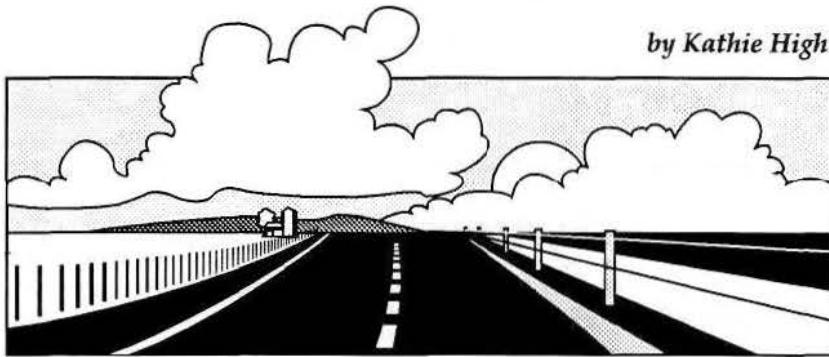


October 1994

To Internet — or Not to Internet? That is the Question

by Kathie Hightower



Is it just me or is all this Internet, Information Super highway, a.k.a. the Net, confusing — and a bit overwhelming? Okay, so I've heard Al Gore say we all need to get on the Information Superhighway, I keep reading terms like "surfing the Internet," I see ads for all-day conferences on the Internet. But am I convinced I need to get on this highway? Not yet. Especially not while I'm in Germany. Or is that just an excuse?

Everyone I talk to sounds just as busy as me — overextended and overcommitted workwise, volunteerwise, socialwise and at home. (Not to mention spending time trying to learn that new computer software.) Like so many of my peers, I'm working hard to simplify my life, to slow down, to "decelerate" as the new terminology goes, to achieve some balance in life and some time for myself. Doesn't joining the Superhighway just negate all of those efforts? Won't it just speed my life up tremendously — and, oh, by the way, cost me a fortune in the process? Or, by not joining in, am I going to be left behind?

Now, I don't consider myself completely computer illiterate. Okay, so I mostly use my computer for word processing. But I do use the desktop publishing capabilities to some degree and I do use Quicken. And I have been online in the past. Before moving to Germany, I used first Prodigy and then America On Line, or AOL as we users called it. I enjoyed the easy access to all kinds of information. But when I thought about it later, especially after I saw the bill, I sometimes wondered if I couldn't as easily have found the same information with a short trip to the library — for free. I found myself spending hours in those conversation or chat rooms. It was fascinating and somewhat addictive. But was it really any better than vegging out in front of the TV — another habit I try to avoid. Wouldn't it be more satisfying to talk and laugh with friends, in person?

I do see the wonderful benefits of these online programs for those individuals who are housebound. I can also see where I could probably get all kinds of really valuable information and advice

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Mac SIG

by Nick Shestope

The big news is that System 7.5 is on the street. And as members of a User Group, we are eligible to purchase it for half price. Buy it for \$49 when you send in your order with a coupon. Call or talk to Jim Clark at 06202-24936 or Nick Shestope, work 370-6962 or home, 06272-3654, to obtain a coupon.

Based on your interest, I have been working to get Hewlett Packard to demonstrate some of the latest printers, such as the Color DeskWriter and the new Laserjet. As of this writing, an October demo does not look promising. But I haven't given up yet. Keep your fingers crossed.

I ask you to come to the October meeting prepared with topic suggestions. We will vote on which topics to schedule for discussion/presentation

at future SIG meetings. That will help members to plan ahead to bring in our questions and "show and tell." It will give me a chance to line up presenters early to give them preparation time. What hardware or software or general topic area do you have questions about. Bring in your ideas so that the SIG meetings will be more valuable to you.

Greetings from the Portland MUG

I just spent five weeks in Oregon on business. I met the founder of the Portland Mac Users Group—the largest group in the country for a city that size. It's interesting to see what a group that size can offer. Their "newsletter" is more like magazine with a one to four color cover, a staff of 21 (all volunteers, I expect), including lots of Mac business and product ads as well as information. They have a Bulletin Board System, a store, a PMUG College and a biannual MacCamp! (At which everyone brings their computers, networks them together and spends three intensive days learning by doing and sharing!) The "college" classes are free with membership and take place every Wednesday evening with titles ranging from Intro to Mac, I and II, to INITs and cdevs to The Master Classes. If you aren't green with envy yet, stop by and look at some of their newsletters at the next meeting. I'm excerpting one of the articles (excerpted from another publication) in this month's newsletter.

