will be available in Canada, but didn't know exactly when.

Of course, there are many other brands of speakers I haven't room to mention. The April '93 issue of New Media magazine, for example, lists 31 different units. Topranked products included the Altec Lansing ACS300 system mentioned above, Roland's CS-30 (\$250), MA-7 (\$320 per pair), MA-12C (\$195 each) and MA-20 (\$225 each), Thor Mfg.'s MiniBlaster HQ series (US\$329) and \$429). All of these units have mixers with volume controls for multiple inputs.



Altec Lansing speakers: What does this remind you of?

In a pinch, you could run a cable from your computer to the auxiliary input on your stereo. Most PC sound boards and all Macintoshes have a minijack-type audio output (check whether you require a stereo plug), while most stereo amplifiers have RCA jacks for audio out. You can obtain a stereo minijack-to-RCA cable at most electronics outlets or stereo stores.

Contact: Altec Lansing Consumer Products, (800) 546-0620 or (717) 296-4434; Apple Canada, 1-416-513-5787; Bose, (508) 879-7330; Century Electronics Ltd., (604) 273-3419; Roland Canada, (604) 270-6626; Thor Mfg., (702) 324-6600.

Multimedia pack introduces users to **Multimedia PCs**

REDMOND, WASHINGTON (NB) -Microsoft has announced a set of utilities it claims enhances the Windows 3.1 graphical user environment.

The new product (called the Multimedia Pack for Windows) is designed to introduce users with multimedia personal computers (PCs) to what can be done with their machines. It is available through retail channels and from original equipment manufacturers

The Multimedia Pak comes in CD-ROM format and includes the Hyper Guide 2.0, a Multimedia Tour, Vidtest diagnostic utilities, an enhanced audio facility for Windows, the Video for Windows runtime for playback of video clips and a collection of pre-recorded media clips for playback.

The Hyper Guide 2.0 is described as an interactive on-line user guide with thousands of hyperlinked topics and narrated animations to explain the Windows operating system. Interactive narrated animations and audio are used to explain what the features of a multimedia PC are and to discuss performance issues associated with the components of a multimedia PC - including video, CD-ROM and sound.

VidTest will tell a user how well digital video will play back on the PC on which it runs and can offer assistance in getting the best video performance possible, Microsoft said. The enhanced audio facility compresses the sound or waveform audio files so that users can get more sound files in the same space. Video for Windows Runtime allows users to play back digital video clips.

In addition, over 300 sound, animation and video clips are included, which Microsoft says can be immediately used in business presentations, documents or spreadsheets.

Contact: 800-426-9400.

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Tale of two CDs

Continued from page 20

erately, of course. Fortunately, the CD Spot driver exhibited none of these problems.

The most interesting thing I discovered about these drives has to do with their Photo CD compatibility. The Apple drive includes special software that makes Photo CD files appear to the Mac as if they were standard Mac PICT files, complete with thumbnail icons of the color images, all in neat little folders. When you install the Apple CD-ROM software and mount a Photo CD disc, you also see an icon labeled "Slide Show" that plays a QuickTime movie of all of the images on the disc. You can configure this slideshow to load the full-size image with your choice of image-editing program, if you wish. It's all very slick and amazing when you discover that the whole show is sleight-of-hand. The icons, slideshow and PICT files are entirely fabricated by the Apple software.

The problem is, Apple considers this proprietary software. Apple will not supply it to end users for use with non-Apple drives, even though they may support it.

For example, the floppy disk that contained the driver software included a README file containing information on the drive's Photo CD capabilities. It said, "Version 3.05...added support for the Photo Access Init that creates the virtual folders and the Slide Show program [that appear when a Photo CD disc is used]. This Init is not available for us to license from Apple, but should be available from AppleLink or other sources. Contact Apple for information on how to get the Apple Photo Access Init."

According to Apple, the init is only available as a developer tool, which may be licensed from Apple. End users, according to Apple, cannot purchase or acquire the software separate from the hardware.

As it turns out, the actual Photo CD tool is from Kodak. Because Apple licenses it from Kodak, it is not able to distribute it.

It seemed that the INIT was not available to anyone except owners of Macs with Apple-brand CD-ROM players.

Another area of confusion is that of the

CD Sampler pack that may or may not be bundled with the CD 300. Back in December, when the CD 300 drive was first available, I discovered that the drives sold in the U.S. came with a collection of titles (demo discs, samplers, etc.). However, when I called my local Canadian dealer, I was informed that Canadian drives did not include this bundle. Needless to say, I complained that I felt this policy encouraged users to indulge in cross-border shopping.

Now, Apple says that the CD 300 drives in Canada are also supplied with this pack of sample CDs. According to an Apple spokesperson, the change in policy was done quietly (hopefully, as a result of complaints like mine).

It is also, apparently, a temporary change. Apple says it is not sure how long this free bundle deal will be available.

To further cloud the waters, I discovered the following text in a READ ME file on the Photo CD Access disk from Kodak.

"The current version of Apple Computer's Foreign File Access utility does not support viewing, loading or running the software from the CD disc. Apple Computer, Inc. is working to provide a version of Foreign File Access that supports executable elements stored on the same discs as images, and expects to provide this to users later this year."

Here we go again," I thought. But there's a happy ending to this tale. What do you think is included on the CD Spot driver from GMS Datalink? You guessed it: a licensed version of the Apple Photo Access tool, along with the latest releases of Apple's Foreign File Access, High Sierra Access, Audio Access and ISO 9660 Access drivers. (According to GMS, MacPeak is the only company to have a license for the Apple software.) Best of all, the version of "Foreign File Access" shipped with the CD Spot driver does support viewing, loading and running the software from the Photo CD disc. Kodak's "later this year" reference, as it turns out, was last year. Whew!

Contact: GMS Datalink International Corp., (604) 327-4335; Apple Canada, 416-513-5787. If you are not sure if your CD-ROM drive supports Photo CD images, call Kodak at 1-800-242-2424 Ext. 53 and ask about drive compatibility.

Multimedia link to Mac video bundled with Action!

CONCORD, CALIFORNIA (NB) - Display Tech is shipping the Mac DisplayLink a low-cost link to video and an alternative to the high cost of data display.

The Mac DisplayLink allows you to display the output onto video sources from Apple Macintosh computers. Use the Apple 8%24, 8%24GC or compatible card to display the RGB signal onto conventional video monitors or projectors, or record the output onto videotape. The Mac DisplayLink will also work with the on-board video of the Quadra line of Apple computers.

The Mac DisplayLink comes bundled with Action! Mac from Macromedia which, the company claims, allows computer users to easily combine graphics, motion, text, animation, sound and interaction to create "professional-quality, high impact multimedia presentations

Because the Mac DisplayLink outputs to video, Action! Mac can print presentations to videotape for distribution and display. The Mac DisplayLink, an external video encoder, produces either a 640 by 480- or 512 by 384-pixel image. Supporting both standard NTSC and high-resolution S-Video signals, it displays computer output on cost-effective presentation video equipment instead of expensive data displays, computer projectors or LCD (liquid crystal display) panels, claims the company.

The Mac DisplayLink supports OuickTime movies and CD-ROM technology, offering flicker-free viewing in grayscaled black and white, as well as 4, 16, 256 or "millions of colors" modes. For higher resolution you can output S-video, resulting in a 60 percent improvement over conventional video signals, the company claims.

Two models are available: Model CF-530 (NTSC) with Action! Mac, for a suggested retail price of US\$489; and Model MF-530, for \$649 (PAL).

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BY GENE ENDRODY

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o other show has the ability to fill every hotel room in town like the National Association of broadcasters' yearly trade show in Las Vegas. VFX Video had the pleasure of being invited to attend NewTek's introduction of its new Toaster 4000 at NAB '93. NewTek spared no expense, renting all three of the coliseum conference rooms at Caesar's Palace. After a brief introduction by Jim Dionne (president of Commodore USA and former president of Commodore Canada), Paul Montgomery and Tim Jensen (NewTek's founding fathers) came to introduce the new Video Toaster 4000. Paul Montgomery said, "If we told you we had invented Anti-Gravity boots, would you be excited? Well we have...for video."

After watching a brand new video called "Beyond Revolution," it became clear that New Tek has decided to become a rebel in the video world. With the Toaster 4000, NewTek has launched an aggressive marketing program called PVP (short for Personal Video Production.) If you were wondering what I mean by rebel, how does this sales pitch sound?

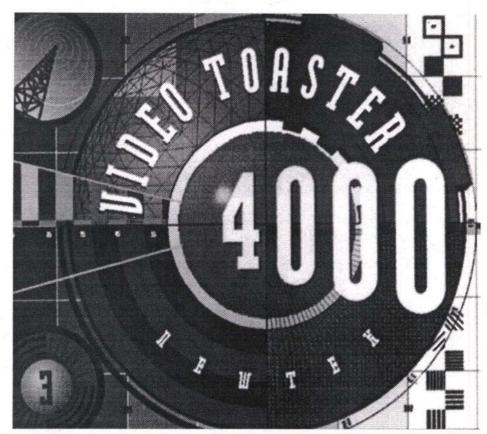
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INFILTRATE THE NETWORKS.
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Rather zealous, don't you think? Clearly, NewTek has decided to forego the quiet restraint of the "industry standard" approach.

In the past, the somewhat bumpy relationship between NewTek and Commodore left desktop video dealers a little confused. Jim Dionne, the president of Commodore announced that NewTek and Commodore Engineers are now working together to insure the compatibility of future products and to make sure that the Toaster can take advantage of new Amiga features as they come out.

This new relationship is very apparent with the release of Toaster 4000. The new board and software make good use of Commodore's new AGA chip set. Although the Toaster 4000 will plug into the Amiga 2000, 3000 and 3000T, in order to take advantage of all of it's new features an Amiga 4000 with its AGA chip set is recommended.



So what's the big deal about the Toaster 4000? I will try my best to describe the new video toaster but you will have to see it to believe it.

Switcher

The Switcher interface has a new look with rounder, more professional-looking buttons. The layout of the Switcher screen has been rearranged for ease of use.

The first thing users will notice is that NewTek has added a third Digital Video source (DV3) to the bus. In addition to video frames and graphics, animations can now be loaded and played back from the switcher. With this, users will be able to play 256,000-color full-screen animations. These animations play very quickly and smoothly and can be integrated into transitional effects. A 16MB Amiga 4000 can play about six seconds of animation. (In the future it will not be unusual to see Toaster systems with upwards of 32MB of RAM.) The new switcher will also allow users to use the mouse to shuttle back and forth through animations.

NewTek has added three new banks of transitional effects to the Toaster 4000, bringing the total number of effects from 192 to 288. The new transitional effects are nothing short of amazing. Under Version 2.0, the Video Toaster only had one-color overlays (black silhouettes, etc.). With Toaster 4000, these can now be fully animated 256,000-color overlays. By combining these animated color overlays with warps, drop shadows and transparencies, these transitional effects are like nothing I have ever seen on any switcher at any price. Do you remember the page-tear transition

in Version 2.0? With Toaster 4000 the page tear can now have a logo etched on the back of the page (looking like it has been rendered in a 3D program) and drops a shadow on the live video background.

Transitional effects now have a user-definable duration. This is a big improvement over the "slow," "medium" and "fast" choices that users had under Version 2.0.

You say your professional editing system doesn't support the Video Toaster? Well, odds are it does now. NewTek added Grass Valley Group Emulation protocol to the Toaster 4000. This is the most common switcher protocol and means any editor that supports a Grass Valley Switcher now supports the Toaster. Almost every professional editing system on the market supports this protocol.

Toaster CG

With over 60,000 Video Toasters in video production houses, cable stations, schools and peoples homes, Toaster CG has become the top selling character generator in the world. With the release of the Toaster 4000 and the System 3 software, Toaster CG has been completely rewritten.

Under the old version of Toaster CG, you could put your mouse away because all of the commands were accessed from the function keys. Under Version 3 the Toaster CG has gone to a mouse-driven interface. Users who are used to version 2 need not worry though, the developers at New Tek have managed to add many new features and mouse control without completely destroying version 2's look and feel. Text and graphic elements such as graphic sepa-

Continued on page 26



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Video Toaster 4000

Continued from page 24

rators and Toaster Paint Brushes can be moved anywhere with the mouse, including on top of each other.

Did we say Toaster Paint Brushes? Toaster CG's ability to import and control graphic elements has been greatly improved. Images and brushes from ToasterPaint and LightWave can be imported. Users have complete control over graphic separators, including their size, dropshadow, color, outline and transparency set-

tings. With version 3's new features, users can easily create the beveled, semi-transparent titles that have become popular on broadcast TV.

Some of the biggest complaints about the 2.0 version of Toaster CG included the number and size of fonts that came with it. Toaster CG Version 3 now includes scalable Compugraphic and PostScript Type 1 and Type 3 font support. These fonts can be resized up to 400 lines tall. This means that users can scale fonts so big that one letter will fill the whole screen.

NewTek is including over 300 scalable PostScript fonts with the Toaster 4000. No, that's not a misprint. Users can adjust the color, size, drop shadow, outline, font and kerning of text on a character-by-character

Toaster Paint

Toaster Paint has been the weakest module of the System 2.0 software. With the Toaster 4000, Toaster Paint now takes advantage of Commodore's AGA chip set in the Amiga 4000. Rather than working in a zoomed-in, low-resolution, 4096-color display, the new Toaster Paint gives you a high-resolution, 256,000-color representation of your framestore. With his one major enhancement, Toaster Paint has become a much more viable tool for professional users.

Toaster 3D

Lightwave has become the Video Toaster's ticket to Hollywood. Joe Conti, the Toaster 3D animator whose credits include Freejack and Unsolved Mysteries (currently working with Steven Spielberg on something big), called Lightwave 2.0 "a stealth bomber." Well, if the old version was a stealth bomber, who knows what he'll call the new version? Many of us got a preview of the capabilities of this new Lightwave by watching Ron Barren's work on Babylon 5.

Lightwave Pro and Modeler 3D are the brainchild of developers Allen Hastings and Stuart Ferguson. Together they have put literally hundreds of new features into ver-

One of the most exciting new features that has been added to Lightwave is skeletal deformations.

Lighwave Pro

One of the most important things they did was make Lightwave faster. The rendering routines have been optimized for the Motorlola 68040 processor resulting in a two- to five-times speed increase when used with that processor. Because the 68040 processor lacks some of the floating point routines in the 68882 (math chip for the 68030) some operations like bump mapping and fractal noise slowed the old version of Lightwave down to a crawl. Well, that's all in the past. Lightwave Pro renders like a rocket. Performance is also up for those users with 68030/68881 Toaster systems.

One of the most exciting new features that has been added to Lightwave is skeletal deformations. With Lightwave 2.0, the only way to create realistic-looking flapping wings or walking animations was to either setup a complex series of parent/daughter objects with keyframes or create a series of morph target objects. This is far too much work. With Lightwave Pro, you just put "bones" in your objects and keyframe the bones. Let's say we wanted to create an animation of a cow turning its head. Lightwave comes with a cow "object" so we would just load that up and stick a bone in its head and another in its neck. By twisting the bone in its head and setting up a keyframe, the cow would appear to twist its head very realistically. The points and polygons stretch and move naturally without making it look like the head was "hinged" to the neck.

