Maclanta

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JOBS DELIVERS MW EXPO KEYNOTE

By Robert Cameron, Newsletter Director (robert_cameron@atlmug.org)

Steve Jobs said it himself: While other computer companies have been downsizing and cutting back, Apple has been busy innovating. In a word, Apple's strategy is to "innovate," and the products introduced at Macworld Expo 2002 in San Francisco hold to that.

Jobs began his address with several updates. Most notably, Apple has sold 125,000 iPods (Apple's newest hardware product, an MP3 player that doubles as the world's smallest FireWire hard drive) from November 10 through the end of 2001. Apple had set a goal of opening 25 retail stores by the end of the year. It opened 27, and for the entire month of December all 27 stores had seen 800,000 visitors walk through the doors.

1 Down, 49 to Go
Jobs was also pleased to announce that the state of Maine had placed an order for 36,000 iBooks to equip every 7th and 8th grade student and teacher in the state. This was the largest education order in history.

Mac OS X was introduced in March 2001. A month later there were 500 OS X applications available, but after the September release of 10.1 the number of applications began soaring and as of January 2002 there are 2,500.

Jobs also announced that beginning January 7, all new Macintoshes will boot in OS X. OS 9 will still be included and will run fully in Classic. All new Macs will still be able to boot in OS 9, but the

THE VIEW FROM THE STREET

By Michael Henigan, Membership Director (michael_henigan@atlmug.org)

Well, it has been an exciting Macworld so far! The excitement hung in the air as I stood in line in front of the Moscone Convention Center. There were many journalists and photographers there standing in line with me and a slew of other User Group members. Like me, these people were covering the Keynote and dying to see the new hardware as much as anyone.

iMac Photo Courtesy Apple Computer

Two hours later found us running through the halls in order to get a seat in the press section. I got as close as eleven rows from the front, but it was close enough to see Steve Jobs and the products he was showing off.

Steve was vintage Steve, black turleneck and worn jeans (to be honest I do not recall ever seeing him in anything else) and great smile. He talked about updates and touched upon the successes that Apple Computer has had this last year.

He first mentioned the iPod and that in less then 60 days Apple has already sold 125,000 units! Then of course he talked about various software applica-

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Chris Waldrip, President (chris_waldrip@atlmug.org)

Well, here we sit at the beginning of a new year, a new year for both the calendar and for AMUG's Board of Directors. Already we've had some learning curve issues. We tried to fill the vacant seats on the board, but didn't follow the procedures set out in the by-laws like we should have. We're hoping to remedy that as soon as possible.

This highlights two areas that members seem to be somewhat unfamiliar with. How the board operates (and by proxy how the group operates), and what the by-laws are all about.

One of my goals for this year is to increase member awareness of how the group we all belong to operates. This will include news summaries of the monthly board meetings, as well as regular financial updates, both appearing in the newsletter. The board is here to serve the membership and the community, and to use your membership dues in the completion of these tasks.

Most of you may be unaware that as

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Message from the President

current members you're free to attend meetings of the board. I can't say as how there is always something interesting to discuss, but occasionally something comes up. Board meetings can be a great time for a member to put forth a question, suggestion, or comment. You might actually see the board work out a solution and get the ball rolling right then and there.

The ability for members to attend board meetings is laid out in the by-laws. They're posted on the BBS, but might be a bit difficult to find. Feel free to ask a board member for a copy, and we're working on making things a bit easier to find.

I'd like to think that we could reverse the recent trend of apathy found in the membership. Everyone enjoys the monthly general meetings, but AMUG has other activities. We have our primary charity, Lekotek of Georgia (http://www.lekotekga.org); we have our twice annual Maclanta Xpo; and we have special interest groups. We need volunteers for all of these activities.

Our special interest groups (SIGs), in particular, have been lacking in recent years. Currently there are only two SIGs—the New Users SIG, and the Basic Systems Training SIG. Both are great resources for new users, but there are other interests among our membership. We've talked about a Mac OS X SIG, and resurrecting our PowerBook SIG as maybe a Mobile User SIG. And I'm sure there are other common interests among our membership. If you'd like to help organize a SIG please contact Stan Allen, our Education Director.

AMUG's purpose is to serve its membership and the community, but we need support from our membership in order to accomplish this. Please feel free to ask a member of the board how you can help AMUG.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR
Robert Cameron, Newsletter Director
(robert_cameron@atlmug.org)

This is my first public writing since my early years in college, when I had a weekly column in which I was allowed to let my mind wander, spewing forth the most coherent stream-of-consciousness monologue I could muster. I was on the back page, next to the comics. This benefited me because the column was short, and it benefited the reader because if I got long-winded (or lost in my thoughts), Calvin and Hobbes were right next door and much more entertaining.

Fortunately for all of us, this newsletter is not supposed to be full of me. It's supposed to be full of news about Apple and all things Macintosh, about the multiplatform world in which we work (and play), and about the people that use those Macs in that multiplatform world. It's about you and me and the people that show up for the meetings once a month and even the ones out-of-state who connect to the BBS.

With that in mind, this year's newsletters will be different. There will be the big Apple news, of course, as well as our monthly user group activities. But you'll also be able to read useful tips and tricks, more reviews, and highlights of your fellow users.

Unlike a magazine, though, this will require your input. Anyone is free to share news, review products, in short… get involved. You don't have to attend all the meetings, or even any of them. We want product reviews, tips on anything you think is newsworthy. We need contributors more than writers. Don't think because you don't write for a living that we don't want you. If you can put together coherent sentences, this is your chance to get published! Email me at robert_cameron@atlmug.org.

Happy 2002 and welcome to your new newsletter.

IN THE NEWS

Record-Breaking Keynote Webcast
More than 81,000 simultaneous viewers tuned in for the live Internet stream of Steve Jobs' keynote at Macworld Expo 2002 on January 7. They keynote drew a web audience in excess of 160,000, and more than 16.5 gigabits per second of video at the webcast's peak.

