Maclanta

A Publication of the Atlanta Macintosh Users Group, Inc. • September 2001

TM

APPLE STORES KEEP OPENING

By Chris Waldrip, Newsletter Director (chris_waldrip@atlmug.org)

On May 15 Apple ended years of speculation by announcing that they would be opening twenty-five retail stores across the United States in 2001. And at Macworld New York Steve Jobs reiterated Apple's commitment to opening a nationwide chain of retail stores by announcing one store would open every six weeks. It's been a quarter of a year so far, so how has Apple done?

August saw three stores open. The first store opened in August was in Plano Texas. This suburb of Dallas is now home to the third Apple store to open this year.

Bloomington, Minnesota's Mall of America was the second Apple store to open in August. This regional shopping facility is one of the largest malls in the world with more than 200,000 visitors a day.

The Midwest also saw a second Apple store, the third for the month, and the fifth store so far. Schaumburg, Illinois is the first store to service the Metro-Chicago area. The date for the second store, to be located in downtown Chicago, has yet to be announced.

Every store opening has featured long lines of avid Mac fans queued for hours before the actual opening. 300-800 people have been the average for the five store openings so far.

And Apple has learned much just from these five store openings. Free commemorative T-shirts have been given away to the first people in line at some openings. The variety of software stocked has increased from an original 300 to now over 500 titles. Additional hardware has been installed in the store for consumers to test with - such as a consumer DVD player and TV so you can test that DVD, you just made with iDVD, on a TV to see that it does indeed work.

Five stores in four months though. That leaves twenty stores yet to open by year's

Hundreds of Mac users queued outside the Schaumburg, IL Apple Store

Photo courtesy Jim Dalrymple, MacCentral.com

end. Or five stores a month for the next four months. Can Apple do it?

We'll see how September fairs. Saturday, September 1st saw the first Apple Store in the Northeast. The Northshore Mall in Peabody, MA, a suburb of Boston, is Apple's newest home. While all the stores so far have had extremely similar floor plans, this location is the first with a different layout – the store's floor plan is a mirror image of the other locations.

But what other stores are set to open in the next few months? Apple's employment web site (http://www.apple.com/jobs/) lists openings in at least sixteen locations. Four stores are in California (Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, San Diego, and Santa Clara) and three are in Florida (Tampa, Miami, Wellington Green). There are also several other single stores in large population areas around the United States such as Chandler, AZ, Denver, CO, Cambridge, MA, Manhattan, NY, Salem, NH, Tices, NJ, Columbus, OH, Germantown, TN, and Clarendon, VA.

Some locations are already staffed, and there are also some stores that are in doubt. Rumors are circulating that the Tampa location will not open on schedule or where originally indicated. Negotiations over rent for the facility in a new, upscale, mall opening soon have broken down and Apple apparently has pulled out of the location. The upscale Memphis suburb of German-

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Michael Henigan, President (michael_henigan@atlmug.org)

The Macintosh Community is all around us, and in everything we do we come into contact with Mac users. I really mean that, and to show what I mean I have been spending this past weekend at DragonCon (http://www.dragoncon.com). This is one of the largest science fiction media conventions in the world. And as luck would have it DragonCon takes place right here in Atlanta.

I was walking by a group of people when I heard a comment about there not being good support places for the Mac platform in Atlanta. I quickly turned around and came face to face with one of the guests of the convention, a Sci-fi author of several books. He said he had just moved to Atlanta and could not find anyone who does Mac support for hardware and software. I told him who I was (at that time I was running the Guest Hospitality Suite and the suite had about 15-20 authors and actors in it) and then gave him the names of 3 support places off the top of my head. I further told him about AMUG, what we are doing in Atlanta and all about Maclanta Xpo. He sounded quite thrilled to have info about getting involved with AMUG and here was another happy Mac user.

As I walked through the room another guest spoke up and mentioned that she owned a PowerBook G3 and has been a Macintosh user since the Mac SE (which she still has working). We had a nice conversation and she told me that she

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gave support to FileMaker Pro users in her hometown.

