

Maclanta

<http://www.atlmug.org>
A Publication of the Atlanta Macintosh Users Group

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From Our Chair

by Doug Franks, doug_franks@atlmug.org

For the month of April we had two special events—Mac College and the Swapfest. I would like to thank all who participated in the spring AMUG MacCollege. We had a number of instructors who volunteered their time to teach seminars on a variety of Mac-related subjects. There were also a few sad Macs that came to the MacFixIt who left with big happy smiles. (AMUG's MacFixIt is where you bring your Mac in and an AMUG tech performs an exorcism and rids it of all bad behaviors.) The participants all agreed that this was a most worthwhile event. We will continue to offer this event along with a number of other events designed to help Mac users derive more productivity and enjoyment from their equipment. The next MacCollege will be held on November 11, at St Joseph's Hospital. The list of brave instructors is as follows:

Mike Henigan	Education Director
Kristin Geesey	Desktop Publishing 101
Chip Carter	Excel 98, Mac OS/System Upgrades and MacFixIt
Stan Allen	Scanning Basics & PowerPoint Basics
Angela Pratt	The Internet & You
Kathleen Innes	Online Auction ABC's
Ron Dyer	Prepress for DTP
Jaddie Dodd	Emailing & Its Software
Doug Franks	MacFixIt
Curtis Christianson	Deneba Software

The spring Swapfest at North Atlanta High school was also a great success. This year we had more sellers, more buyers, and more lookers—what more could we ask for! For the Mac enthusiasts the Swapfest is like a treasure hunt—the only bad news is you just can't buy everything. But the good news is that the next Swapfest will be held September 30, 2000.

Our April 18 general meeting focused on genealogy software for the Mac. The presenter was AMUG's very own Gene Sidwell. Gene is also a member of the Genealogical Computer Society of Georgia. The GCSGA Web site can be found at <http://members.xoom.com/gcsga/>. The software demonstration focused on personal ancestral files. The two main lessons of the presentation were to make sure you double-check all your resources. And if your family tree is laced with scandals, you can be assured that you will find plenty of documentation. After the meeting we had a social with plenty of food, drink, and great conversation.

Our next general meeting will cover home networking and will be held on May 16 from 7 PM until 9 PM. This general meeting is a must for the person who wants to be well connected. I look forward to seeing you there! ❖

From Our Chair, at left
Internet Explorer 5, below
State of the Mac, page 2
Queen of Code, page 3
Events & Directions, page 5
Time Capsule, page 5

Mission Statement of the Atlanta Macintosh Users Group

The Atlanta Macintosh Users Group enhances the experience of users of Macintosh and other computers, fosters a sense of community, provides access to resources, and presents opportunities for education.

Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 Macintosh Edition The Best Web Browser for Mac OS

by Jaddie J. Dodd,
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IF YOU'RE USING MAC OS 7.6.1 OR LATER, you want Microsoft Internet Explorer 5. Before reading this article, point your browser to <http://www.microsoft.com/mac/download/en/default.asp> and follow the directions to begin downloading Internet Explorer 5 if you haven't already downloaded it.

You want Internet Explorer 5 because it gives you a brand-new display engine that's not only faster but is completely compliant with popular Web standards, a way to store and organize Web pages you want to refer to later, new keyboard shortcuts that make navigating the Web more convenient, a convenient way to participate and monitor online auctions, and new interface enhancements that allow you to personalize the browser to fit your needs and taste.

See "Internet Explorer 5," continued on page 3.

Official News Bulletin

Special Member News

SHARI COXFORD, AMUG's very own Queen of Code, has replaced Charles Haddad as the Mac voice for the *Atlanta Journal/Constitution*. Keep a watch for an upcoming issue of your Sunday AJC's Personal Technology section for words from Shari.

A Curmudgeon Looks at the State of the Mac

by Kennedy Lange, kennedy_lange@atlmug.org

PEOPLE WHO WRITE about the state of the Mac write about different subjects. Sometimes they write about the state of Apple or maybe the state of the Mac as it pertains to Apple. Sometimes they write about the state of the Mac in the personal computer market. Sometimes they write about the state of the Mac as a tool or as a toy.

It appears to me that to corporate Apple the Mac has generally been conceived of as hardware to be sold at a premium price and substantial margin. It's the engine of the Apple stock price.

