

Athens Area Macintosh Users Group

AAMUG March 2000
Newsletter



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New Laptops Announced at MacWorldTokyo

More Memory & More Power

At the MacWorld Expo last month in the laptop loving Tokyo, Apple announced not only a new PowerBook, but new beefed up versions of the iBook as well.

The new PowerBook 2000 features more speed than the top of the line PowerBook that was available just a month ago. The low end configuration not only gives you 400Mhz of G3 power, but also a 100 Mhz system bus. The top of the line model gives you a 500Mhz G3. Both versions come with a new ATI RAGE Mobility 128 graphics card with 8MB of RAM, built in DVD player, and 1MB of L2 cache. The low end model sells for the same price as the old PowerBook. Another speed improvement is the replacement of the SCSI port with two firewire ports.

The PowerBook 2000 comes with built in antennas and the option to add an air-port card for wireless networking. The appear-



ance of the case itself has very little different from the 1999 models.

The iBooks have finally been bumped up to reasonably powerful machines with double the RAM at 64 MB and almost double the hard drive space at 6GB. There is also an iBook Special Edition version that comes with a 366 Mhz G3 processor and a more conservative graphite color instead of the traditional tangerine and blueberry.

Next AAMUG Meeting:

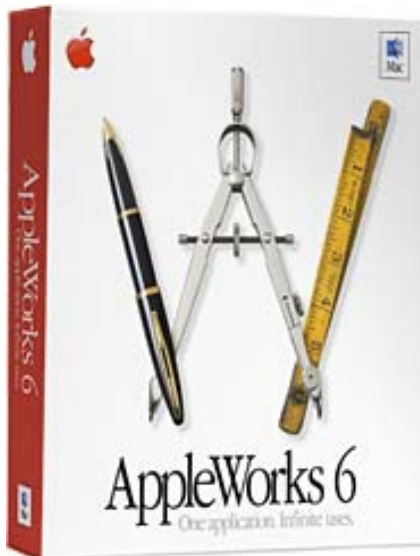
**7:00pm
Wednesday
March 15th**

*in the
AAC Lab
101 Alden Library*

Scheduled Topics:

**Shareware
Demos:
AMP Radio
Count WWWebula
CookieCommander**

**OU. Library
Web Resources
Presentation**



AppleWorks 6 retails for \$79

AppleWorks 6 is Now Available

Apple is now shipping the latest version of its office productivity software, AppleWorks version 6. Not only is AppleWorks 6 providing users with the traditional word processing, database, spreadsheet, drawing, and painting programs, but it is also apparently setting itself up to compete with MS Office by including presentation software similar to Microsoft's PowerPoint.

This latest version sports a new look designed to make it more aesthetically pleasing and in line with OS X, for which AppleWorks 6 is optimized.

AppleWorks 6 also has over 100 new features including Auto-Save. This is a life-saving little feature that saves your documents, even if you

don't. If a power outage shuts down your computer, AppleWorks automatically opens the document you were working on as soon as you restart.

You can even modify your photos. A new clippings window, with customizable categories, keeps needed artwork you close at hand.

AppleWorks 6's has a close tie-in with QuickTime making it simple to insert sounds or QuickTime movies even into spreadsheets.

For those interested in creating newsletter type of documents, multiple column widths are now available. You can also neatly wrap text around odd sized graphics.



3 Shareware Picks from a Recent Visit to download.com

by Richard Dean

I monitor four sources of freeware, demonstration software, and shareware: Mac Addict, Cnet Central, Shareware of the Month, and Download.com. I have recently downloaded the following shareware picks from <http://www.download.com> and have found them to be of some personal value.

Count WWWebula

Description

The Count WWWebula plug-in is a graphical access counter for WebStar. It will display the number of hits your Web page has received in the form of a GIF image.

It is compatible with WebStar, Quid Pro Quo, WebTen, AppleShareIP, and many other Mac OS Web server applications. Version 1.5 contains minor improvements and several bug fixes.

The shareware fee is \$25.

Company: Entropy Software

Version: 1.5

Release date: September 15, 1999

File size: 1.8MB

License: Shareware

CookieCommander

Description

CookieCommander 1.0.1 is a stand-alone version of NoMoreCookies.

CookieCommander allows a user to select which sites can save cookies on the user's hard drive. The user also has full file access and can remove unwanted data in unreadable cookie files or in history files.

