The WAC Journal
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An Apple // & Compatible Users Education group
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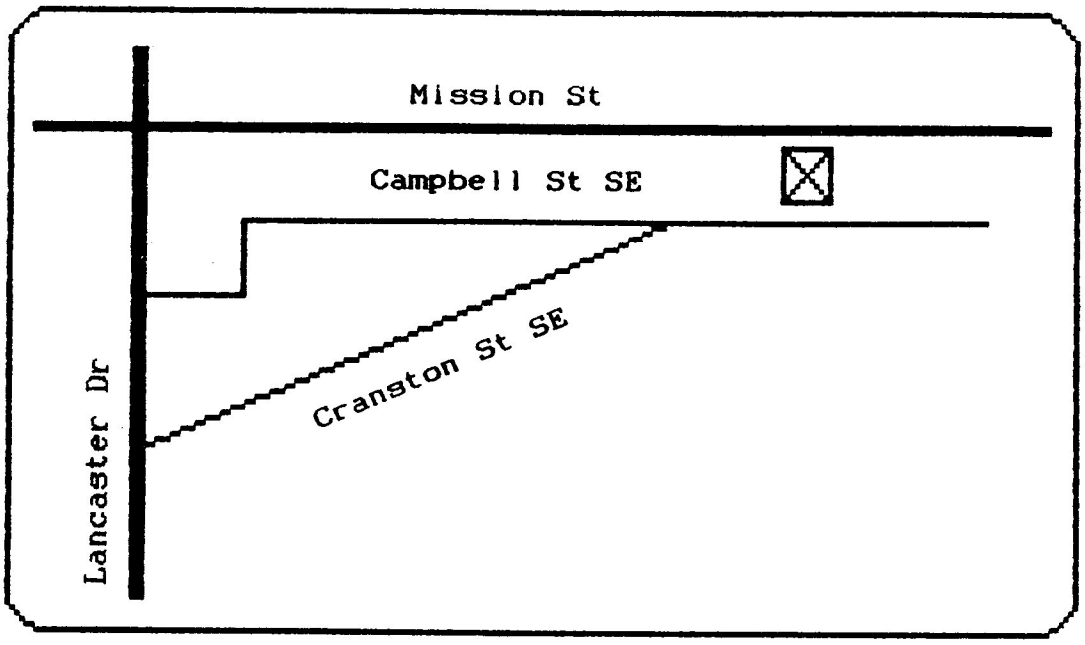

This Month's Meeting.....

This month's meeting will be held at Neal Layton's house. The meeting is Thursday March 18, 1993 from 7pm - 9pm. Come on over and see the other side of the BBS plus lots more.... I can show off almost all my goodies all at one time.

Directions:

Travel south on Lancaster, the 2nd street past Mission street is Cranston St SE. Take a left on Cranston. Go all the way to the end of Cranston and take a right onto Campbell, go about 150 feet. On the left is a blue duplex, number 4393.

Address:

4393 Campbell St SE
Salem, Oregon 97301
503-363-2851

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Appleworks 3.0, Printshop GS, and Paintworks Gold.

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To all of you thinking that we now have a newsletter editor, please note that this newsletter was done as a one time effort to announce the meeting at my house. Nice try though :)

Willamette Apple Connection, Inc.
P.O. Box 7252
Salem, Oregon 97303-0053
Voice 503-585-0811 or 363-2851

The WAC BBS
P.O. Box 18435
Salem, Oregon 97305-8435

Modem 503-363-0861
24hrs 2400 bps
Over 42 megs of files

Meetings - Regular Membership
Regular meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of every month. Call for meeting location.

Meetings - Board of Directors
The Board of Directors meeting is held before the regular meeting or as otherwise arranged.

Annual Membership Dues
Individual members $15.00

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A newsletter editor is needed. If you want to volunteer approximately 10-20 hours per month. Please contact us.

I'd love to be the newsletter editor, but...

