Precursor Fax News

• SPECIAL MW EXPO ISSUE: Double-Sized !!!

Narvey's Trip to Macworld Expo a Big Success!

Regular readers of Precursor FaxNews will know that Precursor Founder, Alex Narvey's made a pilgrimage to the recent Macworld Expo in San Francisco as part of the MacSense editorial team. (Alex also serves as Vice President of MacSense Communications, and is Associate Editor/News and WebMaster of MacSense – The Macintosh® E-Zine). Mr. Narvey joined up with MacSense Publisher/Editor in Chief Chris McVeigh and Associate Editor/Entertainment Bart G. Farkas to provide coverage of the show for MacSense's World Wide Web site.

Initially intended to be mainly a printed word type of coverage, the MacSense quickly blossomed into a multimedia extravaganza. Apple Computer provided Mr. McVeigh with a QuickTake digital camera, Connectix Corp. provided Mr. Narvey with a QuickCam digital movie camera, and Progressive Networks admitted Precursor's Web Site to its RealAudio Server beta program just two days before the show.

Each day, the MacSense team wandered the show floor gathering information, pictures, movies, and interviews. And, each night Mr. Narvey forwarded the information (converted for the web) back to the Precursor Web Server. Daily coverage included pictures from the show floor, QuickTime movies of live product demos, the usual MacSense reports, and RealAudio interviews focused on new technologies. The highlight of the show was when Mr. Narvey interviewed Guy Kawasaki, Apple Fellow and Chief Evangelist. You can take a look —and listen— to the MacSense Expo coverage by setting your web browser to:
http://www.macsense.com/MacSense/HOT/96/MWSF/ .

RealAudio makes Splash at Precursor Web Site

RealAudio has quickly become the most popular area of the Precursor Web Site. Precursor was admitted to the RealAudio Server beta program just before the recent MacWorld Expo and MacSense® - the Macintosh E-Zine took advantage of this new technology to provide streamed audio recordings from the show floor. Featured interviewees included Apple's head evangelist Guy Kawasaki, and Scott Black, Project Manager of Apple's Open Doc team. You can find out more about RealAudio at the Precursor Web Site including the FREE RealAudio Player:
http://www.precursor.mb.ca/MacSense/RA/ .

Adobe Spins Off Prepress to Luminous!

Adobe Systems Inc. has created a new company, Luminous Corporation, to support prepress application products. Luminous has acquired or licensed, and will continue to develop, market and distribute, Adobe's prepress products. Adobe has an equity stake in Luminous will maintain ownership and development of certain core technologies including trapping, imposition and OPI technology. Luminous will consolidate product development and marketing for Adobe's prepress products at Luminous' headquarters in Seattle. Effective immediately, customer and technical support for ColorCentral, TrapWise, PressWise, PrintCentral, PrePrintPro, OPEN and Adobe Virtual Network version 1.0 will be provided by Luminous.

Apple Display Software 2.0!

Apple has updated its Multiscan Display software to version 2.0. The new version consolidates control of the resolution of your monitor, the number of colors it can display, its energy-saving features. Control Strip 1.3 software is included so that all of these features can be manipulated from the desktop Control Strip on most Macintoshes. Display Software 2.0 is available from the licensed Apple software area on the Precursor BBS [From the Precursor Desktop go Files:Apple Stuff:Updates & Utils]

Apple LaserWriter 8.2.3f for FAX!

Apple has released a four disk set of LaserWriter software for printers with built-in faxing capabilities. The confusing named LaserWriter 8.2.3f comes after the recently released LaserWriter 8.3.2 which includes all the fixes necessary for the newer PCI Macs and is a must download. Both Printer drivers are available on the Precursor BBS. [From the Precursor Desktop go Files:Apple Stuff:Print Drivers.]

PageMaker Print Diagnostics!

Adobe has released a handy Print Diagnostic tool to help troubleshoot printing problems occurring with PageMaker 6.0. The utility gathers a variety of information automatically and then steps the user through a series of questions to determine the nature of the problem and suggest a solution. The PageMaker Print Diagnostic package is available on the Precursor BBS. [From the Precursor Desktop go Files:Adobe Stuff]

Netscape 2.0b6 —Now with Plug-ins!

Netscape has released the sixth beta of its version 2.0 web browser, Navigator. The extensible browser is now backed up by some Plug-ins on the Mac OS. Macromedia's Shockwave plays Director movies in the browser window, Tumbleweed Software has an Envoy plug-in and Progressive Networks has a RealAudio 2.0 plug-in to play RealAudio directly from the browser window. Here are the relevant URL's:

Netscape 2.0b6 ftp://ftp7.netscape.com/2.0beta6/mac/Netscape2.0b6aInstaller.sit.hqx

Shockwave Plug-in http://www.macsense.com/MacSense/HOT/96/9601/ShockwaveBeta.html

Envoy Plug-in http://www.twcorp.com/plugin.htm

RealAudio Plug-in http://www.realaudio.com/products/ra2.0/

Precursor installs PageSentry!

Precursor Systems has installed PageSentry software from Maxum Development to monitor our web server and force a reboot anytime a page fails to download. Making use of a special Applescript and the new PowerKey Pro 200, the use of PageSentry means that our irregularities in our web server are detected automatically and maximum downtime has been reduced to five minutes or less.

If you need to find out more about web server reliability, please contact Alex Narvey at (204) 992-3100.