

RNAUG Newsletter

April 1994

CeBIT '94

by Hank Lavagnini

CeBIT is Europe's largest exhibition of automation and communications technology (held annually in Hannover at the city's Messe or exhibition grounds). It is also one of the largest in the world.

From Heidelberg, it is a good five to six hours drive. Local bus firms run special day trips to the show. I took a bus from Heilbronn. The DM95 cost seemed worth it with the chance to sleep going and coming.

The Messe consists of 24 separate but interconnected exhibit halls and CeBIT fills each one of them. Wear comfortable shoes. So help me, I even saw guys in business suits with tennis shoes on! This is one big show and every name in computing is there.

My 3:00 AM bus got us into Hannover at 9:00 AM, just at opening time. I entered CeBIT to the tune of the beeping of dozens of scanners scanning the entrance tickets. Curiously, the first building you come to is not an exhibit hall but a full scale beer hall a la München style. Obviously, not all business is conducted on the exhibition floor. The first exhibit hall held a multitude of booths for software firms showing their wares. The index on the wall indicated that there were more than one hundred in that one hall alone. The firms came from all over the world, including Russia, Yugoslavia (as Serbia still calls itself), Scotland, Taiwan, Turkey, and more. A truly international exhibition.

Windows programs were very much in evidence, but the screens being displayed varied from the very sophisticated to programs that looked like glorified dBase III programs running under good ol' MS-DOS.

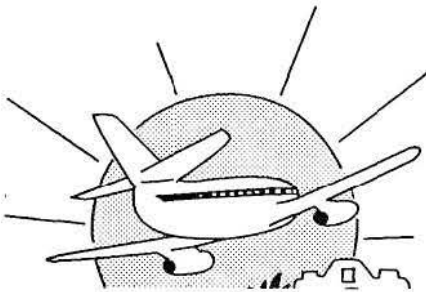
The Macintosh programs I saw were primarily based on ACIUS' 4th Dimension database, and each was already running their stuff on brand new PowerMacs. I found it interesting that on the DOS-compatible side, all the computers were Intel '486 or '386 machines.

...the greatest shock and surprise of the show: there, right in as part of the Big Blue exhibit, was a sight I thought I'd never, ever see — a Macintosh!

There wasn't a Pentium machine to be found. When I asked one gentleman with a firm that specialized in networks why he didn't have a Pentium PC, he quite bluntly stated that those machines had too many problems and crashed the network too often.

The next hall had more computers with bigger and fancier display areas complete with laser light shows, big screen TVs and projection shows. I came across one firm that seemed to be a German distributor for software, including special collections of shareware, and CD-ROMs. To my chagrin, the vast majority of the software they were displaying on the wall racks was for

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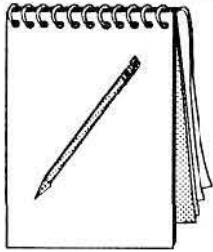


➔ Our MAC SIG Chair, Ned

Langston, will soon be flying off into the sunset — well, off to Korea for his next assignment anyway. We will need someone to take his place. For details, read page 4 or talk to Ned.

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Meeting Minutes

The April meeting was opened at 19³⁰ by President Sheila Richarz.

She reminded members to renew their membership. Newsletters will only be mailed to members in the future.

The County Fair in Frankfurt was discussed. This is an opportunity for organizations to display to the people of V Corps who will be moving from Frankfurt to Mannheim, Heidelberg and Kaiserslautern. It will take place on the 12th of May 13⁰⁰ - 18⁰⁰. Ingo and Sheila Richarz will attend.

Information was shared on various German sources for Apple products. The German company ESCOM is selling the new Power Mac 6100 and Perfoma computers at competitive prices. Others include VOBIS and a German Apple Computer store in (at least) Mannheim. This was not intended as advertisement for any of these companies, merely to inform members of available sources.

The meeting adjourned to the SIG breakouts.