Judge Rejects Microsoft Settlement
"Microsoft's proposed settlement compels schools to adopt Microsoft technology. Most educators, along with Apple, think this is simply wrong. Any settlement must guarantee that schools have the freedom to choose, and this requires that Microsoft pay their penalty in cash, not donated Microsoft software which will cost them only pennies on the dollar. A $1 billion cash penalty represents less than 3 percent of Microsoft's $36 billion cash hoard," said Jobs in a statement in December regarding a proposal made by Microsoft Corp. to settle civil a civil case which consolidates several class-action lawsuits which accuse Microsoft of promoting its software over its competitors.

January 11, U. S. District Judge J. Frederick Motz agreed and rejected Microsoft's proposal. In his 19-page ruling, Motz called the proposal "thinly veiled" and suggested that the settlement might be acceptable if Microsoft were to put up the equivalent cash to create a fund in which Microsoft would be an equal competitor.

Microsoft's proposal was to donate nearly a billion dollars in software, refurbished computers, training and technical support to underprivileged schools across the United States. Critics of Microsoft's proposed settlement said it would give Microsoft an unfair advantage over other companies in the educational market and that the company would have too much control over how those goods and services are distributed.

While not the only critic of Microsoft's proposal, Apple was definitely one of the most outspoken.

Mac OS 10.1.2 Released
Apple has posted the latest update to OS X. The update (10.1.2) "delivers improvements and new functionality, as well as expanded peripheral support for Mac OS X." Among the enhancements are improvements to Audio, Display, Speech, Networking and Printing; AirPort 2.0; Apache web server 1.3.22; and AppleScript 1.8.

Use your Software Update control panel to obtain the update.

Napster Prepares to Relaunch Service
Napster is preparing to enter the testing phase of its new service, which now includes software to prevent unauthorized sharing of copyrighted files. The test version is open only to 20,000 people randomly selected from a pool of 2 million volunteers. All 100,000 files that will be used for the file sharing test are licensed for free to Napster by mostly small independent labels. No major music labels have yet signed deals with Napster.

Konrad Hilbers, CEO of Napster, plans to launch the full version of Napster near the end of the first quarter, but not unless it has major-label content. The beta test is free, but once Napster relaunches there will be a monthly charge of $5-$10. The fee will allow 50 downloads per month and an unlimited number of total downloaded files. The files will be either standard MP3 files or .nap files, which are MP3 files with a protection layer added to prevent unauthorized sharing of the files.

Napster is a peer-to-peer file sharing service that has been inactive since summer 2001 due to an injunction placed on the service as part of an ongoing copyright infringement suit brought by major music labels.

iDictate for Mac OS X
MacSpeech announced iDictate for Mac OS X at Macworld Expo San Francisco. A Mac-only speech recognition company, MacSpeech is the creator of iListen (available on for Classic but scheduled for OS X release in the last half of 2002), an application that allows you to dictate directly into almost any Mac application using MacSpeech's "TalkAnywhere" technology. While iListen is powerful software that supports multiple users, iDictate is intended to be simpler and less expensive, with a vocabulary of over 30,000 words. User profiles created with iDictate can be used by iListen in OS 9. Preview versions will be available soon from http://www.macspeech.com.

Adobe Carbonizes Acrobat 5
Adobe released an update for Acrobat, bringing the version to 5.05. This update fixes several small existing issues, adds PDFMaker macro buttons when installed on the same computer as Microsoft Office, and Carbonizes Acrobat so that it will run in OS X. The PDFMaker buttons only appear when run in Classic mode. http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/update.html

Toast 5 Titanium for OS X Released
Toast 5 Titanium, Roxio's popular CD-R mastering software, was released in 2001 for OS 9. Roxio recently released an updater (free to registered users) to extend Toast's capabilities for OS X. Free updates are also planned for the other applications included with Toast 5 Titanium. http://www.roxio.com/en/products/toast/

first thing you see when you take it out of the box will be Aqua, not Platinum.

Software Developer Progress Reports
Jobs introduced a string of software developers to the stage who each gave an account of their respective companies' move toward OS X. Shantanu Narayen, Executive Vice President for Adobe, exhibited Photoshop 7, which is soon to be released. Acrobat Reader 5 and Illustrator 10 have already shipped, and AfterEffects 5.5 has begun shipping. He also announced that InDesign 2.0, GoLive 6.0 and LiveMotion 2.0 will all ship soon.

Tom Bradley, COO of Palm Computing, showed off Palm Desktop 4.0 for OS X (now in public beta and available from http://www.palm.com/macintosh/). Drag and drop is supported between the Mac desktop and Palm Desktop, many commands are available from the Dock, and syncing is now built in. For Macintosh in general, Bradley noted that USB cradles are now included with all new Palms as well as bonus software for the Macintosh.

Mike Evangelist, Director of Marketing for Apple, exhibited Final Cut Pro 3.0. New to this version are the real-time enhancements: titling, effects, and color correction. All effects are software-driven so there is no need for expensive hardware. When inserting transitions, you no longer have to render the file before playback. Final Cut Pro takes advantage of the G4 Velocity Engine to make all this work smoothly, and still is able to run on PowerBooks. No need for big expensive servers to process your video.

Theodore Gray, co-founder of Wolfram Research, showed off Mathematica 4 for OS X. This application, the technical computing equivalent of a word processor, is capable of running complex calculations for days (Gray commented he wouldn't even try this on any other operating system for stability issues). Whether or not you followed his presentation and 3-D rendering of icosohedral properties, you had to agree with him that "Everything looks good in OS X, even math."

Aspyr Media shipped more OS X games in 2001 than any other game

tions and how things were going for OS X. Then he got to the meat of the announcements.

