# Shareware Solutions II

*An Exciting Apple II Journey Into The Future*

# Internet World 1999

## Growth of the Net

Through the beginning of 1994, the Internet was a US government subsidized, non-profit computer network whose primary function was to link together US governmental agencies with their private sector high tech contractors and with colleges and universities which conducted research with grants from the US government.

However in just five short years, the Internet has undergone a phenomenal transformation, exhibiting a rate-of-growth that is unlike anything we've ever seen or experienced before. The Internet has become all pervasive, and has sparked the imagination of the entire world, growing and spreading like an unstoppable wildfire.

As the 1990s decade began, no one could have possibly predicted, as we get closer and closer to the new millennium, that public access Internet terminals could be found in libraries and cafes, that our TVs would feature a steady stream of ads directing viewers to sites on the world wide web, or that our newspapers would be filled with daily stories about the Internet.

Then again, as recently as two years ago, no one could have possibly predicted that Apple IIGS owners would one day be able to access the Internet and partake in many of the wonders that it has to offer, using any-

thing other than a dial up Shell account or a menu driven Internet access system such as Genie or Delphi.

But then Marinetti was released, and it provided IIGS programmers with the keys to the Internet kingdom that in turn permitted them to bestow upon IIGS users a wealth of elegant, sophisticated and easy to use Internet applications, including such wondrous programs as Spectrum v2.2, Spectrum Internet Suite v1.1, and Crock O' Gold v3.1.

## The Way Things Were

Long before the world wide web led to the mass popularization of the Internet, in fact, ever since the Internet was first opened up for public use, Apple II owners have had the ability to access it. Traditionally, only three things were required: a modem, software to drive the modem, and a dial up Shell account.

With an unlimited access Shell account available from many ISPs (Internet Service Providers) for $15-$20 per month, Apple II owners can send and receive e-mail, download software, participate in Usenet discussion groups, and navigate through the far reaches of the world wide web.

Since the overwhelming majority of Apple II users have traditionally accessed the Internet via a dial up Shell account,

every single Internet related "how to" article that has ever appeared in Shareware Solutions II has been presented from the perspective of an Apple II user dialing into a Shell account. However, as more and more Internet access options have become available to IIGS users, that focus will expand in order to include the latest developments available to Apple II modem owners.

When dialing into a Shell account, Apple II users are not actually connected to the Internet. Instead, we connect to an ISP which in turn is directly connected to the Internet. Once the dial up connection to an ISP is established, Apple II users then run either Unix based software, or custom software, which resides on the ISP's computer system in order to send e-mail, read Usenet newsgroups or access the world wide web.

Accessing the Internet from a Shell account is fast and efficient, easy and inexpensive. However, in the past few years, many ISPs have stopped offering Shell accounts. That is due in large part to the fact that the overwhelming majority of those accessing the Internet these days do so by using Macs and PCs, and the most prevalent method those other computer platforms use to access the Internet is by making a TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) connection to the Internet from a PPP (Point to Point Protocol) or

SLIP (Serial Link Internet Protocol) dial-up account.

Fortunately, Apple IIGS owners now have the ability to make these same types of connections, thanks to Richard Bennett's Marinetti v2.0.1.

### Marinetti v2.0.1

At KansasFest '97, Australian programmer Richard Bennett unveiled Marinetti v1.0, and at KansasFest '98 Richard introduced Marinetti v2.0. At the end of June, 1999, he released an updated Marinetti v2.0.1.

Marinetti is a freeware utility which runs at the system level, and provides Apple IIGS users with the ability to connect to the Internet through a TCP/IP connection. Marinetti is configured by means of a Control Panel, which gives the option of various connection methods selected from the available plug-in link layer modules. The most common method of connecting to an Internet Service Provider is to establish a PPP or SLIP connection.

Marinetti can best be thought of as a "dialer" program that serves the exact same function as Open Transport does for the Mac, and Dialup Networking does for the IBM PC.

Marinetti is quite simple to set up. One double-click on the mouse is all it takes to install all of Marinetti's various component files. After installation, it is necessary to open up the TCP/IP Control Panel, and to configure Marinetti by clicking on the "Setup Connection" button.

The overwhelming majority of IIGS owners will choose the standard PPP connect option, and then fill in the proper user name and password that will be used to gain access to their ISP's system. Also needed is the IP address for the ISP's domain name server; that number can easily be obtained from an ISP's tech support representative. Marinetti also needs to be told on which of the two IIGS serial ports the modem is connected, the modem's speed, the proper Init String for the modem (Note: use the same Init String as you use in Spectrum) and finally, it needs to be told the ISP's local phone number to dial. That is all that is required to configure Marinetti to make a PPP connection to the Internet!

Some Marinetti users may need to use a scripted PPP connection if their ISP does not support the direct method of logging into PPP. SLIP users must also use a scripted login. CompuServe, for instance, needs a scripted login to use PPP.

In addition to the widespread availability of PPP and SLIP access accounts, it's important to realize that there are both advantages and disadvantages to connecting to the Internet via PPP as opposed to using a Shell account.

With a shell account, and especially with a Unix Shell account, you'll never be wanting for software, as you'll be using your ISP's software for everything you do on the Internet. On the other hand, a PPP connection places your IIGS directly onto the Internet, and so you will need to run your own IIGS software for everything you will do on the Internet.

And, therein lies the problem. There is not yet a full comple-

ment of IIGS software available that permits IIGS owners to do all that there is to do on the Internet. So for the time being at least, IIGS owners are advised to have an account with an ISP that permits both PPP and Shell access. That way, you'll have the best of both worlds!

There are, on the other hand, at least two very significant advantages to making a TCP/IP connection to the Internet via PPP dial up access.

According to Spectrum author Ewen Wannop, "TCP over IP is an error corrected packet based protocol, just like X/Y/Zmodem is. So if you use Marinetti, then you have error-free connections by definition, regardless of what you then do with the data that Marinetti passes through. Line noise, and dropped characters caused by Init or Interrupt conflicts do not affect the data flow through Marinetti. Marinetti just re-requests any bad packets until it gets the data cleanly."

In addition to error correction, Marinetti can handle up to 64 simultaneous open connections, so that multi-tasking of sorts is permitted, in the sense that more than one operation can be performed at the same time. As an example, when using software that works in conjunction with Marinetti, it's now possible to participate in two or more chats, in different chat rooms, on different systems, at the same time.

Keep in mind that Marinetti v2.0.1 merely makes the connection to the Internet possible. Once that connection is made however, software that is compatible with Marinetti needs to be run on the IIGS.

Included with Marinetti is a "bare-bones" Telnet application that allows you to connect with and log onto remote computers that are also connected to the Internet. With that Telnet application, it's possible, for example, to dial up the local phone number of your ISP, and to get connected via Telnet to the center of the Apple II online universe: Delphi's A2 forum.

Marinetti's Telnet application does work, and does get you connected to remote systems but by design, it features none of the "bells and whistles" that modern day modem users have come to expect. Marinetti author Richard Bennett stated at Kfest '97, and repeated again at Kfest '98, that due to time constraints, he would be more than happy to provide technical support so that other programmers could write IIGS software that worked with Marinetti. He stressed that he alone wouldn't be writing that software but merely helping other programmers to create additional applications.

Apple IIGS programmers with the ability to read Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) files can freely download Richard's helpful 158 page Marinetti Programmers' Guide from the Marinetti web site which is located at the following URL:

*http://www.apple2.org/marinetti*

Since there is no software currently available for the Apple IIGS which can read these Adobe Acrobat files, a 175 page printed version of the manual, along with a disk containing useful development tools, is also available from The Byte Works for $25.

Richard has provided details in the Marinetti Programmers' Guide that describe the IPC (Inter Program Communication) routines that control Marinetti. These routines can be called up and used from within other software programs. It is these IPC routines which have permitted programs like Sheppy's gsAIM and Geoff Weiss's gw-ftp to interact with Marinetti and to dial up and connect to the Internet using the information that each Marinetti user enters during the initial configuration of Marinetti.

Through these IPC routines, Spectrum author Ewen Wannop was able to build support for Marinetti directly into the Spectrum telecommunications program, and in late 1998, Spectrum v2.2 was released.

**Spectrum v2.2**

Spectrum is a GS/OS based telecommunications program that has become, with each successive update, more powerful and more feature filled than even the most optimistic Apple IIGS user could have ever hoped for.