1) I have to floss my cat.
2) I've dedicated my life to linguini.
3) I want to spend more time with my blender.
4) The President said he might drop in.
5) The man on television told me to say tuned.
6) I've been scheduled for a karma transplant.
7) I'm staying home to work on my cottage cheese sculpture.
8) It's my parakeet's bowling night.
9) It wouldn't be fair to the other Beautiful People.
10) I'm building a pig from a kit.
11) I did my own thing and now I've got to undo it.
12) I'm enrolled in aerobic scream therapy.
13) There's a disturbance in the Force.
14) I'm doing door-to-door collecting for static cling.
15) I have to go to the post office to see if I'm wanted.
16) I'm teaching my ferret to yodel.
17) I have to check the freshness dates on my dairy products.
18) I'm going through cherry cheesecake withdrawal.
19) I'm planning to go downtown to try on gloves.
20) My crayons all melted together.
21) I'm trying to see how long I can go without saying yes.
22) I'm in training to be a household pest.
23) I'm getting my overalls overhauled.
24) My patent is pending.
25) I'm attending the opening of my garage door.
26) I'm sandblasting my oven.
27) I'm worried about my vertical hold.
28) I'm going down to the bakery to watch the buns rise.
29) I'm being deported.
30) The grunion are running.
31) I'll be looking for a parking space.
32) My Millard Fillmore Fan Club meets then.
33) The monsters haven't turned blue yet, and I have to eat more dots.
34) I'm taking punk totem pole carving.
35) I have to fluff my shower cap.
36) I'm converting my calendar watch from Julian to Gregorian.
37) I've come down with a really horrible case of something or other.
38) I made an appointment with a cuticle specialist.
39) My plot to take over the world is thickening.
40) I have to fulfill my potential.
41) I don't want to leave my comfort zone.
42) It's too close to the turn of the century.
43) I have some real hard words to look up in the dictionary.
44) My subconscious says no.
45) I'm giving nuisance lessons at a convenience store.
46) I left my body in my other clothes.
47) The last time I went, I never came back.
48) I've got a Friends of Rutabaga meeting.
49) I have to answer all of my "occupant" letters.
50) None of my socks match.
51) I have to be on the next train to Bermuda.
52) I'm having all my plants neutered.
53) People are blaming me for the Spanish-American War.
54) I changed the lock on my door and now I can't get out.
55) I'm making a home movie called "The Thing That Grew in My Refrigerator."
56) I'm attending a perfume convention as guest sniffer.
57) My yucca plant is feeling yucky.
58) I'm touring China with a wok band.
59) My chocolate-appreciation class meets that night.
60) I never go out on days that end in "Y."
61) My mother would never let me hear the end of it.
62) I'm running off to Yugoslavia with a foreign-exchange student named Basil Metabolism.
63) I just picked up a book called "Glue in Many Lands" and I can't put It down.
64) I'm too old/young for that stuff.
65) I have to wash/condition/perm/curl/tease/torment my hai
66) I have too much guilt.
67) There are important world issues that need worrying abc
68) I have to draw "Cubby" for an art scholarship.
69) I'm uncomfortable when I'm alone or with others.
70) I promised to help a friend fold road maps.
71) I feel a song coming on.
72) I'm trying to be less popular.
73) My bathroom tiles need grouting.
74) I have to bleach my hare.
75) I'm waiting to see if I'm already a winner.
76) I'm writing a love letter to Richard Simmons.
77) You know how we psychos are.
78) My favorite commercial is on TV.
79) I have to study for a blood test.
80) I'm going to be old someday.
81) I've been traded to Cincinnati.
82) I'm observing National Apathy Week.
83) I have to rotate my crops.
84) My uncle escaped again.
85) I'm up to my elbows in waxy buildup.
86) I have to knit some dust bunnies for a charity bazaar.
87) I'm having my baby shoes bronzed.
88) I have to go to court for kitty littering.
89) I'm going to count the bristles in my toothbrush.
90) I have to thaw some karate chops for dinner.
91) Having fun gives me prickly heat.
92) I'm going to the Missing Persons Bureau to see if anyone is looking for me.
93) I have to jog my memory.
94) My palm reader advised against it.
95) My Dress For Obscurity class meets then.
96) I have to stay home and see if I snore.
97) I prefer to remain an enigma.
98) I think you want the OTHER Neal.
99) I have to sit up with a sick ant.
100) I'm trying to cut down.
101) ... Well, maybe...

MODEM JUNKIE
by Jean Ann Donnel

I am a modem junkie.
There's nothing I can do !
When I want to say something,
it's via modem to you.

Sit and stare at monochrome,
fingers on keyboard glued.
Baud rates go 300 to 9600,
what's a modem junkie to do ?

There's MOUSETALK, PROTERM
TIC and more !
The way I use my modem,
the phone bills made me poor!

Sign in using an alias,
or shall we us our name ?
Upload, download, message board,
or shall we play a game ?

Friends and family try vainley
to reach me now at home.
There's a world at your fingertips,
when you compute by phone.

Look, here's a board for cooking,
for utilities and games.
The SYSOP has warned me more then once,
"SIGN OFF, NO TIME REMAINS"!

Perhaps you think me crazy.
The computer's a machine you say.
A person needs some excercise,
not staring at screens all day!

Computers can educate you,
keep you informed,
let you have a say.
TO MUCH COMPUTING,
can make you prematurely gray!

I BOUGHT A HARD DRIVE.....NOW WHAT?

Santa brought you a hard drive for your Apple IIgs for Christmas. Congratulations! Following the instructions given by Tony DiGioia in last month's newsletter, you now have your drive formatted and all ready to put information on it.

Sit back and relax while I offer a quick refresher course on the inner workings of ProDOS and how it relates to hard disk management.

GS/OS is still considered to be part of the ProDOS family. When a disk is formatted, either from a utility program like Copy II Plus, or from the Finder in GS/OS, the same information is being placed on the disk. Let me explain how that information is put there in the first place.

On of the first things done to a disk when formatting is to place tracks on the disk for the blocks of information to reside. Think of a bullseye and you have an idea how the tracks are laid out. On a 5.25" disk we have 35 tracks starting from the outside edge, working its way towards the center. The tracks never meet. They separate from one another. The 3.5" media has 80 tracks. Mass storage media, such as hard drives, have even more.

On these tracks are placed the blocks where the information is stored. Looking at a disk, you will never actually SEE the tracks, or blocks, but they are there.