It was really nice to do something totally non-computer related and getting to meet members of the Sci-fi community who were also members of the Mac community. That really goes to show that Mac users are everywhere and are proud to admit it. That is something to think about!

Speaking of the Mac community, everyone should be aware by now that we have an event being planned for a few of our friends and members. That event is the Maclanta Xpo and it takes place on September 15 at a new facility, St. Joseph's Hospital in the Education Wing.

We have merged several smaller events into this new mega-event and it promises to be a great time for all. We are honored to have as Special Guests two members of the Apple User Group Advisory Board (UGAB), Gail Murphy Glore and Del Messier. Gail and Del will be with us for the day and will be talking to people, having fun and talking about what UGAB is doing for the local user groups and its members. They will be attending classes and will take part in the auction. The Board of Directors has been working quite hard to make this event the best we have ever had, so please plan to attend and to have some fun along with the rest of us.

As for the Auction & Give-a-ways, we have had numerous donations from supportive vendors and retailers across the globe. Several of the great events we plan to have: raffles throughout the day during classes and demonstrations; Macworld Magazine, one of the event sponsors, is offering all Xpo attendees a 6 month subscription to their magazine as a bonus for attending, plus there will be copies of their magazines passed out as well; Apple has donated all sorts of shirts, T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats; attendees will have a great selection of software & books that have been donated by companies such as Macromedia, Connectix, Bare Bones, Pearson, Coriolis, Adobe, Aladdin, and Casady & Greene. All told, we have over $6,000 in donations!!! So you can see it will be among the Best events we have sponsored in several years, so *PLEASE ATTEND & HAVE FUN!*

Until Next Month, Mike

Notice of Nominations

Nominations are now open for the following positions:

- President (2-year term)
- Secretary (2-year term)
- Newsletter Director (2-year term)
- Programming Director (2-year term)
- Telecom Director (2-year term)

- Treasurer (1-year term)
- Membership Director (1-year term)
- Education Director (1-year term)
- Publicity Director (1-year term)

(Please note that beginning with the 2002 Election all 1-year positions will be elected for 2-year terms.)

To nominate an individual, gain the individual's agreement to be nominated and then:

• Send email to kathleen_innes@atlmug.org
to be received by Oct. 12/01; or,

• Send regular mail to:
Nominations Committee
c/o AMUG Secretary
P.O. Box 15130
Atlanta GA 30333
(To be received by Oct. 12/01)

• Appear in person at the October General Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 16th at 7:00p.m.

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates and nominations will be accepted from the floor. Nominations will then be closed. All persons nominated must be AMUG members in good standing as of 10/16/01.

Please send inquiries to:
Kathleen Innes (kathleen_innes@atlmug.org), Chair, Nominating Committee

IN THE NEWS

Hewlett-Packard Buys Compaq

It's not unusual for mergers to occur in industries suffering troubled times, but few industry experts foresaw this.

The story broke late Monday after the New York Times and Wall Street Journal detailed that Hewlett-Packard is paying $25 billion in stock to acquire Compaq. The merger would make Hewlett-Packard the second largest computer company, behind IBM.

In the last 12 fiscal months Hewlett-Packard and Compaq, combined, reported $87 billion in revenue. For the same period IBM reported $90 billion, and Apple reported only $79 million.

As part of the merger Compaq will layoff 8,500 jobs and Hewlett-Packard will layoff 9,000. The remaining head count for the combined company is thought to possibly total 62,800 at Compaq and 87,000 at Hewlett-Packard.

Apple Releases Mac OS 9.2.1

As many had come to expect, Apple released the latest update to Mac OS 9 with little fanfare.

Mac OS 9.2.1 has been released as an update to Mac OS 9.0 and later and for systems that are listed as compatible with Mac OS X. This includes almost all G3 and G4 systems, except the original PowerBook G3 (similar in form to the PowerBook 3400).

