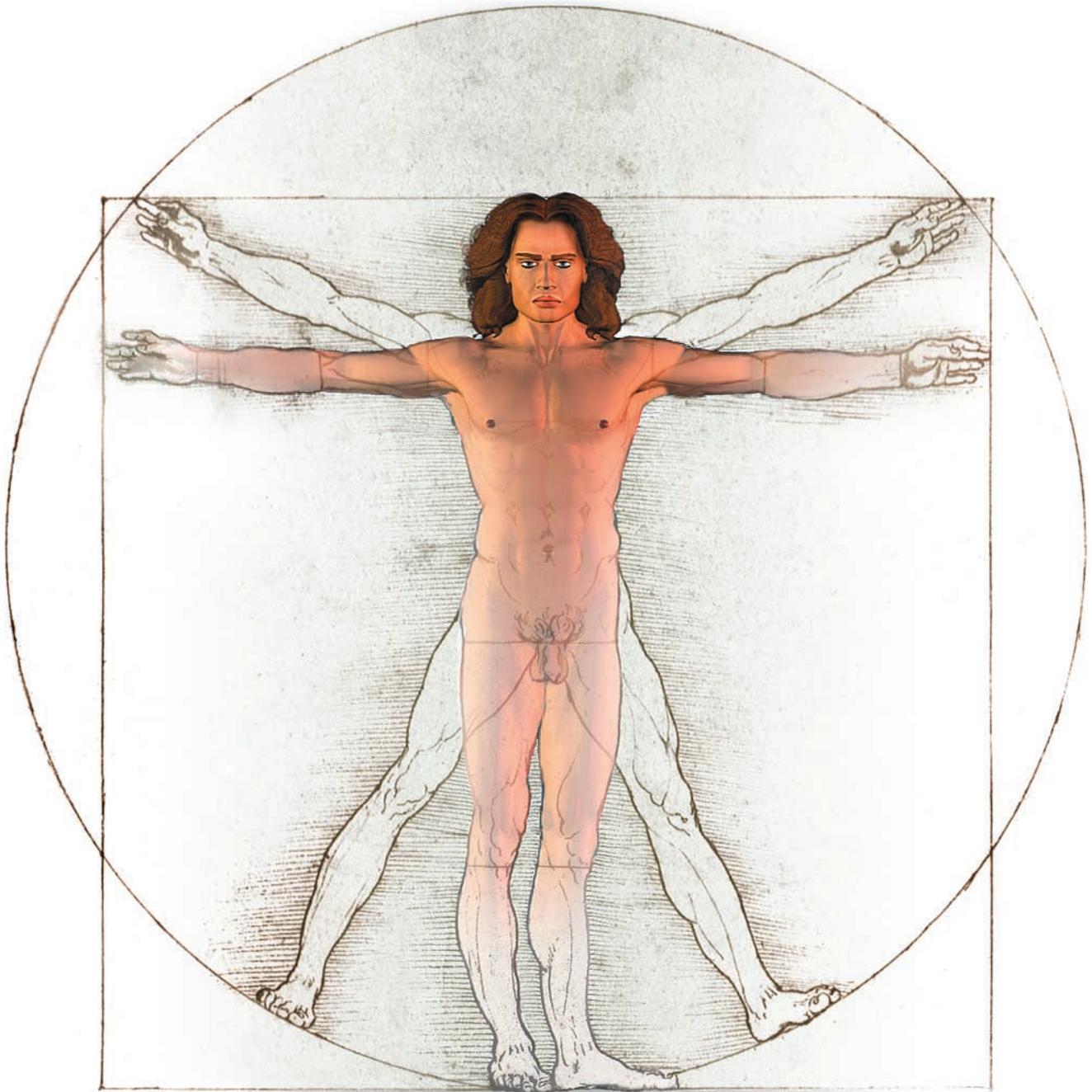


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NAPSTERISM: THE RISE, FALL AND REBIRTH OF A NEW RELIGION

PLUS GOLIVE 5 • METASTREAM • MACWORLD NEW YORK





MacWorld New York: Jobs squared equals Mac cubed

by Dan Brill

Even the Big Apple takes notice when the *real* Big Apple comes to town.

That was clear when I saw the early morning lineup of people standing eight abreast at July's MacWorld Expo—inside, outside and around New York's Javits Center—waiting for the chance to hear what Steve Jobs had to say. Even the lineup at the media registration desk was backed up half an hour (despite arriving 45 minutes before the event), which is why I barely managed to find a seat in the section reserved for the press. For those unlucky enough to arrive at Javits less than 30 minutes before show time, it meant being shunted off to overflow rooms where they were forced to watch the presentations on-screen.

