

MAC OS 8.1 SPECIAL EDITION !!!

Adobe Acrobat Evolves!

Adobe continues to build on its powerful Portable Document Format (PDF) with the Acrobat line of products.

- A new Acrobat 3.0.1 CD-ROM is being sent to all registered users of the commercial Acrobat application. Differences between Acrobat 3.0 and Acrobat 3.01 for Macintosh: For Power Macintosh users, Acrobat version 3.01 includes Acrobat Capture, Import Image, and Scan plug-ins. For all Macintosh users, Acrobat version 3.01 includes an improved ExportPS plug-in. Acrobat Exchange 3.01 and Acrobat Reader 3.01 include enhanced security on links to external applications. When Acrobat 3.01 users view PDF files within Web browsers, they can find, select, and copy text (see Improved Browser Integration Features, below) and use keyboard navigation. Register Acrobat 3.0 on-line at: <http://cgi1.adobe.com/misc/prodreg/prodreg.cgi>
- As mentioned in Precursor PDFNews 06/03 The 3.0.2 version of Distiller is already available on-line (requires a serial number) at: <ftp://ftp.adobe.com/pub/adobe/acrobatdistiller/mac/3.x/>
- Adobe announced this week that it will ship the Acrobat Forms Upgrade, comprising free plug-ins for Acrobat 3.0 and Acrobat Reader that will offer a set of interactive features for form creation and data collection.

Browser Wars: 4 on 4!

The World Wide Web browser wars are heating up. Microsoft has introduced its new Internet Explorer version 4.0. (With Mac OS 8.1, MIE is now the default browser –although Netscape is loaded as well). The company had to release an update to the new Outlook Express mail component later in the same week! Meanwhile, Netscape has just announced that from now on its Navigator and Communicator Standard Install packages will be free!

MIE 4.0 is available in various flavours at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/ie/ie40/download/mac.htm>

MOE (Outlook Express mail component) 4.0c is on-line at:

<http://www.microsoft.com/msdownload/ieplatform/ie4mac/oe/oe.asp>

Netscape Navigator and Communicator Standard Edition are available at:

<http://cgi.netscape.com/cgi-bin/upgrade.cgi>

DynaTek in receivership

Canadian hard disk and cartridge vendor DynaTek has gone into receivership. No word yet on how this will affect owners of DynaTek product. (For a variety of reasons Precursor Systems has always recommended against the purchase of DynaTek products).



Mac OS 8.1 Ships!

Apple has made available the Mac OS 8.1 update and we at Precursor Systems have installed and tested it. Precursor Systems' existing Support Plan customers may request to have Mac OS 8.1 installed at their next scheduled maintenance visit. Customers will be contacted this week to schedule an upgrade visit. (Please note: Mac OS 8.1 software is free but it requires the customer to own Mac OS 8.0).



Mac OS 8.1

Mac OS 8.1 is a more robust and stable version of System 8 and has the advantage of offering a new disk format (called HFS+) that can recover large amounts of unused space on big (3 GB and up), hard drives —up to 50%! The new Mac OS comes with a faster implementation of JAVA and the new LaserWriter 8.5.1 PostScript 3 print driver. Precursor Systems recommends all Mac OS 8.0 owners upgrade to version 8.1.

HFS+

Although the various formatting utilities (Apple Drive Setup, APS PowerTools, LaCie SilverLining, FWB Hard Disk Toolkit) do not offer built in HFS+ initialization they do support it through the new Mac OS 8.1 Finder. However, Precursor Systems does not recommend utilizing HFS+ for hard drive formatting until Symantec upgrades Norton Utilities to provide directory protection and data recovery for the new disk format. (Symantec has stated publicly that NUM will get a major overhaul along with HFS+ compatibility and that this will take several months).

Installation

There are a variety of technical details relating to the installation of Mac OS 8.1 which space precludes us from mentioning here but Precursor Systems will bring this knowledge to bear when we update your System(s). This is not a trivial installation.

Recommendations

Precursor Systems strongly recommends that customers order the new Mac OS 8.1 CD-ROM when updating to the new version of the operating system. The Mac OS 8.1 CD will include a full OS install capability (as opposed to just an ability to update an existing Mac OS 8.0 System Folder, which is what is available free on the Web).

Resources

Complete details on Mac OS 8.1 are available at the Mac Os 8.1 Home Page:

<http://www.apple.com/macOS/8.1/>

Upgrade information is on-line at:

<http://www.apple.com/macOS/8.1/upgrade/>

You can download the update —which requires Mac OS 8.0— (16MB or greater) from:

<http://support.info.apple.com/ftp/8.1us.html>