Users who don't, or can't, upgrade to this latest release won't be missing too much. Mac OS 9.2.1 offers some minor bug fixes, and some changes to the startup order of system extensions, loading OpenTransport first to help systems that utilize NetBoot.

Added Classic compatibility is also one of the features of Mac OS 9.2.1. But only users of Mac OS X who use the Classic environment for older applications will appreciate this addition.

AirPort Revised — 128-Bit Compatible

In what's seen as a major step forward in corporate acceptance, Apple has started shipping AirPort cards that are compatible with 128-bit encrypted 802.11b systems.

Previous AirPort cards were advertised as 40 bit compatible cards. But most corporate wireless networks require better encryption.

The new cards look identical to the old cards, with only the addition of "/c" to the model number, and 128-bit printed on the card's label. Included with the cards is a sheet that offers instructions on how to join 128-bit networks.

Currently there is no word on when AirPort Base Stations will offer 128-bit encryption, leaving third party base stations to fill the void for now.

Intel Joins Apple In Wireless Standard

Intel, not a name commonly associated with technical efforts supported by Apple, recently announced its first 802.11, or Wi-Fi, product - the AnyPoint Wireless II line of networking products.

Intel had previously pushed HomeRF as a cheaper alternative to Wi-Fi, but has decided to leave Siemens and Proxim, supporters of HomeRF, to join the Wi-Fi community of over 60 companies, including Apple, Dell, and Cisco.

No New Hardware For Apple Expo Paris

To the surprise of many Steve Jobs himself has gone on record as stating that there are no new hardware announcements scheduled for Apple Expo Paris.

Typically Apple is mum about the content of keynote speeches that Mr. Jobs is scheduled to deliver. This blunt announcement has surely sent many rumor sites into fits of depression.

There has been no word on any possible announcements for Seybold, which starts only days before Apple Expo Paris.

Apple Wins An Emmy, Again!

In recognition of Apple's contribution to the technology used in modern production Apple has been awarded an emmy by the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

FireWire is the subject of this award, but in 1998 Apple won its first Emmy for Outstanding Commercial for its "Think Different" campaign.

Microsoft Breaks QuickTime

Windows users that decided to try the beta release of Internet Explorer 6 received a nasty surprise. Microsoft has changed the architecture of how they support plug-ins.

Netscape was the first mass-market web browser, and set the standard for how plug-ins were supported. At their initiation Microsoft attempted to change the rules slightly with Internet Explorer. But eventually Microsoft accepted the Netscape plug-in standard.

But now, with the decline in Netscape, Microsoft has decided it's time to switch. ActiveX is the method that most plug-ins in Internet Explorer 6 will need to use to work.

Apple was quick with a solution, releasing an ActiveX version of QuickTime within days of problem determination.

Luckily for Mac users ActiveX is a Windows-only technology that we shouldn't have to worry about, at least for some time to come.

Autodesk Buys Media100's Software

Autodesk, best known for their drafting software package AutoCad, Media100, best known for digital video software such as MediaCleaner, have announced the sale of Media100's software line for $16 million.

AutoDesk's Discrete division, publishers of the animation package Combustion, will be the new home of former Media100 products like Cleaner, Cleaner EZ, Cleaner Live, Charger, SuperCharger, CineStream, EventStream technology, EditDV, and IntroDV.

Media100 will continue with it's hardware, and specifically related software, used for digital video capture and editing.

Development Ends For Kaleidoscope

Longtime shareware developer Greg Landweber and his partner, former Apple interface developer, Arlo Rose, have decided to cease development on future versions of Kaleidoscope.

Kaleidoscope 2.3.1 is the current release, and will continue to be supported, but users of Mac OS X should not expect to see a version.

Gateway Downgraded To Junk Status

Late August saw Standard & Poor downgrade Gateway's credit rating was downgraded to "Junk" status, or not worth the investment because of the probability it will not go up.

Gateway's corporate credit and bank loan rating were both cut by S&P by two notches to BB status. BB is the second highest junk grade. Gateway was also cut from Standard & Poor's credit watch and has warned that the outlook for the company was negative.