First was the much talked-about, much-rumored missing piece of the Digital Hub, iPhoto. It is such a nice piece of software: Steve took a picture with a digital camera, plugged it into his computer on stage, and iPhoto automatically imported the pictures. He showed off that you can crop them, take out red eye and then use them. The print feature makes it easy to print exactly what you wish at the size you want...at the highest quality by default! This will fit in quite nicely with the rest of the Digital Hub software applications that Apple has brought out over the last eighteen months.

Next Steve spoke about the phenomenal success of the iBooks—Apple has sold 800,000 of them to date. The speeds, configurations, and prices have been changed.

Last but not least was the iMac. Steve was proud to announce that since the inception of the iMac 3 years ago, they have sold over 6 million iMacs. But now we say goodbye to the old and welcome the new iMac.

How impressive and how innovative...truly the most fascinating piece of technology that Apple has come out with for the last several years. As for the rumors of the flat panel display iMacs that people have been predicting for the last 2 Macworlds, they will finally be happy that we finally got just that, and how very cool it is.

The 15-inch flat screen is connected by a swivel arm that lets you raise or lower the screen to the appropriate eye level and even pivot the screen side to side. It comes in 700 and 800 MHz models with prices starting at $1,299.

What about the G5 and the handheld rumors? Sorry folks, not this Macworld...however, we FINALLY got the flat-screen iMacs. An old rumor finally turned out to be the really coolest thing!

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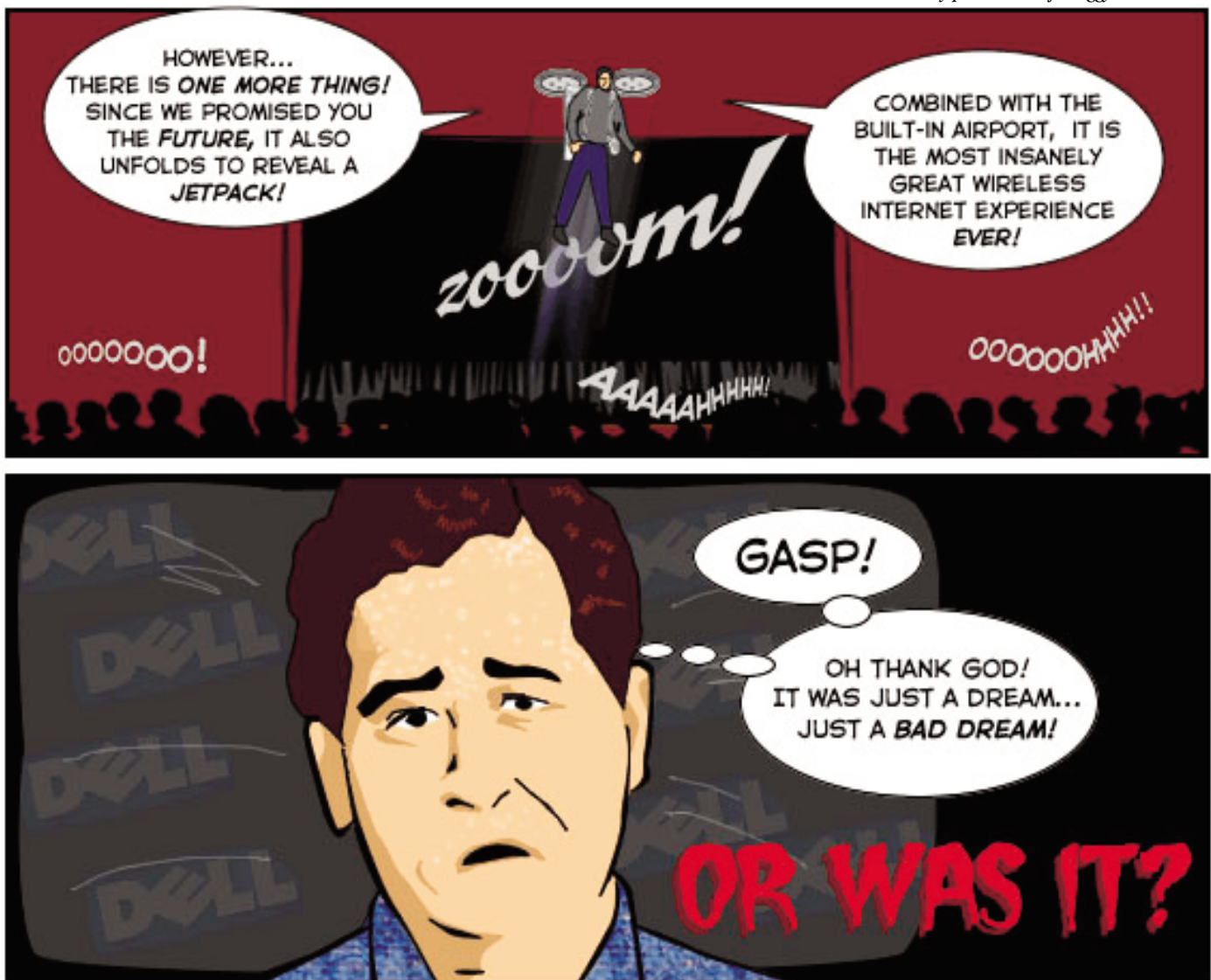
joyoftech.com

Review: Virtual PC 5 for Mac OS X

Chris Waldrip, President
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About this time last year I wrote a review of the then latest release of Connectix's Virtual PC 4. In the interim, Apple has released Mac OS X and Microsoft has released Windows XP and about a zillion security updates. So, if you're one of those unfortunate souls who are forced to use a PC at some point in your day, you're going to appreciate this latest version of Virtual PC.

Connectix first indicated that they were behind Apple's operating system (OS) plans when they released a test drive of Virtual PC for Mac OS X at Macworld in July. This update allowed bleeding-edge Mac users to try Virtual PC while running Mac OS X. Needless to say it worked, but not very well.

