

Panther adds improved speed and 150 new features for Mac

Apple has just released OS X version 10.3 (otherwise known as "Panther"), delivering more than 150 new features.

Panther's new Finder provides file searching that is up to six times faster than



v10.2 and offers one-click access by putting a user's favorite folders, storage, servers and iDisk in one convenient location.

Also introduced is Exposé, which visually unshuffles overlapping windows on the desktop into an organized thumbnail view so a user can instantly locate and switch to any open window or get to any file on the desktop. iChat AV, which has been in use by over

half a million beta users since its introduction in June, offers full-screen, full-motion video over broadband, crystal-clear audio and an easy-to-use interface.

Other new features include fast user switching between active users without having to quit applications or log out; FileVault, which uses 128-bit encryption technology; Font Book, a new system-level font manager; a significantly improved Preview, with fast text searching that builds an instant index of search results in a PDF; enhanced Mail, with advanced spam filtering technology; and enhanced Windows compatibility.

OS X v10.3 carries a suggested retail price of CDN\$179 for a single user license; the OS X Panther Family Pack is a single-residence, five-user license available for CDN\$279. Panther requires minimum 128MB RAM and runs on the iMac, iBook, Power Macintosh G3, Power Mac G4, and Power Mac G4 Cube.

plete product information for Photoshop CS, Illustrator CS, InDesign CS and GoLive CS can be found at www.adobe.com.

Version Cue is a file management system that allows designers to visually scan image thumbnails in Photoshop CS, Illustrator CS, InDesign CS, and GoLive CS, or search metadata across version comments, keywords, author, date, and more.

A Standard Edition of Adobe Creative Suite is also available which does not include GoLive and Acrobat.

Customers who currently own Photoshop can upgrade to Adobe Creative Suite Premium Edition for CDN\$1,139 or the Standard Edition for CDN\$835 (estimated street pricing). The Creative Suite Premium Edition retails for CDN\$1,868, or CDN\$1,519 for the Standard Edition.

save ShadowCaster files as JPEGs and enhanced preview rendering in OS X.

ShadowCaster 3.2 is available for Mac OS 8.6 or later and Windows 98 or later, and is priced at US\$99.99 (~CDN\$130). For more information on ShadowCaster, go to www.alap.com/products/shdw3.html.

Adobe Creative Suite includes major upgrades and Version Cue

Adobe has released Adobe Creative Suite, its new integrated design environment of key creative applications for Mac OS X 10.2.4, Microsoft Windows 2000 with Service Pack 2, and Windows XP Professional and Home Edition.

Adobe CS Premium Edition combines new full-version upgrades of Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and GoLive with Acrobat 6.0 Professional, and introduces Version Cue, Creative Suite's file version manager. Instead of traditional version numbers, Adobe is now using "CS" to identify these new versions, in order to better reflect the deep level of integration between its creative tools. Pricing and com-

Markzware ships new version of FlightCheck Professional

Markzware has announced the release of FlightCheck Professional 5 for Mac OS X.

FlightCheck Professional is preflighting software which uses a drag-and-drop interface to scan a wide variety of file types, including InDesign, QuarkXPress, PDF, PageMaker, Multi-Ad Creator, Illustrator, Photoshop, FreeHand, and CorelDRAW, to verify critical file elements, such as color space and resolution. New features include expanded support for a variety of native applications, including Microsoft Word, Publisher and PowerPoint; PDF FlightPlan, which checks for accredited file format standards, including PDF/X-1a, PDF/X-3 and Mediobil; support for OpenType fonts; and the ability to open and verify multiple documents in a single session.

FlightCheck Professional sells for US\$499 (~CDN\$635). See www.markzware.com for more details.

Macromedia Breeze Live simplifies online meetings



Macromedia recently announced the availability of Macromedia Breeze Live, a new online meeting tool available as a standalone product or as an add-on module for the Macromedia Breeze platform.