No doubt about it—in the world of geeks and nerds, Steve Jobs is a rock star. But one thing is for sure: the Man rarely disappoints his following.

ON WITH THE SHOW

Black shirt, black string tie, signature well-worn jeans—out onto the stage he sauntered a few minutes after the prescribed

hour, looking just a little greyer and a little portlier than he used to.

It's always a treat to watch Jobs perform. This is a guy with a long-established reputation as a screamer, yet his stage persona is always relaxed, soft-spoken—almost demure. He had the audience in his palm within minutes simply by flashing on-screen quotes from trade magazines calling the Mac mouse (that awkward, round, ill-conceived bun) “the worst design ever” (to a round of snickers and titters). Then he introduced the new Mac mouse with its optical tracking, no moving parts, requiring no mousepad, and you knew from then on he good do no wrong.

Next on display was the new Apple Pro keyboard, a slicker rendition of the old extended model and a vast improvement over the cramped economy version whichy was standard with the old G4 and G3. He moved quickly through his casually delivered presentation (which any Jobs observer knows would have been meticulously timed and rehearsed) in order to get to the main course.

First came the expected mano-a-mano demonstration of a standard 500MHz G4 duelling an accelerated 1GHz Pentium 3 machine, using a series of prerecorded Photoshop actions to show how the Mac could shave twenty per cent off the time it took the Wintel unit.

Then came the coup de grace, as Jobs unveiled the brand new dual processor G4. This time it wasn't even a contest, as the Mac bested the Pentium beast by better than 50%—but of course, was there ever any doubt?

MORE SPEED, SAME PRICE

The ooooh's and aaaah's had barely subsided when the master showman delivered the punch line: all this extra processing power with no increase in pricing!

Dual processing makes a lot of sense, considering that OS X will support symmetric multiprocessing when it's released early next year. Steve promised a beta by September.

Following a quick appearance by a top

The new 500MHz dual G4 comes with 256MB of RAM, an ATI RAGE 128 video card with 16MB SDRAM, a 40GB hard drive, DVD-RAM drive with DVD Video playback, three 64-bit, 33 MHz PCI slots, Gigabit Ethernet (now right on the motherboard), and built-in 56K modem and still sells for \$5,299 (all prices in Canadian dollars); the 450 MHz dual G4 includes 128MB installed memory, 30GB hard drive, same video, DVD-ROM drive with DVD Video playback, FireWire and USB ports, three PCI slots, Gigabit Ethernet and built-in 56K modem at \$3,799. The 400 MHz single G4 with 64MB of memory, 20GB hard drive, and same DVD-ROM, FireWire and USB ports, PCI slots, Ethernet and modem is \$2,399.



worth more than a drool.

After that it was only left to present the new 17 inch Apple Studio Display CRT (\$749) and 15 inch Studio Display flat panel (\$1,499). These monitors are powered from the computer, eliminating a separate powercord; they each utilize the Apple Display Connector, a new cable and connector which carries analog and digital video signals, USB data and display power over a single

cable and connector.

But with his customary flair for marketing pizzazz, the maestro finished up with a surprise bonus for everyone in the crowd. As we all filed out of the

The new 450MHz G4 Cube can accommodate up to 1.5GB of RAM (base configuration includes 64MB) and ships with a 20GB hard drive, two FireWire and two USB ports; 10/100BASE-T Ethernet and 56K modem. Canadian list price is \$2,699.

Microsoft exec who reassured all the gamers in the audience that Microsoft's acquisition of developer Bungie Software would not jeopardize game development on the Mac, Jobs took the stage once more, this time to dazzle us with the new range of iMacs, now sporting five new designer colors: Indigo, Ruby, Sage, Graphite and Snow. We got a peek at the new Apple TV commercials, each backed by a classic tune intended to complement the featured iMac color, from Elvis performing *Blue Suede Shoes* (for Indigo) to Dion's *Ruby*, through to Kermit the Frog and *It's Not Easy Being Green* (for Sage).

The Man was cookin'. The crowd in the packed hall savoured every word.

On came iMovie 2, with a spiffy new interface, new features for mixing audio and video, and reverse and slow motion controls. Naturally the Old Pro used his own home movies of the Jobs family to show off the new software.

COOL AS A CUBE

But the best was saved for last.

