6 miniapp'les newsletter

the minnesota apple computer users' group, inc.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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8	9 (7:00 7:00AM	10	6:30	12 7:00 7:00	13	14 DRAG see p
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29	30	JULY 1997				



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Mini'app'les members welcome. Seward School, 2318 29th Ave. S., Minneapolis Eric Jacobson, 603-9111



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Epiphany Lutheran Church 1414 E 48th Street South "Cyberdog" Bert Persson, 861-9578



Macintosh Consultants SIG

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Macintosh Novice SIG

Merriam Park Library 1831 Marshall Avenue, St. Paul Tom Lufkin, 698-6523



Tom Lukin, 030-0323

Mac Programmers SIG Van Cleve Park Building 901 15th Ave SE, Minneapolis Gervaise Kimm, 379-1836



Filemaker Pro SIG

Partners 1410 Energy Park Dr #5, St Paul Steve Wilmes, 458-1513



Microsoft Word SIG

No Meetings during summer Tom Ostertag D 951-5520 E 488-9979



Photoshop SIG

No meeting this month Will alternate with Digital Imaging SIG



Mac Games SIG

Date, time, and location pending





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

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

Editor/Publisher: Tom Ostertag 488-9979

Newsletter Layout: John Hunkins

Mini app les BBS -824-4394, 24 hrs. Settings: 8-1-0. Call in with FirstClass® Client software or any textbased terminal program.

Mini app les Voice Mail – 229-6952

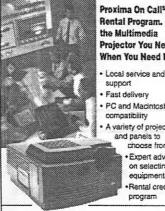
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Come join Mini'app'les members for some excellent volunteer opportunities. This is your chance to show us your computer knowledge and to help others along the way.

Computer Testing

Help Test Apple II equipment DragNet 840 12th Ave NE, Minneapolis Sat. June 14 & 18, 9:30 AM Contact: Tom Gates, 789-6981



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Members Helping Members

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

Macintosh	Key	If you would like to be a "Members Helping Members" volunteer, please e-mail Nick Ludwig with your name & phone number on our BBS, or leave a voice-mail					
Claris Draw	3	message at 229-6952, or t	use the MultiF	orm mailer near the back of	of this issue.		
Claris Resolve	2						
Claris Works	2,8,9,10						
Cross-Platform File Trnsfr							
FileMaker Pro	2						
First Class	2	Applell	Key	AppleIIGS	Key		
MacWrite Pro	2	transfer that the transfer of	,		,		
Microsoft Excel	3,6,7	Appleworks	1,6,9	Hypercard GS	- 1		
Microsoft Word	6	Applewriter	6	Smartmoney GS	1		
MYOB	7	Publish It!	1	Page 1 and 1	100		
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Quicken	3	To. Superform	1				
System 7	9		-				
Word Perfect	5						
New Users	11						



1.	Les Anderson	735-3953	DEW
2.	Brian Bantz	835-3696	DEW
3.	Mike Carlson	377-6553	D
4.	Eric Jacobson	645-6264	D
5.	Nick Ludwig	593-7410	DEW
6.	Tom Ostertag	488-9979	EW
7.	Ardie Predweshny	823-6713	DEW
8.	Owen Strand	427-2868	D
9.	Bruce Thompson	546-1088	EW
10	. Pam Lienke	457-6026	EW
11	. Tom Lufkin	698-6523	EW

D-days (generally 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
E-evenings (generally 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.)
W-weekends (generally 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.)
In any case, call at reasonable hours and ask if this is a convenient time for them. By the way, these volunteers can also be reached on our BBS! We appreciate your cooperation.

Newsletter Ad Rates

	1/12 page 2.25" Width x 2.5" Height \$10	Outside back cover 7-1/2" Width x 7-1/2" Height \$100
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Mac eDOM #938 & #971

Mac eDOM #938 - Stuffit™ Stuff Copyright © 1995 Mini'app'les Submitted by Bruce Thompson SEP 1995 eDOM #938 is a high density disk.

This disk has been updated May, 1997, to include DropStuff w/EE™ 4.0, StuffIt Expander™ 4.01, and StuffIt Lite 3.6. The comments regarding the previous versions of DropStuff and Stuffit Expander are still valid.



DropStuff w/EE™ 3.5.2 & StuffIt Expander™ 3.5.2 are used in combination with each other.



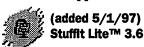
DropStuff with Expander Enhancer is designed to B→ solve four needs:

- 1) Creating Stufflt archives quickly and efficiently; Using DropStuff, you can create StuffIt archives by simply dragging & dropping your files and folders onto the DropStuff icon.
- 2) Providing a way to easily expand more compression formats using StuffIt Expander;

With Expander Enhancer installed, StuffIt Expander is able to decompress files which were compressed on Unix systems and IBM-PCs and compatibles, including ZIP (.zip), and ARC (.arc) archives; AppleLink (.pkg) packages; gzip (.gz), Unix Compress (.Z), UUencoded (.uu), and StuffIt SpaceSaver files. It will also join files that were segmented with another StuffIt product. Of course, with or without Expander Enhancer installed, StuffIt Expander will expand StuffIt (.sit) and Compact Pro (.cpt) archives, MacBinary (.bin) files, and decode BinHex (.hqx) files.

- 3) When expanding with StuffIt Expander, Power Macintosh users will see expansion occur at accelerated speeds (e.g., expansion of a sample StuffIt archive runs more than 5 times faster on a Power Macintosh 6100/60 than on a
- 4) Third-party products that use

Expander Enhancer will take advantage of Stuffing and UnStuffing within those products. By installing DropStuff with Expander Enhancer, you can improve the functionality of other 3rd party software you already own, like CE Software's QuicKeys, Freesoft's White Knight, and many more. A large number of vendors support StuffIt.



StuffIt has been the industry standard for compression and archiving since its introduction in 1987. Early in 1990, Aladdin Systems launched StuffIt Deluxe™, which introduced many new features into the original StuffIt. A few of these features have found their way into StuffIt Lite; longtime users of StuffIt may see some new, welcome additions. These additions led people, like yourself, to award the entire StuffIt family the 1993 and 1994 Macworld World Class Awards. Thank you for supporting StuffIt all these years.

StuffIt Lite works with System 6.0.4 or later and all versions of System 7, is 32-bit clean, and compatible with virtual memory and '040 caching. StuffIt Lite can be controlled with scripting systems such as AppleScript™ and UserLand Frontier™ software.

Why use Stuffit Lite?

Gathering many files into an archive allows you to transmit many files as one file over a modem or network. Compression of the files saves disk space and on-line time when transmitting or receiving files by modem or through a network. Compression of rarely used files also allows you to better utilize available disk space.



Mac eDOM #971 -SpeliTools Copyright @ 1997 Mini'app'les Submitted by Bruce Thompson MAY 1997

Need a spell checker and text util-

ity tool for all those "unusual" situations (e-mail, BBS, etc)? Then SpellTools is (are?) for you.

SpellTools are essential text tools for your Macintosh. All Macintosh users will find the features of SpellTools useful - no matter what kind of work you do with your Macintosh.

Everyone has a need for accurate spelling whether you are working on engineering, graphics or spreadsheets. Another task that demands accurate spelling is composing Email. Your entire personal or professional image is composed of the words you send to someone else either through E-mail or over the Internet. Accurate spelling makes your words appear more impactful, thoughtful and worthy of careful consideration.

Besides offering a nearly universal spell checker, SpellTools also contains a text stamper, Internet garbage character stripping, find and replace and many more useful tools. After you have used SpellTools features for 30 days, we feel you will not be able to go without its functionality.

The creation of Plug-Ins allows you to customize SpellTools to be used with almost any application. You will want to create SpellTools Plug-Ins for all of the applications you own.

The Floating Palette

You will interact with SpellTools most often from the Floating Palette. The Floating Palette appears in any program for which you have created a SpellTools Plug-In. The Floating Palette can be arranged either vertically or horizontally by clicking the zoom box in the top right side of title bar.

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Telecommunications Meeting Notice



Submitted by Bert H. Persson

For the June Telecommunications meeting, our past

President Bob Demeules will do a presentation on "Cyberdog".

Cyberdog 2.0 is the latest version of the new Internet-access software that gives Mac users flexible and extensible access to the Word Wide Web (WWW), news groups, e-mail and other network services.

Cyberdog is a modular architecture for integrating existing and future network protocols and services into a unified package for the Internet user.

Many of you may know that the Telecommunications SIG has finally

found a permanent home with access to a phone connection. Initially we had some problems when we discovered that the available phone line was part of a PBX (Public Branch Exchange?) system and could not be used with our analog modem. This has now been resolved thanks to Jerry Winzig at the Epiphany Lutheran Church who was kind enough to install a separate line bypassing their PBX system so we could use their meeting room.

This enabled us to use their phone line at our May meeting to connect to our BBS where Bruce Thompson showed us how to use Bulk Rate.

I should point out that we now

have an excellent opportunity to be able to show our members how to log on to our BBS or get connected to the Internet. Also it would be helpful when planning future meetings if there are any problems or topics concerning Telecommunications that you would like us to bring up, just leave a message on our voice mail 229-6952 or give me a call at 861-9578.