The reasons S&P gave for the downgrade were based on the extremely competitive industry conditions, the Gateway's declining revenue base, and Gateway's expectation that it will not make a profit until fiscal 2002.

Exabyte and Ecrix Merge

High-end storage manufacturers Exabyte and Ecrix have announced that they will merge their two companies. The combined company will use the Exabyte name and will continue to sell products under their respective MammothTape and VXA brands. MammothTape drives are typically used in networked server settings, while VXA tape drives are used mainly as external desktop backup solutions.

Ricochet Service To Rise From Ashes?

Reports have surfaced that a potential buyer for Metricom's assets (aka Ricochet, et. al.) may have come forward.

A Metricom attorney told a bankruptcy judge that Denver based Aerie is "the one buyer that has surfaced that is close to a deal."

The deal could be official as soon as September 7th after a court hearing on the topic.

Metricom's debts totaled as much as $1 billion, but its assets could be sold for as little as $30 million.

AUGUST MEETING SUMMARY

By Stan Allen, Program Director (stan_allen@atlmug.org)

AMUG's August general meeting at Macquarium saw the return of Mr. Jack Quattlebaum from Apple for a complete report on all the latest news from Macworld New York. Although there were no "breakthrough" new products introduced, there were updates to both the iMac and the Power Mac G4. Most impressive was the dual 800 MHz processor system. Comparison testing showed it as almost twice as fast as the fastest Intel processor! Jack also spent most of his time covering the biggest news, which was the announcement of Mac OS 10.1! The new update makes the OS run incredibly fast and provides numerous enhancements including a DVD Player and updates for many requested features.

Another highlight was the huge amount of door prizes given away as a result of many board members making the trip to Macworld in person. It took so long to give out the prizes, the meeting ran a little late at the end.

Also returning was the AMUG Professionals Networking Reception held before the meeting. If you missed it, then you missed some great refreshments and a chance to meet some of the very talented professional members of AMUG. Web designers, publishing pros, Database Developers and Digital Video experts were among the attendees who distributed information about themselves and their businesses . Some members brought their own food creations to share and all made some new business acquaintances while enjoying the event. The reception is scheduled again for the December meeting, so mark your calendar!

Apple presenting always draws a near record crowd, and this meeting was no exception. My own personal opinion was that this was the best general meeting we've had since joining the board as program director . My opinion is likely to change after next Month's Maclanta Xpo. We'll have not one, but TWO product demonstrations from Mobility Electronics and M.Y.O.B. Being involved with the Xpo, I can say that this will be by far the biggest AMUG event of the year! Get all the details by visiting the web site page http://www.atlmug.org/Meetings/xpo.shtml

(First) The baking skills of Mac users should never be underestimated. (Second) Just look at that spread. AMUG's catering ability shines for all to enjoy. (Third) Meeting and greeting at the AMUG Social before the meeting. (Fourth) A full house with Apple presenting, of course!

AUGUST DOOR PRIZES

Stan Allen ....Mac Care Unit
Steve Alperin ....Flashback
Robert Cameron................ Earthlink Cap
Russ Curry............. Aladdin's Shrinkwrap
Russ Curry..................Deathlands Game
Jerry Etheridge ....Candy Jar
Bob Flack.................. MS FrontPage Mug
Doug Franks ....MWSF '01 T-shirt
Charles Knox..
    Missing Manual: MS Office 2001 Book
Bill Livesay..............Mindshare Golf Shirt
Mel Martin....................MWSF '01 T-Shirt
Kathy McGraw ....O'Riley T-shirt
Henry Milsen...............Nova Dev. T-shirt
Marion McCroskey ...... Mindshare T-shirt
Mike Merritt ....Procreate T-shirt
Dewey Norty .... Adobe Notebook
Vivian Reid....................MWSF '01 T-shirt
David Sheppard............. Microsoft T-shirt
Robin Sherman..
                    User Group Academy bag
Charles Smith...
    Indesign 1.5 Classroom In a Box Book
Marhen Steele ....Adobe carry bag
Laurence Tuten .... Aladdin Sundial
Laurence Tuten ...Adobe Photo Elements
Joe Webb ....Corel Mug
Bob Werst ....Mindshare
Dan Williams .... Earthlink Cap

