

**Jim Beatty , Chemistry Department,  
Ripon College.**  
Uninterruptible Power Systems for Your  
PC

Byte, April 1989, 14(4) 162-176.  
If you live in fear that the power to your  
PC will go out and you will lose your  
report or important data see this ar-  
ticle. Twelve power systems are re-  
viewed. Costs of a system range from  
\$600 to about \$2000. I have found my  
battery powered laptop a life saver during  
thunderstorms.

### Monitor Life

The New York Times, Sunday,  
April 2, 1989, page F-19. Peter Lewis  
reviews screen dimmers for IBM com-  
patible and Apple Macintosh comput-  
ers. The screen dimmers are resident  
software programs which dim or blank  
the screen after a selected period of  
non-use. The screens are reactivated by  
hitting any key. I have one copy on order  
to prevent burn-in on a VGA monitor on  
an IBM compatible which is left on. An  
evaluation is forthcoming.

### Linking Between the Mac and IBM Worlds

The New York Times, Sunday,  
June 19, 1989, page F-12. John Markoff  
offers an interesting and short review of  
the options in moving data from the two  
microcomputer worlds. The options are  
a mixture of software and hardware.  
We have used the Apple Talk option he  
discusses. It is low in cost and easy to  
use. Also see Byte, January 1989, 14(1)  
317-325. These two articles comple-  
ment each other and are worth filing.

### Digitizing Tablets

Byte, January 1989, 14(1) 162-  
174. Twenty one IBM-PC digitizing  
tablets are reviewed. These tablets are  
for those who need high quality input of  
graphic data.

### Full Spectrum Scanners

Byte, April 1989, 14(4) 189-194.  
Two full color scanners for the Mac and  
IBM worlds are evaluated. Cost is the  
order of \$8000. This article offers a good  
introduction to available options in  
scanning.

### Hand-Held Scanners

Byte, June 1989, 14(6) 187-191.  
Six scanners costing about \$300 are  
evaluated. The cost is low enough that  
we are considering one for use in enter-  
ing graphs, sketches, etc. into WordPer-  
fect documents.

### COVER STORY

Please see the cover for the figures from  
this article. If you need more information  
, query professor Currie directly.

### ChemIntosh

By: James Currie  
Chemistry Department  
Pacific University  
Forest Grove, OR 97116

ChemIntosh is a structure draw-  
ing aid for Macintosh computers. For  
chemists, this tool is so incredibly  
useful that it could be worth buying a  
Macintosh just to use it. While hav-  
ing some functional similarity to  
ChemDraw, the fact that ChemIn-  
tosh is a desk accessory, greatly adds  
to its versatility. With it, you can  
generate typeset quality structures  
of all sorts for inclusion in written  
articles, databases and presentation  
materials.

As with nearly all Macintosh  
programs, ChemIntosh is easy to use.  
A very complete palette of tools is  
used to create the structural parts.  
All the common rings, bond types,  
and stereochemical notations are  
included. Tools for rotation, inver-  
sion, resizing, alignment, and group-  
ing are also present. Quite frankly in  
the one and one-half years of use, I  
have not encountered a structure or  
equation that could not be adequately

and easily drawn with it. Most of the  
tool characteristics such as default  
bond lengths, double bond spacing,  
wedge lengths or widths are easily  
customizable. And of course all in-  
stalled fonts are available. The re-  
sulting graphic is easily copied to the  
clipboard and pasted into the cur-  
rently active application. All the  
common applications, such as word  
processors or databases accept these  
structures and allow manipulation  
as needed. The structures are object  
graphics and take full advantage of  
the resolution of a postscript laser  
printer.

ChemIntosh is large for a desk  
accessory (36K) and uses a very large  
resource file, 360K. The DA itself  
must be either installed in the sys-  
tem file or accessed through a utility  
such as Suitcase II. The resource file  
may be anywhere but must be on-  
line during use. I use ChemIntosh  
conveniently on an Appletalk net-  
work with both components stored  
on the network server. Suitcase II is  
used to access the DA and a share-  
ware utility, SetPaths, is used to  
transparently tell the system where  
to look for the resource file.

A second version of this pro-  
gram is known as ChemConnection.  
This desk accessory contains a full  
implementation of ChemIntosh but  
adds a structure translation tool for  
converting drawings to a text equiva-  
lent for on-line searches in Chemical  
Abstracts. Although I have not yet  
tried this feature on-line it's implem-  
entation is very convenient. One  
merely selects the drawing and clicks  
on the phone icon; the text equiva-  
lent is pasted on the clipboard ready  
to be sent by a communications pro-  
gram. The feature may be custom-  
ized to give the desired translation  
into normalized or exact bond types.

ChemIntosh retails for \$295 and  
ChemConnection for \$395. Academic  
discounts are available. This is one  
of those "can't live without" programs  
that while not cheap is worth every  
penny of it.