These "bones" are also good for changing facial expressions on 3-D human models. I took a framestore of my own face and texture mapped it on the "Beethoven's Bust" object that comes with Lightwave. What if I wanted to make Beethoven wiggle his nose? Under Lightwave 2.0 I would have to take the head into Modeler, change the object and setup a morph. With Lightwave Pro, all I do is stick a bone in Beethoven's nose and another one in his

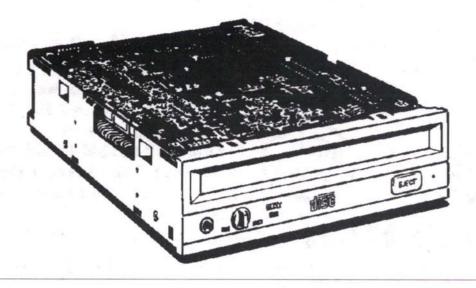
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head, move the bone in his nose, set a keyframe and voilà.

Lightwave comes with a host of new lighting features. "Light" has been added to the view mode so you can look through your lights to see what they are illuminating. If you are using a spotlight, a target circle now appears in the view so that you can see where your spotlight is hitting. From the Camera or Perspective view, lines appear in front of spotlight representing the cone angle of the lights.

Lens flare has been added to Lightwave Pro. This creates very realistic-looking suns and headlights when rendered. To set up a lens flare, just click on the lens flare button in the Lights menu for the light you want to glare and point your camera at the light.

Surface Morphing is now included with Lightwave Pro. If you want a gray cratered moon to morph into a bright burning sun, it's no problem. And to help you with that burning sun, Lightwave includes a new texture map called "Luminosity Mapping" to give you more realistic glowing surfaces.

Two new features have been added to improve the smoothness of animations: "field rendering" and "motion blur." Video commonly runs at thirty frames per second. Each frame consists of two fields (sixty fields per second). Field rendering makes your animations look smoother by making them look like they're playing at sixty frames per second rather than thirty.

Surface Morphing is now included with Lightwave Pro. If you want a gray cratered moon to morph into a bright burning sun, it's no problem.

In video, fast-moving objects blur naturally due to the shutter speeds of video cameras. The motion-blur feature causes objects to blur when they are rushing past the camera. Under Lightwave 2.0, motion blur was only partially implemented. It was basically only useful for speeding though star fields. With Lightwave Pro, motion blur can be added to any object to simulate this effect.

A new camera feature has been added to give your renderings a more "photographic" look. Depth-of-field allows you to put a focal length on the camera, so that only those objects at the right distance from the camera are "in focus." Objects too close or too far from the camera appear blurred.

Shadow mapping is a new feature that has been added to Lightwave Pro to improve its speed. Although not as accurate as using ray-traced shadows, this new method for generating shadows renders much faster. Shadow Mapping only works with spotlights and has an adjustable edge fuzziness. The only weakness with Shadow Mapping is that semi-transparent objects appear to leave the same shadow as solid objects.

Two new image texture maps have been added. Cubic Image Mapping places the same image on six sides of the same cube or object. This is much faster than in Lightwave 2.0 where you had to setup six separate Planar Texture Maps to achieve the

Did you see the effects in the the movie Predator? A new texture map called front projection mapping would allow you to achieve a very similar effect within Lightwave. With this, the texture image is locked to the size and boundaries of your camera view and projected forward onto your object. If you were to use the same texture image as the background image, your object would appear as a distortion as it moved past the background image. This would create an effect like a chameleon trying to stay camouflaged by changing its color to match the background.

Bump mapping has been supplemented

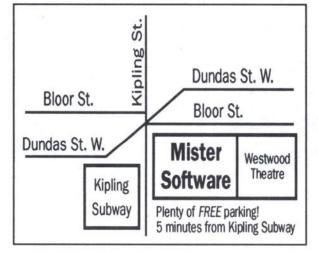
in Lightwave Pro with a new feature called Displacement Mapping. Where Bump mapping was just a shading effect to make an object look like it had bumps or craters on it based on an image, Displacement Mapping changes the shape of the object itself based on the image.

Transparency mapping has been supplemented by a new feature called Clip Mapping. With Transparency Mapping, you specified a color in your texture image to be transparent. When the object was rendered, the transparent parts of the texture would still have specular reflections. With Clip mapping, the transparent portions are carved away completely. One of the most useful ways to use this feature would be in compositing two-dimensional animations into a three-dimensional scene. After generating a two-dimensional animation in something like Disney Animation Studio, load the frames of the animation as a texture sequence. Using clip mapping, set the transparent color to the background color of the 2-D animation and clip map this on

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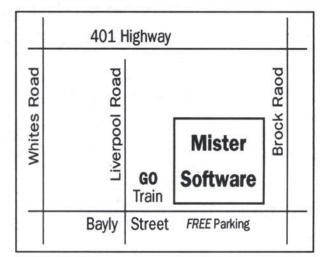
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to a flat plane in your 3-D scene. When rendered, not only will your 2-D animation be cleanly keyed into your 3-D scene, but your 2-D characters will also drop a realistic shadow into your 3-D scene.

Color cycling has been added with the texture mapping to give you an easy way to create burning suns, flowing lava, running water or cool psychedelic effects.

And last but not least, adjustable antialiasing routines have been added to increase the apparent resolution of your final images.

Modeler 3D

Lightwave was not the only thing to see major improvements. Modeler 3D received major enhancements to make it one of the most powerful object creation programs on any platform.

The most noticeable change is that now, in addition to working with faceted polygons, you have the option to work with spline curves. Rather than designing your

objects with a series of straight lines, splines can create round surfaces with much fewer points. The curve tool uses splines to create smooth curves out of a series of

points. These curves can then be lathed or extruded just like polygons. This allows you to avoid the sharp-edged, faceted look of objects made out of regular polygons.

Modeler 3D also allows you to take a series of spline curves and create a "spline patch." Because spline patches do an excellent job of creating compound curves, they are an excellent tool for creating objects like human faces and car fenders.

ARexx support is now included as well. Macros can be activated from within the program to access commonly used routines or linking Modeler to other software pack-

ages that support **Modeler 3D received major** ARexx. enhancements to make it one of the most powerful

There is direct support within Modeler 3D of Adobe Type 1 PostScript fonts. This makes the creation of extruded logos

and 3-D text a breeze.

object creation programs

on any platform.

There are a few new tools in the modify menu. Quantize turns your object into square blocks like a lego set. The smooth tool smooths out the edges on a faceted object. Jitter does the opposite by making the edges rougher or sharper.

A brand new combine menu has been added and it comes with a series of boolean functions (and, or, not, etc.). These new tools let you take a 2-D polygon, or 3-D object and use it as a cookie cutter to make a hole in another object. These boolean functions should win over some die-hard Impulse Imagine users who have become accustomed to using these types of functions. The options in the combine menu include add, subtract, drill and core. This gives you a lot of options for using one object to drill or gouge a hole in another.

Conclusion

Even if you don't own an Amiga 4000, the board and new software is definitely worth getting. If you already own a Video Toaster, NewTek and Commodore will be announcing a variety of different hardware upgrade plans. There is also a System 3.0 software upgrade available for users of the current Video Toaster board. The release date for the Video Toaster 4000 and the System 3.0 Software is May 15 but it probably will not be available in quantity until June '93. ■

Gene Endrody is with VFX Video Inc. as a desktop video specialist. He can be reached at (604) 451-0137.

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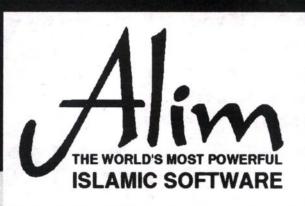
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The Mac Software **Family Tree**

An overview of Mac graphics programs

BY GRAEME BENNETT

f you were to look at the world of Macintosh graphics applications as a tree, it might look something like this: at the roots, you would not find the original MacPaint as you might expect; instead, you'd see the original LisaDraw just below ground level (Lisa, of course, grew from a seed originally planted in Apple co-founder Steve Jobs' imagination when he saw the Xerox Star project at the famed Palo Alto Research Center [PARC] in 1979), with three branches just above ground level. One would be MacDraw, the others, MacPaint and MacWrite. The latter two were bundled with the original Macintosh when it first went on sale in

By 1985, the first knockoffs of the Mac's graphical user interface (GUI) were well underway. Versions of Digital Research's GEM were developed for the PC and, soon after, the Atari ST ("dubbed the Jackintosh" after Atari boss Jack Tramiel). Atari officials at the time said that Microsoft Windows "wasn't close enough to being ready" to be a contender. The first Amiga was released.

By 1986, Apple and Adobe had co-developed the first PostScript printer - the LaserWriter. On the strength of this tech-

nology, the Write category grew beyond

Ray Dream's AddDepth is a low-cost, simple-to-use 3-D program.

mere word processing into "document processing," with desktop publishing applications such as Ready, Set, Go, PageMaker, Quark XPress and many others.

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Crossovers happened in other areas, too. Altsys, for example, developed FreeHand from its earlier work on Fontographer, an outline font-editing program. Adobe undoubtedly created Illustrator from its developmental work in font creation and the PostScript language.

The Draw branch diversified early on to include early CAD programs - CricketDraw and Adobe Illustrator; the Paint branch grew strong and tall on the strengths of the

Mac's GUI to include FullPaint, GraphicWorks (also reworked and later released as ComicWorks), HyperCard, Studio 1, CricketPaint and MacPaint 2.0. Some "second generation" applications, like Silicon Beach's SuperPaint and SuperCard, incorporated both Draw and Paint features.

Meanwhile, the Write category grew up to incorporate Write Now, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Write, FullWrite, WordPerfect and others. (Cross-pollination with other families of software led to the category of "integrated applications" that include word processing, spreadsheet, database and other

After the advent of the color-capable Mac II in 1987, the Paint category further diversified to include a range of color paint programs too numerous to mention. Notable titles included Studio 8, PixelPaint, Studio 32, Photon Paint (ported from the Amiga) and, much later, the most realistic painting program of them all, Fractal Painter. The paint category also grew to include image-editing applications like Image Studio and Digital Darkroom. This image editing and photo-retouching category eventually reached full bloom with ColorStudio and Photoshop.

Draw programs continued to grow in power and sophistication. Deneba released

Canvas, Apple spun off Claris, which released MacDraw II and later MacDraw Pro; and Adobe and Aldus released updated versions of the two programs that would become professional standards: Illustrator 88 and FreeHand

By the late 1980s, the category of Draw-oriented graphics programs had also grown to include the third dimension. 3-D graphics programs quickly grew beyond the early limitations of titles like Mac3D

and Super3D to reach dizzying heights, with equally dizzying price tags. Programs like Stratavision, Alias Sketch and Swivel 3D were considered inexpensive at the thousand-dollar range; the big guns (Sculpt 4D, Electric Image, Macromind Three-D, etc.) went for five times that and

With the advent of Apple's low-cost Macs, though, came a change in attitude for many Mac software developers. They noticed that a large segement of the buying public just wanted good, basic applications, without all the bells and whistles. Now, in addition to ever-bulkier and more feature-

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packed programs, vendors started producing a new generation of products for this blossoming price-sensitive market. Intergrated products like Microsoft Works and Clarisworks were popular in the integrated category, while the Paint, Draw and DTP categories bloomed with a myriad of titles. Timeworks was one company that focused almost exclusively on this market segment, releasing low-cost products for the PC, Atari and, later, the Mac (Color-It, Publish-It, Paint-It, etc.). Aldus saw this market, too, and bought Silicon Beach Software, with its consumer-oriented titles Digital Darkroom, Personal Press, SuperPaint, SuperCard, Gallery Effects and IntelliDraw.

The 3-D domain finally saw some lowcost action, too, with the recent release of Ray Dream's AddDepth and Adobe's Dimensions. The former is simpler to use (with an interface rather like FreeHand's), while Adobe's offering is far more capable, with an Illustrator-like look and feel. Both of these products are designed to be used in conjunction with other illustration software, such as Illustrator, FreeHand or Canvas.

Another category that has grown phenomenally in the last few years is that of animation. Macromind's VideoWorks was one of the first notable titles on the Mac. It grew up, in time, to become Macromind Director. Many of these titles fed off the success of HyperCard. Programs like VideoWorks, Director, Studio 1, AddMotion, SuperCard and others added animation capabilities to the hypertext authoring program/paint program that Apple bundled with every Macintosh from 1987 to 1992.

With the release of Apple's QuickTime came a new round of animation programs, as multimedia became the buzzword du jour. Word processors, presentation programs and graphics programs were updated to include the ability to play back QuickTime movies.

With the development of video-grabbing boards like VideoSpigot and RadiusTV came full-blown digital movie-making utilities like Videoshop and Adobe Premiere.

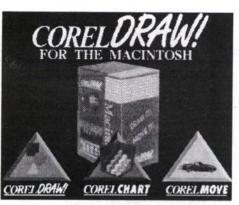
MotionWorks' HyperCard-based Add-Motion grew to become ProMotion. MotionWorks' technology is also behind Corel's forthcoming CorelMove - part of the long-awaited CorelDRAW for the Macintosh.

As Macintosh hardware has grown, so, too, have the capabilities (and requirements!) of its software titles.

Today's word processors have bloated to occupy several megabytes of disk space. Typically, the word processor of today includes a spelling checker thesaurus, grammar checker, and a full-blown tutorial. It's amazing to think that the original MacWrite fit on a single 400K disk, along with the system files, fonts, clip art, printer driver and several desk accessories!

To solve the problem of this "software bloat," several products that promise to "double your disk" by compressing your data have been released. They fall into three categories: utilities that compress your files automatically, ones that compress an entire disk automatically, and those that you operate manually, compressing and decompressing at will.

In the first category are products like Salient's AutoDoubler (now marketed by Fifth Generation Systems), Aladdin's



The long-awaited CorelDRAW! for the Macintosh.

SpaceSaver and Alysis' MoreDiskSpace. I've tested the first two and have been pleased. The advantages of increased free disk space far outweigh the few hassles these products create. I did however discover a bug in SpaceSaver that no other magazine has reported. It will lock up if you attempt to use its "Compress" or "Expand" menu options after an out-of-memory problem occurs. An Aladdin technician verified this

AutoDoubler is generally regarded as the fastest of the automatic file-compression utilities. I prefer SpaceSaver's user interface, though.

In the second category are compression utilities that compress an entire disk. These are common on the PC (MS-DOS 6.0's disk compression, Stacker and SuperStor all operate this way), but less so on the Mac. Golden Triangle's TimesTwo is a Mac product of this type.

The third compression category includes the shareware classics Stuffit and Compactor Pro.





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If you use a modem, you'll undoubtedly notice that nearly all files on any BBS are compressed. PC and/or Amiga archives ending in ".ZIP," ".ARC," ".LHA," ".ZOO" and others are common non-Mac standards. Such files can be opened on the Macintosh using Mac-specific versions of corresponding compression utilities (Stuffit Deluxe can handle most of these, too), but you generally shouldn't use such foreign standards for compression of Mac data.

If you're not sure if your files will benefit from compression (trust me, they will), obtain one of these from your dealer or user group. Try it, and as with all shareware, pay for it if you like it. There are commercial titles, too. DiskDoubler and Stuffit Deluxe are the best-known. I use Stuffit Deluxe (which includes SpaceSaver, incidentally) and am very pleased with it.