Breeze Live, which relies on the ubiquitous Flash technology, allows users to join an online meeting by simply clicking a web link, without any complicated downloads or setup. The application can also be customized to suit individual presentation styles, content, or the audience by having multiple customizable layouts within the meeting room.

Macromedia Breeze Live is available as either a hosted ASP or enterprise licensed solution. ASP annual packages start at \$83/month per user for a complete web conferencing solution, including video and archiving. For more information, visit www.macromedia.com/go/breezelive.

ShadowCaster 3.2 now works with new QuarkXPress 6

ShadowCaster 3.2, ALAP's shadow and special effects XTension for QuarkXPress, now supports QuarkXPress 6, and contains new features that include the ability to

Epson Stylus Pro 4000 features 7-color UltraChrome ink system

Epson's new Stylus Pro 4000 outputs images up to 17 inches in width (17 x 22" maximum size) at nearly double the speed of previous Stylus Pro printers. The 4000 features a new eight-channel printhead and seven-color Epson UltraChrome pigmented ink system that automatically switches between Matte Black and Photo Black inks for optimum print quality on different media surfaces.

The Epson UltraChrome ink system is a pigment-based formula which uses seven

individual colors to create an extremely wide gamut of colors.

The Stylus Pro 4000 is capable of printing at 2,880 x 1,440 dpi resolution; images can be printed on virtually any media type up to 1.5 millimeters thick, using either rolls or cut sheets. Depending on the print mode, an 8" x 10" photo-quality image can be output in one minute, seven seconds, or an 8" x 10" at highest quality level in approximately seven minutes, eight seconds.

The Epson Stylus Pro 4000 is priced at CDN\$2,499 (estimated street price) and will begin shipping in January 2004. For more information, visit www.epson.com.

Extensis releases OS X version of Suitcase with added features

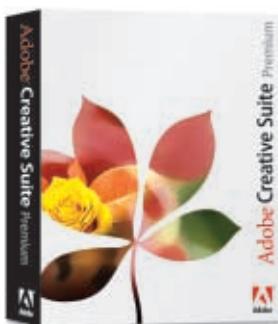
Suitcase X1, a new version of Extensis' font manager for Mac OS X, is shipping now.

Key features include a Preview Pane; Keyword & Styles, for easily organizing and locating fonts; Built-In Corrupt Font Detection and Repair; Duplicate Font Management; and Auto-Activation Support for QuarkXPress 6.

Suitcase X1 is available at an estimated street price of US\$129.95 (~CDN\$175). For additional information, visit www.extensis.com/suitcase.



Adobe® Creative Suite Premium



The Adobe® Creative Suite is an integrated design environment that combines the most complete upgrade in Adobe's history—featuring full, new versions of the tools you rely on most for image editing, illustration, page layout, and cross-media output—with innovative file-management features, a smooth Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) workflow, and comprehensive design resources. Create and publish content for print and the Web faster and more easily than ever before—all at an outstanding value. Adobe integration makes it possible. The Adobe® Creative Suite makes it affordable.

Adobe® Creative Suite Premium contains:
Adobe Photoshop® CS,
Adobe Illustrator® CS,
Adobe InDesign® CS,
Adobe GoLive® CS and
Adobe Acrobat® 6.0.

ActionScript Cookbook good for any level of Flash developer

As the capabilities of multimedia become more complex, so does the demand for greater interactivity to the consumer. Macromedia's Flash technology has changed the way we communicate over the web with easy to download, video-like experiences of moving pictures and text.

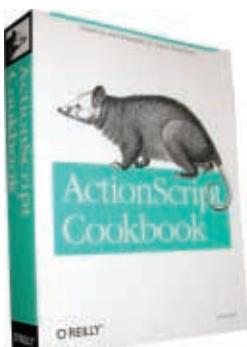
However, to truly embrace the power of Flash, ActionScript is the secret ingredient. Joey Lott is no stranger to the world of ActionScript and has released *ActionScript Cookbook* (US\$49.95, published by O'Reilly), a comprehensive guide to providing Flash developers of all levels real world practical techniques for everyday situations.