Thanks For Joining AMUG

Poppy Cantrell, Jim Cork, Jane Ann Covington, Gena Gold, Leigh Hattaway, Bob Hicks, Carmelo Infantino, Ulf Kubisiak, Sheryl Nelson, Scott Novicki, Eric Paschal, Jeannine Quintana, Richard Schaefer, Lawrence Sharp, Harmen Steele, Camille Toppo

And For Renewing Your Membership

Stephen Alperin, Geofferay Baker, Ira Benoy, III, Katie Black, Phillip Byrd, Becky Dodd, Jaddie Dodd, William Faucette, Kevin Gnewikow, James Hawkes, Craig Hodes, Henry Howell, Mary Jobson, Barbara Humphreys, Brian Jobson, Todd Johnson, Charles Knox, James Massara, Jim Meloy, Henry Milsen, Ramazan Orhan, Eugene Rehm, Philip Reynolds, Michael Saffran, Charles Smith, Marion Smith, Stuart Truslow, Linda Veldsma-Lillie, William Williams, Winston Weinmann, Barry Wolfert

Maclanta Xpo 1.5 – Join The Fun!

It's that time of year again – Maclanta Xpo is here! This second Xpo of the year promises to be one of the best Xpo's, or swapfests, AMUG has ever presented. A new, more convenient, location, better classrooms, some great sponsors, tons of giveaways, raffle's throughout the day and much more!

AMUG's swapfest had been held at Northside High School in years past. And while it was a nice facility we felt that we needed something more professional with better accommodations, and better access. Saint Joseph's Hospital offers all of this and more. Accessible to MARTA patrons, and both Interstate 85 and GA-400, Saint Joseph's has internet-accessible classrooms capable of professional presentations, a large auditorium, and an attractive and spacious area for our swapfest. We have some fairly impressive sponsors – a few you may have heard of even. Macworld Magazine, MacAddict Magazine, Metrowerks, Macromedia, and Apple are just some of our generous sponsors.

AMUG members, and non-members, are welcome to attend the Maclanta Xpo, attendance is free. We only ask that you stop by our sign-in desk. Here we'll verify membership, and get a nametag. AMUG members can stop by at 9 a.m. in order to get into the swapfest early, swapfest vendors should stop by the desk as soon as they can.

If you've got a lot of 'stuff' laying around your house that you're not using, and you think someone else might, bring it on down. If you'd like a table we ask that you pre-register at our website (http://www.amugonline.org/meetings/swapfest.shtml), but there's nothing to keep you from wheeling and dealing. Pre-registration will insure you have a table and will help us contact you with last minute information.

The swapfest space is located in the Doctor's building, and if you've got a lot of stuff you'd do best to arrive early and use the setup time we have set aside from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. If you're running late you'll have to use an alternate entrance, but there will be signs guiding you to the swapfest. For more details check the directions on the swapfest page at our website.

We also suggest that you bring a handcart, or something similar, since it's some distance to the swapfest area. We might have one or two handtrucks available, but there's no guarantee. Bring your own if you need one.

At 9 a.m. we're opening the swapfest doors to special guests and AMUG members. For an hour these folks will have exclusive access. We'd like to ask that you give them as good a deal as you can, they're your fellow members after all. At 10 a.m. everyone will have access to the swapfest. We'd like to ask that vendors try and pack up as soon as possible after we close the doors at 1 p.m. You can stay and keep making deals, but at 2 p.m. you'll have to discuss things with hospital security.