When program author Ewen Wannop offered a sneak peek preview of Spectrum 2.2 at KansasFest '98, he talked about how his upcoming release would include full integrated support for Marinetti, and he described Spectrum's multi-socket Telnet functions and demonstrated how Spectrum 2.2 could support up to 32 simultaneous TCP/IP connections. He also spoke about the 35 new commands available in Spectrum's Scripting language that related directly to TCP/IP and to Marinetti.

Despite Ewen's advanced warn-

ings about how Spectrum 2.2 in association with Marinetti would change the way many of us used our modems, he didn't quite prepare us for the thrill and the excitement we'd experience when first seeing the newest entry in Spectrum 2.2's Phone Pull Down menu: Switch to TCP/IP.

Spectrum 2.2 was released in September, 1998, and the initial excitement soon gave way to excitement over Spectrum's flawless performance after establishing a TCP over IP connection to the Internet via PPP dial up access.

Spectrum 2.2 has fully incorporated Telnet functionality into the program. This makes it very easy and efficient to dial up your local ISP, establish a TCP/IP connection, and then have Spectrum itself open a Telnet connection to your various online accounts. To have Spectrum automatically initiate and complete the entire sequence, access the Phone menu, and click on Switch to TCP/IP. Then click on Services, and enter the name of the destination system, such as Delphi. Make sure that there's an X in the Telnet box, and then just enter the domain name (such as delphi.com) as the address.

As noted above, TCP over IP is an error correcting protocol. For that reason, Spectrum 2.2 owners who make their online connection via Marinetti no longer need to be as concerned or vigilant as they once had been. Most Spectrum owners are by now quite used to running Spectrum only after a Shift-Boot, as Spectrum is extremely sensitive to Desk Accessories and Inits that generate Interrupts. Although those who continue to

use Spectrum 2.2 to dial directly into Genie, Delphi or to any ISP's Shell still need to concern themselves with Interrupt generating add-ons, those who use Spectrum 2.2 to connect to the Internet via Marinetti don't have to take as many special precautions, as it is impossible for there to be any dropped characters through a TCP over IP connection.

Despite the fact that Spectrum 2.2 now offers 100% error-free TCP over IP connections, maintaining an "Interrupt clean environment" is still recommended. Although Interrupt generating Inits or DAs will not affect the error-free part of the process, their removal from your system may speed up the transfer of data by avoiding packet repetition if the environment is degraded.

Although Spectrum 2.2 looks nearly indistinguishable from earlier versions, it is the inclusion of 35 new TCP/IP and Marinetti related Script commands that has led to the creation of two Spectrum add-on programs that are sheer works of programming art!

**Crock O' Gold v3.1**

Crock O' Gold, generally known by the acronym COG, is a freeware off-line reader for use with the Delphi online network. In actuality, COG is a sophisticated set of Spectrum scripts that automates the use of the Delphi system. COG is run from within Spectrum, and it completely insulates users from having to navigate through the system using Delphi's online menus. Instead, COG users can read and write e-mail and/or forum messages from the comfort of their familiar GS/OS

interface. COG users even have the ability to designate multiple software programs to download from Delphi online libraries, and whether there are one or 20 programs on the download list, all will be transferred automatically.

Delphi's A2 Forums are managed by Syndicomm, the same dedicated group of people who managed the Apple II forums on Genie. The volunteer staff is extremely knowledgeable and friendly, but it is Delphi's low cost that has permitted it to grow so fast, so quickly. After all, it costs only $35 for an entire year to access Delphi using an in-bound Telnet connection from the Internet.

Due to Delphi's ability to be reached by Telnet, the A2 forum has attracted a much more international audience than any previous online service ever has. After all, whether you live in Australia, Britain, Switzerland, Germany or New Jersey, it costs as little as $3 a month (over and above any fees paid directly to your local ISP) to access the Delphi system through the Internet. And COG makes it easy and efficient for all these people to participate in lively online discussions.

Although Delphi subscribers have always had the ability to Telnet into the system from a Shell account or from Genie, as soon as Spectrum 2.2 was completed and released, Ewen Wannop turned his attention back to COG. COG 3.0 and 3.1 have built in support for Marinetti, making it possible to Telnet into Delphi through an error correcting TCP over IP connection.

Setting up COG 3.1 to operate with Marinetti couldn't be eas-

ier, as there are only two steps involved. The first step was already taken when you configured Marinetti. Marinetti only needs to be configured once, and through the wonders of IPC, Spectrum (or any other Marinetti aware program) can use the same configuration information to establish a TCP/IP connection.

The second and final step is taken in COG 3.1 itself. Located under COG's Settings menu, you'll see Connect Method. Simply change that to TCP/IP, and you should be all set to do automated Delphi passes through an error correcting TCP over IP connection.

**Spectrum Internet Suite v1.1**

Apple IIGS users have been happily "surfing the net" with Spectrum Internet Suite (SIS) since v1.0 of the web browser was introduced in 1997. Since early 1998, co-authors Geoff Weiss and Ewen Wannop have been working on an update, and that long awaited update to SIS v1.1 was eventually released in June, 1999.

Just as with the initial SIS v1.0 release, there was a division of labor on the v1.1 update project. Geoff's work focused on the transfer of data from remote web sites to the IIGS, and Ewen focused on how that data would be displayed on the IIGS. Working together, this IIGS programming "dream team" once again accomplished what many had previously thought was impossible!

The update includes more than 100 bug fixes, offers some powerful new features and options, and works splendidly from Delphi. Best of all, if SIS

v1.1 is run from Spectrum 2.2 in association with Marinetti, all web connections will be 100% error-free; web surfers will never again see a page corrupted by a missing html tag or encounter a Synchronization error!

Among the new features included in SIS v1.1 are a Bookmark Editor, limited downloading abilities, the ability to spell check outgoing e-mail (if and only if NiftySpell is installed), support for Netscape Cookies, speed optimization so that web pages are retrieved faster, and support for a Signature file whose contents can be appended to all outgoing e-mail messages.

Additionally, the program manual has been completely rewritten and expanded, and for convenience, it is now included on the SIS v1.1 disk. The expanded SIS v1.1 program manual includes detailed information about how to access all of the many features of SIS and how to use each feature. It offers detailed descriptions of all the error messages that can be encountered. It also includes a comprehensive trouble-shooting guide that provides instructions on how to customize SIS's advanced preference items so that problems can be overcome when encountered, and any potential problems can be avoided completely.

The initial release of SIS worked only from Genie or from a Unix Shell account. SIS v1.1 now works from Delphi, as well as from VAX systems, AIX Unix and equivalent environments, and from Debian LINUX and equivalent environments.

Downloading of Text files has been added to SIS v1.1. Al-

though that may initially sound quite limited, keep in mind that many files posted to Internet archives have been processed with BinScii, an Apple II encoding method which can be used to convert ShrinkIt archives into Text files; those BinScii encoded files can now be transferred by SIS. To initiate an http download, simply press down on your Control key as you double-click on a link, and an information window will be displayed. If the file is one that SIS is able to download, just click on the "Save Link Content" button and a GS/OS standard file dialog box will appear, waiting for you to tell SIS where to save the file. This download option can also be used to download entire web pages for faster, offline viewing.

Since SIS v1.0 was released before Marinetti, that initial release could only be run from a Shell prompt or from Genie, and at the time, you could only connect to those systems by a direct dial up connection. The method that SIS uses to retrieve web pages does not employ error correction, so sometimes the display of some web pages on the IIGS just wasn't an accurate representation of the way they had been intended to look. If SIS v1.1 is used by directly dialing into your Shell account, then it too may have occasional display problems.

On the other hand, if you use Marinetti to make a TCP/IP connection to the Internet, then use Spectrum 2.2 to Telnet to your Shell account or to Delphi, and then run SIS v1.1, everything you see on screen will be rendered perfectly. You'll never again see Synchronization errors or screen displays that are amiss. Through the wonders of

TCP over IP, SIS v1.1 will always behave perfectly!

**What's It All Mean?**

Because of his work with Marinetti, Richard Bennett has been nominated by both Eric Shepherd and Ewen Wannop as "the programmer of the decade." After all, had it not been for Marinetti, Sheppy would not have been able to create his gsAIM chat program, and Ewen would not have been able to add TCP/IP support into such masterpieces as Spectrum 2.2, Crock O' Gold 3.1 and Spectrum Internet Suite 1.1.