Block 0, the first block on the disk, is where the formatting program places the information enabling the disk to begin the 'Boot' process. It is given the ingenious name of BOOT LOADER. Block 1 was used for the old Apple III's operating system (SOS). Apple decided to keep this idea, but you can forget about ever needing block 1.

Blocks 2-5 will contain the ROOT Directory files. This is what you see when you catalog a disk. Each of these blocks will hold information about 13 possible files. One file name placed in block 2 will be for the Volume (or disk) name. This leaves room for 51 files in the main, or Root, directory.

ProDOS allows something called subdirectories (folders). This helps to get around the 51 file limitation. There is no limit to the number of files placed in a folder. ProDOS gets around this by using pointers in the DIR files (the folders). These pointers record where on the disk the files you saved are stored.

There are two types of format: a hard format, and a soft format. Utility programs like Copy II Plus will do a soft format. They clear the root directory, while ignoring the other data on the disk. A hard format will rewrite all the tracks and blocks on the disk. There are hard drive utility programs that will also check the efficiency of how the blocks are laid out on the disk. Hard drives will have one method of laying out the block interleave that is more efficient than others. I'm afraid it's all trial and error for what is best for your drive.

The interleave is the space between consecutive blocks. GS/OS has made great strides in allowing a 2:1 interleave for the APPLEDISK3.5 disk drive. Some hard drives may prefer 1:1, or 5:1, or anything in between.

One of the first things a new hard drive owner should do is try to plan the most efficient way to use these folders. One suggestion for GS/OS users would be to copy the contents of the latest SYSTEM DISK as they are on the disk. I would then create folders for GAMES, DTP (for desk top publishing programs),WP (for word processors), APPLEWORKS, AWGS, BUSINESS, UTILITIES. Of course, you are free to add, or delete any from this list. Do not get carried away with using folders. It may slow down your hard drive.

Try to avoid placing copy protected software on the hard drive. It MAY prove to be harmful, rather than efficient.

The reason for planning ahead is due to how ProDOS places the information on the disk. Many people make the mistake of placing anything and everything on their hard disk. The problems begin as you delete any of these files. When you first place the programs on the disk, ProDOS will store them on consecutive blocks. As changes are made to these files, blocks may be freed for storage. As your drive fills up, ProDOS will have to store information wherever it finds empty blocks. This will slow down your hard drive.

This process is called fragmentation. It is possible to have on program scattered all over a 40 megabyte hard disk. The longer it takes for ProDOS to find the file, the longer it will take to launch the program.

You may feel that you have escaped the need for disks after buying a hard drive. You will still need them. ALWAYS back up important information. One rule regarding back-ups is to make three copies. Why three? If something goes wrong with the first copy, you will more than likely use the second copy to run the program. If that fails, you will still have one workable copy left. After two tries, you will probably decide to check your computer before trying that program again.

There are utility programs available that will prove to be invaluable to your efficient use of your hard drive. I would recommend PROSEL 16 for GS owners, and PROSEL for IIe, IIc+ owners. This program is a program selector (that's how it got its name), and a valuable collection of utility programs. PROSEL contains utilities to de-fragmentize your hard drive, and to fix your root directory, among others.

I hope this has proved to be helpful. Good luck with your hard drive!

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EDITORS NOTE: This article is a little out of date but it does make some valid points.

IS THE APPLE II DEAD?

by Kent Hayden

Recently, I had the opportunity to review a publication called "The Road Apple", a so-called "underground" publication dedicated to support of the Apple II computer line. After reading it I was much less than enthused; I was quite upset!

The Road Apple is published by a very nice fellow named Al Martin, who lives in Portland, Oregon. Al's major objective in publishing The Road Apple is to prod the folks down in Cupertino, and make them realize that we Apple Computer users are tired of being abused and neglected. He dutifully reports on every possible shortcoming in marketing strategy, alleged untruths and half-truths coming from Apple, and in general trying to disclose all the dirty details. Some of what is printed is based on actual fact, and a good deal is based on the opinions of those who write for the Road Apple. Make that MOST is based on opinions!

I was infuriated upon reading the Road Apple! It doesn't just point out the news about what is happening in the Apple II world, it goes beyond that; It tells in excruciating detail what isn't happening also. In fact, it tells so much about what isn't happening it almost forgets to mention anything that IS happening. I found it almost totally negative! If you read and believe The Road Apple's stuff you will be prompted to run out and bash your computer to shards, buy some other kind, and trust the boys in blue suits to keep you warm and safe! Balderdash! "Apple Bashing" won't solve the problem. There isn't much in the Road Apple that would help at all!

I realize that there is some truth to some of the information circulating about Apple's lack of advertising support for the Apple II, and I do recognize that there is considerable coming out of Cupertino and their dealers suggesting movement toward the Macintosh as a "replacement" for the Apple II line. But there are some positive things coming out of Apple as well as the negative ones.

Sure, there have been a number of software publishers who have "withdrawn" from the Apple II market in search of more lucrative audiences. Mostly these have been producers of games though. Serious software support for almost any education or personal productivity application (you can include small business software here) still exists. In fact, there is more and better support for a great many applications than there was even a year ago. Game producers won't make or break a market by themselves, and the withdrawal of Sierra, Electronic Arts, and the like won't kill the Apple II entertainment market either.