System 7.5 An Overview of Apple's System Upgrade

by Ken Maki

*Reprinted courtesy of MacNews, the Australian Macintosh Business Magazine and Mouse Tracks, the Journal of the Portland Macintosh Users Group.
(abbreviated for space)*

ENHANCEMENTS

System 7.5 incorporates Apple's recent System Update 3.0 and then goes on to provide additional performance enhancements. First off, Apple has sped up Finder copying, application launching, application switching, and menu access. There's also a new SCSI manager for improved connectivity with hard disks and other

peripheral devices. Hard disks up to 4 Gb will now be supported. For those of you with older Macs, that's equivalent to about five million double-density floppy disks! One of the most welcome enhancement is the Universal Enabler. Gone, I say, gone are all of those nasty, incomprehensible enablers.

NEW (AND ALMOST NEW) TECHNOLOGIES

In System 7.5, Apple has bundled almost all of their existing System technologies, such as PowerTalk, MacTCP, and other utilities that were previously sold separately. The new system also includes new technologies called QuickDraw GX, AppleGuide, and Drag and Drop. Many of the advancements we've been waiting for are included, but not all of them. Still lacking are protected memory and

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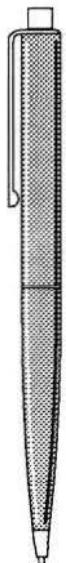
RNAUG Officers and Points of Contact

President	Sheila Richarz	06221-302701
VicePresident	Jim Clark	06202-24936
Secretary	Kathie Hightower	06223-47155
Treasurer	Nick Miller	06221-7606
Publicity	Jim Ross	06221-303296
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MAC SIG Chair	Nick Shestope	06221-6962
MAC Co-Chair	Richard Johnson	06227-64827
MAC Co-Chair	Clif Sayer	06247-359
AppleII Chair	Alex Siegfried	06221-81013
AppleII Co-C	Doug McMillin	07156-33466
AppleII Co-C	Jim Clark	06202-24936

September Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jim Clark at 7 pm.

- Nick Shestople indicated that rumors are that the PX may start carrying Performas.
- The Stuttgart Audio/Photo Going Out-of-Business Sale was announced.
- MacWorld Expo flyers were given out.
- The Computer Help Day/Flea Market at Ramstein was announced.
- Jim announced that the User Group Connection sent the club:
 - System Hardware Update 3.0
 - eWorld Software Starter Kits
 - Video on Power PCs
 - Learn to Speak CD - Hyperglot
 - MacWorld Interactive CD



Financial Statement by Nick Miller

Assets (17 September 1994)

Checking Account	929.16
Petty Cash	21.50
Public Domain Library	50.00
Re-Inker Supplies	78.46
Total Assets	1,079.12

Total Liabilities

Net Worth	1,079.12
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Income (6/1-9/17/94))

Membership Dues	
Apple II Users	3.00
Macintosh Users	51.00
Sales	
Book Sales	0.00
Disk Sales	62.50
Labels, Paper & Ribbon	0.00
Total Income	116.50

Expenses 6/1-9/17/94)

Expenses (Door Prizes)	271.23
Total Expenses	271.23
Net Income	-154.73

Apple II SIG

by Alex Siegfried

Yes, it's true! About half a year after Quality Computers, Inc. had bought the rights to make a new version of Appleworks GS v1.1, Quality has now cancelled the product. This was due to the programming staff they hired for making the new version. The program source codes to generate the program are not very well documented, and today's programmers were not able to understand the old programmer's codes. Quality had a tough choice: wait 2 years til Appleworks was written from scratch — or cancel the project. They chose to cancel.

• discQuest Encyclopedia by Sequential Systems

About three months ago, Sequential Systems presented discQuest GS, a program that reads CD-

Encyclopedia (and hopefully some others as well). Have a look at the screen-shot. discQuest Encyclopedia needs an Apple IIGS with at least 2 MByte RAM, 3,5" drive, a

Sad but true: Appleworks GS v2.0 is cancelled!

