
Apple Announces iBook!

Apple rolled out its new consumer portable at Macworld Expo in New York last week. The new 300 MHz notebook is actually larger and heavier than the PowerBook G3 series but offers 6 hour battery life on its single 12" battery. Canadian pricing is expected to be \$2399.00 when it arrives in September.

<http://www.apple.ca/iBook>

Symantec NAV 6.0 and NUM 5.0

Symantec is revamping its utility line with major upgrades to NAV and NUM which should be available in mid-August.

Norton Anti-Virus (NAV) 6.0 will offer better speed and will be better at sniffing out unknown viruses. The Live-Update feature – a big complaint performance-wise in version 5.0 – has apparently been greatly improved. For the brave a beta version is currently on-line:

<http://www.symantec.com/nav/navmacbeta.html>

Norton Utilities for the Mac (NUM) 5.0 will also become available in mid-August. The new version will bring parity with Apple's Disk First Aid in that Norton Utilities will finally be able to safely repair the startup disk from itself – no need to boot from CD! Speed Disk component will gain the ability to optimize file directories (à-la ALSoft's Disk Warrior). Once again, for those bold enough a beta version is on-line:

<http://www.symantec.com/nu/numbeta.html>

Adobe ATM/ATR Updates Expected Soon

The new Adobe Type Manager Deluxe 4.5 and Type Reunion Deluxe 2.5 suffer from various problems which Adobe is now admitting. Specifically, Type Manager has problems displaying fonts to screen in Quark 4.0.4 particularly when they are horizontally compressed or expanded or artificial small capitals are applied. There are also problems printing to inkjet printers. A final confirmed problem is with fonts not properly reactivating at reboot time. An update to Type Manager Deluxe 4.5 is expected but no E.T.A. has been mentioned.

Type Reunion Deluxe also has a few bugs. For one thing the Toolbar popup menu in Quark will not work with Type Reunion 2.5 (although font selection from the Menubar does work fine). In FreeHand there are problems when clicking on pop-up menus in onscreen palettes. (The FreeHand problem can be negated by temporarily turning off ATR 2.5 by holding down the Shift key before selecting a pop-up menu). Type Reunion Deluxe 2.5.1 is expected very shortly.

Apple Font Manager Update 1.0

Apple has a fix for font corruption in Mac OS 8.6 which can cause weird problems. The Update includes an extension and a repair utility which requires the extension. In our early experience there appears to be problems with Quark 4.0.4 when running the extension. Precursor Systems recommends that the extension and utility be used once to correct existing problems and then be removed. This can be done at your next Precursor maintenance visit — just ask!

<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11489>

Adaptec Toast 4.0 Deluxe

Adaptec's Toast 4 Deluxe, will support of USB and ATAPI (IDE) CD-R/RW drives. Its audio capabilities have been considerably extended as well and will include seamless burning of authorized MP3 files to audio CD, CD Spin Doctor (turn LPs into CDs), access to the CDDDB online Disc Recognition Service, and the ability to download and burn encrypted Liquid Audio music files. Toast 4 also includes PhotoRelay, a robust media cataloging application. The new version will be available in the Autumn for a suggested retail price of \$99 (U.S.) with a \$20 mail-in-rebate for U.S. and Canadian owners of eligible CD Recording software. Customers who purchase Toast 3.5 after July 12, 1999 are eligible for special upgrade pricing:
<http://cdr.adaptec.com>

Apple G3 CD-ROM Update 2.0

Apple has a second CD-ROM firmware updater for its G3 Power Macs using 24x drives. The firmware updater corrects problems with sleep and wake functions. The updater will only run on machines with drives that are affected so it can't hurt to give this a try if you are having sleep/wake crashes.
<http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11130>

Quark Word Filters Out Of Beta

After what seems like years, Quark has finally brought its MS Word import filter XTensions out of beta. The MS Word 6-7 Filter 1.1 and MS Word 8 (Word 98) Filter 1.2 are now on-line at the company's web site:
http://www.quark.com/files/xtquarkxts_40.html

Micromat TechTool 2.5.1!

Micromat has fixed up its free TechTool for System 8.1. The new version tests your System file for integrity, resets the Parameter RAM, rebuilds your desktop file from scratch and can clean your floppy drive (with an approved substance). TechTool can be downloaded at:
<http://www.micromat.com/micromat/software.html>

ALSoft Disk Warrior 1.0.4

Disk Warrior is a fine utility which optimizes repairs damaged disk directories in a safe manner. The latest update offers some feature improvements and enhancements. The product is compatible with SCSI, USB, FireWire, Removeable, and RAID drives.
<http://www.alsoft.com/DiskWarrior/support.html>

Mac OS 9 For Autumn

At MacWorld Expo in New York, Steve Jobs took the wraps off the next major update to the Macintosh Operating System. Mac OS 9.0 will be a commercial upgrade and will cost \$99 U.S. It is expected sometime in October.

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