Telecommunications SIG

Thursday, June 5 at 7 pm. Epiphany Lutheran Church 1414 E 48th Street Minneapolis, MN Topic: "Cyberdog"

Pam Works With ClarisWorks



Submitted by Pamela K. Lienke

When working with a database, you may have dif-

ficulty selecting one field in a record. To move from field to field within a record, you usually use the Tab key to move to the next field or Shift-Tab to move to the previous field. Occasionally you may decide to select a field by positioning the pointer in one field and clicking the mouse button. Sometimes when you click where you think the field is. the entire record becomes highlighted. This is extremely irritating. It seems no matter where you click, you can't get a single field, except accidentally. Before you become totally frustrated, press the Tab key. Presto! You're in one field.

June Saturday Apple II Meeting



Submitted by Tom Gates

The Roseville library has been scheduled for another Saturday Apple II meeting.

The library is open until 5pm and at this time there are no other meetings scheduled (this afternoon's group canceled) so we should have another 'no rush' time going over Apple II information. The coffee

shop may even be open already - so some in-the-library-refreshments will probably be possible for break time.

Saturday - June 21st 1997 Roseville Library - Hamline Cty Road B (Apple II Novice site) 12:30 - 3:30pm Topic: The Apple II Review

Good News For Apple][GS Users

Submitted by Harry Lienke

The following announcements come from Joe Kohn and Shareware Systems II.

I have zero details to offer at the moment, but there will soon be an updated version of Harmonie available from Burger Bill and Shareware Solutions II.

In addition to fixing bugs in the current versions (AWGS colors, full justification), there will be direct support for a number of newer HP ink jet printers, and on those printers that offer 600 x 300 dpi, you'll finally be able to take full advantage of that increased resolution.

Coming Soon...to an Apple II screen near you...

For the first time ever, every word that appeared in every issue of Open-Apple, A2-Central, and A2-Central-On-Disk will be available in a special 12 disk (3.5" only) collection that will be soon be available from Tom Weishaar and Joe Kohn. That's 8.8 megabytes of Apple II information, hints, tips, and humor from some of the sharpest minds to ever write about the Apple II.

In addition, all 73 back issues of A2-Central-On-Disk will also be available.

CheckWorks For AppleWorks

by Harry Lienke

The major topic at the March Apple][Main Meeting was CheckWorks, a TimeOut application for AppleWorks 3, 4, and 5 to help manage checking accounts. CheckWorks, which consists of three task (macro) files, is a menu driven program featuring context sensitive help.

To run CheckWorks, the UltraMacros player is required; for AW 4 and 5, this means at least 256K of memory must be available. CheckWorks is installable on any 5.25 or 3.5 inch floppy disk or hard drive with at least 30k of free disk space. The installation procedure places the files in the right places automatically if AppleWorks was installed using its installer. The easy manual installation process requires that one subdirectory be established and nine files be placed in the appropriate three subdirectories.

Check printing is supported, but not required. CheckWorks prints on standard check forms like those used by Quicken and available from stores like OfficeMax. CheckWorks can print addresses on the checks so window envelopes can be used to mail the checks without the need to print an additional address. In addition to supporting the ImageWriter, CheckWorks comes with a printer file configured for the HP LaserJet IIP. This file can be adapted for use with other HP printers as well.

To use CheckWorks, you must activate UltraMacros, InitManager, and TimeOut. In addition, database option "Auto-add DB records at end" must be selected using the Standard Settings menu. CheckWorks is not compatible with some database and spreadsheet patches and they may need to be removed; you must run CheckWorks to determine whether you have any incompatibilities. I have an unidentified incompatibility on my IIGS that prevents me from configuring additional checkbook sets (accounts); since I need only one account, the problem does not affect

my use of the program.

CheckWorks operation requires the use of three database files: CheckPrint (for data entry and check printing), CheckRecall (for saving and accessing frequently used information), and CheckRegister (for storing checks and calculating the account balance). Additionally, there are two help files: H.CheckPrint and H.CheckRegister. The data base files keep track of items like the check number, the date, the amount of the check or deposit, the balance, and so forth. There are special fields that can be used for notes to track the purpose of each checkbook entry; these notes can be used, for example, to identify charitable contributions at income tax time.

To start CheckWorks, you use oaesc to access the TimeOut menu and then select CheckWorks. When CheckWorks is started, the CheckWorks Main Menu appears. From here you can Write Checks (ba-W shortcut), Print Checks (ba-P), Open Check Register (ba-O), Make Register Entries (ba-V), Show Balance (ba-B), Reconcile Balance (ba-J), Load Help Files (ba-H), Configure CheckWorks (ba-Y), and Quit CheckWorks (ba-Q).

If you don't like CheckWorks' standard setup, you can configure the path name, file names (CheckPrint, CheckRecall, CheckRegister), and additional file sets (up to two more accounts). Loading the help files makes help available whenever needed. Pressing oa-`(accent) accesses help for a specific category; pressing oa-W shows the entire help file.

Write Checks mode opens the CheckPrint file and goes to the first blank record. It then accepts as much check data as you wish to enter. Special commands (macros) make it easy to enter check numbers based on previous checks, enter today's date, increment and decrement the check number and date, and store and recall data for frequently used checks.

Print Checks mode prints checks (to screen if you don't want a hard copy) and transfers the check data to the CheckRegister file, if desired. Checks not transferred to the check register remain in the CheckPrint file and appear again whenever Write Checks mode or Print Checks mode is entered. If the check layouts supplied with the program are not satisfactory, the layouts can be adjusted to match custom checks.

Open Check Register mode opens the CheckRegister file in multiple record mode, sorts the records based on date and check number, and puts the cursor in the last record. The check register is displayed in a format that makes it easy to review. If data is to be entered or edited, a change to single record mode is required.

Make Register Entries mode opens the CheckRegister file in single record mode, sorts the records based on date and check number, adds a new record at the end of the file, and puts the cursor in the new record to start the data entry process. An sa-D macro is available for creating deposit records. The "X" field in the CheckRegister file enables account balancing by keeping track of entries which have been cleared by the bank (marked with an "x") or which have been cleared by the check writer (have been made available to the payee or have been received). A special ba-C macro can be used to put "c" in the X field to mark new debits and deposits.

Show Balance mode opens the CheckRegister file in single record mode, sorts the records based on date and check number, and displays the current account balance.

Reconcile Balance mode opens the CheckRegister file in single record mode, sorts the records based on date and check number, and displays the current account balance for items which have "cleared" (have either an x or a c in the X field). If the balance matches your bank statement, CheckWorks automatically changes X field entries from "c" to "x". If the account is not balanced, CheckWorks displays all items with a c in the X field so the bank statement and the CheckWorks data can be compared and any discrepancies found.

Sometimes it is nice to have a hard copy of the check register.
Several printing formats are available when the CheckRegister file is active. If none of the existing formats is suitable, a format may be customized or a new format may be defined. If desired, the printout can be made to look just like a checkbook register.

When you want to quit CheckWorks, you can quit and save all changed files with an option to remove files from the desktop. You can also quit without saving any files. In either case CheckWorks restores your default macro set.

The printed manual contains 48 pages in a 5.5 inch by 8.5 inch format. The CheckWorks 5 Addendum is three more pages of information. The tutorial and reference sections of the documentation do a good job of explaining the program. Disk based copies of the tutorial and the upgrade documentation are also provided.

Overall, CheckWorks is a well written, easy to use program that is certainly worth its cost. It has a few eccentricities but these are easy to work around. For example, the

macro which places a "c" in the X field works as advertised in the single record mode but puts the "c" in the Memo field in multiple record mode; the macros to increment and decrement the date work properly with some date formats but provide bad answers for other date formats.

CheckWorks was programmed by Dan Crutcher. It is available from Joe Kohn at Shareware Solutions II (166 Alpine St, San Rafael, CA 94901-1008). For \$20 you get three CheckWorks disks ready to go to work with AW3, AW4, and AW5.

You Beast!

Submitted by -Dave Peck

Just finished "Beast Within" by Sierra Online. The plot- Gabriel Knight, being a descendant of the Ritter's of Germany, has just inherited the Ritter estate (and fortune?) near Munich. It just so happens he comes from a long line of Shattenjaegers (Shadow Hunters) and sure enough as soon as he arrives in Germany, some local folk ask him to investigate a mutilation killing, which they believe is the work of awerewolf. With kind of a love/hate relationship with his assistant, Grace, they bring the case to a conclusion. What's interesting is the taking of some historical facts about (the real) King Ludwig and his building of Neuschwanstein (that famous German castle) and intertwined it with a werewolf story.

Both my wife and I have to give it a thumbs up with some qualifiers (g). It comes on 6 Cds, with lots of video. It's entertaining but like other games of this genre, sometimes the mechanics of the game get in the way of game play. For example your driving to different locations to investigate. Well sometimes you end up going back and forth and back and forth and......, well, you get the picture, to satisfy the game require-

ments that allow you to proceed. And some of the things that must be done, I would call real long shots. At one point Gabriel must get someone away from a desk so he can get a key. So he takes a CooCoo Clock that he just happened to buy and places it in a potted tree by the back door of the establishment. When it goes off it sounds like someone knocking on the back door which sends the attendant to the back door, giving him the opportunity! Yeah right. Who writes this stuff? Needless to say, a hint book or walk though (available on the CompuServe Gamers Forum) is a must. AOL probably has something similar. Also crashes, computer crashes that is, lots of them until I downloaded the Mac Patch from Sierra's web site (www.sierra.com). After that the game acted decently.