ROM disks that were originally created for other computer platforms — if only they were 'DiskPassage' - formatted. With discQuest, you can now use Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia and Compton's New Century

SCSI-card, a CD_ROM drive and System 6.0 or higher.

• AUGE News

The AUGE, the German user group that supports Apple II, announced for the fall that they

continued on pg. 4



RNAUG Newsletter runs For Sale and Wanted Ads for the benefit of our members. If you would like to advertise hardware or software — or computer services — for sale, send your ad to Kathie Hightower, RNAUG Newsletter, HQ USAREUR, CMR 420, Box 624, APO AE 09063 or (German Post) langheckenstr. 32, 69245 Bammental. Be sure to include your name and telephone or mailing address in your ad. If it is a lengthy ad, please provide a disk for quick import into the newsletter — your disk will be returned.

Now is the time to restock your computer supplies. RNAUG offers members the best prices for diskettes and ribbons. Contact Treasurer, Nick Miller.

Diskettes:

3.5 DD 800k disks	\$0.50 each
3.5 HD 1.44M disks	\$0.75 each
3.5 HD 1.44M disks	\$18.75 for 25
5.25 disks	\$0.30 each
Disk Labels	\$1.75 for 50

Image Writer Ribbons:

Black	\$2.00 each
Color	\$6.25 each

- Apple //c computer
128K Memory
Two 5 1/4 Disk Drives
Apple RGB Color Monitor
Joystick, Lots of Software incl.
Ed.Titles(Oregon Trail, Gertrudes
Puzzles, etc.) Games(Ultima I-IV)
GREAT BUY at \$200
Call Nick, 06202-64448
w.379-7606

- Macintosh Memory
4 - 1 megabyte SIMMS for most
"older" macs from the plus
through the IIvx. MacWarehouse
will sell you this much memory
for over \$160, but you can get it
from me for only \$110. For a
nominal additional fee (payable in
software, mac accessories or cash),
I will come to your house and
install it for you if you are a little
timid about used memory.
Call Nick, 06202-64448
w. 379-7606

Thinking about buying a new or used Mac, but are confused about all the options? Check out the handy key entitled Mac History by Harry Phillip included in this newsletter courtesy of Nick Miller. Even if you aren't in the market for a new Mac right now, it is fascinating to see just how much things have changed over time. And to think we used to consider 4 Mb a lot of Memory!



Apple II SIG, cont'd from pg. 3
would make a CD of Apple II and GS public-domain and free software.

• New printer drivers

Vitesse Inc. now sells new printer drivers in their Harmonie GS-Package. (This is a software package that supports a lot of printers not supported by Apple's System 6.0.) Drivers for DeskJet/DeskWriter 520 and 560 printers that allow resolutions of 600 x 300 DPI are now available.

• Byte Works, Inc.

Have lowered prices for their programming environments. Also, Byte Works is going to publish a new spreadsheet program called Quick Click Calc (QCC) for the GS in the near future.

QCC will cost about \$60. It comes with 100 pages of documentation. IIgs with 1.125 MD RAM and System 6.01 required.

(Information was taken from GS Newsletter Issue 4/94, published by AUGE GS AG.)

*Special notice to RNAUG Member:
owner of RamKeeper*

At a previous meeting, a RNAUG member (who's name I do not remember, unfortunately) gave me his RamKeeper card to check out. I apologize for the delay, but I've checked it out and it seems to be incompatible with newer Ram cards. That was, by the way, the reason why AE stopped supporting the card any more. I will bring your card to the next meeting.

Deadline:

Please mark your calendars. The deadline for input for the next newsletter is October 25. Of course, I'd prefer to get things earlier. I ask that you provide hard copy and a disk, if possible. But any format is acceptable. Kathie Hightower, HQ USAREUR, CMR 420, Box 624, APO AE 09063

Internet, cont'd from p.1

from other home business owners and from other speakers and writers — but at what price? I know from my other experiences with computers that for every bit of time saved, I first had to spend countless hours learning the new software.

Let's hear some Pros and Cons from RNAUG members.