Rather than focusing on ActionScript in the abstract, this practical, nuts-and-bolts toolkit puts theory into practice with ready-made answers to common ActionScript problems. Lott provides readers with something that they can use daily in all their ActionScript projects, offering solutions that solve problems and simplify

processes. He begins with the premise that readers are familiar with the Flash authoring tool and have used some basic ActionScript in the past, then breaks it all down into tasks that are relevant, practical, and insightful.

The book follows a logical progression from short recipes for small problems to complex scripts, allowing developers to link modular ActionScript pieces together to create rock-solid solutions for Flash applications.

If you regularly tackle ActionScript challenges, you'll want to keep this book computer-side. Whether you're a beginner or master—or somewhere in between—these recipes will help you handle situations that arise in every ActionScript project. ~*Special report by Jason Lee*



Sony to deliver new dual RW DVD Windows-compatible drives

Sony Electronics has announced two new Dual RW DVD drives which support 8X DVD+R recording. Sony's fourth-generation Dual RW drives—the internal DRU-530A and the external DRX-530UL—are



capable of recording to compatible DVD+R discs at speeds of up to 8X, allowing users to burn an entire 8X DVD+R disc in about ten minutes. The new drives also support up to 4X DVD+RW and DVD-R recording, as well as 2X DVD-RW, 40X CD-R and 24X CD-RW recording.

The internal DRU-530A drive comes with an ATAPI interface for easy installation inside a PC, while the external DRX-530UL drive includes both an i.LINK (IEEE 1394) and a high-speed USB 2.0 digital interface.

Both Dual RW drives come bundled with Sonic RecordNow DVD video authoring and backup software, as well as DVD/CD burning software for creation of data, music, and video DVDs and CDs. The software suite also includes Sonic DLA packet-writing software for recording files and folders by dragging them to the icon of a DVD+RW/CD-RW disc.

Sonic MyDVD authoring software allows users to transfer home videos to customized DVD-Video and Video CD discs, while CyberLink PowerDVD DVD-Video playing software enables interactive viewing of both DVD-Video and Video CD discs on a PC.

The internal DRU-530A Dual RW drive will be available in December for an estimated retail price of around US\$270 (~CDN\$365); the external DRX-530UL model will be available in January, 2004 for about \$350 (~CDN\$475). Both are compatible with Microsoft Windows 2000 or Windows XP only. For additional details, visit www.sony.com.

Porsche designs new thin LaCie DVD RW FireWire drives

LaCie is now shipping a new lightweight, ultra-portable DVD±RW drive designed by Porsche Design. This all-in-one unit combines four DVD formats in a slender, hand-held device. LaCie's first mobile device to combine DVD-RW and DVD+RW technologies, it comes with FireWire or Hi-Speed USB 2.0 interface for connection to any PC or Mac.

The LaCie FireWire Slim DVD±RW Drive, which comes with CaptivDVD for Mac for the creation of interactive video DVDs, can also operate without an AC adapter. Also available is the LaCie Slim Combo CD-RW Drive with fast Hi-Speed USB 2.0 connection and 24x write speed.

The LaCie Slim DVD±RW Drive USB 2.0 is priced at approximately US\$349 (~CDN\$475); the Slim DVD±RW Drive FireWire is US\$369 (~CDN\$500); and the Slim Combo CD-RW Drive sells for US\$159 (~CDN\$215). Go to www.lacie.com to learn more.

Creo Leaf Valeo digital camera back support in Photoshop CS

Creo has announced an additional Leaf workflow for Leaf Valeo digital camera backs utilizing Adobe's new Photoshop CS software. Support in Photoshop CS for the Leaf Valeo 6 and Leaf Valeo 11 has already been certified, and it is expected soon for the newly released Leaf Valeo 22. By connecting the Leaf 10GB Digital Magazine via FireWire to a computer, 16-bit raw HDR files can be opened directly in the new version of Photoshop.