There were audible gasps as the G4 Cube was brought on stage. Frankly, this is one design that deserves attention. It is positively the most elegant desktop computer I've ever seen, from its handsome transparent shell with toaster-like DVD drive to its unique plutonium-

bomb egress. At a very compact 8 x 8 inches, with quiet air cooling system, this 450MHz (configurable to 500MHz) beauty makes any other computer look like a battered old suitcase. Yet it still offers the power and speed of a regular single processor G4. Its only drawback is a lack of expandability, but at \$2,699 it's definitely



Apple's new Pro mouse is an optical tracking device with no moving parts. It works on virtually any surface without a mousepad.





hall, we each received our own Apple optical mouse, compliments of Mr. Jobs.

As far as I'm concerned, this guy really knows how to sell.

FEW SHOWSTOPPERS ON FLOOR

Although the MacWorld show floor had the kind of energy and congestion I haven't experienced in a long time at any show, it wasn't one where you'd find a lot of eyegrabbing new products (with the exception of the Apple booth itself, where attendees were packed in the aisles, admiring the Cube).

Post-show reports tallied final attendance at 61,250, 33% more than last year and a new record for an East Coast MacWorld. Close to 400 exhibitors offered their products on the show floor.

In my wanderings, there were a few items that caught my eye.

The new NEC-Mitsubishi partnership showed off a fancy 21" high end monitor due to be available soon, but with an equally fancy price of \$10,000 (US).

The promise of voice recognition technology continues to tantalize, as IBM demonstrated a revamped version of ViaVoice. Unfortunately, this software still does not look like it's ready for prime time. I had to feel sorry for the cheery demo-lady who was trying her best to make it work for the crowd (but with not much success). Perhaps MacSpeech (due to be released in the fall) will deliver what IBM has been unable to. It promises to work with almost any software program, unlike ViaVoice, which is limited to four applications.

Xante showed off its new ColourLaser Pro 1200 at \$5,995 (US), although it looked suspiciously like a repackaged QMS printer.

LaCie has a neat new Gi-gaCD drive that lets you store the contents of up to 18 CDs and access it both over a network and through a TCP/IP connection. Also on display was LaCie's smart new 6GB PocketDrive.

In software, Pixologic's ZBrush, a very smooth 3D paint program, will be out for the Mac soon. The PC version has already garnered rave reviews.

But for the most part, this was a show that seemed to be more about Apple's continued resurgence than any breathtaking new Mac products. It was about showing the rest of the computer world that Apple was still (and again) a force with which to be reckoned.

At MacWorld New York, Steve Jobs took care of business the way only Jobs can do. And as we all know, if you can make it there, you can make it anywhere. ■

FlightCheck adds support for Adobe InDesign and CorelDraw

Markzware has announced an update for its popular preflighting software, FlightCheck for Macintosh. Version 3.8 now supports preflighting for documents created in both Adobe InDesign and CorelDRAW.

FlightCheck 3.8 also adds several new features to its base functionality. Users can automatically add fonts located in the document folder or sub-folder to the database when selecting "Job Fonts".

In addition, a new Ground Control setting is included with this upgrade that allows the user to turn off inactive font detection for unused Style Sheets. Another improvement to the program is the ability to find missing images in the sub-folders of the document folder.

The version 3.8 update to FlightCheck is available now from Markzware's website at www.markzware.com.



Alias Wavefront to release Maya for Macintosh early in 2001



Alias|Wavefront will bring its 3D animation and visual effects software, Maya, to the Macintosh platform early in 2001, according to a company statement. Maya was demonstrated running on Mac OS X at the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference in May.

Maya offers NURBS and polygon modeling and includes components for digital sculpting and attribute painting, character animation tools with Inverse Kinematics, Paint Effects technology for adding natural detail on a 2D canvas or in true 3D space, film-quality rendering, and an EPS importer for bringing text and other Adobe Illustrator files into Maya.

Pricing will be announced prior to shipping; NT, SGI and IRIX versions sell for about \$5,000 (US). For more information, check <http://www.aliaswavefront.com>.

QuickTime compression scheme one-third size of other codecs

Piranha, a small Texas-based software company, claims to have developed a video-compression scheme that produces QuickTime files one-third the size of those produced by other encoding schemes.