—submitted by Ingo Richarz

Apple II News

by Alexander Siegfried

A Fax - software package, developed by Quality Computers, will not be distributed. The original programmer might still work on it, but it is not known when the program will be ready. The project is in alpha-state and will soon be beta-tested. A graphic that has been produced with it can already be found on GENie.

Dan Verkade, author of AppleWorks 4.0, has announced "WaitLess", a printer buffer for AppleWorks 4.0. Using WaitLess is simple: AppleWorks uses desktop memory to store print data. A TimeOut program, included with WaitLess, configures the settings of WaitLess. WaitLess will cost \$17.

According to the Apple IIGS subgroup of the German AUGE, there is a color adapter for the Quickie Scanner, which lets you digitize colored graphics on the IIGS. The adapter comes with connectors, light, color filters and software. The software includes many new features, such as: 3200 color support, digitize graphics that are much bigger than the screen, also within 3200 color mode. Quickie-C requires a IIGS with 2 Meg of Ram and GS/OS v6.0. The introduction price is at \$99.95

///SHH Systeme in Germany now offers a new disk drive card for the Apple IIGS, called the 'BlueDisk' controller card. You can connect two normal, PC compatible drives to your system: 3.5" disk drives with capacities ranging from 720K to 2.8 Meg or 5.25" drives from 360K to 1.2 Meg. With the driver software that comes with the card and the MS-DOS FST from Apple's System 6.01, you can read MS-DOS disk directly from the Finder. There is, by the way, a shareware package from Peter Watson, that lets you read and write to MS-DOS disks. However, this program runs under a shell, such as Orca or GNO shells. The BlueDisk controller is available from: ///SHH Systeme, Bergstr. 95, 82131

Stockdorf, Germany. 

RNAUG Officers and Points of Contact

President	Sheila Richarz	06221-302701
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Secretary	Kathie Hightower	06223-47155
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Tech Rep	Ingo Richarz	06221-302701
Ed. Advisor	Wes Sisson	06224-3783
MAC SIG Chair	Ned Langston	06221-390053
MAC Co-Chair	Richard Johnson	06227-64827
MAC Co-Chair	Clif Sayer	06247-359
AppleII Chair	Alex Siegfried	06221-81013
AppleII Co-C	Doug McMillin	07156-33466
AppleII Co-C	Jim Clark	06202-24936

CeBIT cont'd from pg. 1

had a nice display, but regrettably there was no sign of the Macintosh version rumored to be in the works. Interestingly, the CorelDraw display consisted primarily of large stacks of empty boxes. They weren't the only one either.

Clearly, CeBIT is not a place you come to if you actually want to buy any of this stuff. You can get freebies like posters, handouts, carrying bags, pins, buttons, and that kind of stuff, but this is an exhibition, not a flea market. When you ask someone how much something costs, more than likely they are going to ask you about what quantity you plan to order. If your response is less than 1,000 units, you generally will get a polite smile and the business card of a local retailer to contact.

The halls were filled with computers of every size and shape, and every peripheral imaginable. There even were Commodore Amiga and Atari computers. The rather large Amiga display area was well populated. Mostly kids and teenagers, however, and the software was almost all games. Lots of big monitors, huge plotters and color printers, too. Want the perfect gift for the PC user who has everything? How about an internally mounted digital equalizer for the CD-ROM?

I noticed that more and more notebook computers are sporting a trackball or other pointing device at the base of the keyboard a la PowerBook, but there were very few PowerBooks themselves on display. I did see some folks using PowerBooks to do desktop presentations, even though the products they were pitching seemed to be non-Macintosh applications.

In the hardware area I finally found Pentium machines. Lots of them. And, yes, they really do have small fans mounted right on the chip to keep the heat down. Intel had a big, futuristic display area that looked like a Martian circus tent. Actually it has a small

theater inside but the crowd was too large for my likes so I didn't go in. They put on quite a show, obviously trying to take some of the shine off of the introduction of the PowerPC chip.

