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## Macromedia FreeHand 8.0!

Macromedia is now shipping FreeHand 8.0 —a very significant upgrade to a program that seems to be taking the lead away from Illustrator. The new version offers better performance, new features like transparency, and even brings back some FreeHand 5.5 features that people actually liked! FreeHand 8.0 Upgrade is available for \$149 U.S. (A competitive upgrade for Illustrator and other graphic program users is \$199 U.S.). Call Macromedia at: 1-800-457-1774. And find out more about FreeHand 8.0 at the official web page:

<http://www.macromedia.com/software/freehand/>

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## Iomega ZIP/JAZ Driver 5.5.1!

Iomega has released a new driver/tool package for its ZIP and JAZ drives. The new 5.5.1 package includes Iomega Tools 6.1 and Iomega Driver extension 5.1.1. Iomega Tool can test out disks and drives for information and it can format to HFS+ and DOS under Mac OS 8.1. (Did you know that Mac OS 8.1 comes with a PC Exchange Control Panel that will mount Mac and PC ZIPs and JAZ cartridges without requiring the Iomega Driver? —You will need the Iomega extension however to run Iomega Tools utility version 6.1). The new 5.5.1 driver package is available on-line from Iomega at:

<http://www.iomega.com/support/software/mac.html>

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## 56K Modem Standard Becomes V.90

The 56K modem wars are over. Both 56K Flex and 56K x2 modem makers have vowed to move toward the 56K v.90 standard this quarter. All Global Village 56K modems will take a software upgrade, as will most USR products. This is likely to be the last improvement to Analog modems before they are overtaken by other digital technologies.

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## Claris Em@iler 2.0v3

Claris (or FileMaker Inc, or whatever) has released Emailer 2.0v3 —a maintenance release, consisting of a number of bug fixes and minor feature enhancements. The Update, Documentation, and Help are available on-line as three separate files at the Claris FTP site:

<ftp://ftp.claris.com/pub/USA-Macintosh/Updaters/>

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## Precursor Systems Spring Catalogue!

The Spring edition of Precursor Systems' Catalogue of Services is now available. If you would like a copy, please get in touch with us at:  
(204) 992-3100.

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# 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>