Part of Connectix's problem is that Virtual PC isn't written like many of the programs we use daily. Virtual PC is written using a lot of assembly, or low-level, code. They can't simply use pre-written pieces of code found in the OS or APIs, they have to create almost everything from scratch. All of their efforts are made in order to get the best performance out of Windows that can be had (all things considered).

With Virtual PC 5 Connectix is continuing in their long line of quality, performance, ease of use, and features that helped them trounce SoftWindows in the emulator market.

While many users would have been happy with simple support for Mac OS X and expanded support for Windows XP, Connectix has delivered these features—and added many more. New to Virtual PC are features like undoable drives, improved drag & drop, more USB device support, virtual switching and multiple processor support for Mac OS X users, and info panels (or "virtual machines" as

Connectix has started calling them) for each PC you're running.

Multiple OS Support
Users of older versions Virtual PC can get started right away after installation. You're given the option to choose the disk image you'd like to use—either a previous disk image, or a new image if you've installed a full version of Virtual PC 5. And there are several choices of operating systems. You can purchase Virtual PC 5 with PC-DOS, Windows 95,

Windows 98, Windows ME, Windows 2000, Windows NT, or Windows XP. You can also install your own OS of choice, like OS/2 and Linux. Unfortunately Connectix has stopped supporting other more obscure operating systems like BeOS and many flavors of Unix.

New to Connectix's support options is a new Virtual PC forum called Customer Care. Users can browse this section of Connectix's web site and post problems or solutions they've uncovered, as well as read questions and solutions others have posted. Connectix support personnel also surf the forums, and will probably be the first to answer your post.

For users who are unsure of what OS they'll need, Connectix has you covered.

They have released OS Packs. Each package contains a CD with a disk image with the OS indicated pre-installed. All you need to do is step through the final setup wizard, just like a new PC would require. These updates are less expensive than the stand-alone OS package, but Connectix has already gone though the hassle and time of installing the OS.

Mac OS X Features
Connectix has added two features to Virtual PC 5 that are unique to Mac OS X users only. First is the ability of Virtual PC to make use of dual processors. Virtual PC uses the second processor to help update the screen, leaving the first processor to handle the actual code emulation. Neither processor becomes totally maxed out, all due to Mac OS X's multi-threaded support. You're still free to run other programs in the background.

The second feature is called a Virtual Switch. This new feature gives users the ability to connect to other virtual machines they're running in Virtual PC, just like they were other machines on the network. Each virtual machine has its own unique IP address, and shares the bandwidth of your host Mac's network interface. Users can now share and access files on other running virtual machines, or use one machine as a test web server and access it from another virtual machine, or any number of things.

Undo Windows?
One of the best uses of Virtual PC is as a test platform. Many system administrators, support personnel, and even home users love the ability to make a duplicate of their PC disk image, and be able to test questionable software installations and combinations on this backup image. Unfortunately this can be somewhat of a disk hog. Connectix has added a new

feature to meet this need of some users: undoable drives.

With this new feature you can opt to have Virtual PC ask you if you'd like to save changes you've made to your hard disk image when you quit or if you stop using that drive image. By default this feature is off, but can be easily turned on. How does it work? While you're working, Virtual PC saves all the changes you make to a special undo file, also called a cache file. If you're satisfied with the work you've done then you can have Connectix save these changes, or if you've destroyed the contents of your PC you can throw the disaster out and return to what you started with.

One potential problem with this feature though is what happens in the event of a power outage or a crash. I suspect that the changes you made would be gone if you had the undo option turned on. Normally changes are made immediately to the disk image. I was unable to test whether or not the cache file can be used upon restarting the app. Logic would suggest that the file is either discarded or unrecognizable, but I can't say for sure.
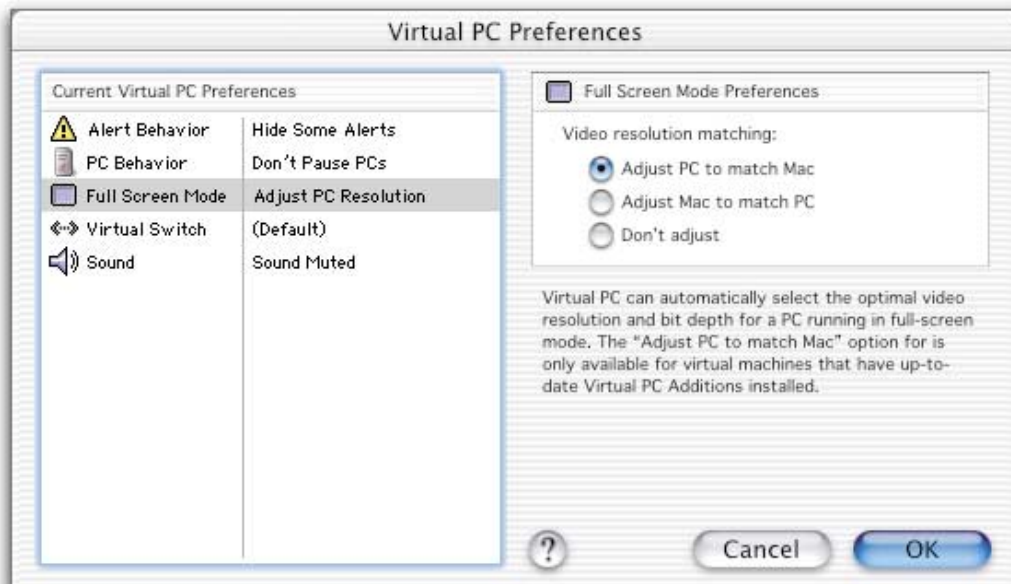
Displayed Before Your Eyes
With the release of the odd–shaped screen of the Titanium PowerBook (a.k.a. TiBook) Connectix had to release an update to their previous version of Virtual PC. It seems that they haven't stopped there, though. New to Virtual PC 5 is the ability to resize your screen merely by grabbing the bottom left

corner, if you're in window mode, and resizing the window like we're all used to. The window will snap to commonly–used resolutions, such as 640x480 and 800x600, and will also let you use custom sizes as well. You should keep in mind that the window will resize if you run an application that wants to change the resolution. For users who prefer the speed and look of running in full–screen mode, you should know that Connectix has changed the modifier key.