Apple Computer had a big chunk of the floor in the middle of Hall 8. It's "Apple Solutions Center" included major players in the European Apple market such as Aldus, Adobe, Letraset, Wacom, and Radius. Everybody was running either a new PowerMac or a high end Quadra. The hourly PowerMac presentation was shown on a large projection screen and played to standing room only crowds.

As I had already seen the new PowerMacs at the RNAUG meeting the night before, my attention soon wandered to a nearby portrait painter.

You've seen portrait painters at fests with their easels and charcoal or pastel colors peddling their talents to passers-by. Nothing new here — except that this talented young lady was using a Mac, a Wacom graphics tablet, Fractal Design Painter, and printing to a Tektronics Phaser 3 color thermal wax printer. If you didn't mind waiting in line for about an hour or so, you too could get a very unique, and very good, portrait.

As my time (and stamina) started to wind down, I arrived at the sprawling IBM display. In contrast to the theatrical presentations of Apple and Intel, IBM used a series of walls and partitions imbedded with multimedia monitors to pitch their products. Very conservative, very business-like, very good taste. And, in what was for me the greatest shock and surprise of the show,

Financial Statement

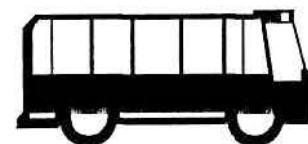
by Nick Miller

Due to Nick's recent move, the financial statement will not be included in this newsletter. It will be available at the meeting and will be run in next month's newsletter.

there, right in as part of the Big Blue exhibit, was a sight I thought I'd never, ever see — a Macintosh! The lack of a PowerMac label indicated that it must have been one of the prototype machines, but it was clearly an Apple Macintosh and it wore an IBM sticker touting the PowerPC chip inside it.

I overheard one of the IBM people complain to a colleague that they had set the Mac up to do direct screen-versus-screen comparisons of the PowerPC RISC chip's speed against a "CISC chip PC." Somebody apparently got offended and the CISC (Intel?) machine was pulled out of there. Ver-r-r-y Interesting! The frustration in the voices of these loyal Big Blue boys was evident as people kept asking about an IBM PowerPC desktop system. "By the end of the year," was the reply.

I hadn't seen half of CeBIT, but my time was up. I left with a bagful of literature and a very nice portrait. I had not seen the halls with networking, telecommunications, test and repair equipment, and who knows what else. But I went away impressed. Will I return next year? I might. It's definitely the place to go if you want to see the newest and the amazingest of the world of electronics. I'm glad I went. 🍏



Editor's Note: Maybe next year's CeBIT would be a good destination for a RNAUG "roadtrip".

MAC SIG News

by Ned Langston

Notes from April Meeting:

We had two special presentations at the April meeting. KenMcMorran did a scheduled presentation on scanners. But we also had another presentation on Music, MIDI, and the Mac. I hope to summarize the MIDI presentation in a future newsletter.

Ken showed off the capabilities of his graphic productions lab. He had an amazing presentation although his computer is an older Macintosh. It showed that good ideas and good people can get the most out of an older system.

Ken used a Microtek MSF-300GS Image Scanner hooked up to an original MacII with a 14 Apple Color Monitor. His Mac has five megabytes of RAM and the hard drive held only 40 megabytes of storage. The programs want more memory, but Ken can trick them into taking less. His favorite program was Aldus PageMaker version 4.0. He scanned in material and then was able to touch it up, resize it, and place it on a page which could be part of a newsletter or a flyer. He also showed how Adobe Type Align can make a string of text act like a string of spaghetti.

My favorite part was when he showed how Caeres Omnipage 3.0 could read printed material from a scanner and translate it into a text file. I like the idea of being able to scan in both pictures and the text from different sources into a database for quick retrieval and easy manipulation.

We spent so much time on the presentations that I did not get a chance to announce the Disk of the Month. It contains, among other files, the new virus checker Disinfectant, version 3.4 updated to handle the newest Macintosh virus. This disk will still be available at the May meeting.

Moving to an entirely different topic, I would like to respond to members' feedback to the club president. Many of you said that you were not power users. You wanted a opportunity to ask simple questions without being made to feel ignorant. I agree with you.