On the other hand, to many industry columnists, the Mac is a foil, an alternative, a fallback, five percent of the market, or just a front for a bunch of zealots who can't be ignored. After all, aren't three of the most valuable companies in all of the world Intel, Microsoft, and Cisco? And what do they have to do with the Mac?

To many nonusers the Mac is an oddity, an afterthought, barely there, slightly nutty, not the real deal, and, most maddening of all to a Mac user, a historical curiosity.

To many of its users the Mac is an icon, a religion, computing nirvana, the best hope, the last hope. Most of all, to many users the Mac is the best, simplest, most convenient, most elegant way to spend their time in front of a monitor.

It's little wonder that different people assess the state of the Mac differently. The state of the Mac is really the collective experience and the state of mind of the observer.

For those of us who are ordinary Mac users, the Mac is the Mac experience. It's far more than a piece of hardware. It's the community, the software, the things we do every day with the Mac, the look and feel, how smoothly it all goes, and how our experience expands as we get our hands on each new feature or function.

So what is the state of this particular experience? I'd say it's cautiously hopeful. Cautious because we've seen what can happen to our favorite platform when Apple runs low on direction and imagination. Hopeful because Apple has imbued new life into the Mac with the iMac, the iBook, and a stream of other new CPUs and displays that vie to be best in the market.

And maybe OS X will be the system that unites with this great line of hardware to once again give us the premier personal computing experience that others could only dream of. Maybe once again we will wake up and go to sleep knowing no one else can do so much so easily or so well with their machines.

Still there's nagging unease. Is Apple really committed to the entire experience? Very few of us have laid hands on OS X. As a result, our evangelism for the Mac of tomorrow isn't of the first-hand variety.

Anticipation of future unknowns was once a Mac owner's friend. Every new system release from Apple and every new application introduction generated excitement. We believed that each year there would be discoveries beyond our imagination that would enrich our Mac experience and take us ever higher above the crowd.

The innovations for "the rest of us" included: WYSIWYG, the mouse, MacWrite, MacPaint, fonts, QuickDraw, Cut and Paste, the Scrapbook, the Apple menu, control panels, MacDraw, Excel, HyperCard, MacBasic, the laser printer, journaling/Macro Maker/AppleScript, Switcher/Servant/MultiFinder, drag and drop, image processing, the resource editor, DataDesk, the SCSI chain, AppleTalk/LocalTalk, File Sharing, Apple Remote Access, ReadySetGo, PowerPoint, and Sherlock.

Every one of these innovations freed us to do things with our Macs that no others could do at the time or do so easily. Then, one by one, each of these features and applications and their successors were made available to the rest of the crowd and platforms converged. And the rest of the world has pretty much caught up.

Today we aren't so sure the future's our friend. The sexy, groundbreaking, exciting innovations are fewer and farther between. State-of-art hardware, by itself, isn't enough. We've been spending our days with yesterday's system and with the applications that everyone else has.

Mostly we aren't so sure the future's our friend because it's been some time since we have really experienced soaring above the crowds, our memory of how it feels grows dim, and we have had to be content with subtle nuance.

I said above that the state of the Mac for us is cautious optimism. Perhaps Apple will once again lead the way with breathtaking transformations of the users' experience. Or maybe we are like the characters Vladimir and Estragon in Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, simply assuming that something is coming because it must, because we are here. I hope not. ❖

The Queen of Code

by Shari L. Coxford, shari_l_coxford@atlmug.org

A RECENT MACLANTA BLURB dubbed me as the “Queen of Code.” I don’t know if I would go quite that far, but I’ve definitely been busy creating new works of wonder.

One of the most difficult accomplishments is to start your own company and propel it into success. Especially if the company creates nothing but shareware products, which people pay for through the honor code. They download the product, and if they like it, they pay for it.

At Gypsy King Software, I can tell you about the honor code. The first release was a fully functional game called Fortune Puzzles. Not one person registered it. What for? Everything worked. Since then we’ve steadily increased our registration rate with each product release. All Gypsy King products are fully functional, but with goodies disabled until you register. Hey, it works!

Gypsy King Software produces nothing but shareware/keyware products. And I *am* Gypsy King Software. Don’t let the term *we*, which I use frequently, fool you. The Gypsy King Web sites use the term *we* often to convey the image of a company larger than the one-gal entity that does it all.

To date, we have six products available, with two more under development, and a hatful of ideas for the future. Fortune Puzzles, Killer Dice, Killer Dice Y2K, Pork Barrel, Blackjack Royale, and Poker Hole are all Mac shareware games created by the Queen of Code herself.

