Apple RIP? NOT!

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Thursday, Oct. 23rd, 11:17 AM Eastern Apple Stock: 18 3/16 (down 3/8, as of 11:13 EDT)

Rumors and MacConspiracy Team Up

After lots of eager anticipation, the first editorial to result from our partnership with MacConspiracy's Keith Calder is now on the web. In this edition, Keith delves into the world of Be and the BeOS -- and into the fascinating possibility for Be to use the BeOS to create a whole new kind of computing, similarly to how the company has discussed a "Photoshop Machine;" in this editorial, Keith explores the idea of A Web Machine.

More Rhapsody DR notes....

Several readers have now installed the Rhapsody Developer Release onto their machines, and are reporting some interesting stuff about their experiences:

- DR1 does appear to install onto PowerTower's, as they identify themselves as Apple 7300's.
- The Dev. Release also appears to install just fine on "Kansas" models, including the 8600/250 and 9600/350.
- Dual-monitor support isn't perfect, but it does appear to work without much trouble.
- Several readers have reported installing DR1 onto supported machines that have been upgraded with G3 CPU cards without any noticeable trouble.
- So far, no successful installs on 604e-based UMAX machines have been reported. If you've been able to install DR1 successfully onto a UMAX, please let us know.
- Jaz drive installs have had very mixed results. Installing DR1 on any SCSI ID above 0 usually has negative results.

Thus far, impressions of DR1 are approving on the raw technology -- but many readers are withholding judgment on the OS as a whole until they see what really makes the Mac what it is -- the User Interface. That will ride into town with the first developer seeds of Rhapsody Premiere, now slated for a late Winter release (February or March, 1998.). The Rhapsody Finder is expected to be a revolutionary change over Mac OS 8.

RC5 contest complete: "It's time to move to a longer key length"

Yesterday afternoon, a Belgian man discovered he'd cracked the Bovine RC5 contest's key. It read simply: "It's time to move to a longer key length." Unfortunately, his machine was not a Mac, although he notes in the press release that he wishes it had been, oddly enough.

Mac users, as part of the Evangelist RC5 Team, lead the effort for well over two months with the most keys cracked overall.

Apple's new hardware heavyweight: PowerExpress

Above and beyond the PowerMacintosh G3 line -- based on the 66Mhz-bussed Gossamer motherboard -- Apple is working on a high-end line code-named "PowerExpress." Rumors has long kept an eye on the details (which have changed often) of this effort, and here's the latest dirt as best we know it:

- Expected to ship some time in early 1998, around Macworld San Francisco, most likely.
- Based on multiprocessing Mach 5 604e's and high-speed in-line cache.
- CPUs will run at between 300 and 400Mhz, and there may be a quad-processor version.

- Using an advanced version of the Gossamer motherboard at at least 66Mhz; 83Mhz versions are not far off.
- Will replace the 9600 as Apple's flagship
- Will use 128-bit, 8mb SGRAM graphics on a PCI card
- Memory will be provided by 6 SDRAM DIMM slots, and units will ship with 64, 96, or 128mb of RAM.
- Storage on 6-9gb Ultra Fast/Wide SCSI hard disks. A RAID (Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks) option is a possibility.
- Will very likely ship with ZIP Plus or Jaz 2 drive, a DVD drive, and standard floppy.
- Mac OS 8.1 is being designed with new multiprocessing libraries just for PowerExpress; exactly what advancements are being made is not clear. If you have any tips or information on this, please drop us a line.
- The shipping name of PowerExpress isn't finalized, but "PowerMac G3 Extreme" has been mentioned. This is reportedly Steve Jobs' idea. (grin)

All in all, an impressive hardware line. With improved multiprocessing and extremely fast Mach 5 CPUs to top off an extremely nice specification sheet, this should prove to be an excellent weapon in the ever-ongoing platform wars for Apple.

Compaq testifies to being threatened by Microsoft

According to an Excite article posted yesterday evening, Compaq executives have testified to the Department of Justice that Microsoft threatened to cut off the company's Windows license if they didn't bundle Microsoft Internet Explorer with their machines.

Is anyone else not shocked?

InterWeather's DNS has finally been fixed, and we're in the process of getting the site up and running, finally. We expect to have IW back in action by tomorrow, if all goes well. Rumors is experiencing some server slow-downs, which should be fixed soon. Thanks, as always, for bearing with us as we get back on our feet.