I have stated that a computer user group are the people who still like you AFTER the sale is made. Most of us bought a computer to get useful work done. The Macintosh is easier to learn than anything else up until now, but it doesn't mean that your dealer taught you everything you will need to know. I have been using a Mac for 9-1/2 years and I am by no means an expert on all of its secrets. I just use it.

The best time to get your questions answered is during the Special Interests Group portion of the meeting. I am always available to answer questions, except if I am giving the presentation. And time at the end of the meeting is another good time. Since that may not work for some of you, I am proposing we begin a technical Question and Answer column in the newsletter. We can call it Novices Corner or some other suitable name. If you suffer from terminal shyness, don't use your real name, but do ask your question.

I was in the United States last month and the prices for Macintosh hardware are down. Some of the new computer warehouses will beat any local advertised price to get your business. Interestingly, they were


recommending I wait until the end of summer before buying a Powerbook. They said that with the introduction of the PowerMac Powerbook real soon now, prices across the portable line will drop.

The best Mac deal I saw was from Government Technology Services Inc. (GTSI) which advertised a Macintosh Power Macintosh 6100/60AV with 8 megabytes of RAM, a 250 megabyte hard drive, a double-speed CD-ROM for \$2039 (their model 600-615). I think that price was a typo error. But if it is for real, then I will buy now.

At a multi-media exposition, GTSI used this same model as a video file server, sending a CNN broadcast from a VCR out over an Ethernet to two other Macintoshes. It was quite amazing to see. Now if GTSI had just misplaced the decimal point on the Quicktake 100 digital camera prices, I would be all set.

The May Mac SIG presentation is on the Macintosh and the Networks. We plan to cover the CD-ROM in June and I need a subject matter expert to be the presenter. If interested, let me know.



One last topic, my job. I finally have my orders and I will be departing for Korea at the end of June. So we will need a Co-Chairperson for the Macintosh Special Interest Group. **Any volunteers?** 



Reinventing System7

by Henry Norr

Reprinted from MacWeek
(courtesy of Nick Shestople & Ingo Richarz)

Mac users starting up one of the PowerPC-based models for the first time are likely to think the new system-software release they're looking at deserves its unassuming version number, 7.1.2. At a glance it's hard to explain that third digit - in terms of look and feel, features, and (with a few exceptions) compatibility, it's the same-old System 7.1.

But that familiar appearance is deceptive. Achieving it on a new platform required about 5,000 person-months of development and testing, according to Apple. And while they were re-engineering the system for PowerPC, Apple's developers seized the occasion to make other changes, removing some long-standing bottlenecks; stripping away layers of complexity accumulated over the past decade; and laying foundations for more modern, modular versions to come.

The result - embodied in a new 4 Mbyte ROM, as well as in the new model's System folders - is an artful combination of continuity and

change. It's a bridge not only to the past but to the future of the Mac.

Yet it is also a series of compromises. In the interest of compatibility and time to market, Apple left large portions of the operating system running in emulated mode, and some fundamental enhancements once slated for this release didn't make it.

In the depths

Right from its lowest levels the new system incorporates features intended to re-create the software environment of a 680x0 Mac.

In the bowels of the first-generation Power Macintosh's 4-Mbyte ROM's, for example, lies the nanokernel, a cluster of PowerPC assembly-language routines that directly control the new processor and mediate between it and higher levels of the system.


The 680x0 family supported eight levels of interrupt, the signals that elements of the system use to tell the processor of a change in their condition. Mac drivers and system software assume the existence of these levels, each of which carries different priorities. But the PowerPC has hardware support for only one level of interrupt. To bridge the gap, Apple's engineers had to re-create this hierarchy in the nanokernel and a custom chip.

cont'd on pg. 8

Signs of the Times

by Kathie Hightower

The Times they are a changing... I was in Seattle, Washington, a few weeks ago. I picked up the Seattle Times newspaper on the day that they started a new daily special section—a 4-5 page section strictly dealing with PCs. It will include information to help PC users (along with providing lots of targeted advertising for the computer companies.)

