PRACTICE POINTS

Our Product

Our latest product, version "k" has been compiled on a new version of the engine which is known to address a number of low level issues. Please contact us for an update if you are running an earlier copy. Acrobat Reader 6 is also on our current release CD.

Third Party Products

Last issue we promised to cover some third party products to enhance your Macintosh experience, but as noted, some of these will indeed be made redundant by the new **Leopard** Mac OSX, so I will point those out as we go.

1• **DragThing** This great utility allows me to recreate an Apple "Dock" on the left side of my screen, providing greatly enhanced file, folder and applications access. Both my Apple "Dock" and the "DragThing" dock hide from view until the mouse cursor goes over them, which allows me to have a completely empty desktop. Here is my "DragThing" dock. From top to bottom :-

"Apple" menu -> access to Calculator, Printer, Etc.
Applications -> providing access to Mac Applications, Home Applications, Etc
Communications -> Network, Internet, Fax, Etc.
My Folder -> All my general files and documents.
Spreadsheets -> a folder just for spreadsheets.
Spreadsheet -> A single spreadsheet document.
Folders -> Generic folders can have a special icon such as the "Cookie Monster" or be colored as per the yellow and orange examples.
Screw Driver -> system utilities, third party tools and technical applications.
Stuffit + Compression -> You may also populate this dock with any number of applications, just as you do the "Apple" Dock.

Mac OSX

Apple's new Mac OSX - **Leopard** - will probably be released at the Jan/07 MacWorld Expo. Some of the new features are:
 • Full 64 bit support on Intel Core 2 duo Macs.
 • 64 bit support at the application level.
 • **Boot Camp** - MsWindows support will be integrated into Mac OSX.
 • **Time Machine** - Automatic backup of your files and system.
 • **Spaces** - For multiple screens and work environments.
 • **Spotlight** - Searching on other Macs and Servers, Advanced Searches, Recent Items and for Applications Launching.
 • **Core Animation** - Major enhancements to 3D animation capabilities.
 • **Mail** - Multi-media support and templates.
 • **Notes & ToDos** - at the system level.
 • **Dashcode** - for easy widget creation.
 • **WebClips** - for turning any web object / item into a widget.

There are also improvements to **iChat**, Access and Parental Controls... plus some unannounced surprises.
                    - Go Apple ! -

2•   **Virtual Desktop** This utility allows multiple desktops, each assigned to different applications. A great time saver if connected to the net and you are running a range of applications including Web Browsing, E-mail, Word Processing, iTunes, Calendar and Contacts, Etc. Switch desktops via function keys and drag windows between desktops, plus control via the menu bar.   Here is mine in "Full Flight"...

See page one regarding inclusion in "Leopard".

3•   **Media Central** This utility allows you to have **Front Row** functionality on earlier Macs which do not have a remote control, nor the supporting software.

4•   **Sticky Brain** This application allows you to capture information in any format (text, movies, photos, web addresses, etc) and store them away in a database which can be searched very quickly, as it uses and is integrated with the "Spotlight" technology.

5•   **Microsoft Mouse**   This driver controls your Microsoft Mouse... um, well... see Microsoft do actually make something good, as I have not used an Apple Mouse for over 6 years.
However, you might like to check out Apple's new **Mighty Mouse**, which has had a very good reception.

Great Apple Products

All **iMacs** now use the new Core 2 Duo chips... ready for **Leopard**. The **iTunes** store now provides movie downloads, supported by the new **iTunes 7** with improved user interfacing, and built in **iPod** support.
All of Apple's **iPods** have been upgraded... most notably for increased capacity and much better battery life. Video support is now at 640 * 480 resolution for near DVD quality. **QuickTime 7.1.3** makes this possible. Apple have also pre-announced their **iTV** media machine which will run **Front Row** to wirelessly stream and control all your multimedia from your Mac (iTunes, iPhoto, Movies, Podcasts, Etc) to your home Hi-Fi and T.V. systems. It will be available early next year (us$299). You can just see the **iTV**... a little sliver of a box under the right hand corner of the T.V. screen, which is showing the **Front Row** software running via the Apple remote, wirelessly getting movies off your **iMac** to the **iTV** unit, which then feeds it to the television screen. In the same way, you will be able to feed your music to your TV / Hi-Fi, or present an **iPhoto** slide show.

Until the next issue...

Contacting Us

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