Connectix has also added support for additional Windows keys commonly found on PC keyboards. You can configure the right–click key found on a PC keyboard to any key on your Mac keyboard, as well as other PC keys.

Part of the new functionality between Virtual PC and Windows can be obtained from the Virtual PC additions package. This package contains drivers and other features Virtual PC needs for Windows to play nice with your Mac. The latest additions package adds additional support for all of the various flavors of Windows, as well as new support for Windows XP. Installation of Windows XP was a major hassle for many Virtual PC 4 users.

Get To Know Your Virtual Machine
Users who want more information about their various virtual machines can

now see this in an info window. The window offers many pieces of information, from the version of the OS they're running to how large the disk image is, as well as the memory usage of Virtual PC and the virtual machine. The pie chart that appears will show you the memory used by your virtual machine's operating system, the virtual memory being used by it, and the amount used by Virtual PC itself; all very handy pieces of info for those lacking lots of memory.

The biggest issue for many users, though, is performance. Connectix has improved how Virtual PC displays the virtual machine's interface, making it seem "snappier" as they put it. With Virtual PC being built using some of the lowest level programming out there, it's hard to see how they can actually increase performance by much. Improved handling of on-screen graphics is one step in that direction, and the
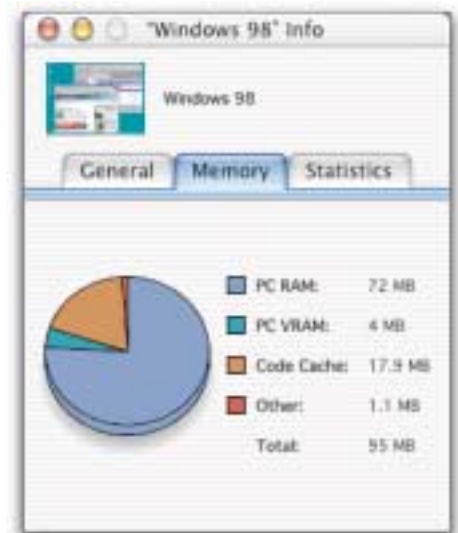
use of multi-processors in this area is a big help as well. The biggest factor in

DECEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

Stan Allen, Education Director
(stan_allen@atlmug.org)

The AMUG December Meeting and Holiday Party was held at our usual facility at Macquarium in Midtown Atlanta. It was a great time to get together and enjoy the holiday season with other members of the group. It is also a time to look ahead to the future and the year 2002.

Our meeting did not feature a presenter, but some club business was conducted regarding the AMUG board for 2002. There were some unfilled board positions left after the regular elections held last month, so the board was busy recruiting members to fill the slots for vice-president, secretary and telecom Director. The board presented nominees at the meeting and a membership vote was held. All nominees were elected by the attending membership.

Unfortunately, the board unknowingly acted in an incorrect manner according to our group by-laws. It was brought to the attention of the board after the meeting that our by-laws state

that 30 days notice must be given before a special election for board members can be held. We will need to have another vote at our February meeting to officially finalize the AMUG board for 2002. The board apologizes for the mistake and hopes to always act in a manner according to the by-laws.

After club business, everyone had a great time partying together for the rest of the evening. There were some refreshments provided and some members shared their favorite holiday recipes for the event. It's been a great year for the group and expectations are high for an even better year in 2002.

Special Notice

Recently the old dialup number for the BBS (404-727-2400) was finally discontinued. This number simply redirected callers to the current number. Members should make a note to change their dialup number to the current number, 770-386-7970.

Members with questions, concerns, or needing help should contact our system operators (ops@atlmug.org).

AMUG's Holiday Party 2001

Cake, Coke, chips, dip, veggies, dip...and of course the socializing.

Next Meeting: January 15, 2002

Stan Allen, Education Director
(stan_allen@atlmug.org)

We're starting 2002 off right with the return of Apple for our January meeting. Jack Quattlebaum will return and give us all the latest news from Macworld in San Francisco. The AMUG professional networking social will return as well.

The meeting will be on Tuesday, January 15th at Macquarium. The Social will begin at 6:15 pm. There will be a quick 15 minute Q&A session at 7:15 pm and Jack's prsentation will begin around 7:30 pm. The meeting will conclude at 9 pm with a giveaway of door prizes.

On a personal note, it's been a lot of fun for me to serve as Program Director this last year. We had some good meetings with some wonderful presentation. The last Maclanta Xpo was really a blast to do as well. I hope the group had some fun and learned a few things as well.

This year I will be working as Edu-cation Director to plan some special educational activities for the new year. I will be doing some live educational events and even some online education using our Web Site. If you are a member and feel you have some specific Mac skills and are willing to share them with others, please get in touch so I can enlist your help in putting together some quality Educational programs for AMUG. Remember, AMUG's mission is to educate, so GET INVOLVED!

Contact me at stan_allen@atlmug.org. Happy new Year!

Call for Nominations

Notice is hereby given that the executive positions of Vice President and Secretary are vacant. The board is now accepting nominations from the membership for candidates. Those interested should contact Chris Waldrip, AMUG President (chris_waldrip@atlmug.org). The board will review all nominations and present the board's list of candidates at the February general meeting.

Call for Volunteers for Audit Committee

The Board of Directors is looking for three members to volunteer to form an audit committee, pursuant to Article XII, Section 1 of the by-laws.

At their combined earliest convenience the members of the annual audit committee will meet with Kelly Hilliard, Treasurer, to review the past year's finances.

Upon the satisfaction of the committee a short report will be submitted to the board in writing. That report will be presented to the membership at the next regularly scheduled general meeting and in the newsletter.