Wednesday, Oct. 22nd, 11:20 AM Eastern Apple Stock: 19 1/8 (up 1/16, as of 11:18 EDT)

Rhapsody DR1 updates....

Reports of the use of Rhapsody DR1 have been flooding in since yesterday's report that PowerMac 7300, 7600, and 604(e)-upgraded 7500 models could be used to run the Developer Release without apparent problem. Among some of the most interesting:

> Even though it is not officially supported in the DR1 Release. Rhapsody runs fine on my 8500 with 2 monitors (Internal and ATI video card), They are some minor screen update problems, but it is great for having documentation open on the second monitor, and you can drag windows between monitors. Pretty nice for a DR1 release since not even BeOS or Windows [properly] supports dual monitors.

Also of interest was a note about reconfiguring a 7500/604e-120 to run the DR:

> I've got a PowerMacintosh 7500 I upgraded to a 604e/120. I had problems at first trying to get Rhapsody to install. I replaced the new 12x CD-ROM drive I had with the 4x that originally shipped with the machine and I removed a 256k cache DIMM and everything installed fine. I managed to install on a Jaz cartridge. I tried to install it on my machine at work (a PowerCenter 150) without success.

Readers trying to install the Developer Release on PowerComputing PowerCenters or PowerTowers (the PT and PTPro have different motherboards) have been uniformly unsuccessful, as early reports from the Rhapsody development team suggested. Those models utilize the "Catalyst" motherboard, which Rhapsody does not yet support. Other issues readers have reported include problems with the Rhapsody dual-boot setup (having to reset PRAM to boot back into the Mac OS), and how to connect to ethernet networks, including cable modems. If you have any help to offer these users, drop us a note and we'll try to get it up on the page.

Apple Hardware updates.....

Thanks to a trusted source at Apple, Rumors has been able to confirm that the new PowerMacintosh G3 line will be shipping during the second week of November. The release will indeed include the desktop (7x00) model, minitower ("k1" case), and tower ("k2" case, same as 8600/9600) models, each with a different assortment of PCI slots, drives, and PowerPC 750 processors. The 8600 and 9600 will continue to be sold until the PowerExpress line debuts early next year, filling the high-end niche left open by the price-to-performance optimized PowerMacintosh G3.

The PowerBook G3, according to several sources, has been delayed slightly, and will release some time during the middle of the month.

Mac OS 8 Wins "OS of the Year" Award for 1997

Finally, the true value of Mac OS 8, really a major advance for Apple -- and expected to be outdone by Allegro in 1998 -- has been recognized by an unbiased publication. Read all about OS 8 receiving the OS of the Year Award for 1997.

Mac OS 8.1 in mid-alpha, showing promise as useful update

With Mac OS 8.1 (code-named Bride of Buster) midway through the alpha stage of development, enough detail has become clear about the final product to make it clear: 8.1 will indeed be a must-install upgrade for most, if not all, Mac users. A short list of reasons why:

- The newly-revamped (Since a2) version of HFS Plus, Apple's new advanced file storage format, is faster and stabler than before, and shows great promise in saving Mac users with large drives very significant amounts of disk space as well as providing for more reliable storage than with the older HFS format.
- The included system MathLib is much faster, making graphics and other FPU-dependent operations significantly quicker.
- OpenTransport 1.3 is looking like a top-notch upgrade for those with access to the Internet; speed and system resource efficiency appear improved, and those running Mac servers will rejoice at the newfound ability to host multiple IP addresses from a single Internet connection without using tricky third-party tools.
- The Mac OS Runtime for Java (MRJ) 2.0 is much faster than 1.5, finally making the Mac a very viable platform for the use of cross-platform Java applications.

...and that's the short list. Of course, 8.1 will be required for those using the new G3 lines of PowerMacs and PowerBooks, as this will be the first version of the OS to fully and properly support the Gossamer motherboard.

Rumors is still undergoing lots of heavy construction, with the Rhapsody and Mac OS Info Archives slated for update this afternoon. Our advertising page has been totally redone to reflect our new advertising system, and as noted yesterday, the Rhapsody Applications List has received a major update. We're still experiencing problems with InterWeather's DNS and other issues, but we expect them to be under control soon. Thanks for stopping by!

Yesterday's News
Read past news from the Archives

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