Nature and economics both hate a vacuum, and I predict that as publishers and supporters leave the Apple II market, others will start up and fill the void. New support, new applications and new concepts will continue to be developed for the Apple II line. I point out that there is considerable new shareware available now for the Apple II, particularly for the Apple IIgs. New programmers and developers start small and grow into major producers of products. Thus it has ever been in business and economics, and it will continue that way as long as there is any market at all.

There was ONE piece of constructive advice in the Road Apple. I found an article telling of the release of the new "Apple II Guide" by Apple at AppleFest in December. The suggestion was made that we could show our support for the Apple II by voting with our dollars, by buying this little book, by asking our dealers to stock it and sell it to us. Sounds good to me, my local dealer probably doesn't get enough of my business anyway, what with the proliferation of mail order services you see in the magazines.

I went out and acquired a copy of "The Apple II Guide", just to see what it was all about. (I had to send away for a copy.) The Apple II Guide is billed as "A complete resource for users of Apple II computers." The Guide contains sections on "The Apple II -- Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow;" "Understanding the Basics;" "Making the Most of Your Apple II;" "Troubleshooting;" "Sales and Service;" "Understanding Technical Information;" and "Information Resources." It contains information about any aspect of using the Apple II computer that you could possibly be interested in. Third party support is discussed, resources for people with disabilities, developers, user groups, and much, much more. A lot of work has gone into publishing The Apple II Guide! This is a real resource for any Apple II computer user.

Now that I have it, I have advised our local dealer that he should stock The Apple II Guide. I am also advising _you_ to go over and buy it. The price is only $19.95, but it is really a treasure trove of information! This is one of the truly great things Apple has done FOR the Apple II computer user.

Other good things that show me that Apple has not given up on the Apple II computer include the soon to be released HyperCard GS, the new System 5.03 (and now v5.04) which have only recently been released. Claris continues to provide support for AppleWorks, both Classic and GS versions; technical support and answers are available toll-free by telephone, and on most major on-line telecommunications services. The new Apple High Speed SCSI card also shows new hardware development in support of the Apple II line. I'm not really sure if the Apple Emulator card for the new Mac LC is one of the positives, but at least it is something NEW. Andy Nicholas, the developer of ShrinkIt has been hired by Apple to be in charge of the Apple IIgs Finder. No, I don't think Apple is selling us short in the support department!

I also see new and great things coming from some of the other developers as well. Beagle Bros software has recently released some really great applications, Platinum Paint, TimeOut SuperForms, Outliner 3.0 are examples. Roger Wagner continues to release new and great software, for example his new Graphics Exchange. Broderbund recently released new versions of it's Print Shop series, and is moving away from copy protection. Vitesse' new Quickie scanner, WestCode's new InWords for OCR use with that scanner are great! I could go on, but the message is, there is no lack of support and development for the Apple II line. It's still out there, but some of the faces are changing, and some of the existing faces are changing their approach.

You and I can help with the continuing support and development of the Apple II computer. What we can do to help is simple. Be positive about what you want and would like to see happen. Don't rant about things that are not going the way you like, do something about it. Call your dealer, call Apple, support your friendly shareware developer. Tell folks what it is you want, and better, tell them HOW you want it to work! Pay for your shareware, your support can encourage a fledgling programmer to produce a work of art tomorrow. Be constructive in your suggestions.

In closing, I want to quote Tom Weishaar of A2 Central. Tom recently published a new catalog chock full of goodies for the Apple II computer. Tom had the following to say about the so-called demise of the Apple II.

"Since the day the Apple III (RIP) was introduced in 1980, the 'experts' have been saying the Apple II is a dead machine. If the Apple II couldn't kill it, the Lisa (RIP) or the PC Jr (RIP) or the 128K Mac (RIP) would. Some people never learn. I think we'll see 2001 before we see then end of the Apple II." ..." Six years ago I started a new Apple II-only publication and the 'experts' said I was crazy. In 1990 I started TWO of them. Glory be."

Long live the Apple II computer!

The village Messenger
A Perspective on computer Communications
by Jay Elkes

At its most fundamental level, your computer is a communications device. It listens to the keyboard, talks to the screen and printer, and does both with the disk drives. Computing is a translation process that converts an acceptable input into an acceptable output, but neither input nor output are possible without the underlying mastery of communications.

When you use your computer by itself you are specifying a scope of communications comparable to that of a medieval village. The attached devices are neighbors to one another, sharing information for the greater good (yours). Such a computer is self sustaining, self supporting and independent. The more devices you connect to a computer, the larger the village gets. This is true of disk drives, of memory and, to a certain degree, printers and plotters. It is not true of a modem.

A modem is a link to the rest of the world, a village gate from which messages can be sent or received. It too is a communications device, linking your computer with another modem at some distance. A modem always talks to one and only one other modem at any given time. If your computer and mine were a few feet apart, we could use a cable in place of both modems - two neighboring villages which can communicate to each other by semaphore. When we depend on telephone lines to make the link, we each need a modem. Once we have them, we can talk to any other computer with a modem.