Mac Interface warning- In two areas, the game would let you leave the Police Station (Chap 3?) and not blink (indicating your finished there when your not) without a phone number written down and Neuswanstein (Chap 4) and continue to blink with all tasks accomplished. These areas were run without the Mac patch available at Sierras web site, so I don't know if that would make a difference or not.

One observation- the characters carry so much around in inventory with them that they really need a backpack otherwise they'd have huge back pockets draggin the ground! We had a hoot when Grace grabs a sign and appears to shove it down her pants! Haw!

Anyhow, the game and patch is now for sale for \$20. I'll also include Dave's list of long shots (less than 10 of them). It needs a Power Mac to run. I'll be posting at work also, so if you want to beat the mad rush (g), drop me a bbs or call at 423-5711.

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Macintosh Software Installation Rules

by Keith Bumgamer Submitted by Bert H. Persson

MacInformed

This article was written by Keith Bumgarner and published in the November 1996 issue of Apple Pickers (Central Indiana Association of Microcomputer Users) Newsletter.

Consult the manual or Read Me which comes with your software before installing any software. There may be special conditions or information which might be helpful or prevent a problem which should be known before attempting installation.

Always check the Custom Install before running the installer to see if you can determine exactly what the installer is going to install on your Macintosh. The Easy Installer may write over later versions of software you already have with older, less compatible versions or may add software which could damage your Mac's software configuration or cause problems for other applications and system software.

Always try to determine, via the manual or by calling tech support, if the installer is going to write or overwrite resources to key elements of the operating system, like AppleTalk, maybe in the form of the Chooser. software which utilizes a formal Installer program should always be installed from original disks, disks made from originals using Disk Copy

v4.2, or from disk images made from original disks. This is especially true for operating systems and any other applications such as print driver upgrades, telecommunications software (ARA, online services access software, faxmodem software, etc.)

Never install key software from disks or folders made from drag copying methods.

Always make disk images, using Disk Copy v4.2, of your new or upgraded software before installing. You may damage the disks during installation and this will insure you have a pristine replacement copy as well as make sure you have virgin disk images for your software library. Make sure the media and file verification is turned on in Disk Copy; many commercial software companies ship defective disks and/ or defective software and Disk Copy will tell you if there is a problem.

Never install software from defective disks since the installation will likely be corrupt in some way. Call your software company's customer support, tell them the problem, and request new install disks.

Don't install any software with the extensions on.

Always turn the disk cache down to 32k before installing any software.

If you are working on a PowerPC, always turn the Modern Memory Manager off and restart the Mac before installing any software.

If you are using a third party video card, always disable the video software before installing software. Simply turning the extensions off (with Shift-key down method) usually will not turn third-party video software off. If you are installing from a CD and must, therefore, have the extensions turned on to do so, please remember to configure a minimal install set which includes no third-party extensions or cdevs (or only the CD-ROM driver in the event you are not using an Apple CD player). Be absolutely certain you have removed any virus detection extensions and / or cdevs.

Always restart your Macintosh and rebuild your desktop (with extensions off) before using the software you have just installed. Never try to launch newly installed software right after installation and before you can restart your Macintosh since the directories may not be updated as to these newly installed files. This can cause freezes and other directory-related problems on your Macintosh.

Never launch newly installed software until you've checked the memory allocation via the Get Info box. You may have too little memory allocated to open a larger file and your Macintosh could freeze and cause directory damage.

Apple and the Macintosh Operating System

By Graham Radband NO COPYRIGHT is attached to this article.

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First published by VendaNet International, February 1997. Comments on article to : graham@radband.demon.co.uk Comments on web site to: herman@ven-

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This article was up-dated on March 1st

1997

MY BACKGROUND

I am an independent consultant who has no connection with any of the companies mentioned above. This series of articles was written to try and correct the misconceptions currently in the market place about Apple, its partners, the clone manufacturers and of course the underlying technologies. I have come across these misconceptions so frequently I

felt something must be done as no one else has apparently tried to tie all the related technologies together. I know there are gaps but hopefully not too many or of too great a significance - watch out - the real show's about to begin!

APPLE AND THE MACINTOSH OPER-ATING SYSTEM

Apple, as many of you reading this article are well aware, has had financial problems over the last year.

These were initially brought about by being too successful in the last quarter of 1995! What companies would love to have sold more equipment than ever before and had the largest turnover in any one quarter ever - over \$3 billion, had backorders of \$1 billion and lost only \$69 million. Their market share slipped only very slightly because they could not deliver enough systems!

During the year that has followed Apple has been putting a three year strategy in place to correct some operations in the company. The strategy started when Dr. Gilbert F. Amelio was appointed as Chairman and CEO of Apple in January 1996 and the overall plan was formally announced in May 1996 after he had, along with his team, reviewed Apple's position in the preceding three months.

Yet, every time a bad financial result is reported, Apple is being hounded by the press and usually with inaccurate or misleading comments. This has compounded the problems and placed even greater pressure on Apple. Fortunately the new senior management team appear to be made of stern stuff and are getting on with turning Apple round.

Intel and Microsoft are excellent marketers, but when you look behind the hype you find that all is not as one would expect. This series of articles attempts to illustrate what is really happening.

THE UNDERLYING TECHNOLOGY

BYTE magazine recently did a comparison between Pentium and Pentium Pros versus the PowerPC range of processors. This was done before the release of the MMX technology by Intel, January 1997. Bearing in mind that MMX does NOT help overall processing, but only multimedia functions, a comparison of processors remains valid. Even when they are, they are still NO overall match for the PowerPC range of computers. This means Intel's attempt to beat the Power PC technology has failed. The Intel KLA-

MATH processor comes in at 233Mhz next month (so what, the Macs are already still much faster than this). The 440LX will follow later this year, but we await the P7 processor with interest. This was due in mid 1997 but has been put back to mid 1998...

A point worth noting is that Apple, IBM and Motorola tend to understate and over deliver in chip performance and to date all new processor chips have been ready earlier than expected!.

Todd Hartmann has kindly supplied the additional information.

THartmann@cinematronics.com

Unfortunately, PowerPC 620 has slipped by more than a year. This is so far irrelevant, since the desktop industry is nowhere near ready to transition to 64-bit CPUs.

Groupe Bull has been using 620 in limited quantities and are reportedly very happy with what they've seen. 620 just isn't ready for prime time yet, which is fine since it's only 3 in the afternoon, so to speak.

I understand the 620 was delayed because the PowerPC 604 processor was capable of much greater development than originally envisaged and that to justify production of the 620 it had to be redesigned. The 620 processors stated target markets are very powerful servers and high-end workstations.

Graham Radband

Summarising BYTE magazine's results:

- a 117MHz PowerPC processor outperforms a 200Mhz Pentium system by 5%.
- a 200Mhz 603e processor as used in the Apple Performa (home user systems) outperforms a Pentium 200Mhz by 80%
- a 200Mhz 603e processor outperforms a Pentium Pro 200Mhz by 40%.
- a 200Mhz PowerPC 604e processor outperforms a Pentium 200Mhz system by 125% and a Pentium Pro 200Mhz system by 80%.

Bearing in mind that PowerPC systems are already running at 240MHz (603e) and 225Mhz (604e) and are being sold in volume by Apple and the clone manufacturers, it begins to make the Pentium look pretty slow, and expensive, by comparison. The prices paid for these higher performing systems are comparable to PC's. Go and investigate if you do not believe me. By the way Mac prices are set to go still lower and the performance significantly higher.

Already Power Computing have released a pre-production version of a 603e 300Mhz PowerMacintosh system and a twin-processor 604e 250MHz. Some of the sub system components have yet to be tuned up, but will be up to speed by the time production begins in February/March 1997. These systems will be cheaper, and faster, than the current top flight Macs. This will leave the current PCs even further behind.

TriMedia technology and the MMX technology

Now MMX. Great as it is for Multimedia tasks on a PC (and not all tasks involve multimedia), Apple and Phillips are developing the TriMedia card (so-called because it tackles the Multimedia issue as well), which has the potential to annihilate an Intel PC in any multimedia application. Based on information currently available, the first release of this card, expected by mid-year, will be able to handle 4 BILLION instructions per second, and not be hamstrung by being tied to the central processor speed as is the case with MMX.

Having probed a little further into this issue, the second generation of this technology is expected to be incorporated on the motherboards of all Apple and Apple Clone manufacturer systems during 1998. It is expected that it will deliver 4 times the performance of the add-in card, i.e. it will be capable of processing 16 BILLION instructions per second. Now, add to this the fact that by

mid-year Apple and the Apple Clone builders will be delivering systems with Clock Speeds of 466, 500 and 533Mhz (the equivalent for Pentiums would be in the 700Mhz to 1.2Ghz (gigahertz) range) - then anyone buying a PC right now is buying the equivalent of a biplane when they could be getting the equivalent of the latest and fastest jet fighter. Yet the PowerMacs are likely to prove cheaper, especially once the price/power/performance ratios are taken into account.