A related topic is that of graphics file compression. With the advent of color scanners and programs like Adobe Photoshop, bitmapped graphics files can become huge. Because utilities like those mentioned above average only a 50 percent compression ratio, developers have come up with other methods. Compressing a 10 megabyte file with the graphics-compression standard known as JPEG (named for the Joint Photographic Experts Group that developed it) yields the best compression ratios - typically, 10-to-one, with no noticeable loss, or up to 50-to-one, with increasing degrees of image degradation. This degradation occurs because JPEG is a so-called "lossy" form of compression; that is, it throws away data it deems unimportant. The portions of the spectrum the human eye can't see - subtle color variations, etc. - are the first things to go. Obviously, you wouldn't want to use lossy compression on all types of data files. It's also worth noting that repeatedly saving a file in JPEG format will degrade the image each time it is saved, as the JPEG algorithms throw away more and more data.

If you do not want to lose any data, you can save bitmaps as compressed TIFF (tagged image file format) files. (Technically, this compression method uses an algorithm called LZH, after the developers Lempel, Ziff and Huffman.) These files are recognized by most applications that accept TIFF images. TIFF, like JPEG is an industry-wide standard. This means that a file saved in either of these formats is easily transportable to a PC, Amiga or other computer.

Perhaps the ultimate answer to the problem of software bloat is the ubiquitous CD. CD-ROM drives are coming down in price and the latest round of "double speed" drives are fast enough to play QuickTime movies directly from the CD-ROM discs. Best of all, applications on CD-ROM usually give you a ton of extra goodies. The finest example is the Photoshop 2.5 Deluxe Edition CD-ROM. This disc includes dozens of QuickTime movies of Photoshop experts demonstrating various tricks and techniques. There are text files of tips, every Adobe Tech note and dozens of extra "Plug-in Filters" - including a subset of "Kai's Power Tools" by renowned Photoshop whiz Kai Krause. You'll also find 50 high-quality stock photos for your (royalty-free) use, sample Photo CD images and an art show of some superb Photoshop work, The disc also includes try-out versions of other Adobe products, including Illustrator 3, Dimensions and Premiere. I highly recommend this product. Believe me, those animated tutorials

beat the heck out of Balloon Help. It would be interesting to further explore this family tree, to see how GEM Paint, GEM Draw and the myriad of Windows graphics applications on the PC grew out of these developments in the world of the Mac. But that's another story.

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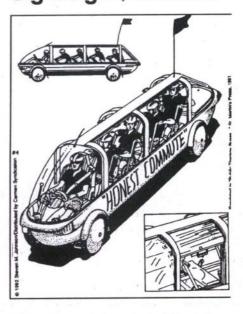
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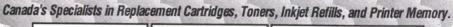
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Sightings by Steven M. Johnson



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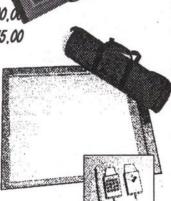
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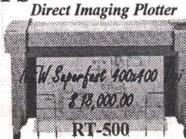
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Presentation graphics

BY GEOF WHEELWRIGHT

Producers of personal computer presentation software have a lot to answer for. During the past six years, increasing numbers of salespeople and executives have been forced to sit through computer-generated business presentations that use odd combinations of garish colors, strange mixtures of type and eye-blastingly loud backgrounds to unintentionally insult the sensibilities of their viewers.

also benefit from this technology — giving users the tools to create timely presentations that are well-tailored to the audience at which they are directed.

When putting this theory into action, however, far too many corporations eliminate an important step — they fail to offer users any kind of training and guidance in the graphic arts. Managers assume that if they give their marketing staff the right software, they will automatically be able to

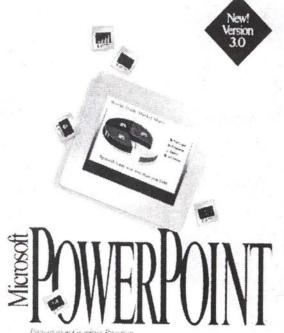
produce professional presentations to do their work.

This assumption is simplistic and wrong-headed. Sales and marketing executives are no more qualified to be designers and typographers than journalists are to make printing plates and put paper on presses. Specific skills are required to produce professional-looking presentations and they cannot be acquired overnight.

The software companies that produce these presentation applications — such as Aldus Corporation, Microsoft and Lotus Development — must share some of the blame for propagating the notion that anyone can be a designer.

The companies have anticipated the problem and responded by including dozens of presentation "templates" that come prepackaged with the software. These templates use professionally-matched colors, backgrounds, typefaces and

graphics — and look eminently respectable. But the enterprising young executive from Fuzzy-Tech isn't going to be caught dead using the same template as someone else — and therefore goes off to create something for himself.



You know the sort of thing. A sales rep from some place with a name like Fuzzy-Tech Office Equipment comes by your office to give a sales presentation on his company's latest goodies. He fires up an overhead projector (or an LCD overhead projection screen) and proceeds to overwhelm you with slides that feature red text on a purple background and bad "clip-art" graphics inserted in inappropriate places. You quietly cringe at the unreadable mess, serve him a cup of undrinkable coffee and send him on his way.

Once upon a time, such a salesperson would carry with him only sales brochures and corporate-wide slides created by professional graphic designers and artists; you could at least be assured that, however boring the content of the slides, at least the look of them would not be reminiscent of a trip through San Francisco's Haight Ashbury district in the '60s.

The problem lies with PC-based business presentation software. It is now cheap enough and easy enough to use that anyone with a keyboard, mouse and a good printer can try their hand at creating their own business presentations.

In theory, this is very good news. It allows presentations to more accurately reflect the sales message that marketing people are trying to get across. Corporate training and educational presentations can

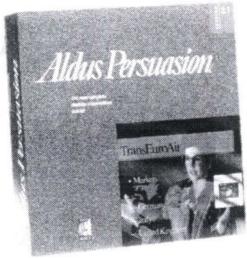
Future directions

One solution is to only widely distribute a customized version of the presentation software that limits the elements a user can change. If users were only allowed to select from a limited number of corporate-approved combinations of images, colors, typefaces, backgrounds and "transition effects," then the only issue they would have to worry about would be the content of the text.

Most popular presentation applications already allow corporate software or MIS managers to set up such a system by "locking out" certain functions and customizing the presentation application to meet this need. It is now up to corporations to take this message on board when choosing their presentation graphics software — and get something that offers full functionality and customization.

In addition, they need to consider the question of file format support for output devices (such as those required to send slides to the growing number of overnight slide processing services), font-handling (so





that screen output matches slide, overhead

or paper output), annotations (so that notes

about the presentation can be made and

printed out along with paper copies of the

slides) and support for animation files (such

as Autodesk's .FLI format for animator files)

There are only three platforms worth worry-

ing about where presentation graphics are

concerned: MS-DOS, Apple Macintosh and

Windows. There is also a growing body of

applications being designed to run with

IBM OS/2 2.1 — but it has not yet reached

the critical mass to be statistically signifi-

prisingly, in the Windows market.

Although new DOS presentation graphics

packages are still hitting the market (such

as WordPerfect Presentations) they are gen-

erally coupled with an often simultaneous

release of a Windows version - and some-

on the Windows versions of all the major

presentations graphics packages. You will

note as well that these packages are not

always what they seem. Corel Draw, for

example, is included in this round-up -

although you would not strictly call it a

presentation graphics package. But the pre-

sentation graphics elements in Corel are so

strong that not to include it in this list

would be to do a great disservice to readers.

Product: Microsoft Powerpoint 3.0

PowerPoint Version 3.0 for Windows is

Microsoft's attempt to make its flagship pre-

Publisher: Microsoft

For this reason, we concentrate below

times sold in the same box.

The area of biggest growth lies, not sur-

as well as a wide range of transition effects.

Platforms

cant.

Aldus Persuasion for Windows is supposed to include everything you need to create a persuasive persentation at short

sentation graphics product Windows 3.1 interface.

PowerPoint has never

recting this problem in PowerPoint 3.0.

Probably the best example of this lies in but the tools that are offered change -

When you are working, for example, in text or change titles. And in "slide sorter"

PowerPoint 3.0 shows just what secondgeneration Windows presentation applica-

easier to use and more powerful - while providing greater consistentency with other applications and making full use of the

been particularly difficult to use. But as it has grown more powerful in the past few years, the question of how to get at some functions - and make the most of others - has sometimes been a little confusing. It is clear that Microsoft has put a great deal of thought into cor-

the development of the new context-sensitive toolbar. It not only provides users with a whole range of new graphical tools that can be used instead of keyboard commands, depending on the job that you are trying to

either the "slide view" or "notes view", the tools offered include those needed to draw lines, create fill patterns and add a "shadow" behind any on-screen object. But if you switch to working in "outline view" - to get a better overall picture of your presentation - the tools needed for drawing lines, creating fills and shadows are replaced in the toolbar by ones used to handle draft view, a number of the tools available in the other two views are eliminated and replaced with tools to handle things - such as transition effects between slides, color schemes and dialogues.

Universal tools — such as those used to move around slide outlines, change font sizes, change font styles, zoom in and out of documents and preview your slide show are common between most toolbar views. The beauty of this approach is that your work screen is never cluttered up with tools or command options that are irrevelant to the work that you are doing at that time. PowerPoint 3.0 is thus not only WYSI-WYG (What You See Is What You Get), but also WYSIWYN (What You See Is What You

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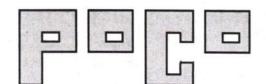
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tions are capable of. It is easy to use - but at the same time a great deal more powerful, comprehensive and well-integrated with both Windows 3.1 and all other Windows applications than any previous version. If you do professional presentations on your PC, you should look at PowerPoint 3.0 - and if you don't, this product will make you start asking why.

Product: Aldus Persuasion Publisher: Aldus

Aldus Persuasion for Windows is supposed to include everything you need to create a persuasive presentation at short notice. As Aldus says in its promotional literature for the product, it should do the job "whether you're preparing for your weekly staff meeting, the quarterly sales report, or a major presentation to the board of directors." Persuasion isn't designed to merely produce a few good-looking slides.

You can take your work from presentation outlines right through to finished overead transparencies or 35mm slides. In addition, you can use Persuasion to produce speaker notes and audience handouts at the same time as you are creating your presentation.

The key to understanding what Persuasion is all about lies in its approach. The Persuasion approach is to let you first enter the information that makes up your presentation - and then let Persuasion assist you in providing the best possible format for that information. Persuasion automatically formats your text or data into professional-looking visuals for use in a presen-

You can also enhance your presentation using Persuasion's word-processing, drawing and charting tools. In addition, Persuasion offers the facility to customize an "autotemplate" design to match your corporate format.

It further offers facilities for creating or importing logos, technical diagrams and illustrations. You can also produce charts and tables from a spreadsheet, or enter data directly into Persuasion's datasheet. You can even create and edit organization charts, right from the presentation's out-

Organizing your thoughts for a presentation is a tough enough business without your presentation software working against you. To assist in this process, Persuasion like most of the competition - includes its own multi-level outline processor.

In addition, there are facilities for automatic slide layout - so that slides can be ordered in the right way - and ensuring that elements within a given presentation are used sensibly and consistently.

You'll also find that Persuasion includes its own charting and graphing tools - so that you can create charts and graphs directly in Persuasion, without having to switch to another application in order to do

Freehand drawing is also catered to. Although anyone who needs an illustration package can more usefully be directed to Aldus Freehand or Corel Draw, the basic drawing tools within Persuasion will do most of what you'll need to accomplish.

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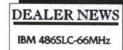
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within another application for use in Persuasion, you can import text from word processors, spreadsheets and graphics pro-

When it was first released for Windows two years ago, Persuasion did have something of a jump on the competition. Today, while it is still powerful and well-designed, there is little to choose between it and a competitive offering such as PowerPoint. But if you like the overall Aldus approach to software design, that may tip the balance in favour of Persuasion.

Product: Coreldraw 3.0 Publisher: Corel Corporation

It's always been hard not to like CorelDraw. From the start, it has been innovative, packed with features and one of the best users of the Windows interface of any graphically-oriented package.

This is largely due to the fact that it was designed from the outset as a Windows application — unlike Adobe Illustrator or Aldus FreeHand, which both started life on the Apple Macintosh.

When you install CorelDraw 3.0, you notice immediately that there are six program icons in the Corel folder. In addition to CorelDraw, you'll see the CorelChart, CorelShow, Corel PhotoPaint, CorelTrace and CorelMosaic icons shown.

These add a whole raft of new functions to CorelDraw - but by being added as modules, they do not clutter up the main application too much. Each of these applications (perhaps with the exception of CorelMosaic) is almost worth a review in itself, but the ones that will most interest presentation graphic designers have to be CorelChart and CorelShow.

CorelChart, as the name suggests, is a new data-driven charting application. When you load it up, you select a chart type and are presented with a spreadsheetstyle grid into which you can either enter or import data. If you choose, you can also use the OLE and DDE (Dynamic Data Exchange) capabilities of Windows 3.1 to create a permanent link to any OLE-supporting Windows spreadsheet (such as Excel or Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows).

CorelChart offers more than 100 different chart types - including bar, pie, histogram and three-dimensional charts. You can also use "pictographs" (ie. showing new car sales in a bar chart with bars made up of cars stacked on top of each other) to make your charts easier to understand.

Meanwhile, in an attempt to more directly grab some business from presentation packages such as Aldus Persuasion, Microsoft PowerPoint and Lotus Freelance Graphics, Corel has made its presentation module - CorelShow - highly flexible. It can pull in elements from CorelDraw, CorelChart, Corel PhotoPaint — as well as read Animator .FLI animation files - to create multipage presentations and slide shows. Like most of the competition, CorelShow includes a library of professionally-created backgrounds and animation "flics." And like all parts of CorelDraw 3.0, it supports both OLE and DDE links to other Windows 3.1-aware applications.

Corel is selling this package heavily on "added value." In addition to all the extra features in the package itself - and the new

modules - Corel has added 153 hinted TrueType fonts and some 4600 professionally-drawn symbol and clipart images. Further to this, the package includes complimentary TRUMATCH and Pantone system licenses that give users access to industry standard color printing systems.

Anybody who buys CorelDraw 3.0 will also get a CD-ROM version of the software - which also includes Corel's entire library of 14,000 images, a range of on-line tutorials, more than 100 animation files in .FLI format, another 100 TrueType fonts and Corel's complete type library in Adone PostScript Type 1 format.

With its recently reduced price tag (Corel just dropped the price form US\$600 to \$199), CorelDraw 3.0 is one of the best values on the market — and by far the most fully-featured and comprehensive. It's like buying a presentation package with one of the world's best Windows drawing packages thrown in for free.

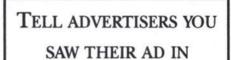
New on the menu

There are lots of Windows presentation packages in their second and third generations now. Lotus Development, for example, is taking another stab at grabbing a larger share of the presentation graphics software market with the release of Lotus Freelance Graphics for Windows 2.0. The first release of this product was the best of a relatively mediocre bunch of Windows applications released alongside the disappointing Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows. Lotus says the most important new additions relate to the usability of Freelance Graphics which now includes an updated

"QuickStart" tutorial, an animated product introduction with five "hands-on" exercises and 12 new SmartMaster presentation styles. It also includes greater multimedia capabilities with Lotus Media Manager and Lotus Sound Recorder built-in along with support for Apple's QuickTime for Windows and Microsoft's new Video for

WordPerfect, meanwhile, is bringing its presentation graphics product to Windows from DOS for the first time. WP Presentations for Windows (an evolution of what was the DOS-based WordPerfect Draw) includes support for Windows standards such as DDE, OLE, the TWAIN scanning standard as well as sound and video.