Marinetti, in and of itself, merely allows a TCP/IP connection to the Internet to be made. It is through the work of other programmers that Marinetti will become even more useful over time. The programs released to date that work with Marinetti provide IIGS users with many more Internet options than ever before, but there are still several more Marinetti related programs that need to be written before IIGS users can take full advantage of the benefits of TCP/IP connections to the Internet.

There's no doubt about it; Marinetti is the future of the IIGS online. But the future has already arrived, so please don't wait for a complete suite of Marinetti-aware programs to be released before you experience the joys of 100% error-free TCP over IP connections.

Although Spectrum v2.2, COG v3.1 and SIS v1.1 continue to work just fine through an old fashioned dial up Shell account, they work even more fantastically through a TCP/IP connection. After you see with your own eyes just how much more dependable it is to access the Internet through Marinetti, it will change the way you use your modem!

**Random Notes**

• Less than a week after SIS v1.1 started to ship, Geoff Weiss revealed during an online chat that he had tried and tried and tried, with limited success, to make SIS v1.1 work immediately after a TCP/IP connection to the Internet had been established. Had Geoff been 100% successful, SIS v1.1 would have worked without the need for users to Telnet to a Shell or Delphi prompt.

To that end, Geoff created a TCP/IP driver connection file for SIS v1.1 which he has released as freeware. However, he states in the documentation, "I take no responsibility if anything gets screwed up. You have been warned. This software comes with no support."

(Note: Shareware Solutions II has installed and used the TCP/IP driver, with limited success. When it worked, it worked well; when it didn't work, it crashed spectacularly.)

The TCP/IP driver is supplied as a very small file that needs to be copied to the SIS.Data folder. Once it is installed in that folder, run SIS.SetPrefs from Spectrum 2.2 and set your Network Access option to the new item that will appear: Spectrum 2.2 TCP/IP.

• If you are upgrading from Marinetti 2.0 to 2.0.1, please be aware that the Marinetti 2.0.1 Installer will remove the Preference files that were created by you when you configured Marinetti v2.0.

So, before double-clicking on the Marinetti Installer, open up the Marinetti v2.0 Control Panel one last time, and make a note of all the settings, including the two DNS IP addresses. Write them down, as you will have to re-enter all the information into the v2.0.1 Control Panel.

Also, those who use Scripted PPP or SLIP will need to save the connect and disconnect scripts used in v2.0 and restore them in v2.0.1. You can copy these scripts from the Marinetti Edit windows to the GS/OS System Clipboard, paste them into any GS/OS text editor, and then save them to disk. To restore them, load them back into your GS/OS text editor, copy the scripts to the GS/OS System Clipboard, then open the Marinetti Control Panel and paste them back into their respective Marinetti Edit windows.

**Requirements**

• Marinetti v2.0.1 requires System 6.0.1, 140K of boot volume disk space, and at least 190K of free RAM.

• Spectrum v2.2 requires System 6.0.1, a minimum of 1.25 megabytes of RAM (4 megabytes of RAM or more are recommended), a hard drive, and a modem.

• Spectrum Internet Suite v1.1 requires a IIGS with 4 megabytes of RAM, System 6.0.1, and Spectrum 2.1 or later. (Spectrum 2.2 is required to use SIS v1.1 with Marinetti.)

Also required is a modem, a hardware handshaking cable, and a Shell, Delphi or Genie account.

• Crock O' Gold v3.1 requires Spectrum v2.2 and an account on Delphi.

## Ordering Information

• Marinetti v2.0.1 is freeware and can be downloaded from the Marinetti home page, located at the following URL:

*http://www.apple2.org/ marinetti*

• The printed Marinetti Programmers' Guide (Product Number GS-26) is available exclusively from The Byte Works for $25, plus $5 for shipping to US or Canada. For orders sent elsewhere, the exact cost for shipping the manual will be added to your charge card.

The Byte Works can accept checks drawn on a US bank, or payment can be made by VISA, MasterCard or American Express credit cards.

The Byte Works
8000 Wagon Mound Drive NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120

505-898-8183 (Voice)
505-898-4092 (Fax)

*MikeW50@aol.com*

For additional information about the printed version of the Marinetti Programmers' Guide, visit The Byte Works on the world wide web at the following URL:

*http://www.hypermall.com/ byteworks/AppleGS/gs-26.htm*

• Crock O' Gold v3.1 is freeware and can be downloaded from Delphi's A2 Library, or from Ewen Wannop's home page, which is located at the following URL:

*http://ourworld.compuserve.com /homepages/ewannop/*

• Spectrum v2.2 and Spectrum Internet Suite v1.1 are available exclusively from My eSource (the new name for the company formerly known as Seven Hills Software).

• Spectrum v2.2: The complete Spectrum v2.2 package is $85. (Note: A special offer bundle of Spectrum and SIS may be available; check with My eSource for details.)

The cost to upgrade to v2.2 from any previous version of Spectrum is $25.

• SIS v1.1: The cost to purchase SIS v1.1 is $30. The cost to update from SIS v1.0 to v1.1 is $15.

My eSource can accept checks or money orders and Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit cards.

Add $3.50 shipping per order (not per item). Add 7% tax if in Florida.

My eSource
1254 Ocala Road
Tallahassee, FL 32304

850-575-9445 (Fax)
850-575-0566 (Voice Mail)

You can order online, by sending your credit card number via e-mail to:

*orders@myesource.com*

For additional information, visit the My eSource web site located at the following URL:

*http://www.myesource.com/ sevenhills/applesoftware/*

## Other Resources

Shareware Solutions II has prepared a two 3.5" disk set that is filled with the latest versions of all Marinetti related freeware and shareware applications released to date. Entitled "Internet World '99," the disks include Marinetti v2.0.1, the TCP/IP Drivers for SIS v1.1, Crock O' Gold v3.1, gsAIM v1.1, gw-ftp, and the Open Source version of Geoff Weiss's TimeZone Toolset (Tool056). "Internet World '99" is available from Shareware Solutions II for $5. 

# Online Networks 1999

## State of the Network

For more than 20 years, well connected Apple II users have had a wealth of valuable and informative resources available to them on the various commercial online computer networks which have hosted popular Apple II oriented forums and discussion groups.

Since 1978, a thriving Apple II online community has existed on the online networks. This community consists of end users and developers, publishers and programmers, all openly sharing their collective knowledge about the Apple II computer. The online community actively teaches people how to get the most use from their computer. It encourages the sharing of hints and tips, and it often offers detailed step-by-step instructions on how to successfully deal with any computer problem that anyone

might be trying to overcome.

Many current, and some now defunct online networks, including AppleLink, America Online, CompuServe, Delphi, GEnie and The Source have, over the years, hosted popular Apple II areas which could be accessed by any Apple II owner with a modem and a membership subscription to the network. Quite often, the cost to access the first generation of online networks was steep, often approaching $10 per hour.

Starting in the late 1980s, a shakeout which affects Apple II owners has occurred in the online industry. CompuServe purchased The Source, and several years later, America Online purchased CompuServe. GEnie, which was owned by General Electric, was sold to a group of investors who changed the name to Genie. Delphi, which was originally run by Byte Magazine, was sold to a group who had managed GEnie for GE. When Apple Computer stopped manufacturing the Apple II, Apple's own in-house AppleLink network stopped offering access to developers, programmers and user groups who had been using their Apple IIs to log onto the system. Soon afterwards, America Online also stopped offering access options to those dialing into the system using an Apple II.

By the mid 1990s, all that remained for those whose interest was the Apple II was CompuServe, Genie and Delphi. Despite the fact that the consolidation process resulted in far fewer online alternatives, each of the remaining online Apple II forums continued to grow as they welcomed the refugees from the defunct online forums.

At that time, GEnie made a financially attractive offer to those digital refugees without an online home to call their own, and this quickly resulted in GEnie becoming the newest "center of the online Apple II universe."

As has been well documented in Shareware Solutions II, the Apple II forums on Genie remained at the center of the Apple II online universe until 1996, at which time a newly revitalized Delphi opened up new Apple II forums which remain to this day so active and so spirited that Delphi has earned the undisputed Number One position as the latest online network with the most to offer to Apple II users.

Since its inception in 1993, Shareware Solutions II has provided ongoing coverage of all of the commercial networks that offered something of interest to Apple II owners, and so it is with great sadness that Shareware Solutions II offers the following eulogies to two recently departed yet beloved Apple II online forums.