The company says that Piranha Stream compressed files, based on its own Piranha Byte encoding technology, offer quality comparable with those encoded with Sorenson Video and other currently available codecs. At present, users need Windows Media Player and a PC-only plug-in to view movies encoded with Piranha Stream. But the company plans to post free Mac-compatible QuickTime plug-ins that work with Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator on its website. It also plans to offer Mac- and Windows-compatible RealPlayer plug-ins as well as versions for Linux. Go to www.piranha.com for demos of Piranha's technology.

DayMen named exclusive distributor for Epson 2000P

Epson Canada and DayMen Photo Marketing recently announced that DayMen will be the exclusive Canadian distributor for the Epson Stylus Photo 2000P pigment-based inkjet printer.

The 2000P uses Epson's Archival Ink and new compatible Epson papers to produce very longlasting prints, with lightfastness rated at more than 200 years under fluorescent lighting conditions, in a glass frame. It has a printable area of up to 13" x 44" and employs Epson's Micro Piezo Technology. Estimated street price on the unit is \$1,499.

In addition, DayMen also announced its appointment by Sekonic Corporation of Japan as the exclusive Canadian distributor for Sekonic light meters.

For full details on Epson's products and DayMen Photo Marketing, visit www.epson.com and www.daymen.com.

New Roland Hi-Fi Jets now print 38% faster than before

Roland DGA Corporation has announced that it is shipping new models of its wide format Hi-Fi Jet inkjet printer.

The 40" FJ-42 and 50" FJ-52 have three additional print modes, including 540 dpi, HS-720 dpi and HS-1440 dpi. Roland says the high-speed (HS) modes print up to 38% faster than earlier models.

The new models are priced at \$15,995 (US) for the FJ-52 and \$13,995 (US) for the FJ-42; they ship with Roland's proprietary ColorChoice Adobe PostScript 3 software RIP which provides direct driver-level printing of documents from Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe PageMaker, or QuarkXPress. The Hi-Fi Jet can match 97% of all Pantone colors.

Additional information can be obtained from www.rolanddga.com. For specifications and pricing on the Hi-Fi JET, visit www.hifijet.com.

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Is the Web ready for the third dimension?

The company formerly known as MetaCreations is betting everything on it

by Kirby Ferguson

In retrospect, MetaCreations' liquidation of almost all its software seemed inevitable. Specializing in whizzy but inessential graphics tools, the company never managed to secure a meal ticket along the lines of Photoshop, XPress or even CoreDRAW.

With all the mergers and acquisitions that went into forming the company (HSC, Fractal, Ray Dream, Specular) its software lineup became a mish-mash of redundant and conflicting apps (how many 3D programs does one need?), further confused by an ill-fated venture into the low-margin consumer market with PhotoSap and Goo.

MetaCreations was also dogged in its use of non-standard interfaces which managed to simultaneously alienate both Mac and PC users (though looking at Aqua, it could be argued it was simply ahead of its time). MetaCreations was a niche company that somehow ballooned into something that was about to burst. Clearly, the company had to be deflated.

But few people anticipated the extent to which they would streamline them-

selves: MetaCreations sold off all its software save one modest piece of technology—oddly enough, this sole survivor was the previously low-key MetaStream, a 3D browser plug-in that allows you to zoom and twirl virtual objects at will.

At the time this seemed like the least likely saviour available. MetaCreations Inc. has since morphed into MetaStream Inc., left the ranks of Adobe, Macromedia and Corel, and is now more akin to Real, Cycore or Beatnik.

Since 3D on the web has been done before (most notably with VRML) and met with total apathy, reaction to MetaCreation's strategy was cynical, and became even more so when the company trumpeted MetaStream as an "e-commerce solution," one of the trendiest bits of dot-com lingo on the go. Needless to say, the initial outlook on the company's fortunes was dreary, and skeptics anticipated nothing more than a prolonged descent into oblivion.

However, with the upcoming final release of MetaStream 3 and deals with high-profile clients like Nike, Eddie Bauer and the Sharper Image, MetaStream is showing some of its old spark. While startups with cool technology often enjoy an initial period of good will as techies toy with their wares, success depends on the whims of the average Net user.

So does MetaStream have what it takes to endure?

I put MetaStream and to a lesser extent its foremost rival, Cycore's Cult3D,



MetaStream has announced the launch of its innovative streaming technology by its first two major website clients, NIKE (above) and EDDIE BAUER.

through their paces to find out.

The MetaStream plug-in easily installed in several minutes over a 56kbps dial-up connection. After a model is downloaded—the company estimates MetaStream files to be between 80-200% the size of JPEGs—the speed with which you can manipulate it depends on your processor. On my P233, a complex one like the Nike sneaker was choppy to handle, while simpler models animated smoothly. But overall, I found things a bit too sluggish, and my system is probably more powerful than average. This technology is just a little ahead of the curve.