Meanwhile, Apple, IBM and Motorola are not standing still. They are producing new derivatives of the 603e and 604e processors (the G3 and G4) for release later this year or in early 1998. These are planned to start with clock speeds beyond the current top speeds of the Current 603e and 604e processors. Exponential, the people who have already accelerated the current range of 603e and 604e processors to such super speeds of 466, 500 and 533Mhz, will possibly find a way to incorporate their technology into these new chips as well. Then you may just begin to see what I mean when I say buying a PC is the equivalent of buying a biplane.

Some further information from the Motorola world wide web site (http://www.mot.com/SPS/PowerPC/ove rview/roadmap.html) regarding the G3 and G4 processors due later this year. Both processors will be available in 32 and 64 bit versions and will be able to access the Level2 external cache (external to the actual CPU) without having to be slowed down by using the system bus. There will also be a backwards compatible version which will still use the system bus to access the Level2 cache. This means Apple will have a choice of processors from the PowerPC family should it decide to give the MacOS 64 bit capability.

This technology will become cheaper over time as all PC technology does. The K2 chip development for the year 2000 and beyond is being evolved now - think what that means given the current processing

power in the 603/604 range today. I have no specific information on the K2 processor.

MacWorld (an independent magazine about the Mac) have done preliminary testing of an MMX enabled PC against a PowerMac at the same clock speeds. Adobe Photoshop and Macromedia xRes were used because both have been rewritten to take advantage of the MMX technology in the Pentium. Both are image editing applications where the PowerPC and the MMX enabled Pentium processors excel in aiding this type of work.

Overall, the Power Mac advantage ranged from 10 - 30% with the exception of some filters in Adobe Photoshop, which showed a slight advantage to the MMX Pentium. It should also be noted that the PC performance is partially increased by the cache inside the processor and not by the actual MMX technology itself! This is also true of the PowerPC architecture which has also increased its internal cache within the CPU itself.

Approximately 50% of Apple's current operating system is still not PowerPC native. Although an improved emulator, using dynamic recompilation, was introduced with the PCI based PowerMacintosh systems, I have found Speed Doubler, developed by Connectix, still makes a significant contribution to the overall speed of response. Therefore, I would like to see the use of Speed Doubler being included in any testing of the overall system performance.

Further tests carried out by MacUser, and described in detail in the UK edition dated February 21st 1997, show that when only 32Mb of memory is installed both the PC and the PowerMacintosh, the PC's better disk access and virtual memory handling benefits it by up to 60%. However, once 64Mb of memory is installed both systems the PowerMacintosh is twice as fast as an MMX enabled Pentium at the same clock speed. Considering that in the professional area 64Mb is considered

the bare minimum for running Photoshop it clearly shows the benefits of the PowerPC CPU architecture as virtual memory was not then being used by either system.

When it is borne in mind that the Power Macintosh can already run at significantly higher clock speeds than a Pentium, it becomes apparent that MMX was Intel's attempt to keep up with the PowerMacs. It has failed.

The February Byte has some interesting snippets....

"... noticed the launch of the world shattering, multimedia blasting revolutionary MMX technology?...renders your current Pentium software obsolete at a stroke!"

"Could an MMX Pentium outperform a high-end Macintosh?" The answer: NO!! Although MMX delivered dramatic performance in some operations, overall, a Mac still beats an MMX Pentium" Byte February 1997 p26.

Further unforeseen problems with the MMX technology are now beginning to emerge.

The January 1997 issue of MacWorld, page 15, has the results of an interview with a Sam Wilkie of Intel. What follows is a brief summary of that article. I would strongly recommend you read it in full.

Multitasking problems - speed and corruption issues

Speed problems to come?

The Intel MMX uses the Floating Point registers because otherwise Microsoft and other vendors would have had to rewrite their operating systems. There is a 50 'ticks of the clock lag' when context switching between MMX and Floating point instructions. What really happens to performance when switching between MMX and non-MMX tasks has yet to be done, but on present evidence do not hold your breath. From: Julian

<julianheame@earthlink.net>

I sense that your chart on MMX performance (Byte, Feb 97, "MMX:Better in Fits and Starts")

attempts to whitewash the MMX's poor performance and obscure the clear superiority of the Macintosh.

Plotting your data by platform (see attached chart) shows the Macintosh is twice as fast as the MMX and the Pentium Pro. I hope you will share this view with your readers.

I presented this same view to the editors of the German computer magazine c't and got this response:

"in our january issue of c't (1/97 page 233) you will find a comparison between PowerPC and MMX. We compiled Intels Bilinear Interpolation example in non-optimized, raw C for PPC and found that a 604e with 150 MHz is actually 10% faster than 200 MHz MMX, which ran manually optimised assembly code. In our Photoshop 4.0 benchmark, the 150 MHz PPC was almost twice as fast than the 200 MHz P55C MMX "

Corruption problems

Julian Hearne

If you are browsing the web or doing other work which may require the MMX instruction set to be activated transacting work using the floating point registers (e.g. spreadsheet accountancy software), it is possible for your work to be corrupted, as the floating point registers are overwritten with graphics instructions. Additionally, as you will NOT be aware whether MMX instructions have been activated in your other application, then this situation could become very interesting. Alarmingly, Intel offers no solution to this problem as it is beyond the central processor's control.

What this really demonstrates is that the Pentium architecture is now old and out-of-date. Attempts to keep up with the PowerPC are becoming increasingly complex and fraught with potential and actual problems which are coming to light too late. Hardware compatibility issues are also now beginning to emerge. When I have some more information on this I will add it to this article.

Multiple Processors

Ever since 1989 - through the use of third party add-on cards the Mac has been able to handle up to 4 (FOUR) central processors, though each processor had to handle a separate task and could not combine to work together on a single job.

DAYSTAR in 1994 produced the necessary software for the PowerMacintosh systems to handle multiple processors and Apple licensed it back from them. This is a good example of the co-operation between Apple and its competitors/suppliers to its market-place. Most clone manufacturers are now offering multiple processor systems. The Genesis MP Mac was the first Mac that allowed more than one processors to work on the same task.

By the way Windows 3.1/3.11/ and Windows 95 can only handle one central processor (CPU) - it takes Windows NT to handle more than one CPU.

From: Doreen Nicastro <nicastro@bu.edu> Subject: Multiprocessing NT

By the way, the BeOS runs the entire operating system on multiprocessors, whereas NT does not. In order for software to use the extra chips on NT, it must be specially written to look for it and use it. Therefore, NT itself gains nothing from the extra processor.

FireWire

This is officially known as IEEE1394. It is a very, very fast serial bus architecture. A bus is the means by which information is transferred between the different components and devices in a computer system. Apple has decided that this will replace the SCSI bus architecture and already there are SCSI to FireWire adapters available.

The initial speed for FireWire is 100Mb/second to be followed later this year by 400Mb/sec with 800 Mb/sec and 1.6Gb/sec implementations for 1998. The result, very fast input from all devices on such a bus, whether they be disk drives, video cameras (which now come with

FireWire), scanners, etc. All these devices can be 'hot plugged', i.e. you do not have to power down the computer system and turn off other devices first.

PC problems to come

The KLAMATH processor due out in February/March 1997 has a motherboard design that does not allow for clone manufacturers to readily modify it. This means that all systems using this chip will perform the same and thus allow little or no really significant differentiation in the marketplace. How many systems will use this in everyday desktop use is debatable.

Many PC manufacturers are having to wait up to two months before receiving supplies of the 200Mhz Intel processors - what waiting times are likely to be for this new chip.

The 440LX chip set- I have not heard much about this chip yet, so cannot comment further - it is due late 1997.

The P7 RISC processor from Intel is likely to be introduced in mid-1998, some 4 years after the introduction of the Power PC RISC processor. Intel at that time (in 1994) said that going to a RISC processor was unnecessary - if this is the case why are they developing one now hmmm? Some concerns remain however. What backwards compatibility is going to available, if any? From what I have managed to glean. Intel has investigated putting a Pentium on the motherboard but ruled that out as too expensive and no other emulation has been mentioned so far. If no emulation is built-in then a whole new computer system plus operating system and applications software will be required to run on this new RISC processor. This sounds like a very expensive transition.

All the above indicates that the PC systems of today appear a mighty expensive option because at least three significant hardware system upgrades are due this year alone - MMX, KLAMATH and finally 440LX chip set. All this before the P7 hits in

1998. These hardware upgrade issues will mean a considerable expense to businesses with a need to keep up with technology. Compounding this will be software compatibility issues that will add further significant expense as part of this inevitable process.

We will see how well Apple continues to look after your investment in hardware and software in the next article: Operating Systems and Hardware.

From: Dave Bailey <dbailey@interpath.com>

One of the "PC Problems" that you don't mention is the Year 2000 bug in the date/time codes on the PC. Jan 1, 2000 a lot of PCs are going to revert back to an older date. Come the year 2000, everyone who owns a PC is going to have to-

- Update their BIOS if they haven't purchased a machine in the past 3 or 4 years. (i.e- all those no-name clones will probably break. Old machines will HAVE to be abandoned.)
- Upgrade to Windows 95.
 Windows 3.1 and earlier hasn't been made compatible with year 2000 date codes. (i.e.- again, toss out the old hardware)
- 3. Upgrade to Windows 95 versions of applications. (i.e.- old DOS and Win 3.1 software will have to be updated or thrown out.)