AMUG's MacCollege is back again. This year we have six, fifty minute courses of interest. At 10 a.m. the first three classes start: Airport & Home Network, Internet 101, and the three-hour long Mac Maintenance & Troubleshooting. Scanning Basics and Intro to Mac OS X will be presented at 11 a.m. Noon offers a course highlighting the features of the AMUG Online Community, and there's the iTunes & MP3s class. There will be raffles at the end of each class, featuring some software related to the course topic. Please note that classes and times are subject to change, check http://www.amugonline.org/meetings/maccollege.shtml for up-to-date times. You can also guarantee yourself a seat by pre-registering at the same page. Space is limited, but if there is still availability you can sign up when you arrive at the Xpo.

Mobility Electronics (http://www.mobilityelectronics.com/) will be our first featured vendor, presenting their product line of external SCSI expansion cases, port replicators for laptops, and more, at 10 a.m. in the Hospital Auditorium. The personal and small business software company M.Y.O.B. (http://www.myob.com/) will be presenting at 11 a.m, also in the Hospital Auditorium. M.Y.O.B has been giving Quicken a run for its money (sorry about the pun) for several years now, keeping their accounting software package up-to-date and reaching out to the Mac community. We're honored to have both companies attend. Raffles will be held at the end of each presentation.

Having problems with your Mac, or hoping to get a new peripheral? Bring your old or new equipment by our Mac Fix It Clinic (http://www.amugonline.org/meetings/MacFixit.shtml) and the, seemingly, infamous Frank Chew of Onyx Consulting will be our featured Mac Guru. Several other experienced AMUG members will be there as well to help out, so if you can't get an answer to a hardware or software problem it probably can't be solved.

To end the day we'll be having our annual auction (http://www.amugonline.org/meetings/auction.shtml). This year, despite the downturn in the technology sector, we have thousands of dollars of software, hardware, and more, all of it wanting a good home at a great price.

If you can't find something that catches your interest, you're not trying. Come on out and have some fun with the rest of your fellow AMUG members, and the members of Atlanta's Mac community. And don't forget to tell your friends! Oh, heck, just drag them with you, we're sure that they'll thank you at the end of the day.

Saint Joseph's Hospital

Directions from Georgia 400
Take the Glenridge Connector (Exit#3) off GA 400 and take a right to Peachtree Dunwoody Road. Turn left onto Peachtree Dunwoody Road. Go through the light at Johnson Ferry Road and immediately enter the right hand lane. Turn right into the hospital grounds.

Directions from I-285 Heading East
Take the Glenridge Connector exit (#26). Turn right at the end of the ramp onto Glenridge. Take the first left onto Johnson Ferry Road. Turn Left at the third light onto Peachtree Dunwoody Road and immediately enter the far right hand lane. Turn right into the hospital grounds.

Directions from I-285 Heading West
Take the Peachtree Dunwoody exit (#28). Turn left at the end of the ramp onto Peachtree Dunwoody Road. Turn left at the third traffic light into the hospital grounds.

MARTA Directions
Take the Dunwoody train north to the Medical Center Station. Walk to the top of the hill (about 50 yards) to the hospital entrance.

Maps are available online at:
http://www.amugonline.org/meetings/directions/saintjosephs.shtml

AMUG CLASSIFIEDS

Apple LaserWriter Pro 600, less than 30,000 pages. $150.00. David Johnson 770-979-6364 or (david_r._johnson@atlmug.org) (8/11)

B&W G3 350Mhz, 10 GB HD, 256Mb RAM, internal V90 modem, FireWire and USB ports. This is the last Mac that was built with an ADB port... you can use your legacy Wacom tablets or ADB keyboards and mice. Has lots and lots of software installed worth at least $1,000+ dollars. Asking $699. Les Fuchs (les@mindspring.com) or 770-394-6368 (6/7)

Photoshop 6: Brand new, shrink wrapped copy of Photoshop 6 for the Mac. Includes $200 off coupon for Adobe Go Live. The cheapest price I could find on CNET is $587.99 from Computers4Sure.com. I'll sell my package for this price, and you pay no shipping or tax. This is more than a $200 savings from the local Atlanta retail selling price (e.g. CompUSA and MicroCenter). Les Fuchs (les@mindspring.com) or (770) 394-6368 (6/7)

