MAC OS X SPECIAL EDITION !!!

Apple Announces Mac OS X

At its Worldwide Developer Conference May 11, Apple announced the new lynch pin of its software strategy: Mac OS X (the "X{ is usually pronounced "ten"). Mac OS X will be based on a subset of the Macintosh application programming interfaces (APIs) that developers have been using for years to create Macintosh applications. By eliminating all the troublesome API's, Apple has made it possible to incorporate the power of the Rhapsody software (with features including protected memory, advanced virtual memory and pre-emptive multitasking) without requiring Mac software developers to ditch their library of developed code (like Rhapsody would require them to do). The new Mac OS X will be the first Mac system software that will not require a hardware ROM chip. These new developments are the most positive software news coming out of Apple for years! The company said it expects almost all current Macintosh applications to run unaltered on Mac OS X without a "tune-up" (and without the advanced features), ensuring a smooth transition to the operating system for both developers and customers. (A "tune-up" of the program that should be a relatively simple matter would allow it to take advantage of the new OS powerhouse capabilities).

Apple will pave the way to Mac OS X with two important operating system software releases in 1998: Mac OS 8.5 and Rhapsody.

Mac OS 8.5--code named Allegro--advances Internet integration on the Mac with new find and browsing capabilities and even easier Internet set up. Mac OS 8.5 will also include new features for power users, such as fast file transfer optimized for 100 MBps Ethernet and a full PowerPC implementation of AppleScript.

Later this year Apple will ship the first customer release of Rhapsody, a new operating system that Apple is providing as a server platform for publishing and Internet solutions.

Allegro (Mac OS 8.5) is expected in the third quarter this year and an Allegro tune-up (Mac OS 8.6) is expected in the first quarter of 1999.

Find out more on-line at:

http://developer.apple.com/macosx/

Look for more about Mac OS 8.5 "Allegro" in upcoming issues on *Precursor PDFNews*.

Some features of Mac OS X:
1. protected memory
2. virtual memory
3. pre-emptive multitasking
4. multi-threading
5. very fast networking
6. fast file I/O
7. PowerPC native/only
8. Open Transport networking
9. "There will be no ROM in Mac OS X"
10. "Mac OS X will not support traditional extensions"

Symantec Unleashes SAM 5.0

Symantec has announced it is shipping Norton AntiVirus (NAV) for Macintosh 5.0 [formerly known as Symantec AntiVirus for Macintosh (SAM)]. New features include a bootable emergency CD (just like Norton Utilities for the Mac) and Symantec's Bloodhound-Macro heuristic technology for detection and repair of new and unknown macro viruses. NAV 5.0 has an estimated retail price of $69 US. Current SAM users can upgrade for $29 US. Current users of Norton Utilities for the Mac can also receive NAV 5.0 for $29.95 US. Virus definition updates are free for the first year. After the first year, customers who purchase the product before Dec. 31, 1998 can buy a subscription to the virus definitions for only $3.95 US per year. A free 30-day trial version of NAV 5.0 is available at:
http://www.symantec.com/trialware/index.html

Disinfectant is Retired

John Norstad, author of the free viral detection and repair software Disinfectant announced on May 6 that he has retired the program. Reasons sited included the proliferation of Microsoft Macro viruses which come from the PC world by the thousands and are too numerous for the scope of a free program put together by volunteers.

Apple Displays 1.6

The latest version of Apple's display driver software is now available. It not only supports the new Apple Studio (flat panel) Display (see *Precursor PDFNews 07/02*), but also installs ColorSync 2.5 software. Find it on-line at:
http://swupdates.info.apple.com/cgi-bin/lister.pl?Apple_Support_Area/
Apple_Software_Updates/US/Macintosh/Display-Peripheral/Apple_Displays/

Apple G3 Ethernet Built-in Driver 2.0.4

Apple has released a new built-in ethernet driver for all G3 Desktop, Minitower and PowerBook systems to cure problems with loss of network connection. Find it on-line at:
ftp://ftp.info.apple.com/Apple_Support_Area/Apple_Software_Updates/US/Macintosh/
System/CPU_Specific_Updates/Power_Mac_G3/

Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.1

Microsoft has released a new version of its Internet browser and email client. The new 4.1 versions offer bug fixes, increased stability and performance improvements. Find the new versions on-line at:
http://www.microsoft.com/msdownload/ieplatform/ie4mac/ie4conf/ie4preconfig.asp

SPSS DeltaGraph 4.0.5

The latest update to DeltaGraph is now on-line at:
http://www.spss.com/tech/downloads/dgraph.htm