And who could forget Software Publishing Corporation's venerable Harvard Graphics for Windows? Harvard was a longtime leader in the DOS market, but arrived late to Windows and is still working hard to catch up. With the latest version, SPC is working hard to build more advice into this presentation graphics suite on how to design good-looking presentations.







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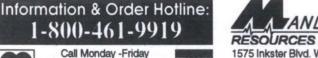
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Portables

Continued from page 18

If this sounds familiar, you are one of the thousands of portable computer users glad to see the current trend toward removable, rechargeable battery designs that allow you to easily carry charged-up spare batteries - as well as the growing number of palmtop systems that run on standard AA batteries. The latter is a particularly useful circumstance as any major hotel, airport or business facility almost anywhere in the world stocks batteries - so you never really need to worry about being short of power.

Pen support — the next big issue

Pen technology is a fairly simple and obvious idea - but more powerful than it might appear on first inspection. Systems using this technology allow you to control them by hand-writing with an electronic pen on a specially-developed LCD flat screen attached to a completely flat portable computer, which lies underneath the screen. The computer recognizes your handwriting and then turns it into standard computer text, which can then be read, edited or revised by someone else on a standard personal computer.

In addition, the pen entirely replaces any other "input device" - allowing you to issue commands, as well as move both text and pictures around the screen - without the benefit of a mouse or keyboard. The pen becomes your sole method of controlling the computer.

In addition to these two obvious ways of using pen technology to make computers easier to use, software designers have recently been toying with other ideas to help make the pen mightier than the keyboard. One of these ideas is the use of "gestures" - which would allow you to "edit" material that had already been typed into a computer just by making proofreader-style marks on the computer screen.

The second innovation is the development of "ink" as a computer data type. Simply put, this means that you can use the pen to draw pictures - and even write your signature on business letters - and have both pictures and signatures combined with text in a document.

Pen-based computers are intended to provide computational power to users who presently cannot, because of their job functions, use standard computers with keyboards. This market includes delivery truck drivers, utility meter readers, police officers, poll takers and others who presently use a clipboard in their normal business functions.

Software designed with portables in mind

If there is any category of software that is capturing the hearts and minds of portable computer users right now, it is the Personal Information Manager (or PIM). PIMs now often come bundled with many new notebook systems and are an integral part of many more palmtops.

PIM software generally comprises applications that help you plan your agendas, make entries into an onscreen diary, make telephone calls with your computer's modem and do some basic project manage-

PIMS include Windows-based applications such as the popular Lotus Organizer (which includes diary, to-do, planning, address book, notepad, auto-dialling, workgroup and "anniversary" functions) and Polaris' Packrat.

Packrat, for example, includes not only the standard phone book, agenda and time management facilities - but also a financial accounting, resource management and extensive text searching facilities.

Also under the PIM banner are what you might call "desktop marketing" tools such as Contact Software International's 1st ACT1! and ACT applications (the former being a cut-down version for small businesses and the latter being an implementation for corporate environment).

A product like 1st ACT! might be particularly useful for those doing telephone sales, direct marketing - or just anyone who needs to make regular telephone contact with their customers and must have quick access to their addresses, phone numbers, notes you might have written about them as well as completed and planned future activities with those customers.

The desktop marketing branch of PIM applications such as 1st ACT! are supposed to use personal computer technology to automate many of the jobs carried out by the average telephone salesperson.

The idea is that marketing people will be able to use such systems to tell at the touch of a button which clients they have contacted recently, what the reaction was when they were last contacted, the kind of orders that have been placed in the past as well as other critical sales material.

Desktop marketing products are designed to represent the mechanization of how marketing people conduct business relationships. Given the increased emphasis on customer care many sales sectors now face, desktop marketing products can provide that customer care element - with automatic mail-generating functions, records of whether or not the people you call are busy, stop lists, orders, quotes and other things on-screen.

The future

While we will no doubt see more portables bundled with PIMs, greater use of pen-based pointing technology, notebook systems with longer battery life (and more flexible ways to replace batteries) and improvements in screen and keyboard technology, all these trends (plus those mentioned in the boxes elsewhere in this feature) are more than the sum of their parts. They pave the way to a future where anyone can do any kind of computing anywhere at anytime and still be as useful (and often more useful) than someone sitting at a desk in an office. It is likely to have a highly liberating effect.

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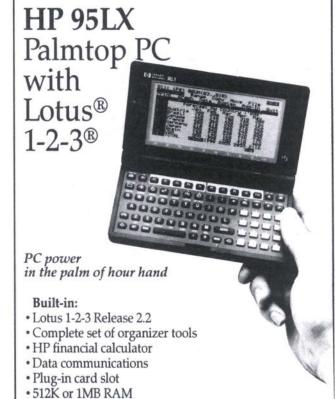
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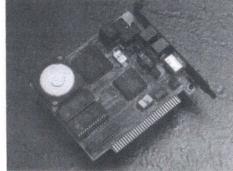
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gamereview

X-Wing

REVIEWED BY KEITH SCHENGILI-ROBERTS

According to the product literature, this is the game LucasArts has always intended to make, but until recently the game designers felt that the technology was not good enough to support the ambitions of its creators. It has been well worth the wait for game players, as X-Wing is a great fly-by-theseat-of-your-pants sort of game, filled with action and requiring as much strategy as skill.

Name: X-Wing

Minimum System Requirements: 386 or better PC/100% compatible machine, 1MB RAM, hard disk drive with up to 14MB of free space. VGA screen, Mouse or Joystick

Protection: Documentation check Manufacturer: LucasArts Games

recommended

Summary: Fly rebel spacecraft against Imperial spacecraft in a Star Wars scenario.

Graphics: ★★★ (Out of four) Sound: ***

Game Play: ★★★

Installation is easy, but requires 14MB of hard disc space - though without the

speech function it will only need 4MB to run. The first thing any player will notice is the stunning VGA animation scenes you go through. You are given the complete rebel scenario from the outset, and the role you are to play in it.

The sound effects are great, and they compliment game play very nicely. If you have an AdLib, Roland, Pro Audio Spectrum or Soundblaster card, you are in for a treat. Most of the sounds are digitized from the Star Wars movie sound-

tracks, so when you hear a Tie-fighter fly by you, it sounds exactly like you would have heard it on the big screen. If you have a Soundblaster sound card, you can also experience digitized speech, again taken straight from the movies. The soundtrack also complements the cinematic sequences.

It is password copy-protected, and once you have entered the required password from your manual, you are allowed to roam about — initially as a cadet in a large rebel spaceship. The doors slide open to let you enter, and you can go to many areas on the ship. Be sure to sign in first, or you will get a gun lowered at you on the chance that you are a possible Imperial Spy!

Before you fly any actual missions, it is highly recommended that you try out the pilot's proving ground first. This takes you through a series of "hoops" you have to fly through in 3D space, all the time trying to destroy the batteries shooting at you. Once you feel comfortable with the controls, try out the "historical" missions, which give you a few milk-run assignments in your choice of craft.

In this game you get a choice of three different craft to fly, the familiar X-Wing fighter and Y-Wing fighter/bomber, plus an experimental A-Wing fighter/interceptor. Each craft has its own idiosyncracies, and as a player you soon get to appreciate their differences in combat.

You can also record your missions and play them back in the Film Room, or check out the specifications of enemy and friendly spacecraft in the Techroom.

Once you understand how to operate the three different ships you are able to fly, you can try one of the three Tours of Duty the game offers. The missions range from guarding rebel supply convoys to destroying the Death Star.

Game play is not easy. This is a game that cries out for either a mouse, or prefer-

ably a joystick. Anybody using the cursor keys alone will find that game play ranges somewhere between frustrating and impossible because of the sluggish response you'll get from your craft. Comparisons to other space-warfare games like Wing Commander I & II are inevitable, and X-Wing more than holds its own. In many ways, the two types of games are not easily comparable, as X-Wing concentrates more on the strategy than

either Wing Commander games. X-Wing is also more "realistic" in its feel (not that anybody can say how "real" this is) than either Wing Commanders. What this means in practice is that you come to count on your sensors rather than what you can actually see outside your cockpit. You can decrease your speed in order to better see what is happening, but you become a sitting-duck in the process. However, the game also gives you the handy option of unlimited firepower and invulnerability, but this is recommended only for practice (it isn't very sporting!). If you are unlucky enough to have your craft shot out from under you, you automatically eject. You are picked up by the Empire and you then meet Darth Vader - let's just say you don't last long after that.

Many video and arcade knock-off games have been made since the original Star Wars movie was released back in the 1970s. This is the definitive Star Wars game, that makes you feel like you are really in the cockpit of an X-Wing fighter. It has been worth the wait.

Contact: LucasArts Games (415) 721-3300.

Techniques

BY GRAEME BENNETT



The cover image is based on the "Shocking Science" T-shirt created by Robert Teranishi exclusively for Flatlanders Ink. The company PMT sent a (photo-mechani-

cal transfer) of the "Shocking Science" Tshirt design. This black-and-white image was scanned on a Microtek ScanMaker II scanner and saved as a TIFF file. This monochrome image file was fairly small - just 183K in size.

I then loaded the file into Adobe Photoshop 2.5.1b5.and converted the file from "Bitmap" to "Grayscale..." and then to "RGB color." It is interesting to see how file sizes swell during each mode change. When the image was converted to grayscale, it grew to 1.42 megabytes in size (an eight-fold increase as the one-bit image was converted to an eight-bit one). When converted to 24bit color, the image ballooned to 4.25 megabytes (tripling 8 bits worth of grayscale information to 24 bits of color data). The image, of course, was still completely black and white - I had to change to color mode before starting to colorize the image.

I experimented a little before finding the best method of colorizing the image. First, I tried selecting various areas with the "magic wand" tool and simply filling them with the desired color. This proved to be very slow. I then discovered that by setting the background color to the hue I wanted to fill with, I could perform the operation much more quickly by simply selecting the area and pressing the "Delete" key.

Once the main areas were colored, I decided to enhance the "bolts of electricity" to look as though they were glowing. I used the lasso tool to select the areas I wanted to enhance (this created a mask so that only these areas would be affected) used the Airbrush tool, with a 15% "pressure" setting and a green color, and followed the lines to make them "glow."

I also used the Airbrush tool to add shading to the face, hands, t-shirt and hair. As before, I selected each area with the Magic Wand or Lasso tool before "spraying."

After the image was more-or-less complete, I used the Rotate tool to tilt the image, and the "Canvas Size..." command to put it on a larger background. This, of course, increased the file size again. It was now up

I selected an image of a circuit board from Letraset's Phototone book of images and scanned it in color (although, in retrospect, I suppose I could have done it in grayscale mode). I saved and worked with this image as a separate file.

I then played with the hue, saturation and (especially) lightness settings to produce the result you see in the background. To place the image, I first sized it appropriately using the Image Size... command and copied it to the Clipboard.

After clicking on the "Shocking Science" window, I selected the white area behind the image with the Magic Wand and then selected "Paste Into." After a considerable delay,

the circuit board image appeared like magic "behind" the comic book. I was somewhat alarmed to note that the two images and the temporary "Clipboard" file occupied 66MB of disk space in total. Needless to say, I had been performing numerous "Save" operations as I worked, too. At 17 MB per file, my disk was filling up fast. Luckily, I was almost

I opened The Computer Paper's logo as a separate file. This image had previously been created in Adobe Illustrator and saved as an EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) file, I imported it using Photoshop's ability to rasterize (turn into a bitmap) such files.

I placed the TIFF file in Aldus FreeHand 3.11 and replaced some of the text I had previously removed from the scanned image, sizing and rotating the PostScript fonts as required. The file took about half an hour to print on a Linotronic L330 at 1270 dots per

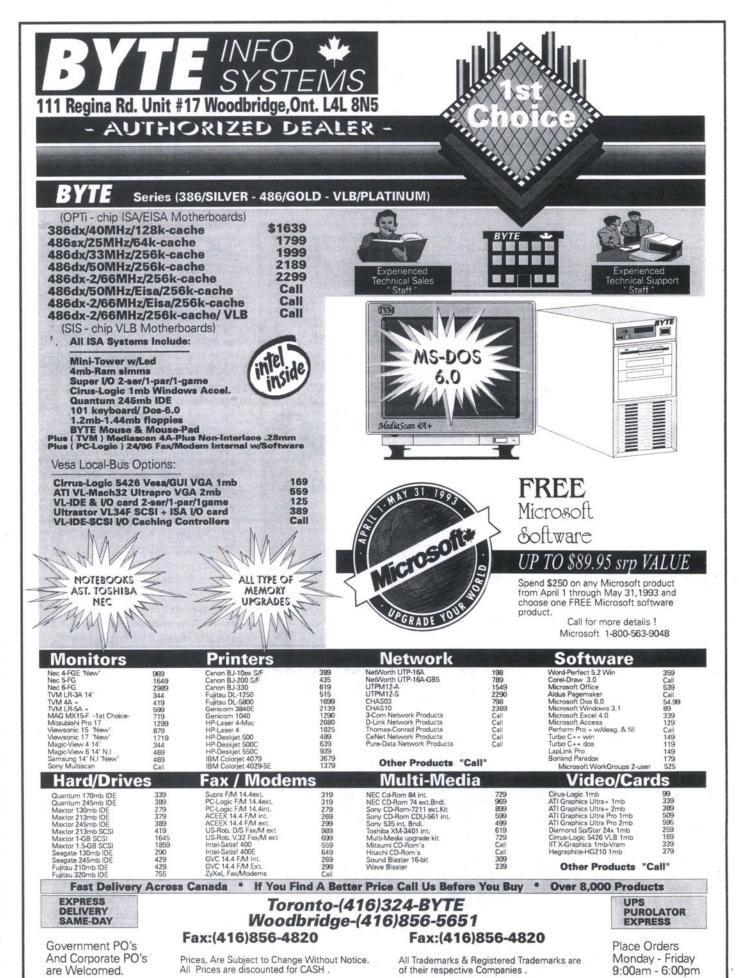
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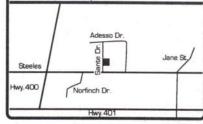
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bookreview

The Virtual Corporation

BY KEITH SCHENGILI-ROBERTS

the World's Most

and Revitalizing

the 21st Century

William H. Davidow & Michael S. Malone

the Corporation for

Title:

The Virtual Corporation: Structuring and Revitalizing the Corporation for

the 21st Century.

Authors: William H. Davidow and Michael S.

Malone

Publisher: Harper Collins 294 pages

Price:

Ever since *The Virtual Corporation* came out late last year, the book's title has become another catchword in the business world for the computerization of work. But the

last thing the authors of this book would have you believe is that all your problems will be solved when you buy a computer for your business. The virtual corporation is any business that uses computers to work in new ways, instead of using them to enhance the old ways of work.