External Firewire hard drive or Firewire case without drive. External Firewire hard drive; 20 GB capacity; 7200 RPM; 2 FireWire I/O ports; drive is less than 2 years old. Compact design; easy to carry. Only $279. Willing to sell the Firewire case without the drive installed for $139. Any ATA (IDE) 3.5" drive will work. Les Fuchs (les@mindspring.com) or (770) 394-6368 (6/7)

AppleCare 3 year warranty for iMac. New, but seal is broken and Apple won't credit. My iMac is out of 1st year. Asking $149.00 obo. John Trent (john_b._trent@atlmug.org) or (770) 938-1141 (6/7)

Power Computing RAM. 168 pin, EDO, 8 MB, from a Power Computing system. $8. Stephen Kramer (Stephen_Kramer@atlmug.org) (6/7)

town has some rather strict signage ordinances. The issues seem to resolve around rules prohibiting food items on signage (the Apple logo), and how the sign is lit (back-lighting seems to be prohibited). These issues are minor so there is little doubt that this location will open as planned.

But when will these stores open? Apple seems to wait to announce openings until just the day before. But expect to read about at least one opening every weekend through the end of the year, probably more each week as we approach the holiday season.

And of greater importance to Atlanta Mac users is when will an Apple store open here? It would appear that Apple has yet to put forth any effort opening a store in Atlanta. No listings for positions have been posted yet, and requests for comments from Simon Property Group, the management company for local malls Gwinnett Place Mall, the Mall of Georgia, Northlake Mall, Town Center at Cobb, and the most likely locations, based on where other Apple stores have opened, Phipps Plaza and Lenox Square Mall.

But if Apple's current crops of retail stores are successful we should see an Apple store here soon.

A Piece Of The Action, Part 2

By David Whitehead (david_whitehead@atlmug.org)

As mentioned last time (Maclanta May/June 2001), all Macs have the ability to take screen captures. With a simple key command, you can illustrate an action occurring on your monitor.

But there are other applications that strive to improve the art of screen capturing by offering additional features and added convenience over the Macs built in capabilities. A quick search at VersionTracker reveals over a dozen different applications (all shareware) designed to help you take screen shots on your Mac. I'll be looking at three of them and discussing the differences of each utility.

Snapz Pro

Ambrosia Software is primarily known for its great games, but they have also developed a great little utility for screen captures called Snapz Pro. Currently at version 2 (and also available for OS X) Snapz Pro allows you to capture screens in a variety of image formats making it easy to create a quick screen shot for sending off to a friend. Snapz Pro also allows you to capture QuickTime movies of your desktop or an application, making it easy to record an instruc-

tional video or record an action for later playback. Additionally, with Snapz Pro, you can also capture a picture of a menu.

Upon installation, Snapz Pro places a control panel in your System folder that gives you complete control over the image you are about to capture. Versatility is the name of the game with Snapz Pro. It offers six different file format choices and also gives you the option of designating the creator codes. By doing this, the screen capture that you take will automatically open in the application of your choice when you double-click it. A very nice convenience feature, indeed.

Screen Catcher

Developed by St. Clair Software, Screen Catcher is another versatile screen capture utility that goes above and beyond the Mac's natural screen shot capabilities. In addition to providing the standard screen capture options (full screen, window, or selection), Screen Catcher also allows you to perform two very convenient functions. One, Screen Capture allows you to immediately send a screen shot to a friend by using it's 'Send Email' option. Once your screen is captured, Screen Catcher will automatically open your default email application and attach the picture you just took to the email, making it very easy to forward that high score onto a friend.