Using a modem is simple. One wire goes to the phone line, another to the computer's serial port. You control the modem, and the communications it permits, with a program. The hard part is providing the setup information for your modem. In principle, your setup needs to agree with those of the modem at the other end. The easiest way to do this is to ask the person at the other end what setups to use. Very briefly, the critical variables are discussed below.

Baud rate determines how fast data can be sent from one machine to another. Modems are sold with an advertised maximum baud rate, typically 1200 or 2400. Use the fastest baud rate both your modems can support.

Bits per character and stop bits define how data is to be interpreted. Bits per character is either 7 or 8, usually 8. Some mainframe computers require 7. Stop bits generally reflect a need that existed in older computers and isn't true today. If nobody tells you differently, try 0 or "Auto".

Parity is a primitive form of error checking that can be used, but rarely is. If you have no information, set parity to "None", as opposed to "Odd" or "Even". The only machine I've seen that wanted to check parity also used 7 bits per character.

The final typical parameter is called duplex or echo. This is the one instance where your modem and the remote modem must disagree with each other. Usually the machine placing the call uses full duplex (remote echo) while the one answering the call uses half duplex (local echo). If you're using full duplex and your keystrokes don't show on the screen, switch to half duplex. If your typed keys appear to be typing ddoouubbllee switch to full duplex.

If you can order your modem to answer the phone, and most modems permit this, you can be a "host" for the purpose of establishing a link to a computer calling you. With yourself at one end and a friend at the other, you can pass messages back and forth. Protocols, which once again have to agree with each other, allow you to do something more useful, transfer files. After all, if all you want to do is pass messages when you're both near the phone, you might as well talk to each other instead.

Bulletin board systems (or BBS's), such as the one COACH is putting up, provide a number of useful services. First, they permit messages to be passed back and forth without arranging a convenient time. I can leave a message today and you can read it tomorrow. Obviously, time sensitive messages aren't ideal candidates for this medium. Likewise, files can be transferred first to the BBS and then to the intended recipient. When I get done with this article, I will load it to a bulletin board so somebody else can retrieve it later. Other files or programs can stay on the BBS for as long as the system operator (Sysop) chooses to leave them. The variety of things you can find on bulletin boards can be truly amazing.

The term bulletin board is used in recognition of its most useful feature. You can put messages on bulletin boards with no specific reader in mind and get responses from people you've never met. I recently found a solution to a problem I was having on my Macintosh by using the commercial bulletin board system America Online - from a source I wouldn't have thought to ask. I also found myself debating ethics with a fellow who admitted that he routinely tries to break into other computers - the village sneak thief. Would it surprise you to know that he used a pseudonym? He argued that he was providing a public service by making people more aware of the need for computer security. Hmm... If I want to make someone aware of that, I recommend they read the Cuckoo's Egg by Cliff Stoll.

Bulletin boards come in two forms - commercial and private. Commercial boards like America Online, CompuServe or Prodigy, have direct charges for their services. The first two charge by the hour. Prodigy has a low flat rate for a month of use and runs ads on the bottom portion of your screen. This may seem harmless - you can even order based on the ads you see. The cute part is that they keep very careful track of what you respond positively to and sell what they learn to practically anyone. You'll have to decide for yourself if that's adding to the value of the service they provide you, a harmless way of keeping their costs down, or an invasion of privacy.

Private bulletin boards generally reflect the interests of the owner/sysop. He/she has committed a computer, disk space, time and one or more phone lines to what is probably a hobby. Some of these people hope to collect vast amounts of software for free by being a medium for uploading. Most use them to promote other interests they have, including (From actual examples I've seen) computing, astronomy and current events. Private bulletin boards never charge for their time, but they may be intended for private use (such as for members of a club only). Some, though obviously not all, will try to confirm your real identity though you can use a pseudonym online.

Bulletin boards can be an expensive hobby for the operator. Some systems are purely a hobby for the sysop, who has no interest in compensation outside of the comments you provide to the message system or the files you exchange. At the other end, some may have specific rules about how much service is provided for varying amounts of financial support. In the middle, sysops will accept donations if offered. If I use a BBS regularly I'll ask the sysop in a private message - something like $25 a year doesn't seem out of line to me. It wont make the sysop rich, but it may keep a spouse from pulling the plug.

Modems, communication programs and bulletin board services are the means for connecting the "village" of your personal system to the "global village" the world is becoming. You can probably hook a modem to your computer for $100 or less - some adequate software is either free or shareware.

If you'll excuse me, I need to get this article on its way. Even with the electronic transfer, there are still deadlines to meet. Hope to see you around town.