### CompuServe

In 1978, just a mere year after the Apple II was first introduced, Neil Shapiro connected a modem to his Apple II computer and signed up for an account on the CompuServe online network. At that time, the computer industry was still in its infancy, and CompuServe was one of the first online networks that had been established for use by the growing legion of those who embraced the first generation of microcomputers.

At the dawn of the computer age no one yet knew the impact that

the computer would have on our lives, and even those who conceived of and funded the early online networks such as CompuServe had no road maps to follow. In other words, anything at all was possible.

As one of the first brave pioneers of cyberspace, Neil Shapiro envisioned the concept of an "online community" as a virtual meeting place where those with similar interests could get together on an online network to discuss their passion and to share their discoveries. In 1978, Neil submitted a proposal to the management of CompuServe, and that led to the formation of the very first online Apple II forum, then named the Micronetworked Apple User Group, or MAUG for short.

MAUG attracted numerous Apple II modem owners from around the world, and it quickly became the initial center of the Apple II online universe. MAUG grew and flourished and was successful beyond anyone's dreams. For many years, it wasn't at all uncommon to witness employees of Apple providing technical information to independent programmers and engineers who in turn supported and promoted their products to the Apple II users on MAUG.

When the Macintosh appeared in 1984, Neil Shapiro expanded the scope of MAUG to encompass separate Mac forums, and after a short time, Neil turned over much of the day-to-day operation of the Apple II forums to a growing number of enthusiastic volunteer Sysops. For many years, chief Sysop Shawn Goodin oversaw MAUG's Apple II operations, Jason Harper provided technical answers to any

and all programming questions, and Joe Walters provided "local color" with his entertaining writing style and technical expertise.

Until the late 1980s, MAUG continued to expand, and opened up more and more forums with a specific focus: Appuse was geared towards Apple II end users, Approg was geared towards Apple II programmers, Appfun was geared towards gamers, and Appven was an area where hardware and software vendors provided support for their products. No matter what interests an Apple II user had, he or she was sure to find thousands of others who shared those same interests on one of MAUG's many Apple II forums.

In the late 1980s, CompuServe first started to face some stiff competition from the upstart GEnie online network, in large part because GEnie's initial appeal was based on its ability to offer cut rate pricing for online access. With an hourly access charge that was half of what CompuServe charged, Apple II owners started a slow but steady migration to GEnie.

Despite the fact that participation on the MAUG forums started to decline, these forums remained online as an informative and fun gathering place for the Apple II faithful on the CompuServe online network.

Change is inevitable and in late 1997 rumors started to surface that CompuServe was up for sale, and it was announced in early 1998 that CompuServe had been purchased by America Online (AOL). That news was greeted with concern, dismay

and skepticism from the Apple II community, as only a few years earlier, AOL had started to deny Apple II users access to their system. Despite their concern, many Apple II users on MAUG adopted a wait and see attitude.

Unfortunately, it didn't take very long before the winds of change swept across CompuServe. In a surprise and somewhat shocking announcement made in February, 1998, Neil Shapiro reported that MAUG and CompuServe had parted ways and that new management had taken over as the administrators of the Apple II forums. When the new managers were asked online which computer systems they personally used, many of us were startled to learn that none of the new managers had ever owned or used an Apple II.

Fortunately, those new managers moved quickly to ease our concerns by appointing two long time Appuse participants, Ray Merlin and Loren Damewood, as the Sysops who would oversee the Apple II message base and download library.

Despite all the changes, a steady but small loyal group of Apple II users continued to participate in the one remaining Apple II forum on CompuServe, and although the Appuse forum did suffer from declining participation by members, it remained a fun forum where Apple II users could share information and help each other learn as much as they could about the computer that brought them all together.

The peace and tranquility of Appuse was shattered in early 1999 when CompuServe an-

nounced that due to anticipated Y2K problems with their software, the Appuse forum would no longer be accessible to those who dialed into CompuServe using their Apple II. Just as had happened with the America Online parent company several years before, access to CompuServe would be limited to those who used CompuServe's proprietary software; CompuServe produces versions of this software only for the Mac and PC.

In mid February, 1999, the Appuse forum on CompuServe ceased to exist.

In its place, there is now an Apple II discussion area, still run by Ray Merlin and Loren Damewood that resides inside the Macintosh Hardware forum (GO MACHW). That area, sadly, can only be accessed by those who have a Mac or PC.

The closing of MAUG's Appuse forum marks the end of a long and prosperous era for Apple II users on CompuServe.

Shareware Solutions II would like to take this opportunity to salute Neil Shapiro for having the vision to create the first Apple II communities online. We'd also like to offer thanks to all those volunteers who, over the years, gave so much of their time in order to share their expertise. Thanks Joe Walters, Shawn Goodin and Jason Harper. Last, but not least, thanks to Ray and Loren for continuing to be involved and helping out the remaining Apple II users on CompuServe.

It just won't be the same in the future, but we've sure had some great times online, and the fun that we had on CompuServe's Appuse won't be forgotten any-

## Genie

The GEnie online network, originally owned and operated by General Electric, was first opened up to the public in the mid 1980s and the membership ranks grew very quickly because GEnie was originally positioned as a much lower cost alternative to CompuServe.

On GEnie, online discussion group forums are called Round Tables, and it was Kent Fillmore who set up and managed the original A2 Round Table on Genie. For many years Kent had run the San Francisco based Draco BBS, an electronic bulletin board system run in association with the San Francisco Apple Core user group. Under Kent's tutelage, GEnie's A2 Round Table flourished. Kent and Chet Day, the Sysop in charge of day-to-day activities, were able to convince many companies to offer Apple II technical support online, and the list of those who did reads like a "Who's Who" of Apple II companies.

All too quickly, Kent was lured away from GEnie by Apple Computer Inc, which at the time was involved with Quantum Computer in a joint venture to set up AppleLink – Personal Edition, an online network known today as America Online.

Kent's departure wasn't mourned for very long, as Tom Weishaar, the editor and publisher of the highly acclaimed A2-Central (known also as Open-Apple and Resource-Central) monthly newsletter, stepped in to fill Kent's position as Forum Manager. Tom was beloved and respected by Apple

II users who joined GEnie in droves, and the A2 Round Table prospered. Before Tom's reign ended, more than 10,000 programs and files were uploaded to the A2 library.

Although Tom Weishaar managed GEnie's two Apple II forums – A2 for end users, and A2 Pro for programmers – most of his attention was directed towards his successful publishing business. Yet, as successful as that business was, after Apple ceased manufacturing the Apple II line, Tom tried to branch out. In the process, he attempted to publish a newsletter entitled "Fishhead's Children" which was aimed at former Apple II users who'd made the switch to other computer platforms. That publication was a financial failure, and it hastened the demise of Tom's Apple II publishing empire.

Under Tom's management, much of the day-to-day activities had been handled by volunteer sysops, and two of them, Dean Esmay and Gary Utter, formed Syndicomm and it was this new company which inherited the management of GEnie's A2 and A2 Pro Round Tables from Tom Weishaar.

It was under Syndicomm's leadership that Genie's A2 and A2 Pro forums reached their greatest heights, and sadly, also had their last hurrah.

After new owners purchased the GEnie network in early 1996 and changed its name to Genie, it soon became apparent that something was horribly amiss. Many subscribers wondered if the new owners were merely incompetent, or whether they had purchased the network for a tax write-off. Whatever the reasons,

the prices were raised and by late 1996, a mass exodus to Delphi started to take place.

Despite periodic service outages and difficulties logging on, a loyal group of Apple II users remained on Genie, many of whom were determined to remain on Genie "until the lights went out."

In late April, 1999, the lights started to flicker.

With no notice of any sort, the A2 Round Table simply became inaccessible. Members could access A2's main menu, but none of the menu options worked any more. Calls to Genie's technical support hotline yielded no information. A week went by, and then another week went by, and access to A2 was still impossible.

Genie members could still log onto the system and read their e-mail. Those who hadn't yet cancelled their account, received the following e-mail message from a Syndicomm staffer: "We are sad to note that the A2 RT on Genie seems to have breathed its last. It's been shut down for over a month and all the Genie people have to say is that they're looking into it. We believe it's gone for good, after more than ten years of great service to the Apple II community."