And do I really need access to more information? I already read constantly trying to keep up with the information I need for my business — and the magazines and newsletters and books keep coming in and piling up. Won't the Internet just add to my information overload?

I understand that we now have yet another new online service, direct from Apple, eWorld. And we get the software for free. (Our club received 10 copies and I'm sure we can get more.) I've been reading that it is enjoyable and easy to use. It will mean easy access to all kinds of Mac news, buying advice, discussions and software. And eWorld subscribers will be able to send and receive electronic mail to the Internet as well as to other online services. A German version is in the works as well. So now I have no excuse, right?

Well, I hate to admit it, but I already own a copy of Compuserve and Navigator software. And I haven't taken them out of their wrappings — after a year! I guess I really am dragging my feet.

So, am I the only one? Or are there others out there that aren't quite convinced they want to hop on the Superhighway? Let's hear some pros and cons from other RNAUG members. If you are tapped into the Internet, what are the benefits? What do you use it for? What does it cost you in time and money? What online service do you use? What problems do you encounter? If you have made a conscious choice not to join in, was it strictly due to the added expense here in Germany — or is there more to your decision?

(You don't have to write an article in response. Just jot down a few comments. They don't have to be full sentences. They can be handwritten or on disc. Or give me a call and tell me what you think. If you've already been through this decision process maybe you can help out those of us who are trying to decide: to Internet or not to Internet!)

System 7.5, cont'd from pg. 2

true multitasking. But even in this area Apple has taken a step forward with the inclusion of the Thread Manager, which provides enhanced distribution of System and Application tasks.

APPLE SCRIPT AND THE SCRIPTABLE FINDER

Although AppleScript has been a System feature for about a year, it's been one of those tools for which there was no application (pun intended). Without being able to easily involve the Finder in scripts, AppleScript was just a hammer waiting for a nail. Well, the nail has arrived and now you can record and use scripts in the Finder and any other AppleScript-aware program. Not only that, but Apple has also included some useful scripts as well.

POWERTALK

PowerTalk, which uses AOCE (Apple Open Collaboration Environment), was introduced with System 7 Pro. However, many developers thought Apple was offering PowerTalk only for the few and not the many, and waited to invest in development for it. Well, now PowerTalk is for the many, and it may change how you communicate using your Mac.

PowerTalk combines all of your Mac's communications capabilities into a single neat package...well, two or three packages. The intent

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The Rhein-Neckar Users Group is a private organization of the 26th Area Support Group IAW USAREUR Reg. 210-1.

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System 7.5, cont'd from pg.5

behind PowerTalk is to give you a universal mailbox and address book where you receive all of your electronic communications (including faxes) plus a single location for accessing all of your network servers. You can do all of this from within any application, all using a single password.

Another aspect of PowerTalk is the Digital Signer. Once you register with RSA Data Security Inc., you'll be able to affix your own digital signature to any document and send it off into cyberspace. When it comes out the other side the recipient can verify your signature. Watch out — that document could be legal and binding!

That's not all you'll find in PowerTalk. It also provides the mechanism required to send your signed document from one user to another. AppleMail. Now all Macs are not just networkable, but can have peer-to-peer e-mail as well. No servers, just two macs in a peer-to-peer environment. The one part of PowerTalk that you don't get with System 7.5 is the PowerShare Collaboration Server.

NEW CONCLUSION

Every major System upgrade brings new opportunities and frustration to the Macintosh world. System 7.5 provides AppleScript, AppleGuide, QuickDraw GX and a mailbox on every desk. However, all of these additions and innovations come with a price tag: memory. Isn't the coin of the computer realm RAM?

According to Apple, which consistently underestimates this sort of thing, you'll need at least 8 Mb to run System 7.5. If you'd like to load any fonts or Extensions, or would like more than 2 Mb available for applications, you'll need something more like 12 Mb.

Though of the month: We'll all be gasping for breath before every application is System 7.5-compatible. I'm not sure I can stand the new marketing deluge it will create. But then again, this is what we all live for...isn't it?

(Note from Editor: in interest of space, I have left out sections of this article on AppleGuide, QuickDraw GX, Macintosh Drag and Drop, Additions, Enhancements and Goodies; and A Consolidation of System Technologies. If there is interest, I can include it next issue — or the article will be available to read at the meeting.)