ProTerm 3.0 by Insync Software $79.95
Review by Neal Layton

If your looking for a good telecommunications program that will do just about everything then this is it!! Proterm 3.0 took over 18 months to develop and includes just about everything the serious Apple // tele-communicator would want. I actually believe that the only flaw in it, is that's it is too complex. There are so many bells and whistles in this program that I am still having a hard time with a simple download from Compuserve. I just can't seem to get the Xfer options set right. Oh well sooner or later I'll get it going. But seriously folks if want to try a telecom program, try this one. It's a little complex and I wouldn't suggest it for the new modem user, but if your an experienced tele-communicator I think you'll appreciate Proterm's power. Proterm 3.0 includes the following features:

1. Supports all Apple //e,//c,//c+,//gs, and Laser 128 with the following (65c02 processor)(128k)
2. It will use expanded memory appropriately if available
3. Supports all Apple compatible clocks, printers, drives.
4. Supports many, many modems. (too many to list)
5. AppleWorks compatible word processor Built in!!
6. Will allow unlimited number of BBS's in calling list
7. Has full macro support, plus Autolearn macros!!
8. Print screen key
9. Various terminal emulations (ANSI, VT-100, H19, VT-52, etc)
10. Split Screen Chat mode
11. Built in screen saver/blanker
12. Scrollback saves all incoming text so you can work offline.
13. Scrollback & Word processor buffers expand with added memory
14. Complete disk/file utilities
15. Mouse or Keyboard only support

Lots more I can't even mention. With the purchase of Proterm you also get free sign up kits for Compuserve,Genie, Dow Jones & Delphi.

My two favorite parts of the program are first the autolearn macros, and second the Show cost option. The autolearn macros is a big time saver for anyone that uses macros. All you have to do is logon to your favorite BBS system one time and then save the macro. Every time you call after that you will be automatically signed on!! No more little scraps of paper lying around with phone #'s, passwords or ID's. Proterm keeps track of it for you!! The Show cost option is handy for anyone who calls long distance or pay services. All you do is enter the per minute or per hour charge and proterm will do the rest. It will be displayed at the top of your screen at all times so you can see just how much your hobby is costing at all times. Great for those of us on a budget. It will also log this to disk so when your phone bill comes you can easily check for mischarges/overages etc.

Then of course comes the Emulation part of the program. Ever wonder what the IBM users are seeing when they logon and answer yes to the good old "Display IBM Graphics?:" question, well now you can see them to!! It's not much, the ProTerm Special Emulation is much better than any IBM graphics I've seen. You can also access the online Card Catalog with Proterm.

Ever called a system and tried to delete a mistyped character with your delete or backspace key?? It seldom works correctly if at all, right?? Well with Proterm 3.0 you have the choice of three different types of delete emulation if it doesn't delete or backspace when you want to just change your emulation so that Proterm knows what to sent so it will work correctly. All this info will then be saved with your auto logon macro and setup each time you call.

Need to transfer files with Zmodem or Kermit?? No problem Proterm 3.0 supports both of them as well as Xmodem 1K,4K/Ymodem 1K,4K,G. It will even do Binary II (.BNY) encoding/decoding on the fly.

Now a couple of bad points. First it's to complex for the new user, it would be much easier for them to start with TIC or something similar. Also Proterm doesn't use Apple standard disk access interface. It's very confusing at first and takes a bit of getting used to. It also doesn't use the Apple //GS serial port according to Apple specifications. You can actually plug your modem into the GS serial port then set the control panel for anything you want (your card) and place a sound digitizer or whatever in slot 2 and use both of them without ever switching the control panel ever again. You actually get an extra slot this way. I'm not sure if this is a benefit or a headache. But we will see when Apple releases GS/OS system 6 and if it doesn't work anymore they'll be sorry. The documentation is actually as far as Apple programs go, very good. However they are a little vague in some areas and could use a better explanation on a page or two.

Neal

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The Digital Sandwich

by Steve Weyhrich

If you haven't yet heard about it, check out the Westroads Shopping Center on West Dodge Road here in Omaha. It has never looked so good! Not only are they in the final stages of their interior renovation, bringing the appearance of the mall into the 1990's, but they have just opened up a new food court called "The Grand Cafe." One food business that has survived the ordeal of remodelling and has moved into the new Grand Cafe is the Runza Restaurant. I recommend that all M.A.C.H. members visit the new Runza and try it out. You may say, "Well, that's nice, but I can get Runza fast food at sixteen different locations in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area. Why should I drive out to the Westroads just to get a Runza sandwich?" Well, this Runza restaurant has something that should be of particular interest to our members. It is something so unique that it can be found no where else in the country. When you approach the Runza counter at the Grand Cafe, you won't find the cash registers usually seen at a fast food store. Instead, there are three color computer monitors with the Runza logo prominently displayed.(In the bottom corner of these monitors you may notice a multicolored apple with a bite missing...) Under the Runza logo are instructions that direct you to touch the screen to place your order. After you touch the screen, it displays two large icons and a voice (which comes from an adjacent compact speaker) says, "Welcome to Runza!" The screen displays two pictures and the labels asks if your order is "dine in" or "dine out." Touch the appropriate picture and it presents a menu with three buttons representing major groups: Sandwiches, Drinks, and Side Orders. Touch the sandwich button and a display scrolls down showing the various Runza sandwiches. If you pick a sandwich that has further options (a hamburger, for instance), you are shown the sandwich with an "exploded" view and a stacked list of condiments for the burger. You want ketchup? Touch the ketchup icon and it moves over to your exploded sandwich. Onion, cheese, mayo, and other items are added in the same way. You can even move one of them back if you change your mind or make a mistake. Touch the "finished "button when you have it the way you want it, and it appears on your ticket on the right half of the screen. Drinks are chosen the same way, as are the miscellaneous items like fries and brownies. When you have finished your order, touch the "done ordering" button again and your selections and their prices are printed on a tape register to the left of the screen. The tape is presented to the cashier (who is a human) and you pay for your meal.