...and the more they change, the more they stay the same! Now we have all these sophisticated planner systems on our computer that can beep to remind us of that meeting or to make that phone call. I'm glad to see I'm not the only one not quite there yet—seen in a mail order catalog: **Message frames for your computer:** *Frame your computer screen with the 3" wide screenies and you'll have a place for all those necessary notes and messages. Use the dry-erase wipe-off Screenie or the bulletin board version for tacking on photos, etc.* (I was happy to see the sample they pictured was on a Mac!) 



(cartoon courtesy of Hank Lavagnini)

4 SALE

RNAUG Newsletter runs For Sale and Wanted Ads for the benefit of our members. If you would like to advertise hardware or software — or computer services — for sale, send your ad to Kathie Hightower, RNAUG Newsletter, HQ USAREUR, CMR 420, Box 624, APO AE 09063 or (German Post) langheckenstr. 32, 69245 Bammental. Be sure to include your name and telephone or mailing address in your ad. If it is a lengthy ad, please provide a disk for quick import into the newsletter— your disk will be returned.

PRINTER FOR SALE! \$390.00
 Hewlett Packard DESKWRITER
 C color Ink-jet printer for the
 Macintosh. Comes with cable,
 110v power supply, software
 drivers, manuals, one black and
 one color cartridge. 300 dpi (laser
 printer) resolution, can print
 colors as grey scale, uses plain
 paper, does transparencies.

CONTACT: Hank Lavagnini,
 334-2515 or 07268-1519 after 6PM.

**DO YOU WANT FILEMAKER
 PRO AT BARGAIN PRICE?**

FileMaker Pro will run you \$269
 from most mail order software
 firms. But you can get a competi-
 tive upgrade from RECORD
 HOLDER PLUS for only \$119. I
 have two, brand new, unregis-
 tered copies of Record Holder
 Plus to sell for \$25 each. That
 means you can get FileMaker Pro
 for only \$144 ! A savings of \$125 !!
 (Record Holder Plus is also a nice
 little database for PowerBook 100
 and earlier Mac model users)

CONTACT: Hank Lavagnini,
 334-2515 or 07268-1519 after 6PM.

Now is the time to restock your computer supplies.
 RNAUG offers members the best prices for diskettes and
 ribbons. Contact Treasurer, Nick Miller.

Diskettes:

3.5 DD 800k disks	\$0.50 each
3.5 HD 1.44M disks	\$0.75 each
3.5 HD 1.44M disks	\$18.75 for 25
5.25 disks	\$0.30 each
Disk Labels	\$1.75 for 50

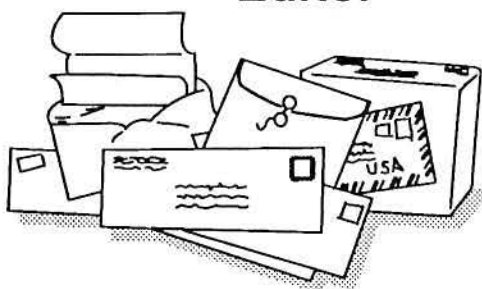
Image Writer Ribbons:

Black	\$2.00 each
Color	\$6.25 each



Editor'n Note: I have to admit, at times, this is how I feel, even about my MAC — but it's nowhere near as often as with my previous computer — an IBM clone. I'm finally learning that the more I work with it, the more I know what to try when I do run into those "bugs".
 (cartoon courtesy of Hank Lavagnini)

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I want to wish you the best of luck with the RNAUG Newsletter. I think you are on the right track experimenting with the format. Do try new things.

As the former editor of the Newsletter, I received a lot of praise for which I am very grateful. But there is one misconception I must put to rest. I do not have a "tremendous amount of expertise" in desktop publishing. Anything I did was only possible because I was doing it on the Mac. That is the real point people must realize. The Mac is the enabler. It is not just a clever advertising phrase when they say, "The Power to be your Best."