Internet Explorer 5, continued from front page.

Internet Explorer’s new rendering engine, dubbed *Tasman*, fully supports the HTML 4 specification, Cascading Style Sheets 1, Netscape’s Document Object Model, and Extensible Markup Language. These things may not sound very sexy to the casual Web surfer, but *Tasman*’s beefy support for these standards means Web pages are more often going to render as Web designers intend.

Giving you support for common Web standards isn’t all this new browser is about. Internet Explorer gives you a rendering speed of up to fifty percent faster than Internet Explorer 4.5. Of course, your mileage will vary, but you’re certain to find at least some speed increase with Internet Explorer 5.

Ever been to a Web site and the letters were almost too small to be legible? Of course you have. Most Web surfers are Windows users and those same letters don’t look so small to a Windows user. That’s because Windows displays are generally considered to have resolutions of 96 pixels per inch (PPI), whereas Mac displays are considered to display at 72 PPI. In our Web browsers we Mac users are accustomed to viewing “normal” text at 12 points, but Windows users are accustomed to 16-point text as a normal size.

Internet Explorer solves the resolution problem by allowing you to adjust the resolution yourself. In Internet Explorer 5’s preferences, in the Language/Fonts preference pane, you can adjust resolution to match *your* monitor. Those letters that were too small for you to read will now be more legible.

Blackjack Royale and Poker Hole are by far the most popular of all. These back-to-back releases produced a record sales day recently, selling more in one day than we normally do in a month. Big celebration! Not to toot the horn too much, but we did play all the competitor’s games, and ours are the easiest to understand, the easiest to play, and feel more real while you’re playing. Plus, we have the added bonus of a real-voice talking dealer (yours truly), one of the biggest selling points of the games. I dealt blackjack professionally at one time and never thought dealing would eventually pay off in writing software! Not to mention that all the fellas seem to like my voice...

And the kudos are coming in. Killer Dice was chosen MacPick of the Week two years ago by ChezMark. Our games have been included on several shareware CDs around the world, and Pork Barrel will soon be released on the MacWorld UK cover CD.

If you want to see what all the fuss is about, go to <http://www.gypsyware.com> or <http://www.gypsygames.com>. ❖

Shari Coxford has been a 'mugger for several years, can often be found gallivanting across the BBS, and has just been contracted as the new voice of Macintosh for the Atlanta Journal/Constitution, replacing Charles Haddad as Mac columnist for the Personal Technology section of the Sunday paper. No date yet as to when her first column will hit print.

You’ll be impressed by convenient new features in Internet Explorer 5. The Internet Scrapbook is my favorite. The Internet Scrapbook lets you save whole Web pages complete with graphics and links so you can refer to them later. You can even save pages that were rendered on the fly, such as pages containing online orders you’ve placed. In AMUG’s Basic Systems Training Class, you might have learned how to take pictures of your screen so that you would have a picture of the order for future reference. The Internet Scrapbook makes such workarounds unnecessary.

You have a new method for conducting Internet searches in Internet Explorer 5. Click the Search tab in the Explorer bar and search for Web pages matching criteria you specify, or search for a person’s address, a business, or review your last ten searches. Click the More... link and find a map, look up a word, find a picture or do a Usenet search through Deja.com. The built-in search mechanism uses multiple search engines for your queries. The only downside is that you can’t supply your own as you can with Sherlock.

If you enjoy participating in online auctions, you’ll like Internet Explorer 5’s Auction Manager. With the new Auction Manager, you can track information about the items you choose to follow. You can track the time remaining until the auction ends, the high bidder, and if information you specify changes, you can have Internet Explorer 5 notify you that an auction ended, the high bid changed,

See “Internet Explorer 5,” continued on page 4.

Internet Explorer 5, continued from page 3.

or if you've been outbid. Internet Explorer 5's Auction Manager can be found under the new Tools menu or invoked by pressing Command-, (comma).