One interesting point that come up early in *The Virtual Corporation* is that despite the huge increase in the number of computers in the

North American workforce, total productivity of the workforce has not increased. The authors believe that the reason for this is not that computers make workers less productive, but that a lot of what people are producing is unnecessary, and takes away from the original gains that were had by putting the computers in the workplace. The authors estimate that for every firm that uses computers wisely and efficiently, there's another firm that uses them inefficiently and wastefully. This is because the corporations the computer users work for do not take into account the full benefits that can be had with computing.

There are a lot of references to American car manufacturers in this book, usually as the example of how not to use computers in the workplace. Probably one of the best-known examples is General Motors' huge investment in new industrial robotic equipment and new production plants in the 1980s'. It did this even though at that time it was not producing cars, and it took GM twice as long to produce a car as it took Ford. The plans that were made did not make the building of quality cars more flexible or even more efficient — instead they simply entrenched the old ways of doing things. In the end GM announced

record losses in 1991, and laid off thousands of workers.

Essentially, the virtual corporation is any firm that uses information technology in a way that adds value to whatever is being produced. A good example of this is found at Benetton, a clothing retailer not normally associated in the public's mind with computer technology. Benetton put into place a computerized retailer reporting system that automatically kept their main offices supplied with information on the

types of clothing people were buying every day. That way, if fashions changed overnight, Benneton would know about it and could immediately switch to new production and minimize unwanted inventory. This simple strategy has made Benetton one of the world's most profitable clothing retailers.

The book emphasizes that computerization of work won't matter if people are doing the same type

of work as before. The popular idea of the "paperless office" doesn't really come to much if the end-result of computerizing is to produce more messages that nobody has the time to read. Instead, it calls for different methods of doing business, in ways best suited to computing technologies. This includes flexible methods of manufacturing, that which tailor the product to the specific needs of the buyer, or new ways people can work within corporations to add value to the products and services they deliver.

Two of this book's main shortcomings are that it is very academic in tone, and often very repetitive. Once the reader gets the general idea of any argument, he is given several more examples to drive the point home. While useful, it tends to make the book drag a bit. Also, none of the ideas in this book are particularly new, but the authors have been able to bring together a lot of ideas from different fields. As a result, The Virtual Corporation is probably one of the best books dealing with the likely direction corporations will be taking in the future.

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bookreview

Technology Edge: The Desktop **Guide to CD-ROM**

BY KEITH SCHENGILI-ROBERTS

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Title: Technology Edge:

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Authors: Dana Parker and Bob Starrett

Publisher: New Rider Publishing

426 pages softcover

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This book is a good beginner's guide to the world of CD-

ROM, and has enough useful information to help you choose the CD-ROM player that's right for you. It will also help as a good reference when you install your CD-ROM drive, and give you an idea of what CD-ROM titles you should consider getting.

Technology Edge covers all of the basics of CD-ROM, from how they are manufactured to how they work and what you can accomplish with them. There are good chapters devoted to multi-

media applications, networking, disc formats and even what the authors see as the

future of CD-ROM. It's also a good resource guide to the various CD-ROM-related software and hardware manufacturers out there. If you want to make your own CD-ROM this book will tell you how to go about it and who to contact.

While the book covers a lot of ground. its major fault is that it does not go into any one subject in depth. In other words,

the Guide provides a good overview of the subject, but rarely goes into nittygritty technical detail. This is suitable for its beginner's level audience, but will be unsatisfying for somebody who wants more in-depth coverage on a given subject. In short this is a perfect book to buy before you buy your CD-ROM drive, and will be the only book most people will ever need on the sub-

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BY KEITH SCHENGILI-ROBERTS

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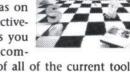
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It is a handy reference guide that will also reward the casual reader, providing a solid ground in all of the subjects surround-

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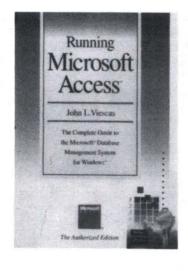


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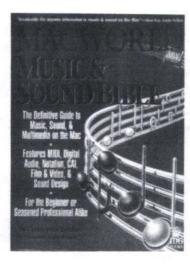


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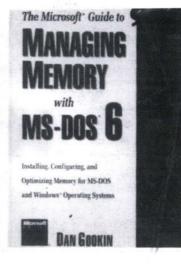
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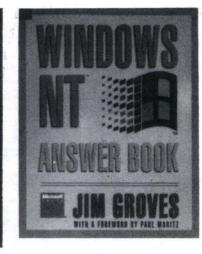


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Puzzling over GUI standards

BBSing is about to take the next leap forward. We're on our way to multimedia, graphical BBSing. The pieces to the puzzle are there, we just need to put them all together.

Before we can put pieces together, we have to establish some new standards. Take a look at what we have so far:

Standards take over

ASCII. In order for two machines to exchange data, they need to agree on how data is represented. If I send the binary digits "01000001" to your computer it knows it has to display the letter "A." ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange) is a simplistic sevenbit system for displaying alphanumeric data.

ANSI. When the IBM PC became on the market it had "extended" characters - characters that used eight bits and were able to be displayed in 16 different colors. This allowed simplistic text-based graphics to be used. Applications could draw boxes, simple graphs, use color and flash. A standard defined by the American National Standards Institute, ANSI had some other features like cursor positioning commands as well.

ANSI is a good example of how a new technology becomes available, followed by a new standard to support its use. A standard allows different software developers, on different hardware platforms, to support the same communications scheme.

In order to use ANSI over a modem, you have to have the right software at the user's end to decode all of the cursor and color commands and display the text image on the screen as it was intended to be seen.

ANSI was even modified to include simple music. Commands could be sent to play tones on another machine's speaker. It never really

NAPLPS. Sometimes you want to send a picture instead of words. NAPLPS (North American Presentation-level Protocol Syntax) is a graphical language that would tell their computer at the other end what to "draw" on its

screen. It contained commands to draw lines. boxes, circles, text etc. You could make some very elaborate pictures with NAPLPS.

NAPLPS never became very popular in the BBS world. It was slow, clumsy and expensive. It did become popular in the videotex industry. It is still used on some cable TV shopping and information channels and in-store information

GIF. Compuserve wanted a way for computer users with different machines to be able to view and exchange pictures. GIF (graphical interchange format) has been a great success. It has become the standard for cross-platform exchange of images. Almost any computer can

One problem with using GIFs as a communications standard is that the files get quite large. A typical high-resolution image would take up about 200K. It may be great for exchanging images, but it is not suited for online real-time applications.

Take a look at the average computer these days. It's capable of displaying high-resolution color images; it uses mouse control; it has the ability to play music or digitized audio, and it has the ability to integrate graphics into an application interface (GUI).

It's all very nice to have these features, but they'll never be incorporated into BBSing until some standards are established. There's a lot of work to be done. Consider the following:

How are images sent and displayed? How big are they on your screen? Where are they on your screen?

How are menus going to be constructed for mouse control? Can a BBS construct a button on your screen? A menu-bar? An icon? How are new icons sent you your machine?

Let's have some games that use sound effects. How do we transmit these sounds? What format will they be in? Will the same file work on a Sound Blaster or a Mac?

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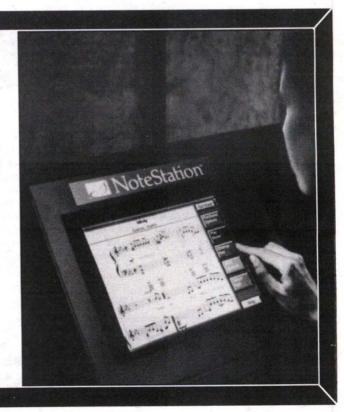


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Moving to multimedia

There are a lot of questions to be answered and a lot of planning to be done before we can move forward on implementing multimedia on BBSes. There is work being done and the solution may be just around the corner.

One of the main problems with BBSing is the size of image files. Viewing pictures in real-time is impossible due to the size of the files. A group of people in Vancouver have a solution to this problem: fractal technology.

Using fractal algorithms images can be compressed by up to 1/500th of their regular size. This means that a 1 megabyte image could be compressed into a few kilobytes and transmitted using a high-speed modem in a few sec-

One problem with this is that it takes a lot of CPU power to compress the image. On a RISC-based i860 CPU, it takes about 3.5 seconds to compress a single image. 3.5 seconds is not a lot of time, but the board costs thousands of dollars.

The nice thing about fractals is that they require no special hardware to decompress. It can be done in less than a second on almost any machine.

Ripterm

NAPLPS was a good idea, but it wasn't perfect. What an online graphics system really needed was something that was fast, adaptable and provided enhanced capabilities for designing user interfaces

Ripterm is a graphical utility not unlike Corel Draw or Adobe Illustrator. It provides a system to make some complex drawings, the difference here is that these drawings are transmitted by modem very quickly.

With Ripterm the image itself isn't sent only the commands to draw the image. The actual generation of the screen image is done by the terminal program at the user's end. Detailed drawings can be generated in less than a second, but that's not all there is to Ripterm.

Ripterm also has the ability to define buttons on the user's screen. If the user presses this button with a mouse a command is sent back to the BBS, telling it what to do next. You can define what text is to appear on the button as

You can also define icons. Icons are actually small bitmapped images. As mentioned before, sending bitmapped images is slow. To speed things up, the terminal program actually builds a library of icons. To use a particular BBS you download a set of icons and the BBS simply tells the terminal where and when to display each

Icons can be used as buttons, or they can be used to convey other information. One BBS used a series of icons as an animation sequence, it moved a series of icons around on the screen, just as a video game would.

Because Ripterm is well-designed it has a lot of potential, but like many other good ideas, it won't take off unless its use becomes almost universal. This means that the terminal, which is currently a DOS application, has to be ported over to every popular machine on the market.

One nice thing about Ripterm is that it can be implemented within almost any BBS program. Once screen scripts are assembled, they are transmitted like normal menu text files. Buttons can be defined to send back the proper command to activate the right function without much hassle at all.

First Class BBS

First Class BBS for the Macintosh has already broken many of the barriers I have discussed. It provides an integrated graphical terminal program that allows you to click on icons to access services, scroll through windows and open up simultaneous tasks in other windows such as file transfers.

It has the capability to send bitmaps and sound samples. It's a very good and wellplanned application but it too is not a universal solution, nor it as adaptable as Ripterm. First class is definitely worth keeping an eye on. Plans to ship a Windows client has just been announced.

Virtual Reality online?

There are definite advantages to building libraries of images and sounds that reside at the

user's end. I've always been a champion of this

Instead of sending the same images, sounds, icons, menus etc. to users every time they log on, why not just have the BBS call them up from a library, that allows the user to do things instead of waiting around for data to be down-

Imagine this: you have a CD-ROM with a huge library of data; you write online applications to call-up and manipulate this data, be it images or sounds. You could have 3D images of different characters, ships, buildings, scenery and equipment.

The only data that needs to be sent over the modem is the positions, orientation and size of

the images. Sounds and other effects can be manipulated in the same way. Why not build online virtual reality systems? All the pieces are

There is a system in development to do exactly this; it's called VOIDs (Virtual Object Interactive Dictionaries). It comes on a CD-ROM and is expected to hit the streets this sum-

Sources:

First Class BBS (416)299-4723. Fracterm - Fracterm Inc (604)687-7511. Ripterm - Telegrafix Communications (714)846-4179.

VOIDs - Dispair VR BBS (714)831-1776.



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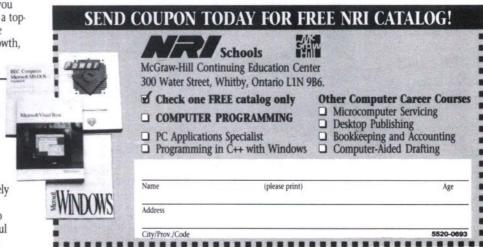
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newsbytes EXCLUSIVE NEWS

Network-ready HP lasers offer PC/Mac auto-switch

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA (NB) -Hewlett-Packard has introduced two new 17-pages-per-minute, 600 dotper-inch network laser printers, which the company says will work simultaneously on a network with IBM and compatible personal computers (PCs), Macintosh computers, Unix workstations and multiple networks. One of the new printers also offers built-in Postscript Level 2 software, according to Adobe Systems, creators of the Postscript page description language.

The two printers are the HP Laserjet 4Si MX, which has the built-in Postscript, and the HP Laserjet 4Si. Postscript capability can be optionally added to the 4Si. Both printers are based on Intel's reduced instruction set computing (RISC) chip for printers, 80960CF 25 megahertz (MHz) processor, which accounts for the page printing speed. Most laser printers, by comparison, print between four- and eight-pages-per-minute. Two 500-sheet input trays and one 500sheet output tray are standard on each printer to handle the higher volume of

Network connectivity is built-into the HP Laserjet 4Si MX that includes automatic switching among 10 network operating systems and automatic switching between the Ethernet, the Macintosh's Localtalk and HP Bi-Tronics network interfaces. The MX also includes 10 megabytes (MB) of RAM that can be expanded to 26MB in addition to 35 Adobe Type 1 typefaces.

Automatic switching between the Adobe Postscript and the HP's own page description language (PCL 5) is done by the MX printer. The printer also saves the downloaded typefaces, macros, dictionaries and other resources in its memory when switching between languages, so that the network user does not have to worry about re-downloading needed information to the printer.

Laserjet printers work by formatting the entire page in memory, then printing that page. The new HP printers speed up printing by formatting one page in a buffer while another page is printing. Built-in multiple frame buffers allow the printer to begin interpreting a Postscript language job while printing a PCL job, or vice versa.

The Laserjet 4Si comes wth 2MB of RAM, expandable to 36MB, enhanced PCL 5, a high-speed Bi-Tronics parallel interface and two modular input/output (I/O) expansion slots for optional HP Jetdirect interfaces, which can be added to accommodate a multiple network environment.

Hewlett-Packard says the HP Laserjet 4Si replaces the HP Laserjet IIID and HP Laserjet IIISi printers. However, IIISi owners who have Postscript Level 1 software can upgrade to Postscript Level 2 software for US\$149. IIISi owners who wish to got to Postscript Level 2 for the first time can expect to pay \$799.

The HP Laserjet 4Si MX printer is retail priced at \$5,499 and the HP Laserjet 4Si printer is offered at a retail price of \$3,749. The Postscrpt software option for the Si is an additional \$799. Hewlett-Packard says both printers are available now from its authorized dealers and distributors world-

Contact: HewlettPackard, tel (619) 592-4676, fax (619) 487-1236; Adobe Systems, tel (415)

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Modem market update

ATLANTA, GEORGIA (NB) - New technology in the PC modem market doesn't stay new for long, and price wars are now being extended to the 14,400 bit/second faxmodem market.

The best demonstration of this truth comes from Hayes Microcomputer Products, one of the market leaders. The company got into trouble in the late 1980s for failing to recognize the reality of price wars, but retooled with an engineering focus and new mass-market divisions like Practical Peripherals.

The company's latest move is a modem line called Accura, designed for computer specialty stores and superstores and aggressively priced. The top of the line 14,400 bit/second data and six-pageper-minute fax

product, dubbed the Accura 144 + Fax144, retails for US\$339. Street prices are expected to be 10 to 20 percent lower. The Accura line comes with Smartcom EZ data software and Smartcom Fax software. It also comes with a two-year limited performance warranty. It offers MNP 5 data compression as well as V.42bis, and follows the V.32bis error-correction protocol, as well as industry standards extending backward to 300 bit/seconds.