What is going on here? Let's back up a bit. The owners of this Runza Restaurant, Scott and Kathi Krause (who also operate two Runza stores in Lincoln), felt that something special would be needed to draw attention to their restaurant when the Grand Cafe opened on May 31st. After all, Runza has been at the Westroads for several years, and most of the other food outlets in the Grand Cafe would be completely new, some found nowhere else in Omaha. To address this problem, Dan Ernst (Kathi's brother) and Scott began work last summer on a special system that would make their Runza restaurant a unique attraction. Dan is a software analyst and programmer working for Convex Computer Corporation in

Richardson, Texas, and is involved with support for their Unix-based supercomputers. In his spare time, Dan used a Macintosh IIsi as a hardware platform to create a Hypercard-like stack that functions as described above. (The actual program he used is called SuperCard, chosen mainly because of its ability to display in color, a feature lacking in HyperCard for the Mac). Dan himself designed the icons used by the program, but he plans to have them more professionally done in the future. I did not personally think they were poorly done, but he told me that people who know graphic design have suggested that they could be improved. He would like a future version of the icons to appear more true to the actual appearance of the food items, and to have somewhat of a three-dimensional effect.

The feature that made this stack-based application especially unique was the ability to point to the objects on the screen by touching instead of requiring the use of a mouse. This was done by a modification to an Apple color monitor. A company called Micro Touch Systems, Inc. (55 Jonstin Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, 508-694-9900) applies a special static-sensitive glass over the monitor screen to accomplish the effect. The glass is conductive and measures a capacitive difference when it is touched. It uses a 1024 x 1024 grid to return coordinates back to the computer, simulating mouse movement and button clicks. The touch screen interface connects to the Mac through the Apple Desktop Bus port (this is the same port used to connect the keyboard, and via the ADB chain, the mouse). It needs a special INIT driver to fool the Macintosh into believing touches to the screen are coming from a mouse. (It would probably take a little effort to make it work with a IIGS). A limitation of the screen is that it must have contact with skin, so, for example, women with long fingernails will need to use the pad of the finger instead of the nail. Dan Ernst told me that if further experience dictates a need, they may have to provide some type of stylus pen to help people who have a difficulty in properly using the touch screen.

The three Macintosh IIsi computers at Scott's Runza Restaurant are connected to a register tape printer via Appletalk, allowing them all to share this same printer. The Mac IIsi was chosen because it has a fast microprocessor, but is not as expensive as the top-of-the-line Mac IIfx. Also, it is fairly compact, it already has the color video card built in, and it has one slot which can be used as a NuBus slot if desired. During my phone conversation with Mr. Ernst, I took the opportunity to promote the Apple IIGS as a potentially less-expensive alternative to the Mac IIsi. It can already do HyperCard in color, and it has the same ADB port as on a Macintosh. (It could be capable of using the Micro Touch screen, with the proper INIT modified for use under GS/OS). The SuperCard program he uses runs a subset of the HyperText programming language, so his stack would probably run on HyperCard GS if he took the time to modify some XCMDs (custom added commands) he wrote for the package.

So, how is this innovative ordering system working? Quite well, according to Kathi Krause. On two occasions when I visited the store my three-year-old son was able to identify the food items he wanted and order them using the touch screen. (My only task was deleting all the items he didn't need!) Kathi told me that The only people who seem to object to the system are those who are used to giving their orders to a live person. Most of the other customers find the personal interaction in creating their order to be interesting and fun. Dan Ernst says that efficiency and speed of service at the restaurant has improved with this system. After all the bugs are worked out of it, he hopes other Runza Restaurants will want to use the same system. It is, quite possibly, the wave of the future in customer service.

The latest from "Quick Connect" -- Apple newsletter for Apple user groups.

Feedback on the first UG-TV broadcast:

The overwhelming was quite positive, Groups liked the demos, technical segments and the Q&A sessions. Some groups said that they didn't like the pre-taped parts (Sculley's speech) and that the technical stuff wasn't in depth enough. And everyone hated the Tour Bus.

Improvements for the second show (that we all missed): NO TOUR BUS!, make the show more of a live teleconference instead of TV show, focus more on content. Will attempt to broadcast near new product announcements

Our user group can buy a copy of the broadcast that we missed. What do the members think?? Let us know and we will find out the cost and get back to you

If you want to get the latest Apple catalog call 1-800-795-1000. The catalog includes all types of Apple goodies from T-shirts to sweaters, mugs, computers, disks, all with that great little Apple Logo on them. Supposedly you can even order things from the catalog via online services such as America Online or Compuserve. I say supposedly because I tried to ask them if this was the right E-mail address to order from the catalog or not. A simple yes or no question, It took them 8 days after they read the message to reply with a "Yes, this is the place! What would you like to order?" Not 8 days after I wrote the letter to them, but 8 days after they read it! So after they finally answered, I asked them if 8 days of though was really required to answered that question. Well its been over 2 months and I still haven't received a reply. I figure your best bet it to call the 1-800 number and ask them about online ordering while your at it!!!

From the never ending Rumor mill:

A Fax modem that will send and receive will soon be available for the GS.