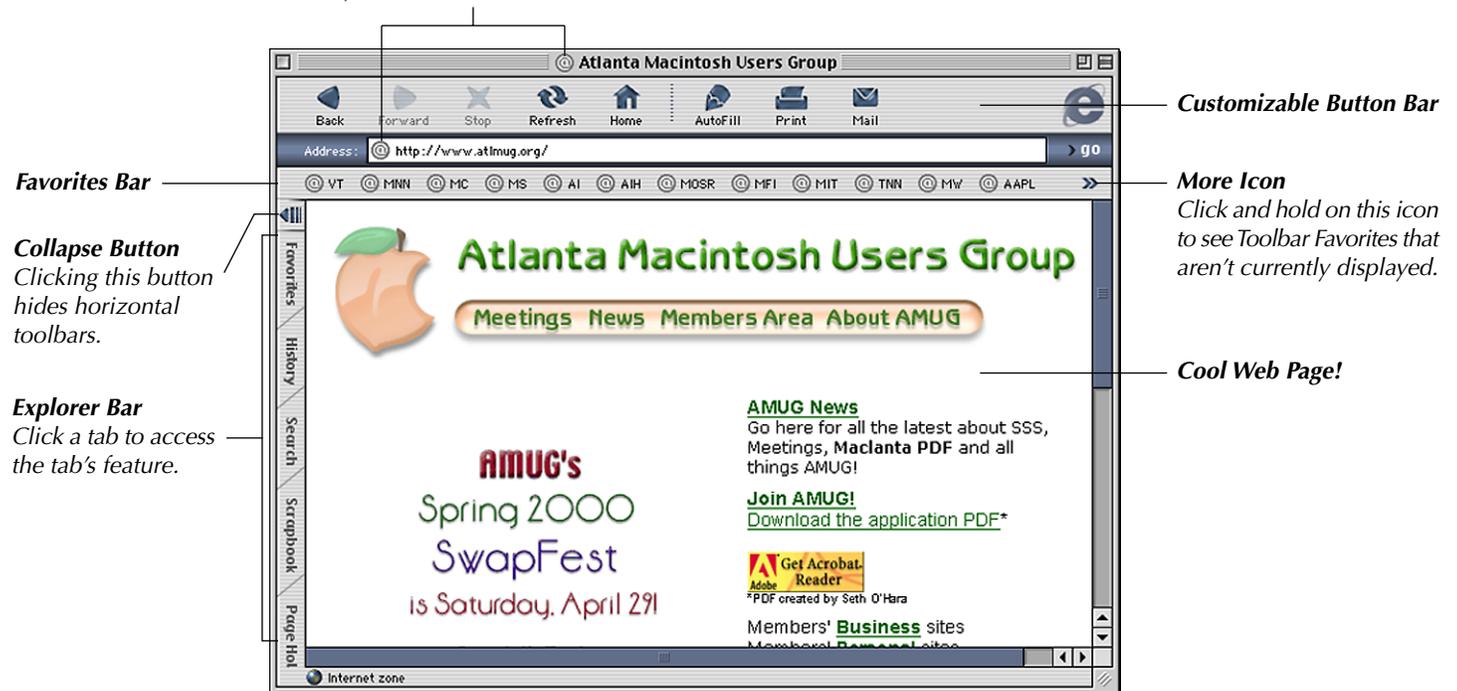
You'll enjoy the convenience of the new features of Internet Explorer 5's interface. There's a collapse button (see figure below) that lets you quickly hide the Favorites, Address, and Button bars so you can see more of a Web page. There's a new "More" icon on the Favorites bar that gives you access to favorites that aren't currently displayed in the bar due to window width. If you don't like the default set of buttons in the button bar, you can customize the button bar for your needs by choosing Customize Toolbars... from the View menu and following the simple directions that appear in

the browser window. The Explorer bar is better integrated into the browser window and less intrusive than the Explorer bar in 4.5.

You'll like the new keyboard shortcuts in Internet Explorer 5. Press Command-~ (tilde, the key to the left of the number 1 on most keyboards) to cycle through open windows, press Command-2 to open your Favorites window, Command-3 to open the History window, Command-1 to switch back to the browser window. Press Command-B to collapse the toolbars and see more of a Web page. Press Command-E to see a page's source code. Fans of Internet Explorer 4.5's AutoFill feature (which magically fills in common form elements such as name, address, email address, telephone number, etc.) should note that the keyboard shortcut is different in Internet Explorer 5. Now, to invoke AutoFill you should press Command-' (apostrophe). With Internet Explorer 5 you don't even

Page Icon

Drag either of these symbols to your desktop to create a "hot" text clipping for the URL in the address field. Drag either of these symbols to the Favorites bar to create a Favorite.



have to use the mouse for activating hyperlinks. Now you can Tab your way through the links on a page (or Option-Tab, depending on your preference), pressing Return when the link you wish to activate is highlighted.