Sincerely, Dave Bailey

OPERATING SYSTEMS and HARD-WARE

Current Operating system

This has always been Apple's strength and continues so today. The current Macintosh Operating System is elegant and highly effective, although not perfect. If the OS can be made even more stable then so well and good. However, as it develops it requires to remain for the user as clear and concise in the way it was initially designed. Should the user interface become more complicated it would take on some of the negative characteristics inherent in

Windows 95.

You may not be personally aware, but the most ruthlessly cost-effective businesses, in my experience, are the Print and Colour Reprographic houses. They standardised on the Mac many years ago and no matter what new systems have come on the market the Mac has seen off all opposition. These businesses cannot and will not afford the luxury of networking and PC professionals on their payroll. They demand a system that is powerful and as near automatic as you can get and one that is very simple to troubleshoot and get back working as fast as possible. They know the Mac is not perfect but it is the best yet in overall business efficiency terms.

Protecting your software investment

When Apple switched from CISC to RISC with the introduction of the PowerPC they provided a built-in emulator for software written for the previous processor range. This ensured users did not lose their investment in software applications. The emulation wasn't as fast as Apple would have liked and they have since rewritten it to make it faster. Connectix, a long time developer for the Mac, saw the opportunity to enhance the overall speed of the Mac by providing an enhancement to the emulation process. This largely eliminated the non-native penalty and so showed the true potential of the PowerMacs. As the operating system has become more native to the PowerPC and as native applications have appeared the performance has improved further still. Native software refers to software that has been re-written to take full advantage of the PowerPC design and so runs at full speed.

This means that software written for the Mac, some as far back as 1988, will still run on today's systems - quite an achievement. In the next section, Future Operating system, you will see how Apple is going to continue looking after your software investment.

Future Operating System

Apple has now acquired NeXT - a company founded and run by Steve Jobs - one of the co-founders of Apple back in 1976. Steve Jobs and the other co-founder of Apple, Steve Wozniak, have both been appointed as consultants to Gil Amelio, the current Chairman and CEO of Apple.

NeXT is a UNIX based system that is very fast and it is claimed, more capable than WindowsNT - Microsoft's flagship OS. Further information and analysis will be needed to determine the exact nature of this claim. I would appreciate any factual comments concerning the strengths and weaknesses of the current state either of these systems.

NeXT uses Display Postscript which is used to display text and graphics on-screen and this will have added to it many of the key Apple Technologies required by the Publishing and Print industry. Display Postscript will be used in Rhapsody - Apple's code name for the new operating system. The new system will have no command lines when it is first released to the public in early 1998, although developer releases due in the 3rd and 4th quarter this year may still have this feature.

Display postscript has the advantage that it means anyone in Publishing or Printing will work in postscript throughout. Thus from starting work on the screen (be it text or graphics), through the proofing stage to final output on high-end image setters (high-resolution postscript printers), there will be consistency, a big advantage. About 7 years ago Display Postscript was considered by Apple but found to need too much processing power. NeXT have persevered with speeding it up, and that coupled with the much faster processors available today, means that it is much more acceptable.

Apple has pledged to continue developing the current MacOS System 7 whilst System 8 is brought up to speed. Enhancements to the current MacOS interface will be

made where NeXT has some advantage - but the Mac interface will remain.

For backwards compatibility
Apple has stated that the current
System 7 system will run as one
process within the new MacOS system 8 but not as an emulation so it
should be fast. This also means any
applications still written for nonPowerPC systems wil run. That is
really looking after you and your
investment! Compare that with
Intel's attitude to hardware upgrades.

The average useful life of a Mac is currently 7 years. Most are simply retired or kept as reserve machines. They have not failed in anyway, they have simply become too slow for current business requirements because of software developments.

The new MacOS will also include the NeXT development environment which it is claimed to speed up application development between 5 and 10 times compared with any current operating system from competing companies. Also it is very easy to port applications to and from this new environment. Large companies with many in-house applications would do well to look very closely at this development environment.

The Human Interface

An interesting point about the Mac interface was made by a PC engineer with whom I was working for a short time. He said: "The Macintosh looks bland but then it doesn't intrude in your work it simply let's you get your work done easily, I suppose that's why it's so good. Windows seems to shout at you, gets in your way and is not so intuitive."

Says it all doesn't it?

A point rarely mentioned is the longevity of Apple Macintosh based systems to run the latest version of the operating system. For example a Macintosh Plus (based on the first generation Motorola 68000 series of processors developed in 1982) introduced in January 1986 (i.e. 11 years ago) can still run System 7.5.3 (introduced in March 1996). This is the equivalent of running Windows 95

on an 8086 processor - anyone care to try that??

Value for money

Regarding value for money the Macintosh appears largely ignored because most MS-DOS/Windows 3.1/Windows 95 people I have dealt with are ignorant of, or have very out of date knowledge about, the Macintosh. Sadly many of them are IT professionals! Although the information is readily available, their lack of up-to-date knowledge means that many companies may be basing their desktop PC corporate decisions on inaccurate information. An example in case of - one very experienced PC support professional recently commented to me that he did not realise Macintosh systems came bundled with the operating system as standard!

There is a phrase "Use a Mac you'll never go back" - how true, if people are given a choice, many in business are not. Why do you think the Mac users are so loyal (87% will repurchase, the highest repurchase rate in the industry, PC User survey) - most have tried other operating systems and found them seriously lacking.

One test of any system is how easily is it fixed. From my own experience most Mac problems (about 95%) can be fixed in 5 minutes and most of those by the user if they get given a few simple guidelines. The rest can usually be fixed in 30 minutes

Another useful test is to look at the installation instructions on software or CD's that are both for the Mac and the PC (these are called Hybrid CD's). Ask yourself, why is one more complex and involved than the other (Windows 3.11 / Windows 95)? Answer: one operating system (the MacOS) does a lot more for you. This being the case it means other things too - easier to use, cheaper to support, etc.

Apple's famed build quality slipped with introduction of the 52/53/62/63xx series Power Mac Performas and PowerBooks (5300's).

These have now been sorted out, and how! If you get a chance to see what happens to a standard build (not a ruggedized) PowerPC PowerBook under extreme test conditions it will amaze you. Care to run one over in a very large car, bake one for hours at extremely high temperatures, drop it from 4 or more feet onto an office floor - it still worked perfectly. Apple tried these stress tests on competing PC laptops - not one survived.

NOTE: Apple stress that deliberately trying out these extreme tests will invalidate your warranty.

In case you are wondering does any of the above actually happen well......I have seen the result of an Apple Duo 230 (now some 4 years old) being accidentally run over in someone's driveway. The lid was closed at the time. The screen cracked and so did not work but the rest of the system did when put into to the Docking mechanism, and this was some years before Apple decided to make sure their systems would survive this particular hazard.

Apple desktop systems usually lead the way both in terms of component quality, build quality and industrial design. All this means fewer problems and they are easier to fix should anything go wrong. In the mid-1990's Apple developed some systems that were a little more difficult to work on because of the high price of memory. This was done in an attempt to discourage theft of Macs. Since then each new Apple design has increasingly conformed more to users wishes, i.e. they are more internally accessible.

WHY CLONE the MAC?

An obvious question, but a necessary one. Apple somewhat belatedly decided to allow other manufacturers to clone the Mac. The obvious reasons were: Apple's permanent inability to get its market forecasting right for new models, thus causing unacceptable delays to customers. They were unable to keep building sufficient Macs to keep up with the overall expansion of the PC market and demand for their own product.

To provide consumers with more variation and price points than Apple alone could provide.

Now for the not so obvious reasons (these I have had to deduce from what is happening in Apple's marketplace):

- If Apple were to fail for any reason

 customers would have a choice of manufacturers who were using both Apple motherboard designs and components.
- 2. By sub-licensing the operating system it means other manufactures one or more together would have the right to continue to develop the Macintosh Operating system.
- Apple now has the choice to decide to what extent it remains in the hardware market; currently this is across all market segments.

In other words you now have a choice of good quality suppliers of Macintosh systems that are well designed but also with many different features, value added points and price levels. It also means long-term security for the consumer and Apple's critical significance can now get to the point where it is important but not critical to the survival of the

Who are the Apple Clone manufacturers?

players are:

Apple, Power Computing, UMAX, Motorola, Day Star Digital, Everex (just announced late January) USA only: ASP.

Japan only: Toshiba, Apple & IBM (a specific laptop design), Pioneer, Akia

Also just announced, late January, is that ACER (the fifth largest PC Manufacturer in the world) will start supplying Apple with motherboards and components. Although no formal announcement has been made, or is currently expected, it does not take too much imagination to realise that ACER could start manufacturing Apple Macintosh Clone systems very easily.

It has been quickly realised by

these Clone manufacturers that in order to grow they must now grow the Mac market and not just cannibalise Apple's own Mac sales. In the USA last year clone builders accounted for 8.5% of the Mac Market - they are now starting to come over to the UK and Europe.