Members interested in serving on the audit committee should contact Chris Waldrip, AMUG President (chris_waldrip@atlmug.org).

AMUG Meeting Schedule
General Meetings
(Generally held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month)

01/15/02 – Apple; Jack Quattlebaum, guest speaker
02/19/02 – Home networking (file sharing//DSL/Cable/wireless)
03/19/02 – FileMaker
03/23/02 – Maclanta Xpo 2.0
04/16/02 – Adobe
05/21/02 – Andy Ihnatko
06/18/02 – Macromedia
07/16/02 – PDAs
08/20/02 –Apple Computer Macworld update
09/17/02 –Genealogy
09/28/02 – Maclanta Xpo 2.5
10/15/02 – Buying & selling online (eBay and other sites)
11/19/02 – Cool gadgets and games for your Mac
12/17/02 – Holiday party and iTools (how to make a home page)

Board of Directors Meetings
(Generally held on the 1st Wednesday of the month)

01/02/02	07/03/02
02/06/02	08/07/02
03/06/02	09/04/02
04/03/02	10/02/02
05/01/02	11/06/02
06/05/02	12/04/02

Note: Remember, all dates and topics are subject to change. Please check the web site and online community for updates. All general meetings, except for the Maclanta Xpo, are at Macquarium, and all board meetings are held at Saint Joseph's Hospital's Education Center unless otherwise noted.

2002 SIG Schedule

01/05/02 – New User SIG
01/19/02 – Basic Systems Training

02/02/02 – New User SIG
02/16/02 – Basic Systems Training

03/02/02 – New User SIG
03/16/02 – Basic Systems Training

04/06/02 – New User SIG
04/20/02 – Basic Systems Training

05/04/02 – New User SIG
05/18/02 – Basic Systems Training

06/01/02 – New User SIG
06/15/02 – Basic Systems Training

producer, and to show off their product line, Aspyr Media's president Mike Rogers took the stage. Aspyr had introduced ten games, including Escape from Monkey Island, Alice, and Tony Hawk's Pro Skater. Now added to the list is Harry Potter and the Sorceror's Stone, in which you play the role of Harry and explore the school and its secrets. The game will be available by the end of January. Also to be released (in the first part of 2002) are The Sims: Hot Date and Star Wars: Galactic Battlegrounds.

To close the third-party vendor segment of the presentation, Jobs introduced Dan Gregoire, Animatics Supervisor of Lucasfilm. Gregoire showed how his team uses Macintosh to generate previsuals for George Lucas to look over before they begin fully developing the shots. Specifically, they use Maya for OS X to render the scene in a single layer. This is then brought into AfterEffects to add layers of lighting and special effects. This process allows Lucas to make decisions long before postproduction.

The Digital Hub

Jobs unveiled Apple's strategy: that personal computers will become the center, the digital hub, of our "new digital lifestyle". As MP3 players, digital cameras, DVD players, and digital camcorders proliferate, there will be a need for a unifying device, and Apple believes the computer will become the center of all these devices. Apple has been releasing software to make that happen: iTunes for MP3 playback (8 million copies of iTunes have been distributed), iMovie for working with video, and iDVD for creating DVDs.

Enter iPhoto, the newest software application from Apple. This single application does what you previously needed several applications to accomplish. Plug in your digital camera and iPhoto automatically imports the files into a "library" (equivalent of a roll of

film). Editing and cropping can be done within iPhoto, or you can set a preference to have your favorite graphics application handle the editing. iPhoto uses a special print panel that simplifies the myriad printer settings into one easy-to-use interface, and incorporates the latest ColorSync technology to preserve colors. iPhoto shares a very nice feature with iTunes: they're both free from Apple's website.

Save, Organize, Share

If you have used iTunes and are familiar with creating playlists, you will quickly pick up on iPhoto. Photos are arranged by library on the left, and thumbnail of all photos in the library appear on the right. You can dynamically shrink or enlarge all thumbnails to get a better view. To organize your files, you can create photo albums (think iTunes playlists), as simple as drag and drop. You can also save these photo albums as Slide Shows, upload to a web page hosted in iTools by Apple (free), and order hard-bound photo albums from Kodak through Apple, using Apple's "one-click" technology.

iBook Revisited

Jobs announced the introduction of a new iBook model: a 14.1" screen, 2 inches larger than the other iBook models. The 12.1" iBooks still come in three configurations (CD-ROM, DVD, or Combo drive, $1199–$1499). The new 14.1" iBook matches the previous high-end iBook's G3 processor at 600 MHz, but doubles the memory to 256 MB. It also features a max six-hour battery life, as opposed to the five-hour battery life of lower-end models, and is only 5.9 pounds, one pound heavier than previous models. This new iBook, priced at $1799 will be the high-end of its series with its Combo (CD-RW and DVD) drive. In February the older models will be phased out as newer models are introduced; by the end of March all iBooks will have 14.1" screens).

iMac 2.0

The iMac was first released in May 1998, and 6 million have been sold since then. At Macworld Expo 2002 Steve Jobs introduced the first major revision to the iMac model in three years, designed to be the digital hub of Apple's strategy. The iMac consists of three parts: a dome-shaped base (which resembles the AirPort basestation) which houses all of the internal components, CD tray, and ports; a 15" completely flat LCD screen; and an arm connecting the screen to the base. The arm allows the screen to pivot up and down almost 90 degrees and swivel side to side.

The flat screen is standard across the line, as is a G4 chip with Velocity Engine (700 or 800 MHz). It has three USB ports and two FireWire ports, and all ports including power supply and speakers are in the back. The tray-loading optical drive—your choice of CD-RW, DVD-ROM/CD-RW Combo drive or DVD-R/CD-RW SuperDrive—is in the front. The base itself is less than 11" across. To upgrade the iMac, you simply remove four screws from its base. It is AirPort-ready, supports up to 1 GB of memory and includes a 40 or 60 GB hard drive. On top of all that, the low-end model starts at $1299. If you want to be the first customer, though, you're out of luck: Genentech, a biotech company, has already placed the first order for the flat-screen iMacs...1,000 of them.