As for MetaStream's graphical quality, this is the first piece of software to provide 3D on the web in the way most people envision it: almost photo-realistic, with transparency, drop shadows and anti-aliasing. And it's all integrated right into the web page, not a separate browser window. Cult3D's models are also nice, but they



Using MetaStream's newly launched 3D STREAMING TECHNOLOGY, users can not only manipulate objects in a three-dimensional space but also choose its characteristics, such as the bedding selections in the example above. MetaStream's drop shadows add an extra dimension to the images.



MetaStream's only competition in 3D web imaging is **CULT3D BY CYCORE**. In contrast to MetaStream, Cult3D technology is being offered for a relatively inexpensive licensing fee.

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lack some of these finer points.

I also found MetaStream models easier to navigate (the center of the models stay rooted, whereas Cult3D models tend to flip themselves about awkwardly), faster to render, and flat-out prettier. Cleverly, MetaStream also provides design work for its clients, and does it well, so all its demonstration models are of a uniformly high quality.

Since the web can be the great equalizer, where medium-sized corporations and multinational conglomerates become indistinguishable, MetaStream aims to be a prestige technology that helps differentiate the premiere online brand merchants from the rest of the schmucks. That means MetaStream's high-end solutions are priced accordingly (think \$100,000-ish US). For the rest of us, everything you need to produce MetaStream content yourself is free, all you need is a compatible 3D program. The company is vying to milk the high-end for cash and prominence, the low-end for buzz and prevalence.

MetaCreations' concoctions have always been undeniably cool, and MetaStream is no different, but does it offer the right combination of fun and function needed for long-term survival?

MetaStream certainly looks great, but 3D on the web is not something people will seek out or wait for—if it's troublesome at all, they'll skip it. If the plug-in manages to become ubiquitous, this limitation will vanish. MetaStream isn't quite ready for prime time yet—it requires more horsepower than what many users have—but it's now close enough that I can foresee its proliferation. In the meantime, MetaStream should have considerable success in e-commerce and product demonstration applications.

If the company is able to get this software on enough computers (new partnerships with AOL and Excite@Home should help), MetaStream could one day be as common as Flash, RealAudio or QuickTime. In any case, it's clear that we have more to look forward to from MetaStream Inc. than its extended death throes.

The final release of MetaStream is slated for early Q4. Visit www.metastream.com to download the plug-in or to find out more about utilizing MetaStream technology. ■

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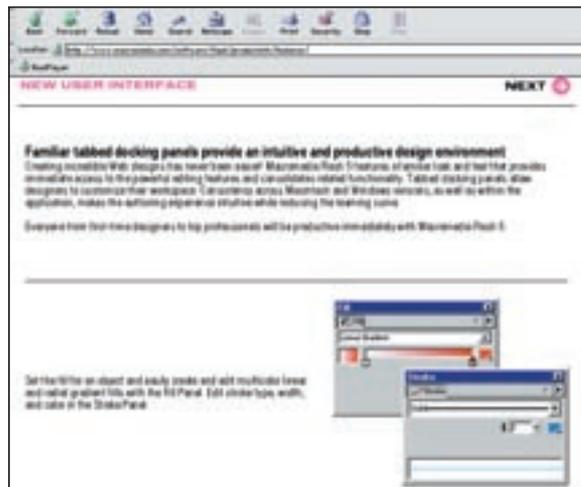
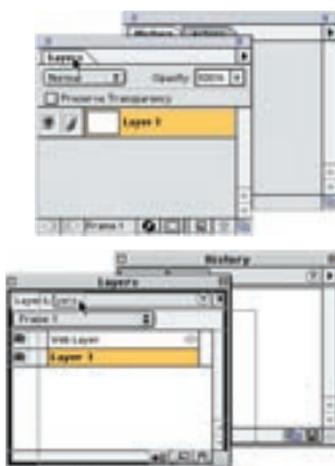
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Adobe takes Macromedia to court over infringement of tabbed palette patent

Adobe Systems has taken off the gloves, announcing that it has filed suit against Macromedia for infringement of U.S. Patent No. 5,546,528 which covers Adobe's tabbed palette patent, the method of displaying and working with multiple sets of information in the same area of the computer screen. The patented invention allows users to customize how the functions in the product are organized on the workspace.