UMAX, for instance, is targeting selected Far Eastern Markets as well as Britain and Europe.

Power Computing is very aggressive on price, performance and determined to increase the Mac's market share. So, watch out!

Motorola offer a five year warranty with a very competitive on-site option, keen prices and a reputation for excellence in build quality for all their products. Their target market will be corporates in addition to the traditional Mac market.

Apple and Motorola have each got separate partners in China in order to develop the Chinese market. China is seen as huge business opportunity because of the dearth of computer systems in everyday use.

Apple also provides the Chinese Dictation Kit, a world first as far as I am aware. This allows Cantonese to be dictated into a Mac - now I wonder why Apple feels it has a good chance to develop a significant market presence in China. Remember if Apple gets 10% of the population using a Mac that's roughly 150 Million Mac systems!! English dictation kits are also available (and have been for some time). No more typing!!

APPLICATION SOFTWARE

There are over 12,000 applications for the Mac (that was November) in January this has been revised to over 14,000 applications.

There are nearly 2,000 titles unique to the Mac and nearly 3,000 PowerMacintosh native applications (increasing all the time). Many applications are cross-platform i.e. found on both Windows and Mac systems. Who says there is no software for the Mac?

To find out about all this software and hardware on the Apple Web

Site. The URL is: http://www.macsoft-ware.apple.com/

The Mac can emulate over 23 different operating systems, including the games platforms! The emulated platforms included: PDP11, DOS, Win3.1/3.11/Win95, Sega, Nintendo. This gem was found on an earlier posting to the Macintosh Evangelist web site. (www.evangelist.macaddict.com/recent.html). You may have to look through the archive messages for the last three months to find this item.

By using DataViz Translators for the Mac you can take virtually any text document from almost any environment, and translate it to any other environment. Secondly by using Debabbelizer or a shareware package called Graphic Converter, you can also translate virtually any graphic file from one environment into another. This means that the Mac is the truly universal client in any environment.

In order to extend people's knowledge about what software is available for the Mac, Apple has now allocated part of its World Wide Web site to providing such information.

Games are always an interesting issue. They often demand very particular attention and software developers for systems other than the Mac have to expend a lot of energy in trying to ensure they will work. In the Mac environment development work is nearly all profit because support costs are minimal or non-existent - the games simply work. Talk to your friends who have the joy of trying to configure an average PC to run a game!

A point to note is that LUCAS Arts, one of the biggest suppliers of PC Games software, will have the whole of its games ported over to the Mac environment by mid-1997. If Lucas regard this as an opportunity, I am sure all the other games manufacturers, most of whom already have titles on the Mac, will not be far behind.

Where to find this software.

Traditionally Mac software has

been sold through mail-order houses - some 97.5% according to a recent survey with only 2.5% in the high street. This is the exact reverse of the PC market. This has been brought about in this country by professional users not having time to go to a shop but simply ordering it over the phone or through their purchasing department. All Mac users quickly realise that you buy the magazines to sample new applications and look in there for the suppliers.

Apple's attempt to introduce the Mac into high street shops has been largely thwarted by the inability to properly promote the Macintosh. After much encouragement by users over the internet and by direct complaints, Apple secretly sent in people to test out these findings. It proved the point, and Apple has withdrawn the right from many major high street stores to handle their product, where they demonstrated insufficient knowledge or lack of interest. Apple are now planning to open over 500 stores across Europe during 1997/8 to promote Apple, its products and all associated application software - including shareware, much of which is of a very high standard and often better than an equivalent commercial product.

THE BETAMAX / VHS ANALOGY

This analogy runs along the lines that Betamax has always been acknowledged by video professionals to have been the better video system but VHS won the sales battle through better marketing. This analogy is interesting on two counts.

- 1. The Mac is the professionals choice but has been badly marketed. Now, however, it is as readily available as the PC and as cheap if not cheaper than the MSDOS/Windows PC. This being the case then wither the PC? It will all depend on Apple's marketing. In price/performance terms the Mac is much better value than the PC, especially when clones are taken into account and not just Apple's own machines.
- 2. It assumes everyone will use a sin-

gle operating system on single type of PC. I believe this is wrong. Currently there are numerous operating systems running on a variety of PC's and I believe this plurality of operating systems will continue because competition will demand that a choice be available. Also new developments in operating systems will continue and therefore continue to push the boundaries of both operating system software and hardware technology.

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

The rise of the Network Computer will be an interesting phenomenon. The real difficulty here will be network speeds and also if the network goes down, then what? The key driving force for the Network Computer is cost - it should be much cheaper than trying to maintain thousands of desktop systems in large corporates, but there is always a downside. It means networking and central servers must be very resilient and 'crash' proof. These systems rely on a network for them to do any useful work, unlike a personal computer that can keep being used even if there is no network.

If the Network Computer really does take off then the current distortion in the personal computer market place will be largely eliminated because Apple currently does not have a large corporate presence. Hence, if this is removed, it will automatically see its market share rise significantly. Secondly Microsoft may encounter some problems because its sales rely heavily on the corporate sector, in particular sales of Microsoft Office.

Since a large proportion of the Internet content is already produced using Macintosh systems and also Macintosh systems represent about one-third of all Internet Servers this too will have a long-term beneficial impact on Macintosh sales, particularly with MacOS 8 in the offing which will be even more internet capable and friendly. Note: Apple Server system sales rose 40% in the Quarter up to Christmas 1996.

In January 1997 Microsoft announced it was setting up a 100 person development team to further develop and maintain applications for the Macintosh. This is the largest group of application developers for the Macintosh outside Apple itself. Microsoft is run by some very shrewd people, I wonder if they know something we don't?

In 1996 the overall sales of Macintosh equipment rose by some 250,000 units compared with 1995. So, although overall market share declined, the actual number of Macintosh systems sold rose significantly. The rise in sales was attributed to the advent of the clone manufacturers who are now increasing production and having more impact in the market place. Remember this rise in sales was in spite of all the bad publicity Apple has been getting. Think what some good publicity would do!

IN CONCLUSION

Summarising the above, Apple has made mistakes, what companies have not? Apple probably makes more mistakes than most because of its emphasis on unbridled creativity and lack of coherent marketing to follow up these ideas. It is working vigorously to overcome errors of the past and to continue to develop and give people easier, more powerful and flexible systems both now and in the future. Rather than try and destroy through ill-informed comment, why not use the information included above to do some real thinking? Then you will realise that Apple is coming back with a vengeance.

It will take time to sort out the problems, and Dr. Gilbert Amelio and his team have given themselves 3 years to do this. They have in the last year got their financial house in order, except for the quarterly profits, sorted out their OS strategy, and are now progressing towards a leaner and more responsive organisation. Why not let them get on with and watch the results with interest instead of hounding them every

quarter when results are announced? This hounding of Apple simply puts off people buying systems and so makes it even more difficult for Apple. This is why Apple is sitting on \$1.8 billion dollars in cash, partly to fund any necessary acquisitions but also to cover the anticipated losses the restructuring will cause.

The results are unlikely to look very good for the rest of 1997, but will slowly start to improve, then accelerate through 1998 as people realise what extremely powerful and easy to use systems Apple are providing. There will be nothing in the PC world to match the Mac for at least 18 months and probably a good deal

longer.

In March, Apple will be introducing their most powerful portable personal computer, it can also double as a really fast desktop system. There will be no portable PC to match it; nor any prospect of that for a very long time.

With regard to pricing of systems, I am UK based and therefore can only compare prices between Apple and the other PC manufacturers who sell in the UK. I am also well aware that Apple tries to maintain its prices against the major PC suppliers such as Compaq, Toshiba, IBM and Gateway. It will be very interesting to see if the Apple clone manufactur-

ers can compete against the cheaper PC clone manufacturers.

Most information has been gleaned from the printed Magazines and the World Wide Web sites of:

BYTE, MacWeek, MacSense, Apple, Motorola, Power Computing, MacWorld, MacUser

For additional information or corrections where people have not been specifically mentioned in the text of the articles I am very pleased to acknowledge the contributions from:

John Rehberger : Pasupati@worldnet.att.net Chris Burgess : cburgess@v-wave.com

WillMaker 6 Review

by Linda Cameron of McMUG The Mid-Columbia Macintosh User Group submitted by John Hunkins, Jr.

Draw up your own (or any family member's) legal Will, healthcare directions and final arrangements without having to go to a lawyer.

WillMaker 6 installs from two high density floppy disks and comes with a very adequate hard copy manual. The manual is written in language that the layperson can understand.

To paraphrase a tidbit from the manual—for the past 500 years, it has been highly unusual for a person to hire a lawyer to formalize what should be done with his/her property after death. "However, in the past 50 years, the legal profession has scored a public relations coup by convincing many people that writing a will without a lawyer is like doing your own brain surgery. Balderdash!"

Real life examples are given to illustrate points. You may not need the manual to use the program but it is nice to have it there if you have a question you need answered.

Since WillMaker is a program designed to let ordinary people make legal documents, it is also important to register your copy of the program as soon as possible because the laws can change and Nolo Press, the company that produces WillMaker, can alert their registered customers to changes or possibly any discovered errors in the program. 24-hour access to legal information and updates are provided on Nolo's Online sites.