The Leaf Valeo digital camera backs are the first medium-format line to be supported by Photoshop. The product family features the Leaf DP-67, a detachable 6x7 cm display, and the Leaf Digital Magazine, a 10GB removable high-capacity image storage device. Up to 750 16-bit raw HDR files can be stored on the Leaf Digital Magazine. For more information, visit www.creo.com/leaf.

The Shadow Knows



With Bill Gates quoted as saying, "I'm on a campaign to get rid of reboots," PC developers recently got their first up-close look at "Longhorn", the next generation of Windows -- to Apple developers, a lot of it might have looked like Panther...China is planning to roll out its own new homegrown video compression spec by year-end -- which is no doubt upsetting the MPEG consortium members who collect royalties, since 20% of the world's

DVD players were manufactured there last year...Cell phone giant Nokia is developing the world's first portable touch-screen combination telephone-television-computer (est. retail cost CDN\$800), scheduled

to ship next year...Preliminary reports are giving Virginia Tech's "Big Mac" supercomputer, built with 1,100 Power Mac G5s, third place on the world list of fastest supercomputers -- and at a cost of only US\$5.2 million, it's a bargain...There was more than a little head-scratching following BarnesandNoble.com's recent announcement that it was discontinuing the sale of eBooks...Flexplay's

(www.flexplay.com) new disposable EZ-D DVD movies that self-destruct after 48 hours have

been as big a bust with U.S. consumers as they are with environmentalists -- seems customers are still happier to rent discs and return them than pay US\$7 to avoid the extra trip...A Dutch designer has come up with a special typeface for dyslexics -- check it out at www.readregular.com...Coming for Super Bowl XXXVIII: 100 million free iTunes songs, courtesy Pepsi...If you're planning to

install Panther with a FireWire drive connected, better check www.lacie.com/support/drivers or www.apple.com/support before you do -- users have reported drives getting erased...



Microsoft releases beta version of Windows XP 64-Bit Edition for 64-Bit Extended Systems

Microsoft has announced availability of a 64-bit beta version of Windows XP. Windows XP 64-Bit Edition for 64-Bit Extended Systems will run natively on AMD Athlon 64 processor-powered desktops and AMD Opteron workstations.

Microsoft Windows on Windows 64 (WOW64) technology will allow Windows XP-compatible 32-bit applications to run on the 64-bit operating system. The WOW64 architecture takes advantage of AMD64 architecture to enable compatibility with 32-bit applications without a loss of performance in nearly all cases.

Windows XP 64-Bit Edition for 64-Bit Extended Systems, designed for high-performance PCs and expected to be out in the first half of 2004, is aimed at advanced gaming, digital content creation and video editing markets as well as engineering and scientific projects, financial services, online transaction processing, data warehousing, and computer-aided design. Windows Server 2003 for 64-Bit Extended Systems is also available in beta with final release expected in the first half of 2004.



First two Canadian Xerox DocuColor iGen3 installations at Printing House and RP Graphics

Xerox has reported the first two Canadian installations of the iGen3 Digital Production Press, its 100 impression-per-minute full color press that features the ability to handle variable data jobs combined with output comparable to traditional offset.

The first installation, announced in August, was at The Printing House in Toronto; RP Graphics in Toronto became the second in October. Both printers say they intend to use the new units to improve and increase short run color production capacity.

Pricing starts at CDN\$995,000, which includes a choice of full-service maintenance plans.

Microwarehouse files for bankruptcy, US\$100 million in assets sold to CDW Corp.

MicroWarehouse, parent company of MacWarehouse, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in September, following a September 8th announcement that CDW Corp. would buy certain of its assets for US\$22 million and take over the company's Mac distribution in the U.S. and Canada. MicroWarehouse had assets of over US\$100 million and liabilities of more than US\$100 million, with distributor Ingram Micro the company's biggest unsecured creditor.

CDW has not assumed MacWarehouse's liabilities, but will take a five per cent fee for collecting money due the company. MicroWarehouse has annual worldwide sales of US\$1.9 billion worldwide, including \$900 million in the U.S.