"We are taking this action now, after notifying Macromedia on several occasions that its



In its recently announced patent infringement suit, Adobe accuses Macromedia of stealing Adobe's tabbed palette idea. Adobe shows the similarity between Photoshop palettes (top left) and Macromedia Fireworks palettes (bottom left) on a special page set up at www.adobefacts.com. It appeared to observers that Adobe may have decided to react after seeing Macromedia's most recent promotional efforts for its upcoming release of Flash 5, as shown in this screen (top) from the Macromedia website.

Sharp announces three inkjet printers for SOHO markets

Sharp's just-announced first color inkjet printers, the AJ-1800 and AJ-2000, and the AJ-6010 all-in-one scanner, were developed as part of the \$2 billion alliance amongst Sharp, Xerox and Fuji Xerox.

The AJ-1800 and AJ-2000 are PC and Mac compatible, and feature 1200 x 1200 dpi photo-quality color and laser-quality black printing. The AJ-1800 prints at 6 pages-per-minute in color, the AJ-2000 at 8 ppm. The AJ-6010 is a flatbed model, offering print, copy and scan capabilities, and outputs at 8 ppm. It also includes

products are infringing our patent. The remedy sought is straightforward – we ask them to stop infringing our patents," said Adobe president Bruce Chizen.

Macromedia has responded with a firm denial of all accusations, contending that it advised Adobe as long ago as 1996 that it felt Adobe's claims were unenforceable.

As with all copyright battles, this one promises to drag on for years. Check www.adobefacts.com for examples of what Adobe says are patent infringements.

SharpDesk image and document management software.

Advanced Ink Management System Advanced Ink Management (AIM) technology boosts the printers' performance and saves ink. AIM's individual ink tank system, instead of an all-in-one cartridge, allows users to replace individual colors.

The AJs come bundled with MGI's PhotoSuite III SE, a PC and Internet photography power pack. EST for the AJ-1800 and AJ-2000 printers is \$129.99 (US) and \$179.99 (US). The AJ-6010 all-in-one multifunction device will be available at year end. You can contact Sharp at 1-800-GO-SHARP or visit www.sharp-usa.com.

Rewind works when backup and disk repair software doesn't



Rewind's technology remembers all the information that is being modified on your disks, allowing you to return to previous versions of documents, applications, systems, even entire disks. Rewind's Rewind Files feature al-

lows you to quickly recover previous versions of any file, even if you've moved, renamed, overwritten, or deleted it. If your entire system crashes, it will restart up in Rewind Emergency Startup Mode.

Rewind requires a PowerPC, Mac OS 8.1 or higher. It will retail for \$99.95 (US). A download version will be available for US \$89.95 at www.poweronsoftware.com. Rewind ships in the fourth quarter of 2000.

4.11 updater resolves memory issues in QuarkXPress

Quark's FixIt XTension 4.11 resolves memory issues in QuarkXPress when picture files are moved from their original locations. The free download can be obtained at www.quark.com/files. QuarkXPress 4.0 users must first download the 4.1 updater, which is also available on this page.

New Xerox low cost inkjets

Xerox Canada has introduced two new personal color inkjet products, the DocuPrint M750 and M760. These inkjet printers are the first to result from the company's strategic alliance with Sharp Corporation and Fuji Xerox of Japan.

The DocuPrint M750, priced at \$225, prints up to 10 ppm black and 6 ppm color, with up to 1200 x 1200 (dpi) resolution on any paper. The DocuPrint M760, priced at \$300, prints up to 12 ppm black and 8 ppm color and has optional network capabilities for multiple users. While most inkjet products offer three modes of printing—Draft, Normal, and Best—DocuPrint M Series products offer an additional option called eXpress Mode which Xerox says prints up to twice as fast as other comparable printers.

InkLogic is the Xerox-patented ink delivery and level-sensing system in Xerox M Series products. Its optical sensor system reads ink levels in each tank, and informs users (in an on-screen dialogue box) when they are running low before the next job prints. Xerox InkLogic technology also employs separate ink tanks for each color, enabling individual color replacement.

The M Series printers work in Windows 95, 98 and NT 4.0 environments (Windows 2000 drivers for the will be available from Xerox' Web site at www.xerox.ca). Macintosh drivers will be available shortly thereafter. The DocuPrint M750 and M760 are available now.

Get more details on Xerox printers from www.xerox.com.

New!