That e-mail went on to state, "Apple II users are welcome to join the Mac RT and talk about the Apple II in several topics there." On the Mac Round Table, a topic in the message base had been opened for Apple II users, and the few who remained on Genie got to read the following analysis of the situation, posted by Syndicomm owner Dean Es-

may: "I really do not think Genie's A2 is going to come back. It's been weeks and they don't have anyone to fix it."

Unlike what had happened on CompuServe, the unexpected move to a Mac Round Table was sudden and totally unplanned. And to date, Genie's owners have offered no explanation whatsoever.

It was truly a sad end to what had once been the most wonderful Apple II online resource. Although the lights are still on and some of the most loyal members of Genie's A2 Round Table remain on the system, the situation could best be summed up by a lyric from Bob Dylan: "It's not dark yet, but it's getting there."

Fortunately, Syndicomm manages the A2 and A2 Pro forums on Delphi, and many of those volunteer Sysops who worked so hard to make Genie's Apple II areas "the center of the Apple II online universe" are now working their magic on Delphi.

To all those who helped to make Genie's A2 and A2 Pro, we offer up our gracious thanks for years of wonderful service. Special thanks to Kent Fillmore, Chet Day, Tom Weishaar, Dean Esmay and Gary Utter. And to those volunteer sysops who continue to offer their time and energy, including Tony Ward, Bill Dooley, Gina Saikin, Dave Miller, and Stan Marks, you all deserve to feel proud of what you have accomplished on A2 and A2 Pro, and for enriching the lives of tens of thousands of Apple II owners!

**Delphi**

As the Internet has gained in popularity, successful online networks have had to change with the times. Those online networks which continue to grow and flourish have been forced to change their focus and/or the scope of what they offer to subscribers. Additionally, due primarily to the fact that so many Internet Service Providers offer unlimited access to the Internet for $15 or $20 per month, all of the remaining successful online networks have also been forced to significantly lower their rate structure.

The Delphi online network has been in continuous operation since 1982, but in order for it to survive into the 21st century, it has successfully repositioned and reinvented itself. Although in reality Delphi continues to offer many of the exact same features and access options as it did in the past, Delphi proclaims that it is now an "advertiser supported service" whose primary mission is to help "people build self-managed online communities."

Delphi must have realized that it couldn't possibly compete against the Internet, so it branched out onto the Internet! In addition to providing access to a traditional online network, Delphi now provides its membership with the ability to set up forums on the world wide web, complete with message areas and chat rooms.

Since Delphi's make over, membership has grown 35% per month to over two million registered members. The number of active forums has skyrocketed, from 3,000 in January, 1998, to over 80,000 one year later.

Two of those many forums, A2 and A2 Pro, are managed by Syndicomm and are maintained by many of the same dedicated staff of volunteer Sysops who previously made Genie's Apple II Round Tables such friendly, fun and informative online resources. These forums have become the latest "center of the Apple II online universe."

Every single active Apple II programmer or developer can be found on these two Delphi forums. It is on Delphi where Mike Westerfield answers questions about The Byte Works, where Ewen Wannop and Geoff Weiss support Spectrum Internet Suite, where Eric Shepherd offers support for his SheppyWare products, where Henrik Gudat talks about Bernie, where Richard Bennett answers technical questions about Marinetti, where Tony Diaz answers questions about Alltech Electronics, and where Max Jones and Joe Kohn promote their respective publications. So if you've ever had any questions about your Apple II computer, there's no better place than Delphi's A2 or A2 Pro forums to get fast and accurate answers.

In order to access any of Delphi's forums, it is necessary to first register with Delphi. There are currently four different methods available to access Delphi; the fees charged, if any, are determined by which access method is used.

• Free Web Access: For those who already have an account with an Internet Service Provider, you can access, via the world wide web, the message base and chat rooms in both A2 and A2 Pro, completely free of charge.

To take advantage of this incredibly generous offer, you'll

need a web browser which supports Netscape cookies to gain access to Delphi's forums via the web. However, since the web based message areas make extensive use of Javascript and frames, and the chat rooms are Java based, free access works best for those who use a web browser other than lynx.

If you currently have access to the world wide web, you can sign up for a free Delphi account by pointing your web browser at the following URL:

*http://www.delphi.com/apple2*

• Premium Plan: For those who already have an account with an Internet Service Provider, you can Telnet into the Delphi on-line network, and with this access option, you can participate in discussions on any forum's message base, enter any chat room, and download files from any forum's library. Additionally, with the Premium Plan, you will receive a Delphi e-mail address, and have 10 megabytes of disk space available on Delphi for your own web site or personal forum.

The cost of the Premium Plan is $6.95 per month or $34.97 per year (if paid in advance).

The Premium Plan is most recommended for those who will use an Apple II computer to access Delphi!

• Text Access: For those who do not already have an account with an Internet Service Provider, two more traditional dial up accounts are available. For "Lite Text Access," the cost is $12.95 per month for six hours of access, with all subsequent hours billed at $2 per hour. For "Heavy Text Access," the cost is

$23.95 per month for 25 hours of access, with all subsequent hours billed at $1.50 per hour.

Those who avail themselves of the "Text Access" options are provided with a local SprintNet telephone number, and the fees to access this digital phone system are included in the cost. Subsequent hours for SprintNet access are billed at $2 per hour.

Those who do sign up for a "Text Access" account receive all the benefits as the "Premium Plan" and in addition, they can actually use Delphi as an Internet

Service Provider and "surf the web" using Delphi's lynx.

If you are already online, you can receive additional information about Delphi's access methods and costs by using Telnet to open a connection to delphi.com and at the Username prompt, enter JOINDELPHI and at the Password prompt, enter NEWPLANS

If you're not currently online, or would prefer to speak to a Delphi representative, dial 617-441-4801. 

# Modem Madness

**Woz Speaks Out**

Steve Wozniak, the inventor of the Apple II computer, has maintained a site on the world wide web for many years, but until quite recently, it hadn't been significantly updated in several years.

However, in mid-June, the TNT cable TV network broadcast the "Pirates of Silicon Valley," a made for TV movie that depicted the early days of both Apple Computer Inc and Microsoft. Although the movie focused primarily on Steve Jobs and Bill Gates, Steve Wozniak was barraged with e-mail questions after the movie was broadcast. Some of the questions asked about the accuracy of the events that were dramatized in the movie, while many other e-mails asked about the early history of Apple and the Apple II computer.

As Woz states on his newly revamped web site, "It's great to

get all these letters! I'm trying to answer all of them. But it's getting kind of crazy. A lot of people are asking the same things. So maybe if you read through the comments online, you'll see what you're looking for."

You can read how Woz responded to the numerous e-mail questions by pointing your favorite web browser at the following URL:

*http://www.woz.com*

For those without the ability the access Woz's site, he basically confirmed that the movie portrayed the characters accurately. Woz did say that some minor facts were not correct but overall, the movie accurately portrayed the personalities of all the principal players and that all of the events portrayed in the movie actually happened.

The movie portrayed Steve Jobs' personality and personal life in

a less than flattering manner. Woz stated however that he had never once been exposed to the odious personality traits attributed to Jobs in the movie.

Woz, on the other hand, was portrayed as not only an engineering genius, but as a saintly person with a "heart of gold." After reading Woz's comments online, it's apparent that he still is a loving and caring individual who still wants nothing less than to make the world a better, happier place.

**Going Home**

A lot of forethought and strategic planning took place before Shareware Solutions II announced that it was moving its web site to a new Internet Service Provider. All aspects of the move were considered, or so we thought.

Less than two months after Shareware Solutions II made the move to Concentric, the new ISP suffered from what it described as a "major systems failure" and within 24 hours, made the hasty decision to stop offering access via dial up Shell accounts.

For that reason, Shareware Solutions II has been forced to move its base of Internet operations back to crl.com. Only time will tell if that move is permanent or temporary.

Fortunately, the crl account had never actually been canceled, so the move back to crl simply involved updating the crl web site with more current information.

The Shareware Solutions II home page can now be found, once again, at the following URL:

*http://www.crl.com/~joko*

The current e-mail address for Shareware Solutions II is, once again:

*joko@crl.com*

Please note that e-mail should no longer be directed to Shareware Solutions II at the inactive concentric.net address.

**Bernie ][ The Rescue**

The programmers from FE Systems have updated the Bernie ][ The Rescue website to include a newly expanded Support Center section which provides detailed solutions to many of the initial problems that new Bernie users sometimes encounter.