Anyone with a subscription to MacUser or MacWorld who is willing to try things, to experiment, and make mistakes, can produce a fine newsletter. If you read a Mac publication long enough, or even buy a book on desktop publishing, you can quickly get the basics of designing a newsletter. But only the Mac could let me try different effects from different programs and tie them all together.

Another great thing about the Mac is you have such a wide choice of programs, all of which are capable of producing newsletters—Word, Works, WordPerfect, ClarisWorks, MacWrite Pro, etc. You can pass your documents freely among them, and even use one or another without having to relearn a program from scratch. This is a level of interoperability the MesSy-DOS world is still learning. I found out

the hard way that IBM compatibility really is a myth. At work, I can exchange files between my Mac and a DOS machine more easily than I can between two DOS machines.

So you see the real hero of desktop publishing is the Mac, not any one individual. No one in RNAUG should ever feel that they can't look good in print. You can if you try.

Good luck,
Hank Lavagnini

Dear Hank,

Thanks for all of your contributions—of articles and clip art. The submissions that you and other members have made make the job a bit easier. The Mac is great—but there is still a learning curve—and time factor to figuring this all out.

Editor

Dear Editor,

The most important issue about the newsletter to me personally is timely mailing. If it just barely reaches Heidelberg-area members before the next meeting, then it won't make it to my mailbox in Stuttgart.

Feeling Left Out in Stuttgart

Dear "FLO"

I assure you that my goal is to get to the point where the newsletter is mailed long before the next meeting—not just "just-in-time" for Heidelberg members.

That won't happen just yet for many reasons: 1. I'm new to the Club, don't have E-Mail and don't work in Heidelberg—so working out the logistics of getting input is taking longer now than it will as this system streamlines. 2. I'm new to Pagemaker so formatting this newsletter is taking me many hours longer than I ever expected. This is not just an "import text and go" process. I'll get faster as I learn what I'm doing. 3. I do travel a lot on business—I just returned from 4 weeks in the US and headed right out again for a conference. That means I have to squeeze in time as I can to put this together—and that free time doesn't always coincide with the club schedule. 5. There is more to the newsletter than typing and formatting. There is all the xeroxing and collating and labeling and sorting—of over 100 copies. And the delivery that can only be done between 10-11 each day (Post Office rules). Sheila & Ingo have been handling all of this (a deep thanks to them) and we all have to work around work schedules.

So bear with us, pitch in if you can, & we'll develop a timely & useful newsletter. Editor

The Rhein-Neckar Users Group is a private organization of the 26th Area Support Group IAW USAREUR Reg. 210-1.

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Just above the nanokernel in the new machine's architecture is one of their most discussed features, the 680x0 emulator. Written almost single-handedly by Apple Software Engineer Gary Davidian, the emulator consists of 580 Kbytes of PowerPC assembly language. It's function is to map 680x0 instructions issued by software written for older Macs - including not just applications but also system routines that haven't been ported - to the corresponding PowerPC instructions. To applications the emulator presents itself as a 68020. That simply means it was not designed to support the memory-management unit incorporated into the '030 or the floating-point functions added to the '040. But since it does support some other '040-specific routines - and since an '020 sound archaic - Apple has officially christened Davidian's code a 68LC040 emulator.

Mixing models

The key to the performance of Power Macs lies in the Mac Toolbox, since most Mac applications spend a majority of their processing time running routine called from that set of standard software services. To the extent those routines are executed in native mode, even emulated get a lift; conversely, routines run in emulation slow down even native-mode applications.

So far, only about 10 percent of the Mac Toolbox, measured in lines of code, has been rewritten for the new chip. But by profiling the runtime behavior of Mac software, Apple identified the routines in which applications spend the most time and gave those routines first priority.

The result, Apple officials claim, is that upwards of 80 percent of the Toolbox call actually executed already run in native mode, whether the application calling them is emulated or native.

Because users will be switching between emulated and native applications, and since both kinds of

software have to call both native and emulated Toolbox routines, the Power Macs frequently switch between emulated and native environments.