Although 2001 was a rough year for many tech companies, Apple Computer has kept itself busy focusing on what it is betting will be the new way of living in the Computer Age: powerful yet low-cost computers at the center of an assortment of digital devices that we will use at work and at play. For Apple to be successful in this venture, though, it will have to keep itself from innovating too far ahead of its customer base. 🖐

REVIEW: FRUITMENU 1.1 FOR OS X

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There is a laundry list of "features" that were taken out of the Mac OS in the jump to version 10. One of these features is the ability to customize the Apple Menu, a feature present since the advent of System 7.0.

Mind you, people were customizing the Apple Menu before that with the help of utilities like NOW Utilities, and even after the addition of this feature in the Mac OS, since Apple's own way of customizing the Apple Menu was anemic compared to the other utilities. I myself was a longtime user of NOW Menus, and later switched to BeHeirarchic when NOW was orphaned during the upgrade to Mac OS 8.

Finally, a utility has been released by Unsanity Software that will be an answer to many Mac users' prayers. Unsanity (http://www.unsanity.com) is the maker of other Classic Mac feature hacks—dubbed "Haxies"—such as WindowShade X and ShadowKiller. With the release of FruitMenu, the Apple Menu is inviting once again.

This software is excellent. Apple should purchase the rights to wrap all of Unsanity's utilities into future OSes—that's how the original Apple Menu Items and WindowShade control panels got their start.

Details, Details

Essentially, FruitMenu is a PrefPane—loaded into /Library/PreferencePanes. It appears in the "other" category in the System Preferences. However, you will probably never have to wade through the "categories" in System Prefs again, because as soon as you activate the FruitMenu, you will have a hierarchical submenu of all your PrefPanes, as in the old Apple Menu.

The crown jewel is the FruitMenu Items folder. This folder is located in your home folder's /Library directory, and here is where you can place aliases to folders, or folders full of aliases, or items, scripts, whatever you like. Items placed in this folder appear in the Apple Menu, just like they used to.

You can also rearrange the sort order of your menu items, and do things like group all your system services (restart,

shut down, sleep, force quit) into a submenu, if you desire, to shorten the menu considerably. You can add dividers between any item, and make your Apple Menu totally "You."

The Fruits of Unsanity's Labor

As of this writing, this version of Fruit-Menu has been out for a little over a week. In that time, Unsanity has already released version 1.1 of the product. This revision improved the load time and responsiveness of the submenus, and cleaned up a couple of glitches. They have also taken extensive user feedback on desired features and practically doubled its original feature set, including the ability to change the sort order and add separators, and the making of FruitMenu a PrefPane (it originally started in version 1.0 as an App).

Commercial software developers—Apple included—should take a lesson from this company in responsiveness to feature requests. The PrefPane is just under 700k in size, and uses 2,432k of physical memory. Since the FruitMenu Items folder is located in the user's home directory, this means multiple users can have different setups for their Apple Menu, or just the original Menu, and these settings change as different users log in.

My list of downsides on this utility is short. Submenus could be a little more responsive. This can be worked around by turning off submenus' icons in the settings, but I personally have a prefer to see the icons in my menus. BeHeirarchic and NOW Menus used an icon cache to speed this up in the Classic Mac OS. I would love to see the addition of a "Recent Servers" menu item if it's somehow possible. And finally, the installer installs the PrefPane in the Home/Library/ PreferencePanes/ directory, which only allows the user who installed it to use it. I manually moved the file into the Library/PreferencePanes directory on the root level of the disk, so that multiple users can see the preference pane without having to install it multiple times.

There are those, including Apple, who say that the Apple Menu is unnecessary with the introduction of the Dock. FruitMenu is a deliverance for those who disagree, and is probably destined to become as widely installed on OS X as NOW Menus was in the Classic Mac OS.

TIPS AND TRICKS

Here's a useful tip to save you some time and hard disk space.

Apple recently released the following packages via Software Update:
Canon Printer Drivers
(7.5 MB)
Epson European Printer Drivers
(30.8 MB)
Epson Japanese Printer Drivers
(34.3 MB)
Epson US Model Printer Drivers
(29.4 MB)
HP Deskjet and PhotoSmart Printer Drivers (9.4 MB)

That's 111.4 MB of drivers that you more than likely don't need. And there are at least two of those installations that you don't need. So how do you keep from downloading them and looking at them in your list forever?

Highlight (you can shift-click to select more than one) the items you **don't** want to install. Then go to the Update menu and select "Make Inactive".

Software Update will remember that you don't want to download these updates, and won't show them to you again. If, say, you move to Japan and need the Japanese printer drivers from Epson, you can go back to the Update menu and choose "Show Inactive Updates". Now you can select the packages you finally want to install.

Submitted by Chris Waldrip
President, Atlanta Macintosh Users Group

Q: You're using Mac OS 10. You run Software Update and it presents you with a list of software to download. If you download/install an item, the next time you run Software Update it does not show in the list. How do you get it to show up so you can re-download it?

A: Software Update keeps a record of every item it downloads. Open your hard drive, then go to "Library" (the Library folder in your root directory) then "Receipts." Find the item you want Software Update to re-install and move it to the Trash. The next time you run Software Update, it will show up in the list.

This question was asked at a recent AMUG general meeting. If you have a question or a tip to share, come to the meeting and ask!

AMUG's New Look

The Atlanta Macintosh Users Group's website is getting a facelift! The new design will make it easier to quickly find the latest information about upcoming meetings and classes and the group in general. We are also adding new features to the website. like a TechTracker feed for the most recent software updates, and Apple's current stock price. To keep you better informed we will also have our by-laws and Board minutes available.