The technology frontier in the modem market, for the last year, has been the PCM-CIA standard, known as the "PC Card." PC Cards are about the size of a few credit cards stacked one-on-another, and the PCMCIA Type II standard allows such cards to act as modems, LAN adapters or other discrete devices, as well as memory cards. The rush is

on to push this technology toward highend fast modems, even in advance of there being a large installed base of PCMCIA Type II connectors on laptop computers.

Piiceon is just the latest into this market, with its "Dispatcher" series. Like the Hayes Accura, it runs data or fax traffic at 14,400 bits/second, the equivalent of six blank pages per minute. The list price of the topof-the-line product is \$549. The big difference is at the low-end 2,400 bit/second level, where the Piiceon retails for \$399, against \$79 for an equivalent Haves Accura box-type modem. One other difference, beyond the form factor, is that the Piiceon product supports MNP 10, which Piiceon says makes it "cellular ready." The MNP 10 technology includes a scheme to continually re-check the quality of a connection and maximize throughput, something not found in earlier

versions of the protocol, according to Microcom. The product is already being shipped for Toshiba's "E-slot" notebook computers, which include support for PCM-CIA Type II devices.

The mixture of voice, fax and modem technologies in the same devices represents another new opportunity being pursued by Commetrex Corp., a start-up formed by former executives from DCA, Hayes and Natural MicroSystems in Atlanta. Their first product is MultiFax - software that adds fax capabilities to Natural Microsystems' VBX voice boards. The idea is that companies could add fax to voice mail without adding

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Adobe ships Photoshop for Windows 2.5

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CALIFORNIA (NB) — Adobe Systems has begun shipping its Adobe Photoshop version 2.5 software for the Windows platform.

According to Adobe, the program was developed concurrently with the same version for the Macintosh. The two versions are claimed to be fully file-compatible and offer an identical feature set.

The products are being marketed towards designers, photographers and other graphics professionals who would use Adobe Photoshop software to manipulate any combination of continuous-tone, bitmapped, grayscale or color images, either scanned in or computer-generated.

The company also says that users can edit and reposition any portion of an image and import and export a wide variety of graphics formats including Encapsulated PostScript and Adobe Illustrator. The program also provides a number of special effects filters and 16-million-color paint capability.

The company says that some of the new features common to Adobe Photoshop version 2.5 for the Windows and Macintosh platforms are: new "dodge" and "burn" tools that allow users to selectively lighten and darken portions of an image; a variations feature that allows users to correct the color by selecting a variety of preview options; and a new "Quick Mask" feature that allows users to view and edit masks using tool box controls.

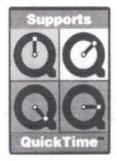
System requirements for running version 2.5 include: an Intel 386- or 486-based personal computer running DOS 5.0 or greater and Windows 3.1; four megabytes of RAM; a color VGA, Super VGA, 16-bit or 24-bit display adapter and compatible Windows environment-supported monitor; and a mouse or compatible pointing device.

Adobe Photoshop 2.5 for Windows is now available and is priced at US\$895.

Adobe recently signed a limited-time bundling deal that offers a free copy of Adobe Photoshop Limited Edition image-editing software with each Macintosh-compatible HP ScanJet IIc scanner shipped through September 30.

Contact: Adobe Systems Inc., 415/962-2730.

New QuickTime Faster, Needs Less Memory



CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA (NB) — QuickTime 1.6, a new release of the multimedia extensions for System 7 on the Macintosh, will be available in May and will use less memory, offer improved sound

support, better color compatibility and faster playback of video.

Apple Computer says it plans to incorporate the features new to version 1.6 of QuickTime into its Windows and Unix versions of the product.

Apple originally released System 7 and QuickTime in early 1992. In October of last year, Apple announced enhanced versions of both products in System 7.1 and QuickTime 1.5. This time, Apple is only releasing an upgrade of QuickTime in version 1.6, without an accompanying upgrade of System 7.

QuickTime 1.5 improved on QuickTime 1.0 by allowing video to be played back in a larger window on screen; offering support for fullscreen, full-motion digital video cards; integrating support for the Kodak Photo compact disc (CD); improving compact disc read-only memory (CD-ROM) and network data handling. It also has a fast 1-bit dithering for playback on monochrome screens such as those on the Powerbook notebook computer, generic media handlers for creation of new movie-track types and closed captioning.

In version 1.6 of Quicktime, users can expect to retain the ability to cut, copy, and paste video, sound and animation, according to Apple. However, the 1.6 version offers an enhanced version of the system software for sound— Sound Manager 3.0. Also known as compact disc (CD) quality sound, 16-bit sound may be recorded to and played back from QuickTime movies using Sound Manager 3.0, Apple said. In addition, sound may be imported from CD sources using Sound Manager.

Support for 16-bit add-on sound cards for the Macintosh offered by third party

vendors such as Media Vision is built into Sound Manager. Since Sound Manager 3.0 is a modular part of QuickTime 1.6, Apple says it intends to license Sound Manager to add-on sound hardware developers and software developers for distribution with third party products.

The company says movie playback is more than 10 percent faster with QuickTime 1.6 than with previous versions of Quicktime. Apple says users can expect smoother and better movie playback as a result.

QuickTime 1.6 makes colors in a movie played on one color monitor look the same when played on any other color monitor. Apple says the addition of Colorsync, its color-matching technology, makes the color matching possible. Support for 1-bit black and white colors on up to 32-bit color is available so users can play QuickTime movies on a wider range of Apple computers including the 4-bit gray-scale Powerbook and Duo computers.

Apple says QuickTime 1.6 will enhance the text-track feature introduced in QuickTime 1.5 by supporting smoothed, Truetype text. To users, this means that when a QuickTime movie that includes text is re-sized, jagged edges of the text will smooth out.

All of these new capabilities are included in version 1.6 but will require 90 percent less memory when installed, according to Apple. The company says this is intended to accommodate users with entry-level Macintosh computers.

In order to work, QuickTime 1.6 requires a Macintosh with an 68020 processor or higher, four megabytes of memory, and version 6.0.7 or later of the Macintosh operating system.

QuickTime 1.6 will be bundled with System 7.1 and included with all new Macintosh computers beginning in May. Bulletin boards and user groups will also be distributors of the 1.6 version, Apple said, or users may call Apple directly toll-free to order the 1.6 version for a US\$10 handling fee.

Contact: QuickTime 1-800-769-2775 ext 6596.

Wrist, hand site of most work-related injuries

WASHINGTON, DC (NB) — The reported incidence of repetitive stress injuries (RSI), the pain and related weakness caused by constant small movements such as those experienced by computer keyboard operators, have, according to the latest PC World Magazine, tripled in the past 10 years, making RSI the number one cause of worker complaints to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Although more progressive European companies have made an effort to prevent such injuries through special regulations, few local governments in the U.S. — San Francisco and affluent Suffolk County, New York being notable exceptions — have given any serious attention office regulations that might reduce RSI injuries.

Newsbytes recently interviewed a Pennsylvania-based expert in RSI who told this bureau that her practice has also seen a great increase in such injuries. According to Sherry G. Sabine, OTR/L CHT (occupational therapist and certified hand therapist) RSI, or "cumulative trauma disorders" can occur at any time in a worker's career. Occasionally problems show up within days after a particular job is begun. Often symptoms are vague and nonspecific and may not develop until the worker has performed the same job over months or years. "There are no one-time incidents that can be identified as a cause of RSI."

According to Ms. Sabine, because the worker does not have a broken bone or cut, and there is no sign of bruising or visible swelling, the individual who suffers from cumulative trauma will probably not appear injured to a supervisor who therefore might not recommend appropriate rest or changes in working conditions until an injury becomes severe, perhaps causing permanent disability.

"Some days the worker feels fine," she told Newsbytes, "and other days discomfort may be severe. A history of generalized complaints may develop in such a way that the employer and sometimes even the worker become unsure of whether the symptoms are job- or hobby-related, or even if they are real."

Carpal tunnel syndrome is probably one of the most widely recognized diagnoses when considering cumulative trauma or repetitive stress injuries. This is a soft-tissue injury that occurs at the wrist. As soft tissue becomes irritated, internal swelling occurs, she said. The extra fluid coming into the tissue serves two basic functions. The fluid "splints" the irritated tissue to prevent movement that could increase the irritation, and it begins the healing process of the injured tissue.

"Unfortunately, as motion continues with day-to-day activities, the nerves enclosed in the tunnel become pinched as the pressure from the swelling increases."

But CTS is far from the only RSI commonly seen according to Ms. Sabine. The well-known "tennis-elbow" (actually lateral epicondylitis), DeQuervain's Syndrome (a soft tissue injury to the thumb), and thoracic outlet syndrome (which causes pain to the entire arm), are also being seen more often.

Ms. Sabine recommends taking the following steps to avoid such injuries:

Computer operators should be encouraged to stretch frequently, moving head, neck, shoulders and arms briefly to balance

muscle tension. The worker should be seated properly with the chair providing firm support for the back, with either adjustment capability or shape that allows for the addition of a cushion. The seat height should be adjustable so that, with the operator seated, the keyboard can be used with the elbows in about 80- to 90- degrees of flexion. A freely adjustable footrest should be used to prevent fatigue.

The keyboard should be positioned so that the operator's wrists are supported with an appropriate wrist rest, which maintains the wrists in a neutral position with the fingers comfortably on the keys.

Work should be placed slightly behind, and to the side of, the keyboard at a comfortable reading distance and at the proper height to prevent a stoop-shouldered position. The computer screen should also be positioned at proper eye level, she says.

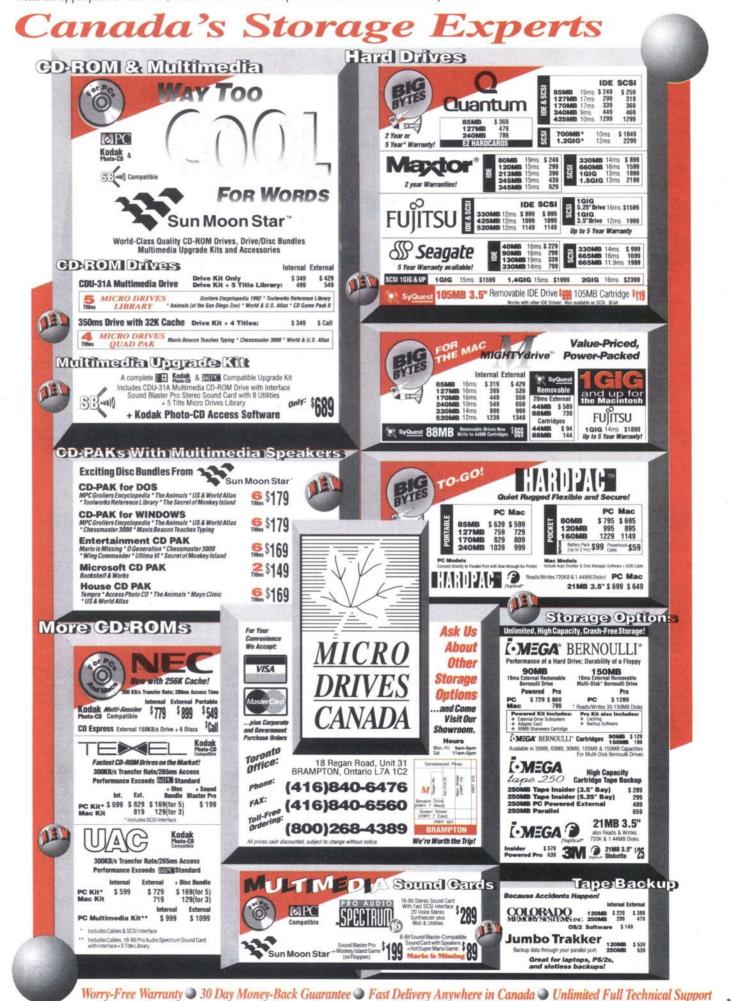
And, in some situations, specific keyboards or other adaptive equipment may be suggested for individual workers.

Ms. Sabine is a registered occupational therapist and certified hand therapist who

has been practising in the York, Pennsylvania, area since 1972.

Much of the adaptive equipment needed for the work place is commercially available and can be obtained through industrial suppliers or rehabilitation equipment suppliers, such as Susquehanna Rehab Products, in Wrightsville, Pennsylvania to which Ms. Sabine is a consultant.

The locations of occupational therapists in other regions who are skilled in evaluating upper-extremity problems, can be obtained from The American Society of Hand Therapists, 1002 Vandora Springs Rd., Suite 101, Garner, NC 27529.



Adobe Intros Acrobat Reader and Acrobat Exchange

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS (NB) - At a Seybold Seminars '93 press conference, John Warnock, chairman and CEO of Adobe Systems, made the company's first announcement of Acrobat Reader and Acrobat Exchange, two applications for the emerging Acrobat family of crossplatform distribution products.

Macintosh versions of the new viewing software are scheduled to ship in the June time frame and Windows versions later this summer, said Warnock. The Mac and Windows versions are now in beta testing,

ing, and DOS versions will enter alpha soon. Acrobat Reader and Acrobat Exchange are both designed to let users view, navigate and print electronic documents that are consistent in formatting and layout, regardless of the file formats in which they originated.

Acrobat Reader will be used by publishers to give users access to completed electronic documents in much the same way that publishers now distribute paper-based magazines and newspapers, Warnock explained.

is targeted at peer-to-peer use in large corporations. The software will let users create Acrobat documents, and add notes and comments to documents produced by coworkers

During the fourth quarter, Acrobat Reader and Acrobat Exchange will be enhanced with unstructured full-text search capabilities, Warnock said. In the first quarter of 1994, Adobe will add structured full-text search functions that provide users with hypertext links and more detailed information on documents.

ence, Adobe's Ken Anderson showed the journalists how the GUI-based software might be used to share maps, phone lists, news releases on Adobe products, Seybold publications and other documents.

Documents viewed and created in Reader and Exchange will use Portable Document Format (PDF) (the PostScriptbased document description language that is the cornerstone of Acrobat) Warnock

The unstructured full-text search capabilities will be supplied by the TOPIC document retrieval engine recently licensed by Adobe from Verity, Inc.

Structured searches will be made possible by licensing deals with Avalanche Corp. and Mastersoft Inc., also announced at last night's press conference. Adobe will use conversion technology from Avalanche and Mastersoft to merge the structural elements of native file formats into PDF files, Warnock said.

The Avalanche technology will allow PDF files to use tags from documents created with Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML), an emerging standard for describing structural elements.

The technology from Mastersoft will allow Acrobat applications to support WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, FrameMaker (MIF) and most other applications that rely on stylesheets to format text. The technology translates native application files into a common file format that captures documents' style elements.

During the demonstration, Anderson showed how users of Acrobat Exchange can annotate documents with electronic "stick-on" notes. He also displayed the ability to quickly import files from an outside file format, simply by clicking on an "insert" button.

Zoom, thumbnail preview, bookmarks, "go to next page" and structured and unstructured searches were a few of the other features shown.

By using Adobe's Multiple Masters technology, Acrobat Reader and Acrobat Exchange allow users to view any font style, regardless of whether the appropriate fonts are installed on the user's system, he

The software also uses JPEG compression, he pointed out. A 36-page document containing 78MB of data, including photos and other images, can be downsized to only 976 K, he illustrated.