WALBAUM NEWS is the headline face of *The Globe and Mail*, *Scotland on Sunday*, *The Birmingham News* (Alabama), *Financial Times Deutschland*, and many other major newspapers around the world. Now it is available for general release. WORLDWIDE is an elegant, slightly condensed text face in the Century idiom.

WALBAUM NEWS REGULAR (HEAD), WORLDWIDE REGULAR (TEXT)

New!

Beaufort is hyperclassic. Its exemplary proportions are designed for maximum legibility. The super-sharp serifs add definition at text sizes, and finesse in display settings. The massive family has a range of weight and horizontal scaling—from Light Condensed to Heavy Extended, in both Roman and Italic—that is exceeded only by Univers and Helvetica.

BEAUFORT LIGHT (HEAD), BOLD AND REGULAR (TEXT)

In all, there are seven new typeface families in the first offering of the Shinn Type Foundry. The fonts are nicely priced, and available for both Mac and PC platforms. Call FontShop at 1-888-443-6687 for your free 20-page specimen booklet. BODONI EGYPTIAN

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Epson unveils 1600 dpi large format scanner

Epson has introduced the Expression 1640XL large format color flatbed scanner, the successor to its Expression 836XL.

The Expression 1640XL provides 1600 x 3200 dpi hardware resolution, 42-bit color depth and a 3.6 Dmax; it is also the first large format scanner to support IEEE 1394 FireWire (although it comes standard with USB and SCSI-2 interfaces). It handles all media types, up to 12.2" x 17.2". The scanner is available in two cross-platform software configurations, a Special Edition model and a Graphic Arts model.

The scanner also has a built-in AutoFocus System for increased image sharpness and custom film holders that eliminate light refraction and avoid the "Newton Ring" problem common in less sophisticated scanners.

The Expression 1640XL is overall about 30 percent faster (in SCSI mode) than its predecessor, the Expression 836XL. It can produce a full-color preview in 13 seconds and an 8.5" x 11" reflective color scan at 300 dpi in less than 26 seconds; a 35mm slide scan at 1600 dpi is complete in approximately 54 seconds, and a 4" x 5" transparency at 1600 dpi takes about three minutes.

Both the Expression 1640XL Special Edition and the Graphic Arts model are available now; the Special Edition model sells for an estimated street price of \$2,499 (US) and the Graphic Arts model is available for an ESP of \$2,699 (US); an optional transparency unit and automatic document feeder are also available for \$499 and \$1,499 respectively. Check www.epson.com for further details.



NEC and Mitsubishi merge monitor divisions

NEC-Mitsubishi Electric Visual Systems Corporation, a new Tokyo-based joint venture of NEC and Mitsubishi, announced that it has established North American and European operations to develop, market and sell the companies' CRT and LCD monitor products. The new company is now known as NEC/Mitsubishi Electronics Display.

NEC claims to be the world's largest supplier of branded LCD monitors. Mitsubishi, one of the leading manufacturers of flat aperture-grille CRTs, supplies the tubes used in Apple's 17-inch Studio Display and NEC's MultiSync monitors. The new venture will continue to offer NEC-branded LCD and CRT monitors and Mitsubishi-branded CRTs.

Although NEC has sold plenty of monitors to Mac users over the years, a company official admits that Mitsubishi has done a better job than NEC of targeting the Mac market. Part of this is due to NEC's focus on corporate customers, he said. In addition, Mitsubishi's strong OEM business is an advantage in the Mac market because of Apple's cutting-edge industrial designs. Apple-branded Studio Displays have an iMac-inspired look to complement the Power Mac G3 and G4, a feature not available in branded monitors from other companies.

The companies estimate that the joint venture will produce \$800 million in annual North American sales and \$2 billion in global sales.

LaCie introduces new 75GB FireWire hard drive, 4.7/9.4GB DVD-RAM drive coming soon

LaCie is now shipping the industry's highest-capacity FireWire drive, a 3.5" 7200-rpm desktop hard drive that provides up to 75GB of capacity—enough to store more than five hours of DV video or more than 100 CD-Audio images.

The LaCie 75GB FireWire HDD can be connected to either Windows-based systems or to the native FireWire ports that are standard with Macintosh G3 and G4 computers, as well as the new iMac DV and PowerBook systems.

The LaCie 75GB drives have been optimized to provide an access time of 9ms and a throughput of up to 14 Mbytes per second. LaCie FireWire drives also come in 20GB and 45GB configurations.

Suggested retail pricing (all in Canadian dollars) for the LaCie FireWire hard drives are \$699 for the 20GB model, \$1,099 for 45GB, and \$1,549 for 75GB.