Internet Explorer 5 is the first Mac Web browser to feature a true Mac OS text engine. One convenience you get from having a true Mac OS text engine is the ability to drag text from the browser window into another application or to your desktop. If you double-click a word in the browser window, it becomes selected. If you triple-click, a whole line becomes selected, and if you quadruple-click, an entire paragraph becomes selected.

Lastly, for those of you who require matching colors, Internet Explorer 5 allows you to select a browser color (from the View menu). You can choose from blueberry, bondi blue, grape, graphite, lime, PowerBook Black, PowerBook Bronze, strawberry, or tangerine.

When you choose a color, Internet Explorer 5's interface controls and menu highlight colors take on a theme for the color you selected. As of this writing, Microsoft doesn't provide a supported method for creating your own theme colors.

Hopefully, your download doesn't have far to go before being complete. Once it's finished, you should have a file on your desktop titled "Microsoft Internet 5.smi." Double-click this file and agree to a license agreement to have a window open containing the "Microsoft Internet 5" folder. Simply drag this folder to your hard drive, open the folder, and double-click the file "Internet Explorer" to complete the installation process.

Microsoft Internet Explorer 5 is indisputably the best Web browser for the Macintosh. It's feature rich, standards compliant and fast. I hope it delights you as much as it has delighted me. ❖

AMUG Events

in may

6TH, Saturday, New Users SIG, Creative Circus, 10 AM–NOON.

Contact John Kanaly at john_kanaly@atlmug.org.

16TH, Tuesday, General Meeting (Home Networking),

Macquarium, 7 PM–9 PM. Contact Doug Franks at doug_franks@atlmug.org.

20TH, Saturday, Systems Training Class (Mac OS Troubleshooting & Maintenance), New Horizons Computer Learning Center, 10 AM–1 PM. Contact Jaddie Dodd at jaddie_j_dodd@atlmug.org or by phone at 770.945.4930 to reserve a seat.

in june

3RD, Saturday, New Users SIG, Creative Circus, 10 AM–NOON.

Contact John Kanaly at john_kanaly@atlmug.org.

17TH, Saturday, Systems Training Class (Basic Use of Mac OS), New Horizons Computer Learning Center, 10 AM–1 PM. Contact Jaddie Dodd at jaddie_j_dodd@atlmug.org or by phone at 770.945.4930 to reserve a seat.

20TH, Tuesday, General Meeting (Microsoft & Social), Macquarium, 7 PM–9 PM. Contact Doug Franks at doug_franks@atlmug.org. ❖

March/April 2000 Time Capsule

by Jaddie J. Dodd, jaddie_j_dodd@atlmug.org

TO GIVE YOU AN IDEA of the speed at which the computer industry is moving, I'm providing you with a generalized time capsule for the last two months.

Apple posts profits of \$233 million on \$1.945 billion in sales for the fiscal quarter ending April 1, continuing a ten-quarter string of uninterrupted profit.

On the heels of the positive financial news, Apple announces a two-for-one stock split that takes effect May 6.

Apple board member and former head of DuPont Edgar S. Woolard resigns from Apple's board to become chairman of the board at Telex Communications Group, which specializes in professional audio products. Woolard's seat won't be filled.

Apple releases Mac OS 9.0.4, the first update to OS 9 since OS 9's October 23 introduction.

See "Time Capsule," continued on page 6.

Directions to Events

Creative Circus

The new address of the Creative Circus is 812 Lambert Drive NE in Atlanta.

New Horizons Computer Learning Center

4053 Lavista Road near Northlake Mall. From Take I-85 to I-285 East. Exit at Lavista Road (Exit 28). Turn right onto Lavista Road. At the second traffic light (Ranchwood Drive), turn left. Go to first light (Weems Road/Marriott Courtyard) and turn right. New Horizons is directly behind the Marriott Courtyard.

North Atlanta High School

Take I-75 to the Northside Parkway exit. If you're coming from the south (from downtown), take a right onto Northside. If you are coming from the north (the 'burbs), take a left onto Northside. The school is about 5 minutes from the exit. The entrance is at the rear of the school, so make sure to park in the back, off of Kingswood, rather than directly off of Northside.

Macquarium

Macquarium is located at 1800 Peachtree Street NW.

