
The AppleStore Canada Now Open!

With relatively little fanfare, Apple Canada has finally opened The AppleStore Canada) for on-line purchasing of Apple equipment directly from Apple. Now prospective buyers can custom configure their machines in a build-to-order on-line service just like American customers (and most other developed markets around the world).

<http://store.apple.com/1-800-MY-APPLE/WebObjects/canadastore>

New iBooks

At Macworld Expo in Japan yesterday, Apple juiced up the iBook line doubling internal RAM and hard drive space (now 64 MB and 6 GB). Prices remain the same. A new model was also added, the iBook SE which comes in a graphite/ice case and has a slightly faster processor (366 MHz vs. 300 MHz.) The iBook SE retails for about \$200 US more than the standard iBook.

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

New PowerBook G3

At Macworld Expo in Japan yesterday, Apple introduced the long awaited "Pismo" PowerBook G3. The new model comes in 400 and 500 MHz flavours at the same price points as the old PowerBook G3. Gone is SCSI port. It is replaced with dual FireWire ports on a single bus.

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

New Apple Servers

Apple also released three new servers at Macworld Expo in Tokyo. The lower end model comes with AppleShare IP 6.3.1. Two upper level G4s come with a choice of ASIP 6.3.1 or Mac OS X Server 1.2.

<http://www.apple.com/powermac/server/>

UMAX Return Policies

A popular Mac-oriented web site posted the following recently regarding UMAX scanners: *Russell Poucher (President Creative Resources) writes: "We just found out through Ingram Micro (we are an Apple reseller in Southern California) that UMAX has instituted a 15% maximum DOA return policy. For any manufacturer to institute a cap on returns for defective products is beyond comprehension.*

"Since late October, we have seen the number of defective UMAX scanners sky rocket, coming in closer to 38%.

"We now sit on quite a bit of defective merchandise, trying to resolve with the manufacturer. They have failed to return our calls, and always manage to pass us off to other departments."

Note: Precursor Systems has always recommended against purchase of UMAX equipment despite its price point advantage in the market place. The above quote does nothing to allay our reservations about UMAX products.