AMP Radio

Description:

AMP Radio is a streaming audio player and tracker that lets you search for and listen to online audio broadcasts. AMP Radio supports both the Shoutcast and Icecast audio protocols, allowing you to tune into a variety of channels and save them to your hard drive as MP3 audio files.

AMP Radio also features a clean interface, the Millennium MP3/MP2 playback engine, station presets, treble and bass controls, and more. Version 1.5 features full support for local playback, a new hierarchical playlist, bug fixes, and more.

The unregistered version of AMP Radio is a 14-day trial. During the 14-day trial period, the record feature only works for three minutes. After three minutes, a dialog box appears that indicates the time is up and turns off the recording. After the 14-day demo is over, the record feature will no longer work.

The shareware registration fee is \$10.

Company: Subband Software

Version: 1.5

Release date: January 14, 2000

File size: 2MB

License: Shareware

Minimum requirements: PowerPC, & System 7

Be sure to attend our March 15th AAMUG meeting as I plan to give a demonstration of the above software. The monthly meetings of the AAMUG are open to anyone and are held in the Academic Advancement Center's Computer Lab in 101 Alden Library.



Mac-Gamers' Corner: *Realmz 7.04*

Mac-Gamers' Corner is a new feature in which games for Macs will be reviewed.

by Andi Beard

For the next couple of issues, I will be outlining some of the coolest shareware games available for the Mac, beginning with *Realmz*, a fantasy role-playing game that has been offered by Fantasoft for years on the Mac platform only (only recently has it begun being offered to Wintel users). The basic game can be enhanced with a variety of scenarios (dungeons), each of which boasts many different challenges for your band of characters--who may be magic-users, fighters, thieves, clerics, or a host of other castes.

Although *Realmz* is shareware, it does not suffer from the lack of quality that sometimes haunts shareware games. Here, the graphics are high-quality (comparable to Nintendo, but without the Japanese anime influence), the scenarios sufficiently varied, and the options practically limitless for customizing the game according to your own desires.

There are optional sounds and music to enhance the feel of the game, though the frequently-repeated sounds can be irritating. One of the best features of the game is that you can choose from literally dozens of races and castes to build your characters, and once you have registered, you can begin characters at any



level of proficiency you wish. Characters from previous versions of the game can handily be imported into new versions, as well.

On-screen, the game has a character section, a control section, and the central portion of the screen in which the game action takes place. The game controls are primarily graphics/buttons, the function of which can sometimes be unclear. Also, when the action gets intense, it can be hard to see how much damage your character just took, as the numbers on the battle screen are very small. However, the demo version comes with a very thorough help manual, and the characters' status is always available in the character portion of the screen.

Realmz can be played in the demo version but to really have fun, you need to pay the shareware fee of \$20 to take advantage of its full features. You are not limited to one scenario, as additional scenarios for

Realmz can be bought separately. However, you can demo each available scenario within the registered version of the game, and the modest registration fee for *Realmz* makes it much more tempting to spend the additional \$13 for each new scenario. Fantasoft also makes a program called *Divinity* that allows you to create your own *Realmz* scenarios.

With a bargain price for good-quality gaming, *Realmz* is a thumbs-up from this reviewer. The latest version of *Realmz*, can be downloaded at the following URL: www.fantasoft.com.

—Andi Beard teaches Linguistics part-time at Ohio University

If you would like to submit a review of your favorite game, contact the AAMUG Newsletter Editor at dlbeard@mac.com.

Cool Computer Tip



Here is a tip to remove desktop clutter:

If you hold down the option key while opening a folder, the current folder will close by itself after the new folder is opened.

If you have a cool tip that you'd like to submit, please e-mail it to dlbeard@mac.com for publication in the next AAMUG Newsletter.



Editorial

How about snap off covers for the iMac?

The iMacs have gotten much praise and flack for their bold colors. Perhaps some other options would not be a bad idea.

Imagine a camouflage colored iMac - it could even come with the Deer Hunter game preloaded.

Here's an idea... how about snap off covers for the iMacs like we have for our HP and Epson printers? Third party companies could make different covers in a variety of colors and patterns.

How about a leather or wood tone to appeal to the more conservative in the crowd? Pastel colored iMacs might appeal to them as well.

You could even have specific

iMac covers for specific groups. For folks who were fans of the NeXT cube, a cover in black would be nice. Scotsmen could get an iMac cover in plaid. The options are limitless.

Of course replacing the covers would require a technician to perform the task so that the novice home user doesn't accidentally electrocute themselves if they touch the back of the CRT monitor.