A new operating system component called the Mixed Mode Manager examines all instructions issued by applications and passes them to either the PowerPC or the emulator.

Mode switches are transparent but expensive in terms of performance. According to Apple a round-trip switch on a 60-MHz PowerPC 601 takes about 15 microseconds, or the equivalent of about 50 680x0 instructions. When Apple began to benchmark early prototype Power Macs, performance fell short of expectations. The development team, led by PowerPC OS Group Engineering Manager Phil Koch, then reviewed its application profiling data and identified the source of the problem: a handful of short but frequently used routines.

Because they don't take long to execute, they hadn't shown up as priorities in the initial studies, but because they are often called in connection with native routines, they were causing excessive mode switching. The time required to execute a routine consisting of five 680x0 instructions, for example, increases tenfold if a round-trip switch is required.

To alleviate the problem, several of these small routines were then ported. A few that are often called in sequence with both native and emulated routines were implemented in the PowerPC instruction set but also left in 680x0 form so they would always be available without a mode switch (Apple calls these routines "fat traps").

Code warriors

Along with all the adaptations necessitated by the change of processor, the new system incorporates several other enhancements, some of which will likely show up on 680x0 Macs in the future. For example, the Memory Manager, one of the most intensively used system

functions, was not simply ported but completely rewritten. New algorithms are said to improve performance.

The old scheme goes back to the days of the 128-Kbyte Mac, when application code had to be shuffled in and out of memory in segments. It has since been complicated by the emergence of an array of inconsistent mechanisms for loading additional system and application code.

The new model replaces all this with a simpler and more powerful scheme, according to Apple. All pieces of executable code - whatever their form - and their associated data will be classified as "code fragments": they'll be handled in a standard, transparent way through a new low-level mechanism called the Code Fragment Manager.

The only immediate benefit users will derive from this change is that native-mode PowerPC applications will require less memory when opened with virtual memory enabled. Via a technique called file mapping the system can load pieces of a code fragment from disk to memory without copying them separately into the virtual-memory swap file.

Over time, however, the new runtime model and Code Fragment Manager will make it much easier for developers to implement shared libraries, thus reducing the amount of redundant code developers have to write and users have to store on disk. And the new manager provides a basis for the eventual implementation of OpenDoc.

"It's a big brick in our foundation for the future," Koch said last month. "It's fundamental to where we want to take the Mac architecture over the next decade."

(Note to the "novice MAC

users": Don't feel bad if you don't understand this article. I know I don't. I don't have a clue what a nanokernel is, for example. However, this newsletter needs to have information for all levels of members. I'm striving for a mix. Ed.)

Bits and Pieces

Reprinted from MacWeek, courtesy of Nick Shestople

HEWLETT-PACKARD INTRODUCES COLORSMART

ColorSmart is a color optimization and management technology that will be added to all future HP color printers. ColorSmart automatically provides optimal color setting for the graphic elements on a page, applying different settings for text, charts and digital photos. The driver can also convert color output to gray scale for copying or faxing. Users can also manually customize settings.

The company is offering all users of the DeskWriter 500 and 550C a free driver upgrade that incorporates the ColorSmart technology. Hewlett-Packard's Direct Marketing Organization is at PO Box 58059, Santa Clara, CA 95051.

COMPUSERVE PLUGS INTO INTERNET



CompuServe members can now access the popular on-line service from the Internet using Telnet terminal emulation.

Access via the giant global network will be an alternative to a dial up modem connection and will keep some members from having to place long-distance calls, the company said.

Access speeds will be 9,600 bps, eventually 14.4 Kbps, with prices the same as those for regular dial-in.

CompuServe said by year-end it will release new versions of CompuServe Information Manager (CIM) that will provide graphical interfaces for and access to a variety of Internet services, such as news groups, outgoing Telnet and file

transfers from Internet sites. Upgrade prices and rates to access outside Internet services from CompuServe, which will run at 14.4 Kbps, have not yet been determined.

