MACWORLD EXPO SPECIAL EDITION !!!

Apple's New Mouse and Pro Keyboard

This year's summer Macworld Expo in New York was a real tour de force for iChairman Steve Jobs. He started by introducing Apple's new optical Mouse and Pro Keyboards. Apple has gone from the hated round one button "hockey-puck" mouse to an oblong no-button "pill-capsule" shaped mouse (the entire surface is squeezable and pivots down to engage a mouseclick event). The extremely accurate optical mechanism has no moving parts, will not wear out and works on virtually any surface eschewing the once obligatory mouse pad.

The new Apple Pro Keyboard is a full-sized keyboard with inverted arrow keys and full sized function keys. The Pro Mouse and Pro Keyboard will ship with all new desktop computers starting immediately and will be available in September for $59.95 US each – exclusively from the Apple Store (Canadian pricing and availability was not specified at press time).

http://www.apple.com/mouse
http://www.apple.com/keyboard

PowerMac G4 Gets Dual Processors

Apple's top-of-the line Power Macintosh G4 computers got a solid dose of value during the show. After demonstrating a complex Photoshop excercise where a 500MHz G4 with OS 9 easily beat out a 1 GHz Wintel PC running Windows 2000 Jobs revealed that the entire Power Macintosh G4 tower line (400, 450, 500 MHz) will get on board Gigabit Ethernet (10/100/1000BaseT). On top of that, the two higher end models (will sport dual G4 processors). [and a dual processor 500 MHz G4 would be the equivalent of a 2 GHz Pentium if such an animal existed!] All three models occupy the same price point as their clock speed predecessors! Of course they ship with the new Mouse and Pro Keyboard. These computers are available now and retail for $2399, $3799 and $5299.

http://www.apple.com/powermac

Power Macintosh G4 Cube Debuts

The real shocker of the expo was by far the new Power Macintosh G4 Cube. Essentially the guts of a Power Mac G4 minus the drive bays and PCI slots this incredible, fanless machine puts a super computer into a 7.7" x 7.7" x 9.8" cube. Check the QuickTime VR movie on the left to see the incredible innards of this. The cube had all the usual ports (Ethernet, FireWire, Modem, USB) built into the bottom of the casing. There is no microphone or speaker port since audio is entirely reliant on USB. The machine comes with two Harman-Kardon USB speakers powered from the USB. A Phillips USB mic will ship in September. The DVD drive loads and unloads toaster-like from the top surface. The new range of Apple models support the include Apple Digital Media connector which carries power, video and USB to the displays in a single thin cable. Need I say it: "Is this thing slick –or what?!"

(Availability is set for August. Canadian pricing had not been announced at press time.)

http://www.apple.com/powermaccube

Four New iMacs

Steve Jobs celebrated the iMacs second birthday by mentioning he sells one every 18 seconds (3.7 million in total –and counting). Then he went on to introduce 4 new models in five new richer colours. All but the base model heavily focus on Digital Video. The best news of all was that the base model had dropped $300 to $1199 CDN and the iMac DV dropped $500 to $1499 CDN. All models, including the new DV Plus and new DV Special Edition offer enhanced and tweaked hardware, iMovie 2 software and the new Apple Pro Mouse and Pro Keyboard.
http://www.apple.com/imac

Apple's New Displays

Apple's three new displays now all include two USB ports and Apple Digital Media connector cables for Power On and Sleep functions from the display power switch via a single thin cable that carries power, USB and video. The new flat screen Diamondtron 17" CRT model stays at $749 CDN. It is now Colorsync calibrated for life at the factory. A new 15" flat panel LCD Studio Display styled like the the larger Cinema Display drops $500 to $1499 CDN and the improved 22" Cinema Display is still $5999 CDN.
http://www.apple.com/displays

DANTZ Retrospect 4.3

A free update to Retrospect for version 4.1 and up owners, 4.3 offers the ability to back up to files larger than 2 GB on Mac HFS disks. It also now supports a variety of USB and FireWire CDR and Tape mechanisms courtesy of technology gained from Adaptec's Toast.
http://www.dantz.com/index.php3?SCREEN=retro43_mac_upgrade

Netscape Communicator 4.74

Netscape has improved Communicator slightly with 4.74. The new version finally gets StuffIt Expander 5.5 and has better integration with Internet Config Control Panel and the ability to expunge all mail folders and subfolders whenever you quit the program.
A 128 bit secure version should be ready in a few days. In the meantime you can download the 64 bit standard version. As usual with Netscape software we recommend that you let Precursor install this on your system. We would be happy to include this service at your next scheduled maintenance visit. ftp://ftp.netscape.com/pub/communicator/english/4.74/mac/complete_install/Comm4.74_Complete_US.bin

VST FireWire Format Updater 2.2

VST has updated their FireWire Format utility in part to make improvements based on customer feedback. In addition to offering support for the company's new FireWire RAID products version 2.2 VST Format 2.2 supports "HotPlug Events" which can open user-specified items when a VST FireWire disk is plugged into a Mac with the proper drivers installed. Items can be applications, documents, or even folders.
http://www.vsttech.com/vst/drivers.nsf/Default