The Support Center now provides detailed instructions on how to download, install and register Bernie. It provides step-by-step instructions to assist those who have problems creating a workable IIGS ROM dump. It delineates the differences between using Bernie with MacOS 8.0 or 7.x. It explains how to download and install GS/OS. It clarifies how to create and mount disk images. It itemizes the various methods available for printing different types of documents.

If you have any questions about setting up and using the Bernie IIGS emulator, point your web browser to the following URL:

*http://www.magnet.ch/emutech /SupportCenter/menu.html*

**GS Domain Names**

Just as every house and apartment on your street has a unique address and every telephone has a unique phone num-

ber, all the computers that are connected to the Internet also have a unique number.

Without a unique street address, your postal clerk wouldn't know where to deliver your mail, and without a unique Internet address, your ISP's e-mail server wouldn't know where to transmit your outgoing e-mail.

Although the computers connected to the Internet actually route data through numerical IP addresses, people find it much easier to remember words, and so long ago, a method to map a name to a number was instituted. This led to the Domain Name System which can determine an IP address for any Internet host and provide the Fully Qualified Domain Name for the numerical IP address.

All domain names end with the top-level domain, the most common of which are .com, .edu, .net and .gov.

But given the rapid growth of the Internet, it's been anticipated that in a few more years, we might actually run out of unique domain names. So a number of new top-level domain names have been proposed. In the meanwhile, to help ease the coming domain name crunch, each country has been assigned a two letter top-level domain name; for example, Canada's top-level domain is .ca, Britain's top-level domain is .uk, and Russia's top-level domain is .ru.

The British own several remote, sparsely populated islands located near Antarctica, and the top-level domain name for South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands is .gs!

If you maintain a site on the

world wide web, it's now possible for your web site to have a URL with a .gs top-level domain name, as there are no residency requirements. All it takes to register a unique .gs domain name is to fill out a simple on-line form, and to pay a $50 per year registration fee.

Names in the .gs top-level domain are registered with, and administered by a British company – Adams Names – who can be contacted online at the following URL:

*http://www.adamsnames.tc/*

To date, several well known Apple II web sites have already registered with Adams Names. To visit the recently re-named sites, point your favorite web browser at the following URLs:

*http://apple2.gs*

*http://emulate.gs*

The apple2.gs domain name has been registered to Tony Diaz, and it is at this new URL where you can find his informative technical articles and his vast photo collection of extremely rare Apple II hardware.

The emulate.gs domain name has been registered to Eric Shepherd and Henrik Gudat, and it is at this new URL where you can find links to the two most powerful Apple IIGS emulators: Bernie ][ The Rescue and Sweet16.

Bernie needs no introduction, but Sweet16 does.

Sweet16 is the newest IIGS emulator to be released. The programming of Sweet16 was started by FE Systems, but in order to concentrate all of their efforts on Bernie, FE Systems recently outsourced the project to Eric Shepherd.

Sweet16 runs under BeOS, and since Sheppy works for the Be company which produces BeOS, it was a natural choice for him to be picked to complete the Sweet16 project. BeOS is a 3rd party operating system which can serve as an alternative to Windows 95/98 on Intel-based computers, or as an alternative for MacOS on some models of Macintosh computers.

With Sweet16, an IBM clone that runs under BeOS (Release 4 or later), can now run Apple II and IIGS software!

Sweet16 is a $15 shareware program, and Sheppy has just released Sweet16 v0.9.3, the first version which includes his code. Sweet16 is usable at this point, but there are still a number of known bugs which need to be fixed before the conclusive v1.0 can be released. It is anticipated that Sheppy will release incremental updates to Sweet16 in much the same manner as FE Systems released updates to Bernie; notably, when a useful new feature is added which gives added functionality to end users.

Is is unknown, at this point, whether Sweet16 v1.0 will be completed in a month or in a year. So, it's much too soon for owners of IBM PCs to retire their trusty IIGS computers, but it's not too soon to install BeOS on your PC and to convert it into a speedy IIGS through the powers of emulation.

In the meanwhile, you can visit emulate.gs for additional information about BeOS and about Sweet16. 

# Simple Solutions

**Keep It Clean**

Computer hardware problems come in all sizes and shapes, but perhaps the easiest ones to deal with are those caused by environmental factors such as dust, humidity, heat or cold. Quite often, problems caused by environmental factors can manifest themselves in what at first appear to be insurmountable or fatal; yet, some of these problems can be cured in just a few minutes.

One of the oldest bits of Apple II advice is that at the first sign of trouble, you should turn off your computer, open the case, touch the power supply in order to discharge any electrical cur-rents flowing through your body, remove your interface cards, and then firmly press down on every socketed chip.

All socketed chips have metal legs, and metal expands when it is hot and contracts when it is cold. As odd as it may sound, after many years chips can actually become slightly dislodged from their sockets, and if and when that does happen, the metal legs may not be making contact, and the electronic pathways may be obstructed. So in some cases, merely pressing down on all the socketed chips will restore an Apple II to full function.

Additionally, there are at least

three very specific problems caused by environmental factors that can generally be cured by anyone. These problems concern undependable disk drives, undependable IIGS keyboards, and erratic mouse movement.

Of course, there is no guarantee that the following simple procedures will fix your computer problem, but you have nothing to lose by trying them out except for a little time and at most, a few dollars.

## A Dirty Disk Drive

Disk drives, just like audio or video cassette decks, sometimes need a little cleaning. After all, with an opening in front, dust particles can easily enter into the internal mechanism of a disk drive, and when just one mote of dust lodges onto the magnetic media surface of a disk, that disk may appear to be damaged. Of course, because a disk drive has moving parts, it can suffer from mechanical failure, but more often than not, a cleaning will restore a disk drive to 100% dependability.

Radio Shack sells a disk drive cleaning kit that includes a small container of cleaning solution as well as 3.5" and 5.25" disks that, instead of enclosing magnetic media, contains a cloth pad of slightly abrasive material onto which the solution is applied. Insert one of these cleaning disks into the drive, and from the Applesoft Basic prompt, type PR#5 to clean your 3.5" disk drive, or PR#6 to clean your 5.25 disk drive (or use any copy program, any disk catalog program, or any other program that reads or writes data to disk) and within 15 seconds, the drive will be clean. And in probably 95% or

more cases, this simple cleaning will restore the disk drive to 100% dependability.

The cleaning fluid included in the disk drive cleaning kit is Isopropyl Alcohol (67-63-0), which just happens to be the exact same diluted Isopropyl Alcohol solution that is found in all video and audio cassette cleaner kits. Don't use the full strength Isopropyl Alcohol which is sold at drug stores, as that can leave a residue on a disk drive's read/write head which will make whatever problem you had even worse. So, when you run out of cleaning solution, you can use Radio Shack's "Head Cleaner For Tape Recorders" solution, which costs less than $2 for a 2 ounce bottle!

## A Dirty Keyboard

Computer keyboards, having small spaces between the keys, are notorious for attracting dust and other airborne particles, and if just one speck of dust gets lodged within the keyswitch mechanism, pressing on the keycap may not always produce the desired result. For that reason, it's important to keep your keyboard clean.

Using a slightly damp toothbrush to clean the keyboard will, if nothing else, remove any grime from the keys and will restore the keyboard, at least cosmetically, to the same shape it was in when you first brought it home.

To clean the inside of the Apple IIGS keyboard, detach the ADB connector from the keyboard after you've turned off the electricity. Once it's disconnected, turn it over, and you'll notice that only four Phillips head screws hold it together. Use a Phillips

head screwdriver and remove the four screws. Be prepared to see an accumulation of dust unlike anything you've ever seen before. By gently tapping on the underside of the keyboard, lots of dust and other small particles will become dislodged. Then look to see if there are other clumps of dust, and if need be, remove them gently with a cotton swab. Blow gently to remove even more particles of dirt and grime.

If after you try the above, the keyboard innards are still dusty and dirty, go out and buy a can of compressed air, and holding the can upright, blow several small bursts of air into the keyboard. That ought to dislodge any lingering dirt; shake the keyboard vigorously to remove the last of the dust.

Generally speaking, dirt inside the keyboard itself doesn't usually cause any problems when using the keyboard, but in some instances, a particle of dirt will lodge itself into the actual keyswitch mechanism, and if that happens, when you hit that key, nothing happens because dirt is preventing contact from being made.