Zip Technologies almost went bankrupt then seems to have recovered, what a surprise after the fiasco they caused with the release of the original Zip Chip...remember way back then??

Westcode has release "Pointless v2.0" that supposedly blows away the v1.0 with out a whimper. New features include over 100% speed increase, a new preferences menu. But along with improvements come a few problems like it still like to use major gobs of RAM, etc., etc.

Apple supposedly has a 'Stylewriter driver Included with System 6.0. I've never seen it, but they say it's on the disks. Hmmmm

Applied Engineering is actually going to release at least one more Apple // related product. Someday

Sequential Systems will release no less than 9 (nine) new Apple // products this year.(1993) We've already started to see some of their products, at not to bad of prices. Check out the GS ram cards or the Imagewriter // mega-buffer. The Imagewriter // has had a measly 32k buffer available for 5 years and no one even bothered to release a larger one until just last year at Christmas. Well nw thanks to Sequential systems you can have upto 1meg in buffer space, built in to your printer!!

Twilight II is now shipping! Remember that very buggy little screen blanker that was released as freeware a few years ago? Well it's been fixed and improved and released again this time for about $39.95 and I believe it available from the folks at Quality Computers.

A new IDE card is going to be available to use with standard IBM IDE style drives. Finally use Apple users can get the best of the IBM world at the same price. It made in Germany. For more info write to:

SHH Systeme
Dipl. Ing. Joachim Lange
SchoenstraBe 80a
8000 Muenchen 90
Germany

America Online refuses to upgrade to GS (or Apple //e) version of the online software. Strange it seems as if they to have forgotten their roots just as another company has.....

'APPLE EXPO WEST' is coming to San Francisco, April 23-25, 1993. This show is supposed to include all family of Apple computers. I guess the show is going to be the same type of show as the old "Applefest" was. I hope so they were a lot of fun until the MACkies took over. Anyway I'm sure MAC's will outnumber the II's 2 to 1.Still if your interested call 1-617-784-4531 for more info. I know they have a huge sales floor with lots of Apple II bargains in hardware and software or any little goody you though you'd never find.

I know you don't want to hear this but.... when you get to the MACintosh section of Incider/A+ don't just throw you magazine down in disgust. Read on... It might actually surprise you but there is still Apple II stuff to be found behind that MACintosh stuff, some of the MAC stuff may even apply to you! I was impressed this month's Incider/A+ actually had over 60% Apple II stuff!!!

<u>From USA TODAY:</u>

IBM PC's Still hold the lead in units sold over the Apple Macintosh. IBM PC units sold = 22.47 Million, Apple Macintoshes sold = 10 million. Looks as if Apple has a long ways to go.

AIR SCULLEY: Apple CEO John Sculley owns his own Lear jet that he leases to Apple Computer, Inc. to fly him around the world. For Sculley it not a bad part time job. Last year Apple paid Sculley $600,000 for the use of his jet. Apple doesn't own a corporate jet and Sculley won't share his jet so Apple leases other planes to fly the rest of the executives around. Sculley can ride in his own plane and have a million dollar toy, subsidized by the company. Sculley charges the regular going rate for leasing his airplane.

BBS News..... Happy Birthday WAC BBS

Well it's been 2 years since I started the BBS (March 1, 1991). We've seen lots of good times and a few bad ones with the BBS but all in all I think the first two years went well. We've had almost 3300 calls which is an average of a little less than 5 per day. Not bad for just a little Apple // BBS. Lots of changes in the first year as I got the bugs worked out and tried out new ideas. Thanks to everyone who stuck with it an helped out with ideas, suggestions, software and just plain calling in to see what the only Apple // only BBS in Salem was like. Special thanks to Larry Tucker, Frans Geerlings, Steve Flippin, Steve Boggs, Eric Peterson, and Jim Ferr.

The latest change to the BBS is version 1.1. No new features just a couple of bug fixes. By the way the WARP6 software is now in the public domain so anyone can get a copy and start their own Apple // BBS. maybe we will see more of them.

Did you know.....

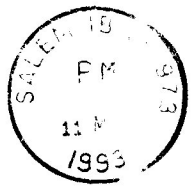
That there is a new Apple // newsletter in town? It's called "The Passport House Newsletter" $24 yearly for 12 issues ---> strange name for an Apple // newsletter. I just received a complimentary issue. For more info write them at "Passport House" P.O. Box 124 Miles City, MT 59301-0145

Or how about "GS+"?? "GS+" is another magazine and disk available for only $36 yearly for 6 issues plus a companion diskette. Call them at 1-800-662-3634 for more info.

Both of the above subscriptions are published 100% on an Apple // or an Apple //gs. Both seem to be very professional looking. Check them out! It could be worth your while. I'm going to get GS+, I'll let you know

Quality Computers is publishing "II Alive" Call 1-800-777-3642 for more info.

Apple is supposed to release a new version of GS/OS soon probably in April sometime....soon I hope. Should include FST's for reading and writing to MS-DOS disks!

Apple had released new system software v4.0.1 for the //e,//c line. Includes Prodos 2.0.2, Basic system v1.5 and updated system utilities.
We should have in the club library by the time you read this.

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