

California Computer Care

News,
Views,
Tips and
Cool Techniques
for CCC Members

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*Important
Note on
page 2,
please read.
Thank you!*

What/Where now?

ComputerWare is sadly gone and the most asked question these days is: "Where do I get my Mac stuff?"

There are lots of options for products.

CompUSA is everywhere. In the past they did a terrible job for Mac users; today they are greatly improved. They carry virtually everything that ComputerWare did (usually at the same or better prices) in their special *store-within-a-store*. You'll have to hunt for some things like ink cartridges and cables, but they're there. They even have an Apple employee in the *store-within-a-store*. This person will help you with questions and does not sell products. **CompUSA** employees, however, are the store's biggest weakness. Don't look for advice or technical knowledge (it just isn't in them and if offered is likely to be wrong), just think of them as grocery clerks and you'll do fine.

CompUSA San Rafael
655 Irwin Street, San Rafael
(415) 482-9199 Fax: (415) 482-4098

CompUSA San Francisco
50 Market Street, San Francisco
(415) 391-9778 Fax: (415) 743-3298

CompUSA Santa Rosa
2835 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa
(707) 541-0995 Fax: (707) 570-3198

MacAdam in San Francisco. This is the place to go if you want a ComputerWare-in-its-prime experience. Unlike ComputerWare, the store is a disorganized mess, but they have everything you could want, especially Mac enthusiasm and knowledge. Ask any question and they'll be able to help even if they need to refer you elsewhere. I think that **MacAdam** is now the premier Apple retailer in Northern California.

MacAdam
1062 Folsom Street, San Francisco
(415) 863-6222

Executron of Santa Rosa, has been around since the early 80s as a retailer and developer. While Executron sells both Macs and PCs, their hearts are with Apple. Software selection and technical knowledge can be spotty, but is usually reliable for the really important stuff.

Executron
1831 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa
(707) 525-3715

Mail order/Internet retailers have the best selection and prices. Most mail order suppliers offer overnight shipping at reasonable cost (ground shipping too, of course). This is not the place to go for technical help; just product (please call me with your technical and compatibility questions). Here are some mail order/internet suppliers. Category ratings are 10=best, 1=worst

MacZone is an old reliable. Selection: 8, Accuracy: 9, Prices: 8, Shipping: 6
www.maczone.com
(800) 248-0800

Outpost.com was once the king, now fallen on hard times and merging with **MacConnection**. Selection: 5, Accuracy: 9, Prices: 6, Shipping: 5.
www.outpost.com
(877) 688-7078

MacConnection is one of the oldest. These folks helped to create the mail order computer supplies business. Selection: 10, Accuracy: 9, Prices: 6, Shipping: 6
www.macconnection.com
(800) 800-2222

PowerMax is the place for used, new, hard to find and special configurations. Selection: new 8, used 10, Accuracy: 7, Prices: 5, Shipping: 6
www.powermax.com
(888) 769-7629

Other Options

Many of the products that we Mac users use aren't specific to Macs. Monitors and cables don't care what kind of computer they are connected to. USB mice, keyboards and trackballs will work on USB Macs. Printers by Epson, Hewlett Packard and Canon often come with software for Macs and PCs in the box, and of course, accessories like disk storage, mouse pads, printer paper and wrist rests are completely generic.

You can find these products at major office supply stores:

Staples

655 Irwin Street, San Rafael
(415) 485-0507

55 Rowland Way, Novato
(415) 897-0544

1700 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco
(415) 771-7030

Office Depot

869 Francisco Blvd. W., San Rafael
(415) 721-0507

2720 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa
(707) 523-7700

OfficeMax

2720 Santa Rosa Ave., Santa Rosa
(707) 523-7700

California Computer Care

P.O. Box 9445

Santa Rosa, CA 95405

(800) 540-8989

help@calcompcare.com

Like an
auto club
for your
computer.

Important Note

You may have noticed that I have been especially hard to contact lately. Unfortunately this may continue for a few weeks to come.

On June 22, after an erroneous diagnosis of asthma, I was admitted to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital Intensive Care Unit for treatment of pulmonary embolism (blood clots in the veins supplying the lungs). Basically, I could not breathe if I attempted anything more energetic than web surfing. Just walking into the next room would have me gasping for air and fainting.

On June 27, I was released from the hospital and I am on a regime of anti-coagulants to prevent further blood clots while my body naturally dissolves the ones that are troubling me. I am much improved! However, service calls and even prolonged telephone conversations are still not possible. I plan to begin limited service calls on July 6, barring complications.

There's always a silver lining. During the tests that found the pulmonary embolism, it was determined that in all other ways my heart and lung condition is absolutely pristine. A surprise to almost everyone.

June Tip—

After buying all of your new Macs and printers and such, you may be left with old equipment that you'd like to get rid of. Here are some places that can help:

Donate. If the old stuff is still in good working condition and less than 5 years old, many school districts will be grateful to receive it. If your gear is too old for schools, many charities will either put it to good use or sell it in their thrift shops. Usually, you can take a tax write-off that will exceed what you could get by selling the old equipment (not to mention saving you the inconvenience and expense of finding buyers and making the sale).

Recycle. Here in Santa Rosa is a computer recycler. They make sure that any donated equipment either is reused or recycled and saved from the landfill.

Computer Recycling Center

3249 Santa Rosa Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95407
(707) 570-1600

Drop Off Hours: Tuesday–Friday,
10am–2PM Saturday, 10am–12N.