Most American citizens can use WillMaker to create legally binding Wills with the exception of residents of Louisiana.

I was able to create my Will in less than an hour. Ways to save money on estate taxes and probate fees can be looked up later. Changes and corrections can be made at any time.

WillMaker works by using an "interview" process similar to the way MacInTax and Quicken Legal Collection works. The big difference is that WillMaker is a little faster and more straightforward than other similar programs I have used.

If I had used this program a few years ago when I was named executrix of my grandmother's estate, it would have saved me a couple of thousand dollars in lawyer's fees. Back then, I knew nothing about estates and inheritance. This program explains everything I paid a lawyer to tell me.

To start, you can add information about people you will probably be

mentioning in your Will. Their names, birth dates, addresses, etc. is stored in a "Names List". The names can be inserted wherever as needed.

As you begin your Will, you have a few choices as to what kind of Will you want. You can leave it all to one person (such as a spouse) with the provision that if your spouse doesn't survive you, it will go to person(s) or organizations you choose from the Names List.

As you go through the various stages of selecting options, you can always go deeper into your options. Online Help is also available any time you need it.

Tips are provided to point out certain things that may be important such as leaving property to underage children. There is plenty of protection from making any big mistakes.

Each step has a "More Information" option if you are not sure what to do.

I chose a simple Will leaving everything to my husband. If he doesn't survive me, then I have other beneficiaries listed.

After using WillMaker 6, I can say I have more confidence in this program for drawing up a legal Will than any of the other Willmaking

(Continuded on page 20)

Good Deals #44

by Ken Slingsby

This is another installment in a series of articles which list press releases. The AppleLink service that previously supplied this series has been discontinued. Therefore, all articles included here were posted on either Apple' web site or via the User Group Connection. These are roughly the same sources as prior articles in this series.

The PRESS RELEASES are to make you aware of the new products. You may have to hunt to find a dealer that supports the product. The GOOD DEALS are special offers that may be in limited supply. Many are limited time offers.

Mini'app'les makes no claim as to the usefulness or quality of the products offered herein. The User Group does not endorse the products and is not supporting the products. The following is not paid advertisement. There may be other products mentioned on our BBS or other services not appearing here. If so, that is an omission, not a refusal of the product. As in all purchases, buyer beware!

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PRESS RELEASES

Customers Able To Run MS-DOS and Windows Applications On Macs

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.—April 4, 1997—Strengthening its crossplatform compatibility solutions, Apple Computer, Inc. today introduced two PC compatible computers—the Power Macintosh 7300/180, with a 180MHz PowerPC 604e RISC processor and a 166MHz Intel Pentium processor; and the Power Macintosh 4400/200, with a 200MHz PowerPC 603e RISC processor and a Cyrix PR166 6x86 processor. These solutions are primarily targeted to business and education customers who want the power and ease-of-use of a Macintosh computer but also need Windows compatibility. The 166 MHz Intel Pentium processor PCI card is also available as an upgrade card, allowing PCI-based Power Macintosh computers to run MS-DOS and Windows applications.

The PC Compatibility Upgrade card is scheduled to be available in early April, 1997 and the Power Macintosh 7300/180 and 4400/200 systems bundled with PC Compatibility Cards are scheduled to be available in volume by the end of May, 1997. PC Compatibility Cards for regions outside the U.S. are scheduled to be available beginning

in May, 1997. Pricing—based on estimated U.S. retail prices—and availability of cards and systems may vary.

Apple Introduces First 300 Megahertz Desktop Computer

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla.—April 4, 1997—Apple Computer, Inc. is bringing unprecedented speed to the home desktop with today's announcement of the Apple Power Macintosh 6500/300—the first 300 megahertz system available today. Following less than two months after Apple introduced the fastest laptop computer currently available, the new Power Macintosh 6500 line gives customers a choice of systems ranging in speeds from 225 to 300 megahertz, all with accelerated multimedia features; built-in Internet access capabilities; and, advanced video capture, edit and publishing options. The announcement reflects Apple's drive toward a simplified desktop line under the strength of the Power Macintosh brand. "The introduction of the first 300 megahertz personal computers should be viewed as a sign that Apple is one hundred percent committed to providing individuals with the most powerful multimedia systems for home, small business, and education," said Guerrino de Luca, Apple's executive vice president of

Marketing. "Our new Power Macintosh 6500 series matches world class power with the competitive prices that consumers expect." Aggressively priced in the United States from around U.S. \$2,000 for the Power Macintosh 6500/225 to around U.S. \$3,000 for the top-of-the-line Power Macintosh 6500/300, the new series is designed to run Mac OS 7.6, the upcoming Mac OS 8, as well as Apple's next-generation Macintosh system software—code named Rhapsody.

Apple Unveils QuickTime 3.0 for Windows and Macintosh

LAS VEGAS—April 8, 1997— Apple Computer, Inc. today announced major advances in QuickTime, the industry-standard digital media system software for Windows and Mac OS. QuickTime 3.0 is the newest release of the Company's widely adopted software architecture for creating and publishing digital media. Today's announcement is significant as it marks the first time the full power of QuickTime—including the ability to capture, edit, compress, and playback digital media—is available for all major personal computer platforms, including Windows 95, Windows NT 4.0, Mac OS System 7, and Mac OS System 8.

Apple's home page on the World

Wide Web: http://www.apple.com/>

Apple delivers update to Mac OS 7.6

CUPERTINO, California — April 7, 1997 — Apple Computer, Inc., today released a set of system software enhancements that improves the overall reliability of the Mac OS, and brings the benefits of Mac OS 7.6 to the most recently introduced Mac OS compatible systems. Released in January, Mac OS 7.6 continues to receive an enthusiastic reception.

Mac OS 7.6.1 Update delivers on its two main goals: to improve stability through reliability improvements, and to bring Mac OS 7.6 support to recently introduced computers not currently supported by Mac OS 7.6. This release is not intended to deliver any new features, nor does it deliver updates to technologies already available through download sites on the Internet and on-line services.

Customers with 68030- and 68040-based computers will benefit from an updated CFM-68K Runtime Enabler which allows these computers to use applications that take advantage of the Code Fragment Manager (CFM).

In addition to other improvements also delivered with Mac OS 7.6.1 Update, PowerBook customers will benefit from improvements in serial device compatibility, PC storage cards, infrared and removable CD-ROM drives.

Mac OS 7.6.1 Update is available as a floppy disk set, and installs only on computers running Mac OS 7.6.

It will install on computers supported by Mac OS 7.6, which includes all Power Macintosh computers, PowerPC computers manufactured by Mac OS licensees, 68040-based computers, and 68030-based computers that support 32-bit memory addressing.

Mac OS 7.6.1 Update is available electronically, free of charge (excluding any connection fees), from Apple at "Apple SW Updates" on the Internet http://www.info.apple.com, America On-line (keyword: AppleComputer), and CompuServe (GO APLSUP). To get a list of authorized mirror sites on the Internet, visit:

http://support.info.apple.com/ftp/mirrors.html. In the U.S., customers may order Mac OS 7.6.1 Update on four floppies for \$10 (plus tax and shipping/handling) by calling 1-800-293-6617.

Apple's home page on the World Wide Web: http://www.apple.com/>

GOOD DEALS

SUMMER TIME GAME BLOW OUT

Stay cool this summer with these 7 Hot Macintosh titles from Casady & Greene...

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For more information call our 800 number 1-800-359-4920 URL: http://www.casadyg.com Sales: sales@casadyg.com OFFER EXPIRES JUNE 1, 1997 Shipped in plain packaging (flat pack)

Ongoing Deals for Mini'app'les Members

Submitted by Tom Gates and Bert Persson

The following businesses have agreed to provide ongoing discounts to members of mini'app'les. When you contact these companies, please identify yourself as a member of mini'app'les to qualify for these discounts. For questions related to these discount offers, please contact Tom Gates - (612) 789-1713 evenings and

weekends.

CartridgeCare, Inc.

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

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

For additional information about the user group discount and other services, contact Michael Gigot at (612) 331-7757.

Power Protection Products

Surge Protection strips, Battery

backups, line conditioners, etc. Contact Keith Kalenda at Business Security Products (612) 789-1190. 1/3 off APC SurgeArrest line of products 25% off APC BackUPS, SmartUPS and related products. (Continuded from page 17)

programs I have tried previously. I felt it was easier to use and it took less time. There wasn't any unanswered questions to leave me wondering if my Will would hold up.

The only thing left to do now is to print it out and have it signed and witnessed. So far, I have not gotten around to doing that part.

WillMaker 6 from Nolo Press SRP \$69.95. User Group Store price \$29.95. Phone: 510/704-223 Fax: 510/548-5902

URL: http://www.nolo.com/

The Little Mac Book

Reviewed by R. Kulda From SCRUMPY, the Orange Apple Computer Club Submitted by John Hunkins, Jr.

Mac purveyors surely would make lots more friends if they made sure that every Mac beginner received Robin Williams's *The Little Mac Book* bundled with the computer. If you ever get a call from a friend who obviously is not yet at ease with the Mac, buy him a copy.

As best I can tell, Robin Williams is the finest creator of computer books in the English language. She is that rare combination: a graceful writer, a master designer, a consummate teacher and a technical wiz. Beyond this she loves her readers. She's a treasure. I can say all this because her books require almost no effort to use. The only way to create such books is to work hard at it. Robin Williams must lover her work.