If and when that happens, get a can of non-residue TV Tuner Cleaner from Radio Shack.

In order to spray a minute quantity of TV Tuner Cleaner inside a keyswitch, you'll have to gently remove the keycap, the part which your fingers hit when you are typing. Please be very very careful, as you must lift the keycap straight up, or you could break off the stem of the keycap. You might need to fashion a tool to do this. Personally, I have found that two lengths of dental floss work great. Slip the dental floss (or bent paper clips or

screwdrivers or spoon handles) under each side of the keycap and very gently lift up. Once the keycap is off, spray the smallest amount of Tuner Cleaner into and around the keyswitch, and then just keep pressing down the key. Quite often, that is all that is needed to restore a keyboard whose keys are sticky and/or not dependable any longer. And in case none of the above works, replacement ADB keyboards can often be found for sale for as little as $25.

**A Dirty Mouse**

The last homebrew fix concerns mouse movement. Quite often, a mouse can stop rolling smoothly when there's a build up of dirt on the rollers which control horizontal and vertical tracking. If you have difficulty controlling your mouse's movements, turn the mouse upside down, turn the movable retaining part counter clockwise, and remove the mouse ball.

Look closely at the rollers, which depending on the mouse model, can be either metal or white plastic. If there is dirt on the rollers, you'll see it very easily, and a fingernail can be used to remove it. Just make sure you shake out the dirt before putting the mouse back together.

If the rollers are visibly clean, then it's possible that dirt on the mouse ball itself is impeding movement. Sprinkle some diluted Isopropyl Alcohol solution on a clean cloth, place the mouse ball inside the cloth, and rub vigorously until the mouse ball feels smooth.

As a disclaimer, the above information is not intended to mean that you can always re-pair your Apple II in 15 minutes, or that you can always perform the repairs yourself. But, the above procedures can generally cure most, if not all, of the simple problems that are caused by environmental factors. 

# Bernie Starter Kit CD

**A CD-ROM ][ The Rescue**

FE Systems' Bernie ][ The Rescue is Macintosh-based emulation software which permits owners of PowerMac systems to continue using all of their familiar and beloved Apple II and IIGS software on the Mac. And as PowerMac computers get faster and faster, Bernie becomes even more attractive for IIGS owners whose IIGS systems run at the stock 2.8 Mhz speed.

The latest generation of Power-Macs are so fast that IIGS software running under Bernie can often run 20 or 25 times faster than on a real IIGS computer. Booting up into the IIGS Finder in 2 or 3 seconds is an incredibly attractive inducement to make the switch to Bernie, and more and more IIGS owners are doing just that.

The vast majority of new Bernie users generally report having no problems getting Bernie installed, but a small number do report having minor difficulties setting it up to run all their Apple II and IIGS software.

Three problem areas have been identified by Bernie newcomers:

• Bernie is a $35 shareware program, and if it has not been purchased pre-registered, it must be registered online through KAGI. Upon receipt of an online KAGI order, FE Systems sends out a code via e-mail which, when typed in by the Bernie user, removes shareware notices and the built-in time limits. Since the FE Systems team is located in Switzerland, they require that all registration code correspondence be conducted through e-mail, making it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for those without e-mail capabilities to get Bernie registered.

• Many longtime IIGS owners are purchasing new Mac systems just to run Bernie, and these people have to learn not only how to set up and use Bernie, but also some basics about their new Macintosh. After all, since Bernie is Macintosh software, all the documentation and information includes Macintosh specific terminology and procedures which can sometimes confuse new Mac owners and prevent them from getting Bernie installed and working properly.

• Once the PowerMac is converted into a fast virtual IIGS, System 6.0.1 and application software still has to be located, converted into disk image format, and installed under Bernie. For those who are unfamiliar with creating and/or using disk images, this can be a very confusing and daunting task.

Ewen Wannop, in association with FE Systems and Shareware Solutions II, has decided that the time has come to put an abrupt end to the frustrations caused by the relatively minor

problems that new Bernie users sometimes encounter. To accomplish that goal, Ewen has, with the full permission and support from FE Systems, created "Bernie ][ The Rescue – Starter Kit," a CD-ROM which is now available exclusively from Shareware Solutions II.

The main purpose served by "Bernie ][ The Rescue – Starter Kit," is to assist new Bernie users by providing them with all that they need to install and run Bernie, in one handy package, ready to go right out of the box.

The completed Starter Kit CD-ROM was sent to Henrik Gudat of FE Systems for evaluation, and his response was quite encouraging: "I am thoroughly impressed. I am very pleased that finally, there's an attractive collection with everything included, enabling even novice emulation users to get started effortlessly. This CD-ROM was overdue; it's a heaven sent gift for all Bernie users."

The "Bernie ][ The Rescue – Starter Kit" CD-ROM includes everything that a Bernie newcomer needs to quickly get Bernie up and running, and it is anticipated that new Bernie users can be playing the IIGS version of Wolfenstein 3D, on their PowerMac, mere minutes after receiving the CD-ROM.

Bernie requires that all Apple II software be converted into disk images before those programs can be run on the PowerMac. So, Ewen has included a hard drive disk image that's filled with IIGS software, all set up to run under Bernie. Additionally, the CD's Boot partition already has System 6.0.1 pre-installed.

Supplied on the Starter Kit as disk images are System 6.0.1, HyperCard IIGS, Diversi-Tune, Wolfenstein 3D, GS.ShrinkIt, Hermes, GScii Plus, HyperMover, HelpNDA, Crock.O.Gold 3.1, Babelfish, Marinetti 2.0.1, gsAIM, GUPP 1.0.6, Patch.HFS, Error.Strings, ShiftyList Demo, One.Arm.Battle, Turkey.Shoot, FlameStation, Wolfenstein 3D, Milestones 2000, Yahtzee GS, and ImageMaker.

The "Bernie ][ The Rescue – Starter Kit" CD-ROM is available exclusively from Shareware Solutions II for $25, which includes postage to the US and

Canada. For mailing to other countries, please add $3.

To assist those who are not yet online, or others who are unable to submit Bernie's $35 registration fee online, Shareware Solutions II has made arrangements with FE Systems to collect those fees and to provide you with the codes needed to remove Bernie's time limits.

If you would like to purchase "Bernie ][ The Rescue – Starter CD-ROM" and at the same time, pre-pay your registration fee, submit $60, or $63 for overseas delivery. 

# Qlabs Freeware, Round 2

**The Floodgates Open**

At the dawn of the decade, Quality Computers reigned supreme as the undisputed champion of Apple II mail order vendors. Started in a garage by a brash and clever 21 year old marketing expert, by the early 1990s Quality Computers had such an incredible array of products available that they became the favorite one stop shopping mall for Apple II owners who wanted to purchase new hardware or software.

Quality Computers earned their good reputation by stocking a massive warehouse filled with Apple II products, maintaining a toll-free technical support hotline that was staffed by friendly and knowledgeable Apple II owners, and by providing an online presence to answer questions on all of the online services.

Not content to be just another Apple II mail order vendor,

Quality started an online service for educators, published the II Alive magazine, published how to books, and eventually became a software publisher whose Qlabs titles included such best sellers as AppleWorks, the TimeOut series of AppleWorks add-ons, AppleWorks GS, and Platinum Paint.

At the height of their success, Quality did what so many other successful computer companies have done; they sold the company to the highest bidder. When Quality became Scantron Quality Computers (SQC), a new management team took over, and with their corporate focus on improving the "the bottom line," SQC's interest in the Apple II started to wane. At first, SQC's change of focus to Mac and PC products was barely noticeable to Apple II owners. After all, SQC continued to publish II Alive and they did release several ground breaking, feature laden updates to AppleWorks Classic.

But as time went by, it became impossible not to notice SQC's change of focus. After all, the quarterly SQC Apple II catalogs stopped flooding our mailboxes, II Alive ceased publication, and new Apple II software releases from SQC ground to a halt.

Then, in the Fall of 1998, Apple Computer Inc informed SQC that it was not going to renew SQC's license to publish and distribute AppleWorks v5.1. Considering that, at the time, AppleWorks was SQC's flagship Apple II product, it's not all that surprising that Apple's license revocation would have devastating consequences. This final indignity led SQC to drop support for the Apple II line of computers.