The new design will hopefully make its first appearance in February. The screenshot on this page is a sample. We want to make our new website easy,friendly, and useful to you, so if you have any ideas, comments, complaints, or suggestions, we want to know! Please send feedback to Todd Johnson, our Telecom Director, at todd_johnson@atlmug.org.

In The News

Audio CD Copy Protection Prevents Playback on Macs

Universal Music Group began using a controversial copy protection scheme in December. The first audio CD to include the copy-protection is the "Fast & Furious—More Music" soundtrack. The copy protection is designed to prevent the music on the CD from being converted to MP3 or duplicated on another CD. Universal Music Group plans to use the copy-protection on all its CD by the middle of 2002. Universal Music Group is willing to refund money to unhappy purchasers, but many retail stores have strict no-return policies regardless.

While the copy-protection scheme is at odds with personal liberties as voiced by consumer advocacy groups, of concern to Mac users is that the software on the disc renders the CD completely unplayable on Macintosh. Similar copy-protection schemes are also known to cause playback problems on certain audio CD players.

Opera 5.0 and Internet Explorer 5.1 for Classic

Microsoft has released Internet Explorer 5.1 for Classic. Microsoft reports that this update "is much lighter on its feet, with plenty of bug fixes and impressive new stability and versatility." IE 5.1 is free. http://www.microsoft.com/mac/

Opera Software has released Opera 5.0 for Classic. Opera sports a cookie manager, a sophisticated hotlist, a monitor for multiple downloads, and support for keychains. Opera also features extensive keyboard shortcuts and turning on or off image and document settings with a quick keystroke. Available from http://www.opera.com/mac/. It is free as an ad-sponsored version, or you can register for $39 to remove the banner ads.

Mac OS X to be Default OS

Beginning January 7, all new Macs will boot in Mac OS X. OS 9 will still be installed and bootable.

Photoshop 7 for Mac OS X—Soon

Adobe announced at Macworld that Photoshop 7 for Mac OS X is "real and almost here.".

the speed of Virtual PC, though, will be the amount of RAM you have in your machine, and the overall speed of your machine. With faster Macs on the **very** near horizon you can expect to see speed increases in Virtual PC, but only with new hardware.

For many users this is fine. Virtual PC has never been advertised as a passable gaming platform alternative. But for users who have needed to see their web pages on a PC, or needed to test PC software in a controlled method, or needed to run some unique (or required) PC program, Virtual PC has been the easiest and fastest PC emulator out there.

Even with all the new features in Virtual PC, there are areas where we can expect to see advances in future releases: Better use of Mac OS X's unique features, improved compatibility between the PC and the Mac, and even some small speed improvements. Whether these are small, free updates, or will be held for a full update in the future only Connectix knows. But Virtual PC 5 is a great update, and offers more features than many users were expecting.

Advertise in Maclanta

With a membership of well over 300, and with the availability of Maclanta on the World Wide Web, there is great advertising potential.

Ad Rates

	1 issue	3 issues	6 issues	12 issues
Full page	$80	$160 ($53/iss)	$300 ($50/iss)	$560 ($47/iss)
1/2 page	$40	$80 ($27/iss)	$140 ($23/iss)	$250 ($20/iss)
1/4 page	$25	$50 ($17/iss)	$90 ($15/iss)	$175 ($14/iss)
1/8 page	$15	$30 ($10/iss)	$50 ($8/iss)	$90 ($7.50/iss)

Sizes (W x H):
Full page   7.5" x 10"
1/2 page   7.5" x 5"
1/4 page   3.75" x 5"
1/8 page   3.75" x 2.5"

Website Banner Ads

Prices are the same as for 1/4 page print

Maximum size of a banner ad is 140 pixels W x 300 pixels H

Banner ads appear on every page on the left or right side, never the top.

All artwork for print ads should be in EPS format. We can also accept PDF, TIFF, or very high quality JPG.
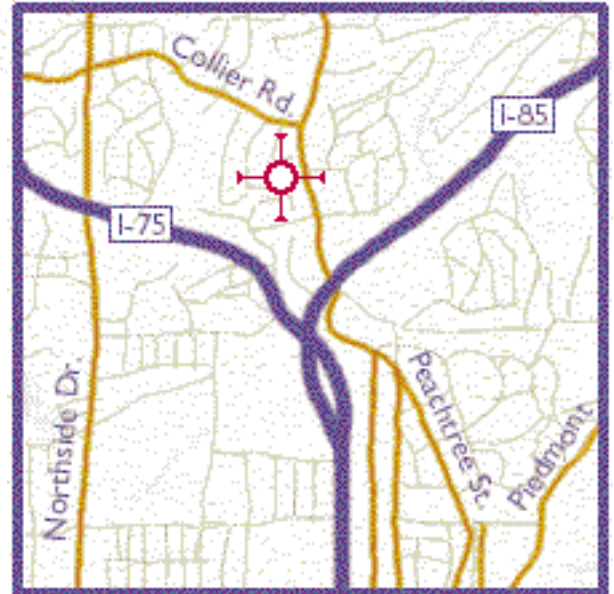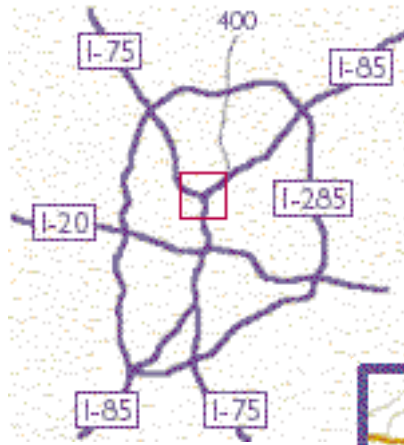
Website banner ads must be in GIF or JPG format. Animated GIFs are acceptable.

AMUG meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at Macquarium (1800 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 250; 404-554-4000).

Meetings start at 7 pm and consist of a 30-minute Q & A session followed by a major presenter and then a raffle for free software, hardware, and stuff.

Go to http://www.amugonline.org/meetings/ for detailed driving directions.

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