The Wall Street Journal once referred to computer manuals as arrogant. That's another way of saying insulting. Robin Williams is the perfect antidote. You feel good just opening The Little Mac Book because of her generous use of graphics and her fine page design. She even uses disparate fonts like ITC Veljovic and Eurostyle Bold in an altogether pleasing, as well as functional way – a neat trick.

Ms Williams starts off with a gentle Read Me First, and follows with with a caring Tutorial. On the very first page you find the first use of one of her stylistic features that makes the book a joy to use: her frequent anticipation of your possible puzzlement and use of parenthetical

expressions to rescue you immediately. She leaves nothing to chance. This is in obeisance to another of Kulda's laws, Never Underestimate your reader's intelligence and never over estimate his knowledge. (You'll find some other laws in my review of Quark Xpress for Macintosh in an earlier issue of Scrumpy.)

Another nice stylistic feature is her systematic use (but never overuse) of Bold face body type and Eurostyle Bold to be sure you are alerted to certain names or actions that are critical to getting her point.

The book covers the waterfront. Long time Mac users, will find themselves referring to *The Little Mac Book* to refresh their memories. She even has chapters on *Tips* and *Jargon* that I, a ten year Lisa and Mac user, found useful.

A dandy feature of the index is that the first listing for a term that is defined in the text is always, "What is it?", even through subsequent listings begin with a letter that precedes w in the alphabet. This took love and work.

Is the book perfect? Of course

A neat addition to a basic book like this would be a picture of the keyboard that showed which key will give which ASCII code. This would be a great help in forcing certain files to the top or bottom of a menu or other listing.

The index also needs work. Ms Williams tells us on page xiv that she spent "an inordinate amount of time" on the index and that we should go there when we come across a term we are not familiar

with. Yet just three pages later (Page 3) she uses the term *online*, which I've always been confused about. She confuses me more by the index entry. In the text she says "...online tutorial, 'online meaning it is right there inside your computer." Obedient to her advice, I jumped to the index and found "online, what is it? 356" On page 356 under *online* there are five lines of discussion about computers talking to computers and peripheral devices, but nary a word on the sense used on page 3. So I'm still mixed up.

Ever since my Lisa days, I've been confused about Select, Choose and Highlight. Selecting has 27 entries in the index. Choose and Choosing have none. Highlighting has three entries. Ms Williams seems to suggest that, when referring to words in menus or text, Selecting and Highlighting mean the same thing; but they don't mean the same thing when referring to graphic objects. When referring to menus, Choosing seems to mean releasing the mouse when a menu item is *Highlighted*. When referring to Radio Buttons and Check Boxes, -well. I don't know what to think. Ms Williams shows some Radio Buttons and Check Boxes on page 309. Referring to Radio Buttons, she uses Select. Referring to Check Boxes she uses *Choose*. So after 10 years I'm still confused about Select, Choose and Highlight. But I still love my Mac and do useful work in a wide variety of Applications. Clearly, my muddy mind on this issue is not disabling.

The index also needs work in the

(Continuded on page 23)



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If this is a new membership or a renewal, please take a few minutes to fill out this questionniare	Which person Power Ma Macintosi Macintosi Apple II n Other What periphe attachments Printer Laser Prin Modem Scanner Digital Ca Drawing Voice Mac	acintosh mod h model(s) _ nodel(s) erals or do you use? nter amera Tablet	What are special Busing House Desired Prog	e your areas interest? iness Applica sehold Appli cational Appl ktop Publishi gramming vorking	of ations cations lications	Che nan con north Che inte opp	e five soft u use mos eck if you ne withher nercial a r-club mai eck if you erested in ortunities eck if you erred by a mber. Plea ir name.	want you ld from and other iling lists are voluntees were club
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Apple eDOM O								
Please allow 6 weeks for d	up to lelivery	UOIO						
	Disk Prices	s			То	tal Me	rchandise	
	Л	Members Non	Members \$2.000	Add \$1/D	isk for Ship	ping (\$	4.00 Max)	
5.25" eDOM or System 3.5" eDOM:		\$5.00 \$	10.00				ID TOTAL	
Mac System 7.0.1 (9 D GS/OS 6.0.1 (6 Disks): 3.5" System Disks(All		\$15.00 \$10.00 \$2.00/Disk	N.A. N.A. N.A.	Make Ch	ecks Payab	le to '	mini'app'	les"

New & Renewing Members-

(Price includes 6.5% MN Sales Tax) ♦NonMembers cannot buy System Disks

(Continuded from page 20)

way nearly all indexes do: more listings of all kinds and multiple listings for complex terms. A few examples: In the text we find installed fonts. The index lists neither fonts, installed nor installed fonts. So if you want to discover what fonts are installed, you must be smart enough to look under Key Caps. Outline mode is listed, but not Mode, outline. Easy open is not listed. Modifier keys is listed, but not Keys, modifier.

Ms Williams is marvelously

resourceful in avoiding the gut clawing hideous constructions known as PC language but she still slips once in a while. For example, on page 133 and 347 she writes "...someone who grew up on a typewriter, they taught you... and "send the file to someone else, but they use...", respectively (my italics). Someone is singular but they is plural. If one apposite is singular, the other must be. Likewise, if one is plural the other must be.

I say again, you should have this book. When you get it you'll put

your Apple supplied manual in a file, and keep *The Little Mac Book* right next to your beloved Mac. What I've criticized are really just minor irritants.

[Editors note: For a number of years, our Mac Novice SIG leader Tom Lufkin has touted the benefits of owning The Little Mac Book. He has recommended this book time and again to those just starting out in the Mac world. Contact Keary Olson for User Group purchase.]

mini'app'les Profit/Loss statement

Mini'app'les "Minnesota Apple Computer Users' Group, Inc." Checking Account Balance as of 05/6/97\$6,548.68
Profit & Loss Statement "August 1996 through May 6th, 1997" 5/6/97
Income
Donations\$252.10
eDOMs Sales
eDoms-Dragnet\$24.41
eDOMs-Freight Collected\$18.00
eDOMs Sales-Apple II\$10.33
eDOMs Sales-Macintosh\$355.83
Total eDOMs Sales\$408.57
Interest-Norwest\$83.87
Membership Income
Membership - Corporate\$100.00
Membership - Dragnet\$124.00
Membership - New\$910.00
Membership - Renewal"\$4,653.00 "
Membership - Sustaining\$320.00
Total Membership Income"\$6,107.00 "
Total Income"\$6,851.54 "
Expenses
Hardware Expense
Hardware-AppleLink account\$71.91
Total Hardware Expense\$71.91
Membership Expense
Membership-Marketing/Promo\$397.65
Membership-Postage\$133.66
Membership-Supplies\$26.41
Total Membership Expense\$557.72
Publication Expense
Publication-Newsletter "\$2,543.70 "
Publication-Permit/Bulk Mail\$85.00
Publication-Postage\$654.80
Total Publication Expense"\$3,283.50 "
Secretary Expense
Secretary-Other expenses\$11.00

CHICHL
Secretary-Time Anwering\$170.00
Secretary-PO box rental\$104.00
Total Secretary Expense\$285.00
Software Expense
Software-Postage\$13.07
Software-Supplies\$46.81
Total Software Expense\$59.88
Treasurer Expense
Treasurer-Bank Charges\$26.00
Treasurer-Insurance Expense\$309.74
Treasurer-Postage\$32.00
Treasurer-Supplies\$92.16
Total Treasurer Expense\$459.90
Vice President Expense
Vice President-Show/Convention\$36.50
Total Vice President Expense\$36.50
Total Expenses"\$4,754.41 "
Net Profit/(Loss)"\$2,097.13 "
Balance Sheet

5/6/97
Assets "#00000000 Charling Acet "#6 5 40 CO #
#990009803-Checking Acct
#6991083886-Savings Acct
Equip/Computer"\$14,519.54 " Equip/Computer-Depreciation"(\$13,459.30)"
PrePaid Insurance\$0.00 Postage BRM/Ad Correct #1907\$50.00
PrePd Postage (St Paul) #2537\$33.23
Total Assets
10tal Assets \$12,030.33
Liabilities
Sales Tax Payable\$10.22
Total Liabilities\$10.22
10tat Madurites
Equity
Current Year Earnings"\$2,097.13 "
Retained Earnings"\$9,951.64 "
Total Equity"\$12,048.77 "
Total Liability & Equity

Benefits of your mini'app'les membership include:

A one year subscription to our monthly Newsletter

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

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

Eligibility for frequent drawings of free equipment, software, and books.

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

Discounts on book orders

40% off Peachpit Press, 30% off MacMillan family of book companies (Hayden, Adobe Press, Que, Sams, Brady, NRP, and Alpha)

Periodic special User Group discount offers on equipment and software.

In the past year, Apple, Hayes, Brøderbund, and APC Power Protection (Business Security Products), among others, have offered mini'app'les members significant discounts.

Plus, you're supporting all of mini'app'les' special interest group (SIG) meetings that you can attend each month.

It's easy to recoup your cost of membership with the above benefits.

And a one year membership still costs only \$25.



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