LaCie is also set to deliver its new 4.7GB/9.4GB DVD-RAM drive, which will offer twice the performance and nearly twice the capacity of its first-generation 2.6GB DVD-RAM drive, plus substantially faster access times. Pricing on the external drives will start at \$1,199.

Check www.lacie.com for more information.

Xanté enters pro color printing market

Xanté Corporation has entered the color printing market with three versions of its new ColourLaser printer. Each model features a fast RISC processor and Adobe PostScript 3 support.



The top of the line ColourLaser Pro 1200, targeted at graphics professionals, features 1200 x 1200 dpi color output up to 13" x 19" in size and includes 256 MB RAM, Pantone Calibration, and additional ICC profiles for SWOP, Euroscale, and Toyo printing inks plus 10/100BaseT Ethernet, and an internal IDE drive. As well, the Pro model includes Xanté's ColourMatch software which controls colors beyond the standard settings. The ColourLaser family also includes a standard 1200 model without ColourMatch software and the ColourLaser 600, a 600 x 600 dpi version which comes with 64 MB RAM and standard 10BaseT Ethernet. Each model offers 6-24 pages per minute ranging from 4-color process to monochrome color. The ColourLaser series handles media weights up to 60 lb. cover stock, 16 to 24 lb. plain paper, and (optionally) duplexes up to 28 lb. bond paper.

Xanté's ColourLaser Pro 1200 carries a list price of \$5,995 (US), the ColourLaser 1200 is \$4,995 (US) and the ColourLaser 600 is \$3,995 (US).

Visit www.xante.com for more details.

New FujiFilm scanner uses twin lens design

FujiFilm has announced its new F2750 desktop scanner. The F2750 incorporates the company's new 10,500 pixel Super Linear RGB CCD which boasts a combination of high dynamic range and very low noise and handles negatives or transparencies up to 18.5" x 13.8".

FujiFilm's XY Technology means the F2750 can locate an image anywhere on its scanner bed and move the scan head directly underneath it to perform scans from anywhere on the platen at up to 2500% magnification. The unit also incorporates SOOM (Scan Once Output Many) which allows re-purposing of a single scan for multiple applications. It allows up to 100 35mm slides to be mounted and scanned in one operation, in as little as 90 seconds. The unit also uses multiple lenses; the process operates by inserting a different lens into the light path depending on the scanning resolution required. This results in higher resolutions and reduced scanning time. There is also a separate lens included for fast preview scans. According to FujiFilm, the F2750 can produce 15 scans per hour. Featuring a twin lens design, it has optical resolutions of 762 dpi and 2743 dpi and is FireWire and SCSI 2 compatible.

The F2750 scanner is scheduled to be available in October at a suggested price of \$9,995 (US). For more information, check www.fujifilm.com.

THE SHADOW KNOWS...



We're usually reporting on the latest Apple lawsuit (witness the latest, against unnamed persons for revealing "trade secrets") but the tables may be turned if Apple is forced to defend itself in a spat over computer designs -- seems Cobalt of Mountain View, California thinks the G4 Cube is too similar to its blue 7" square Qube Internet server, introduced in 1998,



and is contemplating legal action... Speaking of "supercomputers", IBM reports that the U.S. Department of Energy will soon take delivery of the world's fastest computer, the ASCI White, which is actually 512 computers with 8,192 microprocessors joined together, and able to perform 12 trillion calculations per second -- a bargain at \$110 million, but, alas, still ten

times too slow to simulate nuclear explosions... From biggest to smallest -- UCLA scientists have developed the basis for a molecular computer, constructing microscopic switches from a molecule called a catetane... Microsoft says it will release a beta version of a new Windows OS in October, code-named Whistler, which unifies the old Windows 98 with Windows NT in one single code -- speculation is that it will be released in the second half of next year... And did you know that industry specialists estimate that 50% of all computers in Mississippi are running pirated software, highest rate in the U.S.?... We bet Michael Cowpland wishes he'd been head of Xerox instead of Corel, after hearing that ex-X CEO Rick Thoman, fired in May, will collect annual retirement benefits of \$800K (US)... Look out, here comes Chew Chew the gastrobot, a 12-wheeled robot created by a Florida inventor which eats sugar cubes and uses a microbial fuel cell to convert them to electricity -- great concept for grass-eating lawn mowers, but not as interesting as a gastrobot in England whose masters feed it slugs...