As reported in the last issue of Shareware Solutions II, Howard Katz, acting as a representative of The Lost Classic Project, contacted SQC and was able to secure from them permission to have several Qlabs titles for the IIe reclassified as freeware. It was also reported in that issue that two programmers whose work had been published by SQC – Randy Brandt and Doug Gum – had also agreed to reclassify some of their software as freeware.

What was unknown at the time is that Howard Katz would eventually be able to successfully convince SQC to reclassify the vast majority of the Qlabs software it published as freeware. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of Howard Katz, the second round of SQC's reclassified freeware is now available!

## AppleWorks Add-ons

The first seven of SQC's recently reclassified freeware add-on products for use with Apple-Works Classic have been released.

• About Time by Doug Gum performs many different types of calculations involving dates and times including: day-of-week, number of days or weeks or months or years between two dates, number of minutes/hours between two times, and unit conversions. It also converts between the Gregorian and Julian Calendar systems, and can change the current system time for your computer to any date or time you choose. About Time can input data from Data Bases or Spreadsheets and can output the results to any type of desktop file.

• AfterWorks by Randy Brandt is a series of screensavers for use with AppleWorks v4.02 and later. Since AfterWorks is built into AppleWorks v5.x, the included screensavers can be used in addition to those that came with AppleWorks v5.x.

• AmperMacros by Doug Gum are an extended set of commands for developing Ultra-Macro macros and task files. It allows the developer to go beyond the command set built into UltraMacros, and gives the developer extended tools for control of operations, "housekeeping" functions, and Init files.

• DiskTools by Doug Gum is a suite of TimeOut accessories for use within AppleWorks v3 through v5.1. Included are Volume backup for backing up a disk or a hard drive, File Backup for making incremental backups of new files, Compare for comparing two files to see if they're the same, and Wherzit for finding a file anywhere on a disk or hard drive.

• One Touch Commands by Will Nelken are TimeOut applications for use from within Apple-Works v4.x and v5.x. Included are Boxdraw which lets you draw a box around a specified block in your word processing file, Speedmeter which determines how fast you type, WP calculator which performs calculations while in a word processing file, and a great game of Hangman. Also included is Filefinder which finds files anywhere on your hard disk, and IW and DeskJet TwoSided which let you print properly numbered front and back pages on a single piece of paper.

• TimeOut ShrinkIt by Doug Gum allows you to work with and create ShrinkIt files from within AppleWorks v3 through v5.1. A number of flexible options are included, such as the ability to perform Shrinkit operations on files stored on disk and place the extracted files directly onto your AppleWorks desktop.

• TimeOut Statistics by Doug Gum is a TimeOut-driven package for working with statistical information. All of the most common statistical functions are included in these TimeOut modules.

All of the above AppleWorks add-on programs are available from Shareware Solutions II on a 3.5" entitled "AppleWorks Add-on Disk" for $5.

## Signature GS

Originally costing $29.95 when it was released in 1991, Signature GS is a collection of four different desktop enhancers which can help IIGS users to

customize their desktop environment with some fun and useful add-ons.

Phantasm, Sonics, Graffiti and Boot Master are each Control Panel devices which can be configured, customized and controlled from the Apple Pull Down menu displayed in most GS/OS programs, including the Finder.

Phantasm is a collection of seven different screen blankers which automatically activate, after a one to 60 minute user-defined period of keyboard inactivity, and each exhibits a mind boggling and eye popping animated display. Phantasm prevents your IIGS monitor from developing phosphor burn, a condition which develops when the exact same static screen is displayed for long periods of time.

Many of Phantasm's blankers are so beautiful that you may find yourself activating them just for the kinetic art show. Each of the blankers offer different user defined options; some allow you to change the size, frequency and color of the display, while others allow you to enter your own text messages that will bounce around the screen during inactive periods.

Graffiti can be lots of fun for those who don't like the light blue color of the IIGS desktop. With Graffiti, you can easily change the blue color to any of 15 other colors including black, white, orange, yellow or green. Or if you want a really wild looking pop art desktop, you can display a number of different pre-designed graphic patterns, or you can create your own geometric patterns by combining different colors. With some creativity, you can easily produce

optical illusions and three dimensional Finder desktops.

Sonics adds speech and digitized sound effects to your desktop by allowing you to assign specific sounds to routine desktop operations. Using Sonics and the included library of digitized sounds, you can have The Big Bopper greet you with "Hello Baby" as your thermometer bar fills, can have Finder windows whoosh open and clang shut, can have your trashcan emitting burping noises, or can even have an evil sounding laugh play when your system crashes.

Unlike the Sound Control Panel supplied with System 6.0.1, which can only play back digitized sounds that are in rSound format, Sonics can play back any digitized sound in any IIGS sound format, as well as let you change the pitch and volume of the sounds.

Boot Master is a useful utility which allows you to have greater control over files in your System folder. With Boot Master, you can activate or deactivate, as needed, Classic Desk Accessories, New Desk Accessories, File System Translators, Permanent and Temporary Initialization files, and Control Panel devices. All are controlled from pop-up menus and Boot Master lets you easily toggle between active and inactive status. All of these types of System files use up available RAM memory, and if they're not going to be needed, Boot Master will let your application programs use that valuable RAM memory instead.

Signature is supplied on a single non-bootable 3.5" disk. Actually, it's supplied on two different disks; one for use with

hard drives and one for use if booting your system from 3.5" floppy. The hard drive version is pre-configured so that all components in all modules are available for use after using the supplied installer, which copies files from the Signature disk to your startup disk.

The floppy disk version of Signature is minimally configured, so that after installation, each module has only one or two enhancements installed. Since all of Signature's enhancement modules take up space on your System disk, and there's not a lot of free space on the 3.5" version of the IIGS System disk to begin with, you may have to delete certain unneeded files, such as unused fonts, in order to add more blanker files or sound files. It's for this reason that Qlabs did recommend a hard disk drive, although it really isn't a requirement. It just makes it easier to use all of Signature's options; likewise, a hard drive makes everything on the IIGS easier and faster.

Signature GS is available from Shareware Solutions II, on two 3.5" disks for $5.

**Six Pack**

Six Pack by Bill Tudor is a remarkable collection of five New Desk Accessories and 13 Finder Extras, many of which will change the way you perform certain routine tasks on your IIGS.

Alarm Clock places a clock with alarm functions into the IIGS Finder's menu bar.

Button Bar adds a "button bar" to the Finder desktop, providing you with the ability to click on up to 17 different buttons which

can be set up to perform up to 40 different common Finder functions.

CDev.Alias is a wonderful utility which allows you to access your Control Panels directly from the Apple Pull Down menu.

MoreInfo allows you to easily lock or unlock files on disk or change creation and modification dates.

If you already have a Finder Extra installed which will, for example, let you listen to SynthLAB song files by double-clicking on the song files, OpenSesame will let you listen to the songs from within any program.

LaunchList allows you to keep a list of your favorite applications in an on screen window so you can launch any of that software quickly.

Memory Use shows you how much RAM memory you are currently using.

XtraSounds adds extra sounds to the Finder.

FilePeeker allows you to look at the contents of any file.

Catalog will let you catalog any disk and to save the catalog to a file or to print out the catalog listing.

SizeUp lets you select a group of Icons, and the number and size of files and/or folders in the selected group are counted. In addition, SizeUp will check to make sure that your selection will fit on a destination disk when you perform a Finder copy.
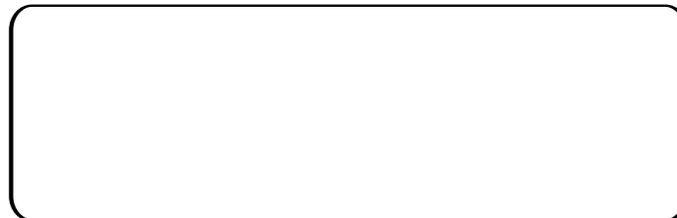
SuperDataPath allows you to set up a default pathname to indicate to any application program the location where the program should always save its data files.

HotKeys allows you to perform numerous Finder functions from your keyboard.

Six Pack is available from Shareware Solutions II for $5.

Please note that all orders for any of the Qlabs disks listed above will be mailed with a free bonus disk which includes Qlabs "First Aid With Reddy," a remarkable ProDOS-8 animated educational program which teaches youngsters about First Aid techniques. 

*Joe Kohn*
*Shareware Solutions II*
*166 Alpine Street*
*San Rafael, CA 94901-1008*

**FIRST CLASS – AIR MAIL**