From I-85 South exit at Peachtree Street. This exit becomes GA 13 South. Take Peachtree Street toward Buckhead. Merge onto Peachtree Street NE. Travel approximately one-half mile. Macquarium is on your left.

From I-75 South take the Fourteenth Street/Tenth Street exit. Turn left onto Fourteenth Street. Travel one-half mile before turning left onto Peachtree Street. Travel approximately one mile and the Macquarium building is on your left.

From GA 400 South take the Sidney Marcus Boulevard exit toward Piedmont Road/Lenox Road. Turn left onto Sidney Marcus Boulevard. Turn right onto GA 13 South (Buford Highway). Take the US 19 North/Peachtree Street ramp toward Buckhead. Merge onto Peachtree Road NE. Travel approximately one-half mile. Macquarium is on your left.

From I-75/85 North take the Fourteenth Street/Tenth Street exit. Pass over Tenth Street. Turn right onto Fourteenth Street. Travel one-quarter mile before turning left onto Peachtree Street. Follow Peachtree Street over the I-85 overpass into Buckhead. Pass Caribou Coffee and Lettuce Soup Surprise You (on left). Take next left into the Macquarium parking lot.

St Joseph's Hospital (Education Wing)

St Joseph's Hospital is located across the street from Northside Hospital on Peachtree-Dunwoody Road in Atlanta. The St Joseph's Education Center is located on the ground floor of the main hospital. Enter the campus from Peachtree Dunwoody Road and park in the covered employee parking garage. Parking is free. Once parked, enter the hospital via the Stella Maris Outpatient Center. Pass the elevators and turn right. Keep going until the hallway ends and you'll be in the Education Center. ❖

Time Capsule, continued from page 5.

Apple makes its iMovie software available as a free download. iMovie is a consumer video creation and editing program that originally shipped on iMac DV models and wasn't available as a separate purchase.

Apple purchases Astarte, the original developer of the compact disc recording software Toast, in an effort to capitalize on the expanding digital video market.

Microsoft ships Internet Explorer 5 for the Macintosh. The Web browser garners rave reviews from Mac fans around the world.

Microsoft announces the next version of Office for the Macintosh, which is expected to ship in the second half of this year.

The US Department of Justice concludes that Microsoft engaged in anti-competitive practices and proposes that the software giant be split into two separate companies.

AMUG member Shari Coxford replaces Charles Haddad as the Mac voice of the *Atlanta Journal/Constitution*.

Shari also releases the new game Poker Hole and makes the game available from her new Web site at <http://www.gypsyware.com>.

Aladdin Systems, developers of the StuffIt line of utilities, purchases Atlanta-based Trexar Technologies. Trexar founder and CEO Jason Foodman is an AMUG member.

Adobe announces GoLive 5, Illustrator 9, FrameMaker 6 and LiveMotion 1 for professional Web authoring, illustration, long-document publishing and Web motion graphics, respectively.

Macromedia ships FreeHand 9 for professional illustration and page layout projects.

MetaCreations sells its graphics software to focus on Internet marketing. Adobe purchases Carrara and Canoma. Corel buys Painter, Kai's Power Tools, KPT Vector Effects, and Bryce. Poser, the three-dimensional human and animal modeler, is sold back to its original developers.

America Online releases version 5 of its Internet software for Macintosh. The new version of AOL includes the same Web browser as version 4—a slightly modified version of Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0, not even 4.5.

Casady & Greene's SoundJam MP, the most popular MP3 product for Macintosh, gets revved to version 2. Casady & Greene offers a free version of SoundJam MP from <http://www.soundjam.com>.

TidBITS, the popular and informative Mac-centric electronic newsletter, celebrates its tenth anniversary.

AppleWorks 6 ships to a chorus of boos. General sluggishness, instability, and lack of cross-platform compatibility are the chief criticisms of those who bought the upgrade.

Epson ships the Stylus Color 670, an \$89 color inkjet printer featuring 1440 x 720-DPI resolution. (Yes, that's right—eighty-nine dollars for a brand-new printer!)

Symantec, developer of Norton Utilities and Norton AntiVirus, boosts its LiveUpdate Internet presence to more than 2000 servers located around the world.

ATI, Apple's supplier of graphics accelerators, announces a new video processor dubbed "RADEON 256." Due to ship late this summer, the new chip sports three times as many transistors as a Pentium III and can draw up to 30 million triangles per second. ❖

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