REVIEWS IN BRIEF:

PowerPort/Mercury (Global Village, \$399). Overall, the PowerPort Mercury is an outstanding PowerBook modem with cutting-edge performance (but watch out for V.Fast modems on the horizon—the cutting edge is always moving). However, it's a shame that GlobalFax works only with Global Village modems, or the company would have a strong competitor on its hands.

Registered owners of previous PowerPorts can upgrade to the Mercury for \$299; GlobalFax upgrades are free.

ALLright Enhancements (Management Science Associates, \$129). Altogether, ALLright Enhancements provides a lot of utility for the price. That, plus its ease of use and integration, makes it a viable choice for novices and others who haven't already invested in competing packages.

But the current version is very much a 1.0 release: While we experienced no crashes and only a handful of compatibility problems, we found too many glitches and not

enough power, particularly in the Directories, Extensions and Keys modules. For now, the product is just ALLright.

FoxPro 2.5 (Microsoft)(***). FoxPro 2.5 is a strong and viable contender in the Mac relational database market. Its current price of \$99 is dirt cheap, and even when it goes up to \$495 after 1 July it will be still be almost half the price of the \$895 4th Dimension.

Those used to programming in 4th Dimension may find the task more difficult in FoxPro, but for anyone interested in cross-platform database development, FoxPro's three-way compatibility between the Mac, DOS and Windows worlds makes the product a good value.

HyperCard 2.2 (Apple, \$249)(****). The first upgrade to HyperCard in three years adds some major new features, including Open Scripting Architecture and WorldScript support, color, new button and field types, and the capability to save stacks as stand-alone applications. Although color is a long overdue and much welcome addition, its current implementation is not well-integrated into HyperCard's

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Another Member Benefit!

The RNAUG CD-ROM Drive — Available for member use! Don't forget that our club has an Apple Computer 300 CD-ROM drive that members can sign out and use. The drive's custodian is member Richard E. Johnson. He can be contacted at:

CMR 420, Box 1274
APO AE 09063

DSN phone: 370-7969
Civilian phone: 06227-64827


The drive may be signed out only by RNAUG members and includes our CD-ROM disk library. Those desiring to sign out the drive must provide the custodian a check for the value of the drive, approximately \$450, which is returned uncashed upon the return of the drive (unless there is loss or damage). The drive is normally signed out for a week. The member who desires to sign out the drive is responsible for picking up from and returning the drive to the custodian.

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interface and slows down performance. While there is plenty of room for further improvement, this is a solid utility.

The HyperCard 2.2 package includes AppleScript 1.1, along with related utilities and a stack describing AppleScript, but does not include printed documentation. Buyers not familiar with AppleScript will probably need to purchase a separate book or the complete AppleScript package.

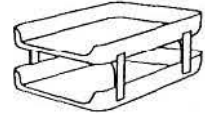
We recommend that current users upgrade to the new version, and that those who have never considered HyperCard take a look at it now. (Upgrade from v2.0 or v2.1, \$89; free for those who purchased Claris HyperCard between 1 Nov and 31 Dec 93.)

Gallery Effects Vol. 3 (Aldus, \$199)(***). Although Gallery Effects Volume 3 contains some attractive effects, if you're going to buy only one set, make it Volume 1, because it has the most useful set of filters. But no matter which Photoshop plugins you already own, Gallery Effects Volume 3 is a good addition to the avid Photoshop user's Plug-Ins folder. 

(Note: From time to time we will include pertinent articles from MacWeek, MacUser and others. This will not only provide information, but might introduce you to a magazine that you may wish to subscribe to. Ask other members which magazines and which catalogs they find most useful. Ed.)



Note from the Editor:



Thanks to all of you who have made submissions and suggestions for the newsletter.

I want to thank you to in advance for your patience with the timing of this edition in particular and any future editions that are late due to my travel and workload.

Keep those submissions coming. That really makes it your newsletter.

(It's best if they are in Microsoft Word or other SW that can be imported directly to Pagemaker.) Mail to Kathie Hightower, HQ USAREUR, CmR 420, Box 624, APO AE 09063.