Contact: Linda Prosser, Adobe, tel 415-962-





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MULTIMEDIA '93 EXPOSITION AND FORUM "The Merging of Technologies" May 26-29, 1993, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Featuring: Multimedia Communications, Vicom Flectronic Design and Showcase on Production. Conference Trade Show May 27-29, 1993. Contact Susan Blair (416) 660-2491.

JUNE

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW INT'L-SUMMER June 2-9 1993, Chicago, IL. For more info contact: Sam Lippman at The Electronic Industries Association (202) 457-

BUSINESS TRADE & TECHNOLOGY SYM-POSIUM June 9 and 10, 1993 at Bingeman's Convention Centre Kitchener, Ontario. This event has been coordinated for the benefit of all businesses in "Canada's Technology Triangle" area. This Symposium is sponsored collectively by Economic Development Departments, of Cambridge, Guelph, Kitchener and Waterloo. There will be 16 Business Problem Solving Seminars over two days.

TORONTO FOXPRO DEVELOPERS CON-FERENCE June 11 & 12, 1993, at the Sheraton East Hotel in Toronto. This Conference will bring together some of North America's best known database developers for two days of seminars, work-shops and panel discussions. To register call 1-800-268-2841 Ext.35.

COMDEX/CANADA July 13-15, 1993, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The 1993, show is, in a sense, a continuation of the LAN Expo and Windows World. Contact: Kim Pappas, The Interface Group (617) 449-6600.

WINDOWS WORLD CANADA July 13-15, 93. Toronto, ON. Contact: Interface Group: (617) 449-6600.

SEPTEMBER

THE ATLANTIC CANADA COMPUTER SHOW September 15-16, 1993, at the Halifax Metro Centre, World Trade & Convention Centre. 10th show. Business. government and other organizations can find out how computer technology can help them become more productive and prof-itable. A showcase of the latest products and services. Contact: Fred West, Show Manager (416) 252-7791.

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NETCON '93 September 29-30, 1993, at The Automotive Building Exhibition Place, Toronto. The only show in Canada dedicated exclusively to networking and connectivity! Sponsored by Plesman Publications Ltd. Contact: Chuck Armitage, Show Manager (416) 497-9562.

OTTAWA BUSINESS & GOVERNMENT COMPUTER SHOW September 29 and 30, 1993, at Lansdowne Park., 1015 Bank Street, Ottawa. Information technology exposition in the National Capital Region, featuring a Pen-Based Computer Showcase, National Master Standing area and Software Centre. Contact: Industrial Trade & Consumer Shows Inc. (613) 232-0766.

NOVEMBER

CANADIAN COMPUTER SHOW & CONFER-ENCE November 22–25, 1993 at the Toronto International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd., Mississauga. The 24th Annual Canadian Computer Show & Conference, The Fall Computing Classic. Canada's pre miere computer event, featuring all aspects of the desktop and portable technologies, including; the newest in personal computers, notebooks, palmtops, software, networking, open systems, communications, 05/2, windows, pen-based and wireless technology, multimedia, and more. Contact: Deborah Dugan, G.D.E., Show Manager (416) 252-7791 or fax (416) 252-9848.

SEMINARS

DESKTOP PUBLISHING IN COLOUR May 14, 1993, Embassy Suites, Markham, ON. To register call Michael Kieran at Desktop Publishing Associates (416) 480-1376.

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INTERNATIONAL

COREL DRAW-The Next Generation, International User Conference. May 16-19, 1993. Grand Hyatt Washington, Washington, DC. To Register call (617) 235-5560.

ICA COMNET DALLAS '93 May 16-20 at the Dallas Convention Center. The five-day conference will open two days earlier. Both conference and exposition will concentrate on stragegic issues involved in enterprise net-working for management. The full range of communications solutions—from office LANs to intercontinential voice/data networks—will be demonstrated among the exhibits and discussed in the extensive conference. Contact: IDG World Expo Corp., 111 Speen St., P.O. Box 9107, Framingham, Mass. 01701. (800) 545-EXPO.

VIRTUAL REALITY '93 MAY 19-21 1993. San Jose, CA. Focusing on VR in design, entertainment, military, medicine, networking and training. For more info contact: Meckler Conference Management (203) 292-5047 226-6947

COMDEX-Spring May 24-27, 1993. Atlanta, GA. Contact: The Interface Group: (617) 449-6600.

WINDOWS WORLD May 24-27, 1993. Atlanta, GA. Contact: The Interface Group: (617) 449-6600.

NEXTWORLD EXPO '93 May 25-27 Moscone Center, San Francisco, CA. NEXTWORLD Expo combines three events in one: A worldwide Developer a Conference; an end-user product show, with A worldwide Developer's

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MACSHOW The Computer Solutions Expo. Orlando, May 25-27, Orlando Centroplex. Chicago, July 8-10, Merchandise Mart. Philadelphia, August 19-21, Civic Center. St.Louis, Sept. 9-11, Cervantes Convention Center. Dallas, Nov. 4-6, Informart. Miami, Dec. 2-4, Radisson Airport Convention Center. Call 1-800-MACSHOW or Fax: (215) 957-9798.

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW INT'L SUMMER. June 5-9, 1993. Chicago, IL. Show management: Electronic Industries Association. (202) 457-8700.

PAGEMAKER CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION June 7-9, 1993. Seattle, WA. Show management: Pagemaker Conference. (206) 633-

DIGITAL WORLD Conference & DemoCenter, June 23-26, 1993, Beverly Hills, CA. For more info call (800) 433-5200.

DATABASE WORLD CONFERENCE & EXPO. June 29-July 1, 1993. Boston, MA. Show management: Digital Consulting. 508-470-

MACTIVITY. June 29-July 1, 1993. San Jose, CA. Show management: Winehouse Jose, CA. Show management Computer Co. 408-354-2800.

PC EXPO. June 29-July1. 1993. New York. NY. Show management: Nat'l Blenheim Expos Inc. (800) 829-3976.

FUZZY LOGIC '93. July 20-22, 1993. San Francisco, CA. Show management: Pennwell Publishing Company. (508) 392-

SIGGRAPH (ACM). August 3-5, 1993. Anaheim, CA. Contact: ACM/SIGCG: (708) 850-7843.

MACWORLD EXPO-East. August 3-6, 1993. Boston, MA. Contact: Mitch Hall Associates: (617) 361-8000.

SUN OPEN SYSTEMS EXPO-West. August 10-12, 1993. Anaheim, CA. Contact: Publications Comm. Inc: 800-289-3976.

SCO FORUM '93 University of California, Santa Cruz, August 14-19, 1993. Offering a broad range of courses on the key business, engineering and enterprise-computing topics affecting the international information systems industry. Also keynote addresses and panel discussions and a hands-on prod-uct exhibition, featuring the latest open sys-tems offerings from the world's leading OEMs and ISVs. To register call: (800) 553-9939 or (415) 966-8440.

INTEROP-Fall. August 23-27, 1993. San Francisco, CA. Contact: Ziff Davis: (415) 941-3399.

HOME OFFICE TECHNOLOGY HOT CON-FERENCE & EXPOSITION. August 24 & 25 1993. San Jose Convention Facility, San Jose, CA. For more info Contact: Future Expositions (408) 369-7744.

WINDOWS & OS/2-East. August 24-26, 1993. Boston, MA. Contact: Miller Freeman Expos-West: (415) 905-2200.

WINDOWS CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION September 22-24, 1993 at the San Jose, CA Convention Center. Presented by Seybold Seminars. Contact: Beth Sadler or Robbie Lapides, Seybold Seminars (310) 457-8500.



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MULTIMEDIA...MULTIMEDIA...MULTIMEDIA

Multimedia has certainly become the buzzword in computing circles over the past few years. This can be perplexing to Amiga owners as the Amiga has been a Multimedia platform since its introduction in 1985 and they are sometimes left wondering what all the hoopla is about.

While definitions of Multimedia abound, in computing terms it really boils down to the ability to use sound, graphics, animation and video simultaneously, and preferably in an interactive situation. Given this definition, the Amiga's native architecture continues to make it the only true Multimedia computer on the market.

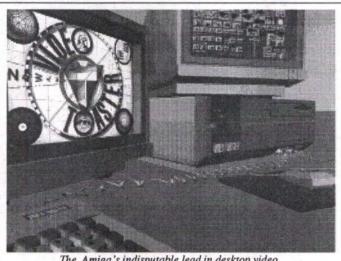
Program execution is not left to a single CPU; rather it is shared by the Amiga's custom chipset of coprocessors, each designed to handle specific tasks such as sound, graphics, animation and video display. As a result, a complex Multimedia presentation can be executed effortlessly.

To take advantage of the Amiga's hardware capabilities, there are numerous software packages with powerful, yet easy to master authoring interfaces for producing Multimedia applications. Commodore's own AmigaVision and AmigaVision Professional, Scala, CanDo and Helm are the most powerful. Hyperbook by Gold Disk is also a very useful program although it is more limited in its capabilities.

Amiga Multimedia applications can be found everywhere: information kiosks throughout North America and Europe; interactive learning and tutorial applications in schools, business and industry; in world-

famous exhibit buildings; and as product or service demonstrations and sales tools. Indeed, there has been considerable conjecture that one of the deciding factors, which caused the International Olympic Committee to award the next summer Olympics to Atlanta instead of Toronto, was an impressive Amiga driven Multimedia presentation by Atlanta.

Amiga's seamless multitasking abilities not only assist during production of Multimedia presentations, but also enable interactive links to other programs such as databases which gather and process user responses. Here at Amsoft, we specialize in Multimedia and would be only too pleased to demonstrate true Multimedia, Amiga style. Multimedia is NOT a CD-ROM player hooked up to a sound card!



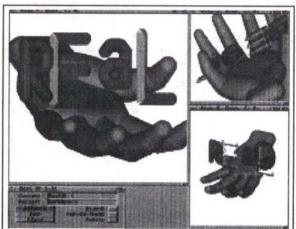
The Amiga's indisputable lead in desktop video is about to take another quantum leap.

TOASTER NEWS

It's official! NewTek is about to release Version 3 of the Video Toaster Software as well as an AGA version for the Amiga 4000. Owners of non-AGA Video Toasters will be able to upgrade to the AGA version. The Amiga's indisputable lead in desktop video is about to take another quantum leap.

With the exception of ToasterPaint, every module has been drastically upgraded and

improved in the new Toaster revisions. The switcher now sports 288 effects! On AGA machines, like the Amiga 4000, these wipes are in full colour (Kiki effects will never be the same!). Revision 3 Toaster software for all Toaster boards has added support for audio with effects. Now you actually hear the glass shatter when you use that effect and if you don't like the effects that NewTek provides you can create your own. The CG (character generator) has been completely rewritten and now supports Postscript and Compugraphic fonts. These fonts can be scaled on the screen and moved around with the mouse. The new CG can directly import graphics and create semi-transparent boxes. For users who never seem to have enough fonts, NewTek provides over 250 Postscript fonts!



Real 3D sports a fully customizable user interface

Perhaps the most impressive revisions of the new Toaster software are to Lightwave and the Lightwave Modeler. Rendering speed of the new Lightwave is nothing short of phenomenal. It now renders almost five times faster, and it was no sloth before! On AGA machines, Lightwave now allows you to play back your animations at 30 frames per second in more than 256000 colours directly from the switcher - no more single frame recording.

OPALVISION

As of this writing, Centaur Development advises that the OpalVision Video Processor and the OpalVision Video Suite are due for release within ninety days and the Scan-Rate Converter should be released by late summer. While there has been some grumbling in the Amiga community about Centaur's "delay" in releasing the add-on boards, one should remember how many years New-Tek's Video Toaster was considered to be "vapourware".

OpalVision's superbly engineered 24-bit graphics board, introduced last summer by Centaur, is generally acknowledged to have the best paint program and smooth, double-buffered 24-bit animation available for the Amiga. Add the soon to be released Video Processor and the Video Suite and you have a serious alternative to the Video Toaster.

REAL 3D

Real 3D is a three-dimensional modeling and animation program for Amiga computers. The latest version is 2.0 and 3-D artists have been eagerly awaiting this program for a long time. Features like a fully customizable user interface, ease of use and a very long list of animation and modeling tools set this program apart from other animation packages available for personal computers. Included with Real 3D 2.0 is a programming language which, when used with features like particle animation (for creating real-world effects like explosions, rain or worm holes), gives the user a level of power limited previously only to high-end workstations.

Installation of Real 3D on the hard drive is simple enough. The program comes compressed on four non-protected floppy diskettes and takes a few minutes to install. A supplied 'dongle' has to be plugged into the the joystick port of the computer before the program can be used. The manual is very comprehensive with a lot of tutorials.

Real 3D sports a fully customizable user interface. You can also have any number of windows for viewing the objects using parallel or perspective projections. Real 3D fully multitasks within itself which means that while one or more windows are updating the view, the program doesn't come to a halt. You can be rendering a ray-traced animation in one window while working in another.

Real 3D uses ray-tracing to render pictures. Ray-tracing in Real 3D is very fast! So fast, in fact, that ray-tracing can be used as a primary rendering method for updating the display, instead of the usual wire frame mode.

We can't describe every feature of Real 3D here because it would require a whole edition of Amiga Talk just to list these features, much less to describe them. However, here is a sampling: speed, depth-of-field, motion-blur, solid modeling, b-spline surfaces, free-form construction, fractal landscape and tree generator, particle animation, field rendering and the Real 3D programming language. Please drop by our store for a full demonstration.



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USER GROUPS

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CANADIAN COMPUTER GRAPHICS ASSO-CIATION — CCGA's mission is "to provide education and information in computer graphics technology and its applications." At special events members are informed of developments in the industry, and provided a networking forum to develop career and business opportunities. Additional benefits include; insurance, newsletters, subscriptions, employment liaison office, and annual art & design competition. CCGA, 2175 Sheppard Ave. E., Suite 110, Willowdale, Ontario, M2J 1W8. Fax: 491-1670 Tel: 491-

CASE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP - A special interest group or SIG is currently being formed to help meet the needs of people interested in learning more about people interested in learning more about CASE. The purpose is to provide a forum where members may share their experi-ences. Experienced users or those contem-plating introducing CASE to their organiza-tion are invited to call either Joe Da Silva at 252-1408, or Rob Beckman 928-2694.

CASE - Computer Aided Software CASE — Computer Aided Software Engineering is open to anyone interested in being tool independent, and technology independent. 1-1 1/2 hours, monthly sched-uled meetings. Vendor presentations as well as individual. BBS 497-5263, (log on if MIS Affiliated messages, into Tech 2nd category called CASE). Contact Joe Da Silva at 252-1408 or Rob Beckman at 928-2694.

CLUB CUBASE - Toronto area users of Steinberg Software products, especially their powerhouse sequencer Cubase, now have a forum to share information and develop their skills. Club Cubase meets at 7:30 pm on the last Monday of every month, in Room C426 at the Casa Loma Campus of George Brown College - 160 Kendall Ave. For more information contact Club Cubase at 62 Hamworth Drive, Willowdale, ON, M2H 3C2 or call 496-9905.

CLUB MAC COMPUTER GROUP OF ONTARIO — All Mac users, Macintosh OS & related issues, meets 2nd Tuesday, Michener institute, 222 St. Patrick St., Toronto, 7 pm to 10 pm, infoline 462-1702.

