
Apple Beefs Up iMac!



Apple introduced a new iMac October 5 at a special media event. The new machine is redesigned with a 1" lower profile and boasts convection cooling –no fan– and clear plastic casing. Three models are available: a Blueberry 350 MHz G3 with 6 MB drive and CD (\$999 US); Five colors of 400 MHz iMac DV models with 64 MB RAM, 10GB hard drive and slot loading DVD drives and the capability to mirror video on an external monitor (\$1299 US); a Charcoal (to match the new G4s) Special Edition iMac DV with 128MB RAM and a 13GB drive as well as the DVD (\$1499 US). All iMac DVs sport FireWire ports and come with Apple's new Desktop video software called iMovie which allows users to edit digital movies easily. Canadian prices and availability have not yet been announced but US models will be available by the weekend.

Apple Announces Mac OS 9!

Apple has officially announced Mac OS 9 its next major System Software package. The new OS will be available October 23 and is a paid upgrade. OS 9 offers ColorSync 3.0, FontSync Font Management (which breaks ATM Deluxe 4.5.1 and other font managers —see compatility story below). The new OS offers 50 new features and is particularly strong in its Internet capabilities (See *Precursor PDFNews* 11:01).

Mac OS 9 will be available from Precursor Systems for \$141 CDN (for Precursor Support Plan members this includes installation) starting October 23.

OS 9 Incompatibilities Reported

Reports on the web indicate that many basic utilities may not yet function with Mac OS 9. Adobe has confirmed on its online User to User Forum that the current versions of ATM and ATM Deluxe will not work with Mac OS 9.0 which actually automatically deinstalls both ATM and ATM Deluxe. Opening Adobe's ATR Deluxe Control Panel will cause the Mac to crash. New versions of ATM (4.5.2) and ATR (2.5.2) should be available at the beginning of November. However, current versions of Illustrator, Photoshop, and InDesign already have ATM-like capabilities built-in. In any case, printed output from any program is not affected since ATM only relates to screen display of fonts.

Other software rmore3d to conflict includes current versions of Stuffit Deluxe, Suitcase, MasterJuggler, Norton AntiVirus, Norton Utilities' File Saver and the new Virex 6.0. Even more software is rumoured to be incompatible including RAMDoubler, Speed Doubler, AsanteFAST card drivers, Acrobat Reader, and Toast.

Quark Readies 4.1!

According to an announcement on the Quark web site the company is readying a free update CD for registered users. QuarkXPress 4.1 will include improved support for PDF, scripting, and Internet publishing, as well as an enhanced HTML filter, which converts text from QuarkXPress text boxes into HTML and imports HTML text into QuarkXPress documents. If you've already registered, you can call (800) 676-4575 if you want to confirm your registration information.

<http://www.quark.com/products/quarkxpress/qxpupdater.html>

Quark Offers \$297 Competitive Upgrade

Quark Inc., apparently feeling the heat from Adobe's new InDesign, is finally offering a competitive upgrade that allows PageMaker owners to get a full retail copy of Quark 4.0.4 for as little as \$297.95 U.S. — from the U.S. mail order company ClubMac.

<http://www.clubmac.com>

<http://www.pacbus.com/cgi-bin/>

[sgin0102.exe?UID=1999100207200641&T1=Q069+1014&FNM=78](http://www.pacbus.com/cgi-bin/sgin0102.exe?UID=1999100207200641&T1=Q069+1014&FNM=78)

Netscape Communicator 4.7

Netscape has updated Communicator to version 4.7. Standard 40bit and secure 128k versions are online. The new version offers a variety of unlisted bug fixes and better internet shopping capabilities. Despite the release notes, it does not come with newer versions of AOL, StuffIt Expander or the RealAudio G2 Player. (we remind customers that we recommend Browser installations be performed by Precursor Systems since Browser software can add a variety of unnecessary and even incompatible software into your System Folder).

<http://www.netscape.com/download/>

New Epson Drivers

Epson has new drivers available for its 3000, 1520 and 900 Stylus Color models. The new drivers offer bug fixes and provide compatibility with Epson's new Type B FireWire card. (The Type B FireWire card is available now from *Precursor Systems* for \$324.95 and supports the printers listed above.)

<http://www.epson.com/support/styc3000.html>

<http://www.epson.com/support/styc1520.html>

<http://www.epson.com/support/styc900.html>

<http://www.epson.com/support/styc900g.html>

<http://www.epson.com/support/styc900n.html>

UMAX Scanning Software Updates

UMAX has updated its scanning software. UMAX MagicScan software is now available in version 4.3 and VistaScan software is available in version 3.5.1 for both USB and SCSI connections.

<ftp://ftp.umax.com/scanners/magicscan/version4.3/>

<ftp://ftp.umax.com/scanners/vistascan/version3.5.1/>

Dantz Retrospect 4.2!

Retrospect 4.2 is a free upgrade that adds flexible application-based client licensing to allow any Macintosh running Retrospect to easily back up both Macintosh and Windows® computers across the network. (Administrators are no longer required to purchase separate Retrospect Client packs for each platform). Other new features include advanced networking to back up computers across routers, HTML-based help, and an upgraded disaster recovery CD.

http://www.dantz.com/index.php3?SCREEN=retro_42_mac_upgrade

http://www.dantz.com/index.php3?SCREEN=client_50_updates&sid=wGzrFZH0wLC6T2eb