PRACTICE POINTS

Our Product • ThePractitioner

New Version

We are pleased to announce that our DVD now ships with a non-clinical/medical version, which is better suited to clients wanting to run a general business.

Generally

The current version is U4, running on **4D SQL version 11.4** (60146). This requires **MacOSX Leopard** running on an **Intel** chip and all clients are urged to upgrade to this as soon possible.

The new package has many more capabilities and simplifies updating and support. New plug-in modules provide spell checking, sound support, communications and web functions, and improve import / export compatibilities. New indexing provides greatly improved stability and eliminates 80% of typical data problems. Your data will need to be stripped of its indexes and then compressed.

For clients running on **PowerPC** computers, the old version has now been upgraded to include as many of the new features as possible, but it will no longer be updated or supported.   A special build of **4D SQL** has been made to support **MacOSX Tiger**. The minimum MacOS version for that is **10.4.11**. **ThePractitioner** version is Uz, running on **4D SQL version 11.3** (55538). We have yet to test this configuration for stability... so watch this space.

New Features

The package now allows for the importing and updating of a number of supporting files. This capability has been implemented as an Administrator function. Also for reading our on-line manuals, **Acrobat Reader 8.1.6** is on our DVD.

Fixes...

A new **MacOSX** compatible Barcode font, **IDAutomationHC39M**, is now in use. The old **Bar Code 39** font is still in our **Utilities** folder where you can also find a host of general upgrades and utilities for your **MacOSX** platform.

As **MacOSX Leopard** no longer handles a Segway, Solidus or Option-Character symbol (such as f) the same way as the original **PowerPC / Tiger** system, it has been necessary to recode all the data exporting and file creation routines to use a new naming convention. Please note that all reporting and exporting in future, will be using the new **Exports** folder, and clients are reminded to rename their main folder to **TheP Folder .**

The**Vault**

A >Hot< menu, populated via a new ((Hot)) button setting, plus a pop-up menu now allows you to display a current set of suppliers and passwords, without needing to drill down into your records. A more thorough procedure for exiting **TheVault** has been implemented, and this version is included on our release DVD.

Mac OSX

Snow Leopard... had an early Aug-28 release. Rosetta support is optional and capacity calculations are now decimal, so a 1 TB HD shows as 1,000... while a 640 Gb HD shows as 640,00...

iLife '09... is worth the upgrade, just for the **iPhoto** improvements, which now includes **Faces** and **Places** recognition and grouping.

iWork '09... is handy if someone sends you a .pps slide show, let **Keynote** open it for you.

Steve Jobs has been working on a tablet device and we may see it before Christmas, or more likely by Q1-2010.

iPhone... ARM's A8 and A9 chip sets support dual and quad processing.

iTunes version 8.2.1

Safari 4.0.3 , all good... but if I get a site that has problems with Safari, I keep **Firefox 3.0.4** on hand as an alternative.

App Store... There is talk of an interface redesign to help with categorizing items and improved shopping, via keyword searches. Downloads are now at 1.5 Billion, and rolling along.

If you have a **MobileMe** account, and an **iPhone** or **iPod Touch,** you will definitely want to download **Apple's** free **MobileMe iDisk** application.

USB 3 is in development, and will probably replace **FireWire** on all future products ... and ... New **Macs** are likely to have **BlueRay** disk support.

- Go Apple ! -

Some Thoughts on an Apple Tablet

Snow Leopard can now be mostly operated via touch technology, think of the MacBook Air merged with an **iPod Touch** - remove the keyboard, hinged screen and hard disk but include all connectivity technology and software. A table device would be connected to the massively successful **App Store** and could become a major transition to the way the Internet is used. New **Mi-Fi** technology will enable permanent **Wi-Fi** connections, so the trend of communication technology is being routed away from wireless cellphone carriers and towards the Internet. **Skype** makes phone calls over an internet connection, and through the use of **Apple's iChat** you can communicate by video.

It is unlikely that there will be an exclusive carrier... note the unlocked **iPhone 3GS** in Australia. With no coverage charges or hidden fees, you just pay for your Internet connection and communicate at will. A camera and a microphone will make this capability a reality. The device will also be able to operate like **Amazon's Kindle** e-book reader, and by next year the newspaper industry will start its decline. A high-res screen would make it an amazing movie device and I suspect that they will struggle to produce enough of these to meet the demand. Here are some mock-ups...

New additions

Until the next issue...

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