It's probably this risk that will prevent Apple from supporting this.

Neverthelss, these would be some really cool options.

— D.Lee Beard

Cool Web Site of the Month:



www.woz.org

Remember "The Woz"? Steve Wozniak was the co-founder of Apple Computer, Inc. along with Steve Jobs. He was the one who engineered the first Apple Computer.

His site has much information not only on what he is doing now (including a woz web cam) but also his views on the past and present of Apple.

His web site also tells you how to e-mail him in case you would like to drop him a line.



Famous Mac Users



- Scott Adams, creator of Dilbert comic strip*
- Dan Akroyd, Actor*
- Tim Allen, Actor*
- Kevin Costner, Actor*
- Tom Cruise, Actor*
- Danny DeVito, Actor*
- Clint Eastwood, Actor*
- Roger Ebert, Movie Critic*
- Lawrence Fishburne, Actor*
- Jodie Foster, Actor*
- Harrison Ford, Actor*
- Mel Gibson, Actor*
- Al Gore, U.S. Vice President*
- Scott Hamilton, Olympic Gold Medalist*

- Tom Hanks, Actor*
- Dustin Hoffman, Actor*
- Samuel L. Jackson, Actor*
- Kevin Kline, Actor*
- Spike Lee, Movie Director*
- Conan O'Brien, Journalist*
- Jerry Seinfeld, Actor*
- Wesley Snipes, Actor*
- Sly Stallone, Actor*
- Michael Stipe, lead singer of R.E.M.*
- Sharon Stone, Actor*
- Sinbad, Comedian*
- Robin Williams, Actor/Comedian*
- Henry Winkler, Actor*



This Month's Book Review by D.Lee Beard: PDF with Acrobat 4, Written by Ted Alspach

This book covers information for creating PDF (Portable Document Format) files with Adobe Acrobat 4.0. This book is a handy reference for those who want to learn more about the powers of Adobe Acrobat. The book helps explain the many abilities of PDF files including creating forms, inserting web and document links, and inserting actual editing and scribbling marks on a PDF document.

However, since this book offers little more than the useful on screen help guide that comes with the Acrobat application, you can save yourself a few dollars by using the Adobe help guide instead. That is unless you want to explore its features before you buy Acrobat.

Too frequently, the help that the author provides is too basic. One tip explained how to resize a notes window by clicking on the bottom right hand corner button -- duh! In another part of the book he tells

how to close a window by clicking the button in the upper left hand corner of a window -- double duh! If you are using PDF files, odds are that you already know basic Mac OS navigation.

And yet, the author assumes too much when early on in the book he informs the reader how to create a postscript file but doesn't tell them what the advantages are of doing such a thing.

Eventually, I found reading the book straight through was a waste of my time. Instead, I skimmed the headings and read the sections on the topics that were of interest to me. I did learn that PDF documents are very powerful and are sure to be a key tool in web design in the future. Anyone who needs to share a wide range of documents with people through the web and electronically in general will feel very empowered by learning to use PDF files.

In the end, it was somewhat helpful, but I'm not sure it was worth the \$17.99 retail price.

Are you an AAMUG member yet??

BENEFITS!

•One year subscription to the AaMug Newsletter.

•Obtain discounted hardware and software from the User Group Store.

•Sharing of Mac tips and problemsolving techniques with fellow Mac users.

Please note that AAMUG is a non profit organization and membership dues are needed to help offset the publication of the monthly newsletter.

Application to join the

Athens Area Macintosh Users Group



Membership dues \$15
students \$10

- Student membership
- New member
- Renewal membership

Make check payable to
AAMUG
P.O. Box 541
Athens, OH 45701

name _____

home address _____

O.U. Campus Mail address (if applicable) _____

email address (if applicable) _____

web address (if applicable) _____

home telephone _____

work telephone _____

Please return this form to the address listed above or present it to an AAMUG Officer at the next AAMUG meeting.



Athens Area Macintosh Users Group
P.O Box 541
Athens, Ohio 45701

In this issue:

- Game Review:
 Realmz 7.04
- New Apple Laptops:
 More Power & More Memory!
- AppleWorks 6.0 Unleashed!
- Book Review:
 PDF with Acrobat
- Shareware Reviews

Next
AAMUG Meeting
7:00pm
March 15th

Meetings are held in the
Academic Advancement
Center's
Computer Lab
in 101 Alden Library.

Anyone and Everyone
is Welcome!

	AAMUG Officers
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