Another very handy feature is Screen Capture's ability to "Catch-All". Have you ever

wanted to take a screen shot of a large document? But that document extended beyond your ability to view it in one screen on your monitor? Catch-All allows you to take pictures of a document while scrolling through it, and putting it all together into one big screen capture that shows you the complete document. Now that's thinking different.
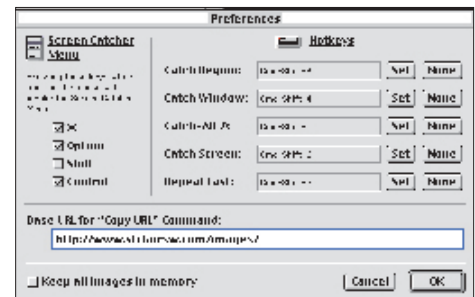
Captura

Captura, developed by Hernansoft, is another screen capture utility for the Macintosh. Unfortunately, it only offers one feature above the ones found natively in the MacOS, and that is the ability to take a full screen picture after 10 seconds. If you have a before and after shot that you want to catch, Captura may be for you. Otherwise, you can get the same features in MacOS 9. Captura does have a nice price, free, but you do get what you pay for.
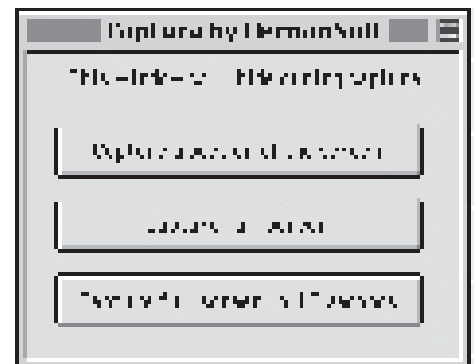
Conclusion

If you need to capture a lot of screens, and need features beyond what the MacOS can give you, either Snapz Pro or Screen Catcher will meet your needs admirably. Snapz Pro is the pricier choice at $40, versus the $25 for Screen Catcher, but of the two applications I find it to meet my personal needs the best. But your mileage may vary. Try out both before paying your shareware fees (it's good karma to pay your shareware fees) and begin sharing your pieces of the action!

MaclantaXpo

1.5

Saturday, September 15th 2001

A full day of AMUG activities!

The AMUG Swapfest
Come buy, sell, and swap your
old hardware and software!
The Swapfest begins at 9 a.m. for AMUG members,
and 10 a.m. for non-members, and
continues until 1 p.m..
(Vendor pre-registration is at http://www.amugonline.org/)

MacCollege
Attend one of our free classes:
Internet 101 • Intro to Mac OS X
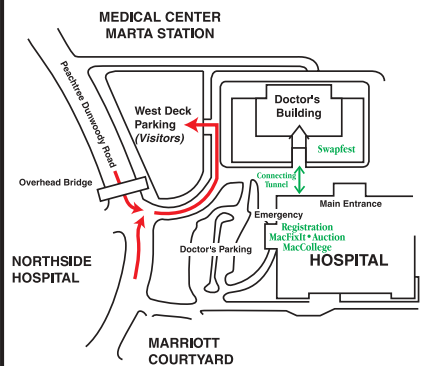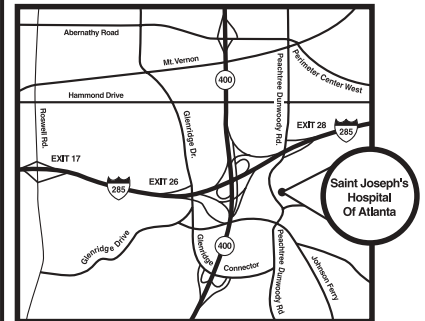iTunes and MP3s • AirPort & Home Networking
Basic Mac Maintenance
Tour of the latest FirstClass software
(Class pre-registration is at http://www.amugonline.org/)

Product Presentations
M.Y.O.B and Mobility Electronics
will be demonstrating
their latest products.

AMUG Annual Auction
Come and bid on great hardware and soft-
ware. The deals are sure to be great! All
proceeds go to help fund AMUG.

Mac Fix It
Onyx Consulting and AMUG experts will help members resolve or
solve hardware and software problems

Maclanta Xpo 1.5 – The AMUG event of the year!

Join us at our new location
Saint Joseph's Hospital
Education Center &
Doctor's Building Atrium

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