COMPUTER TRAINERS' NETWORK - A group of teachers, tutors and consultants who meet the first Thursday of every month, to discuss training or computer-related issues. Meeting format consists of refreshments, business portion, guest speaker and memberships available. Location: 121 King St. W., 24th Floor, Toronto, Ontario. For more information please call Veronica of Vision Computer at (416) 323-0406

CYBERPUNK RESEARCH LABORATORIES Merry hackers in search of picturesque; mountains, RAM and fairytales. For further data write c/o CyberPunk Research Labs. Seneca College of Communication Arts, 1124 Finch Ave. West, North York ON M3J

ELECTRONIC GAMES PLAYERS' ASSOCIA-TION (EGPA) – EGPA announces the start of their Canada-wide search for computer and video game players interested in swapping their used games. As a member of the EGPA, individuals will be able to exchange game software. Members will also be able

to buy used games without a trade. Membership available for the first year with an annual renewal. If you are interested in joining or would like more information. Please send \$1 to cover postage and handling to: EGPA, 292 Patricia St., North Bay, Ont., P1B 723. The one dollar is applied to your membership fee.

FOXPRO TORONTO USERS GROUP — Wednesday April 28 '93. Meeting Room #2, North York Public Library, 5150 Yonge St, North York. Meeting starts at 7:30p.m. to 9:30p.m

IRMAC — Information Resource Management Association of Canada: dedi-cated to data management, IRM, data dictionaries, CASE, and strategic planning in the corporate environment. Monthly meet-ing in Toronto, Ottawa, and Victoria. (416)

K.R.D. — 1995 (The Kidstuff Reunion Drive Group For 1995) At 144 Gillard Ave., Riverdale. Tel: 461-1343. Call for meeting dates 11AM Saturdays. Group's focus is to collect 1975-6 Canadian pennies in order to reassert interest by signing a petition to reinstate the 1975–76 CTV Show "Kidstuff". Komputer Kidstuff 1995?? 2005??. Ask for Jeffrey Leitner (415) 461-1343.

KW-MUG — 376 Peel Street, New Hamburg, ON, NOB 2GO, (519) 662-2627. Focus: Public domain distribution; reviews of current software; meetings variable, no fees.

- An Independent Apple User Group: Provides a support and information network to users at all levels. LOGIC network to users at all levels. LOGIC accomplishes this by: holding monthly meetings, hosting Special Interest Group meetings, providing an electronic bulletin board, publishing the Maple Orchard magazine (free to members), and maintaining an extensive library of shareware and public domain software. Meetings 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, North York Centre, 5110 Yonge St., in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm. Messages (416) 323-0828 BBS (416) 487-9771.

METRO TORONTO ADAM GROUP (MTAG)

- Supporting ADAM, CP/M-TDOS Users contact; (416) 424-1352 or write to: P.O. Box 165, 260 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, ON, MSA 1NO. Meetings 2nd Monday of each month. 1485 Albion Rd (Community Centre) and 4th Sat. each month at the Pape Ave. Community Center. Bi Monthly

NEXT USERS GROUP — Nextcomputer support, 2nd Thursday, Toronto Western Hospital, corner of Bathurst & Dundas, yellow elevator to 6th floor, 7:00 pm, Daniel O'Connell (416) 365-1899.

PCCT (PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB OF TORONTO) — PC users, 3rd Tuesday, St. Gabriel's Community Centre, 672 Sheppard Ave. E. (2 blocks East of Bayview, North side), North York, 7:00 pm, membership includes shareware, BBS, special interest groups (SIG's) & workshops, information (416) 244-6786.

STC — Society for Technical Communication: Dedicated to the advancement of the theory and practice of technical communication in all media. The Toronto chapter has over 250 members. Meetings from Sept.-June, at Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, 150 King St. W., on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. For more information confact Christine Mills at (416) 595-7690 or George Kima at (416) 409-595-7690, or George Klima at (416) 448-

TAF (TORONTO ATARI FEDERATION) Atari users, 3rd Thursday, North York City Centre Library, 5110 Yonge St., (at Park Home) 7:00 pm, public domain library, reg-ular demonstrations & guest speakers, infoline 425-5357, BBS 235-0318. Non-member admission \$2, membership \$30 (incl. newsletters).

THE CANADIAN AUTODESK MULTIMEDIA USER GROUP — Interested Users of Autodesk Multimedia products are invited to call Pia Zimperi at (416) 929-8155.

THE ELITE GROUP OF 3-D PROGRAM-MERS — (E.G.3D P) in association with L.T.P.D. Dedicated to Atari users. For more information write to L.T.P.D. c/o (E.G.3D P), 37 Montye Ave., Box #2, Toronto, Ontario

THE TORONTO COLOUR COMPUTER **GROUP** — meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. For more information, call Larry Osborne at (416) 972-1809.

TIMEX-SINCLAIR USERS CLUB — All Timex and Sinclair Computers. 1st Wednesday of the month, 14 Richome Court, Scarborough, ON, M1K 2Y1, 7:00 pm. Demonstrations, bi-monthly newsletter. Voice Info. (416) 751-7559.

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TORCHI (Toronto Region Computer Human Interaction) - — Meets every second Wednesday of the month from 7:00 pm-10:00 pm. Members come from business, academic, and government to share interests in human use of computers, reflected in human factors, usability, Ergonomics, the user interface and many other related disciplines. For more information re speakers, topics and membership. We are the local chapter of Sigchi a part of ACM. Call M. Boshes (416) 448-2697.

TORONTO APL SIG — An educational and TORONTO APL SIG — An educational and social organization concerned with the use and promotion of APL computer language. 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 pm (excluding the Summer) at BCE Place, 161 Bay Street; 10th Floor. Or write: Toronto APL SIG, Box 384, Adelaide Street P.O., Toronto, Ont., MSC 2J5. Contact Ben Best (416) 862-3193.

TORONTO PARADOX GROUP - meets 2nd TORONTO PARADOX GROUP — meets 2nd Thursday of every month at 5:00 pm Free BBS 271-9795. Call for next meeting Loc & list of presentations. Learn about 'PAL' (Paradox Application Language), add-in products, Paradox tips and traps. For membership info., contact Doug Campbell 496-0061

TORONTO USERS GROUP — User members support of As/400/38 imaging. Meetings held at the Airport Marriott Hotel every two months. Next meeting May 19/93. Please contact Wende Boddy at suite 2550, P.O. Box 77, Toronto Dominion Centre, Tor., ONT, MSK 1E7 for more information or cell M4518/03/2546 mation, or call (416) 607-2546.

TPUG (TORONTO PET USERS GROUP, INC.) — Commodore users (PET, 64/128, Amiga, CDTV, MS-DOS, etc.), meets Tuesdays (1st, 128; 2nd, Amiga; 3rd, GEOS; 4th, 64), York Public Library, main branch, 1745 Eglinton Ave. W. (near Dufferin), 7:30 pm; 3rd Thursday Alderwood United Church, 44 Delma Drive, Etobicoke, 7:30 pm; software library, pawsletter & BRS pm, software library, newsletter & BBS, information (416) 253-9637.

TRACE — Toronto Regional AutoCAD Exchange: Presentations on the last Tuesday of every second month. Held at the Malton Community Centre, 3540 Morningstar Drive. For details call Tim Lucas at (416) 750-9765.

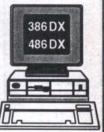
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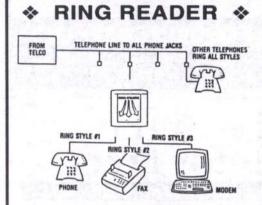
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Electronic Arts, Children's TV Workshop launch kid venture

SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA (NB) -Electronic Arts (EA), known for its computer games and the Children's Television Workshop (CTW), famous for the educational kids program Sesame Street, have formed a partnership to develop software titles for children. EA Kids, a division of Electronic Arts will publish the interactive electronic products that result from the relationship.

EA Kids started work last year, according to Senior Vice-President Stewart Bonn and is introducing its first three new titles April 15, 1993. EA Kids is focused on development of software for kids ages three to fourteen that can be used on computers, video game machines, compact disc read-only memory (CD-ROM) and the still-to-beintroduced 3DO Interactive Multiplayer. The titles developed in conjunction with CTW will feature the characters from Sesame Street, the company said.

The three new titles to be introduced this month are for the IBM and compatible

personal computer (PC) platform. They are Scooter's Magic Castle, Ping & Cooky's Coo Coo Zoo and Jake and Jennifer Eagle in the Eagle Eye Mysteries. Bonn told Newsbytes that EA Kids is trying to under-promise and over-deliver so consumers feel they get good value for their money. Each title offers a lot for children to do, and some portions can even be used as "lapware," meaning a child sits on his or her parent's lap and the two can play together. As expected, each title offers 256 colors, animation, sounds and music.

While no details as to the financial arrangements EA made with non-profit CTW have been released. Bonn told Newsbytes titles resulting from the relationship are expected in several months to a vear.

Contact: Electronic Arts, tel 415-513-7379, fax 415-570-5137; Children's Television Workshop, 212-875-6434

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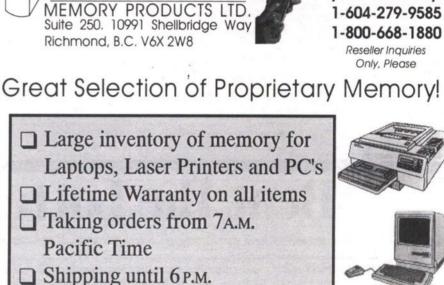
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"Virtual Reality" educational software

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA (NB) - When you get closer to the roaring lion, even the roaring gets louder in the new Animal Adventure - called a "virtual reality" educational software product - from Knowledge Adventure. The company says its two new titles are the first of their kind.

The new titles are version 2.0 of Isaac Asimov's Science Adventure and Animal Adventure. Science Adventure has the distinction of being the last project the famous science fiction writer worked on before his death last year.

Bill Gross, Knowledge Adventure company president, said the addition of virtual reality capability to the new titles allows learning to be accomplished by experience. Children can learn about animals by browsing around their habitat with the accompanying sights and sounds, and information about science is imparted via full-motion videos of scientific developments, animations and simulations where the user controls the experience.

Animal Adventure offers more than 100 mammals, reptiles, fish, sea creatures, birds and insects. Sections on ecology and endangered animals are also included. Users can enter and move around in an animal's habitat as well as moving around the animals themselves. The company says information on the species, senses, diet, predators, life span, habitat, rang and social habits for each animal is included.

Science Adventure Version 2.0 is focused on landmark discoveries in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, technology ecology and astronomy. Virtual corridors that branch off into various areas of science allow users to wander around and view various subjects at will. Interactive simulations of planetary motion, molecular motion, acoustic music, sound wave simulation, and a simulation contrasting the Kelvin, Fahrenheit, and Celsius temperature scales allow users to interactively experiment with each simulation. A map of the plant allows users to click on any location and see the scientific discoveries that occurred there.

Both products offer full-motion video, support for 256-color display and stereophonic musical instrument digital interface (MIDI) sound. System requirements include a video graphics monitor and a hard disk drive, although a mouse and a sound card are recommended. Knowledge Adventure has prided itself on offering software to users with the advantages of compact disc read-only memory (CD-ROM) via its compression technology, but without requiring a CD-ROM drive. These two titles, however, are being offered both on CD-ROM and on floppy disks. The CDROM version of each product is US\$79.95 and the floppy disk version is \$59.95.

La Cresenta, California-based Knowledge Adventure has recently been honored with the Best Elementary Education Program and Best Secondary Education Program by the Software Publishers Association for its Dinosaur Adventure and Science Adventure

Contact: Knowledge Adventure, tel 818-542-4200 ext 122, fax 818-542-4205.

New Mac Laserwriter drivers offer more control/speed

CUPERTINO, CALIFORNIA (NB) — Apple says it is introducing new printer drivers, version 8.0, for its Laserwriter printer geared toward the support of Adobe's new Postscript Level 2 page description language. The company says the new drivers will offer more control and faster printing to Laserwriter users.

The new software driver includes all features of the previous driver and adds support for features specific to certain printers such as multiple paper trays, optional envelope trays, printer resolution, and Photograde — features called Postscript

Printer Description (PPD) files.

Users will have more control with PPD. according to Apple, which said version 8.0 will offer the ability to do things like print page one of a document on letterhead and the rest of the document on regular bond paper in a printer equipped with two or more paper trays. Up to 30 percent faster background printing performance is also a benefit of the version 8.0 drivers, which offers support for Postscript Level 2 features such as data compression, real-time error reporting, patterns and pattern-caching and color

The version 8.0 drivers will be bundled with Apple's Postscript Level 2 Laserwriters, the Personal Laserwriter NTR and Laserwriter Pro 600 and 630 later this month. Adobe, which codeveloped the drivers with Apple Computer, will ship the 8.0 drivers separately under the brand name of PSPrinter version 8.0. Once the new drivers are available, current Laserwriter owners will be able to purchase the new printer driver and user's guide directly from Apple by calling the company's toll free

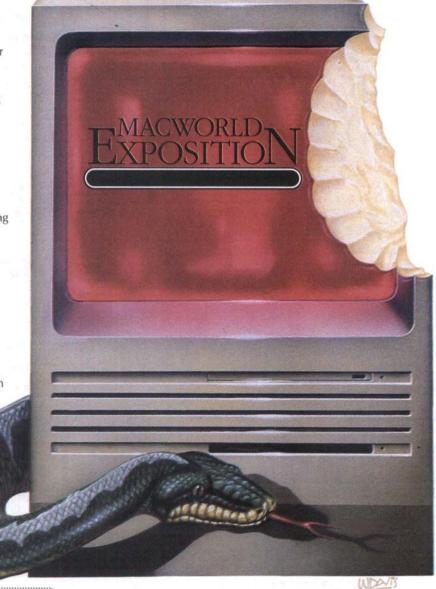
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For individuals with specialised interests, MACWORLD Expo/Canada offers several Pavilions and Conference Programs you can really sink your teeth into. There's the Networking and Connectivity Pavilion that demonstrates the latest in Mac connectivity solutions, an expanded **Education Pavilion for** K-12 and university educators and an **Electronic Prepress**



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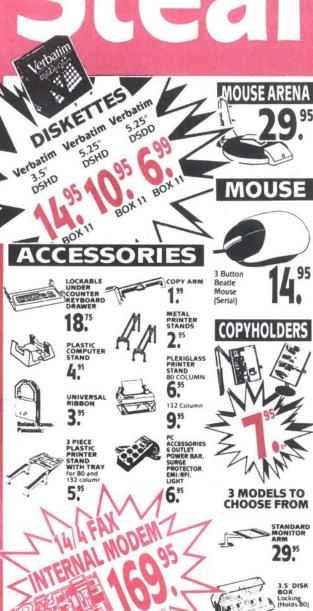








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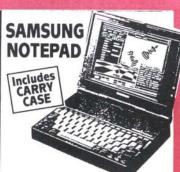
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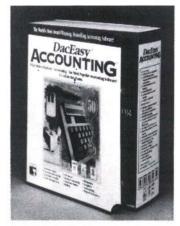
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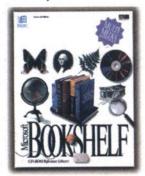
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