

California Computer Care

News,
Views,
Tips and
Cool Techniques
for CCC Members

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We
speak
Geek,
so you
don't
have to.

I have seen the future

And, it's AQUA!

At the recent MacWorld trade show, Apple showed us what our Macs will look like a year from now. Demonstrations of the Macintosh Operating System, version 10 (Mac OS X) wowed huge crowds of thousands (over 80,000 hardy souls attended this year, an all-time record), to loud, if somewhat puzzled, applause.

The Operating System

Your Mac needs special software just to awaken and be a computer (instead of an inert lump of plastic and silicon). This software runs the computer itself and is called the *Operating System*. This is the software heart of your computer. The OS defines the look and feel and basic functionality of your machine: it finds your files, polices the passage of data through the wires, chips and busses, communicates with your printer and modem and underlies everything that you do. The Operating System is so important that it is constantly under revision to fix bugs and problems and to add new features and capabilities to your Macintosh.

Mac OS X (10). What's new?

Everything. Mac OS has been rewritten from scratch for OS X. It'll look different and act different. Check out the desktop picture below. The desktop is now displayed in a color scheme called AQUA. Windows, menus, buttons and more are a very attractive translucent with subtle watery colors to clue your eye.

Across the bottom of the screen is the "Dock." The Dock is filled with icons representing open applications and files. The Dock expands, contracts and hides automatically as needed to offer the best visibility. The Dock also holds the Trash can.

The Finder now resides in a window making it easy to bring it to the front for manipulating files while work-

ing in other applications. An added Finder view allows you to see your folders and files in a hierarchical column view that provides a preview of your files before you commit to opening them.

X
Mac OS X
The next-generation
operating system.

Four new buttons occupy the Title Bar of every window. Taking their cue from traffic lights, the left three buttons are Red (close window), Yellow (shrink window to an icon and place it in the Dock) and Green (zoom window to be larger or smaller). On the

Right side is a clear button that lets you force all windows to open in the same frame, preventing multiple window clutter.

Under the hood. . .

is a totally new engine. Mac OS X has completely abandoned the old Macintosh programming code and has been created as a UNIX OS. UNIX runs the internet and all of the most sensitive and critical computing in government, university, scientific and business organizations. Where crash-free, ultra-powerful computing is done, it's done on UNIX operating systems, not Mac OS or Microsoft Windows or Windows NT. UNIX is the most reliable, stable and solid OS there is. It's really fast, too.

Until recently, UNIX was also an OS that demanded that the user have a master's degree in computer science. With OS X that changes. Now, a UNIX based operating system has the



ease of use that we expect from a Macintosh without sacrificing the stability and crash resistance for which it is famous. This is UNIX for real people.

Making the transition

Apple has committed to Mac OS X as the only version of Mac OS. Expect OS X to run on all G3/G4 desktops, all G3 Powerbooks and, of course, all iMacs and iBooks. Many experts expect that OS X will run on all PCI-based PowerMacs as well (meaning that those of us with 7200 through 9600 Macs will be able to use it too). Unfortunately, first generation PowerMacs and older will not be able to use OS X, but then a six year old computer of any type is a very old computer.

Software will make the transition more gracefully. Any application that runs under Mac OS 9, will run under OS X. This means that any well-written software will run as it does now. Software specially written for, or modified for, OS X will run even better; faster and with more stability. Since Apple has created a way for software developers to quickly and easily adapt their applications to the new OS X features, all best-selling applications will be adapted. Adobe Systems, Microsoft, Quark, Macromedia, Palm Computing, id Software and a hundred other developers have committed to OS X.

There's lots more to know

Check out Apple's OS X pages at <http://www.apple.com/macosx/> for more details about Mac OS X and where the Mac future will be taking us.

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*Like an
auto club
for your
computer.*

Other MacWorld news

At MacWorld I like to find unusual goodies that you don't see profiled in the Mac Magazines and on prominent web sites. Here are three that caught my attention and grabbed my dollars:

PowerCDR

Visit MacFixit or other Mac troubleshooting web sites and you'll see that USB CD-ROM recorders are problematic. My personal experience has been very discouraging, so I was delighted to see the PowerCDR from TechWorks.

PowerCDR replaces the CD-ROM drive in your tray-loading iMac with a very easy to use CD recorder. Because it uses the dedicated internal circuitry of your iMac, PowerCDR doesn't conflict with other devices and other devices don't conflict with PowerCDR. 4X recording speed is fast, but not remarkable and 20X play speed is more than adequate and much quieter than the stock CD-ROM in your iMac. I've had excellent success recording CDs and I haven't made a coaster yet.

PowerCDR is \$299.00 and includes mastering software (MacCDR) and unlimited 800 number technical support. Contact TechWorks <http://www.techworks.com/>

klear screen

This is the greatest computer cleaner going! klear screen is ideal for Powerbook screens, but is also excellent for monitors, camera lenses and plastics. klear screen is unique because it comes packaged like a moist wipe in two parts: cleaner and polishing cloth. Together they get screens

completely clean and are guaranteed not to leave scratches or damage delicate anti-glare coatings. Contact klear screen at <http://www.KlearScreen.com>

Handspring Visor

The Visor is a Palm Pilot device not made by Palm. It runs all Palm software better than any Palm and cost less. With its improved *Palm Desktop* software, USB cradle, Mac software on CD-ROM, improved backlight and expansion slot (that lets you easily add a modem, wireless networking, memory and even a GPS receiver), it trumps Palm in every way. Visors start at \$129.00. <http://www.handspring.com>

January Tip—

Ever create a bookmark in Netscape Communicator only to have it appear in your bookmarks list as something silly like [MediaIdx_Top.htm](#)? Here's how to fix it.

- 1) From the Bookmarks menu, choose Edit Bookmarks.
- 2) Click once on the bookmark you wish to change.
- 3) Hold down the Apple key and type the letter: i.
- 4) A new window opens. In the Name: field (already selected and ready to receive your changes) type in the name you want the bookmark to display in your Bookmarks list. Close the window and you're done.