

WINTER (89-90) LAST ISSUE

NO SPRING 90

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Editor:

Thanks to Lynn James for his help over the last few years and welcome Pat Flath and Alfred Lata as new Co-Chairs. I look forward to working with all three in the future.

We all owe thanks to Vic Bendall for his willingness to write up all the interesting work he has been doing. I understand he has recently begun using a IBM compatible, perhaps we can coax him into sharing any useful tricks he learns. How about it Vic?

NOTICES:

- 1) We can now accept submissions for either the Macintosh or IBM. ASCII works great on the Mac.
- 2) Since we are not getting many submissions, starting with this issue we will only publish when sufficient material arrives. No material no newsletter. It's up to you people. We can't expect Vic to fill every issue.
- 3) The US mail system failed to deliver the Fall issue to some subscribers. Additional copies are being sent.

UPDATE:

Dr. Pascal from Visible Software is now available for VAX/VMS. This version is identical to the MS-DOS version. Usual compile and editor commands are 4-10 times faster than DEC VAX Pascal. Please call 609-683-4386 for further information.

REVIEW:

I've had several requests to review Pagemaker, which is the program used to put this newsletter together. Since PM is the only publishing program I use I can only repeat opinions I've heard that PM is a bit easier to use, does better graphics, but has fewer of the bells and whistles a professional would need.

I've only used PM for this newsletter. Previous issues have been done on an IBM-60, with a normal sized monitor. This issue is being done on a Mac IIx with a 20" screen. Wow, what a difference! Up to now we have been able to read only IBM diskettes, so doing the newsletter on an IBM made sense.

Let me give you a picture of how I put the newsletter together. First I select the submissions to be published. I read and make any changes on hard copy submitted. You can do this in PM but a wordprocessor works better if you are making major changes. Then I try to read the article into PM. If PM can't read the file, it allows me to make several other attempts using different protocols. If this doesn't work I have a few utilities that are tried on the file. If it's still not readable some of our staff who are usually pretty good at this give it a try. Last resort is to have the material retyped using compatible software and hardware. (This always works.)

My experience is that about half the material submitted is unreadable. I'm finding that if I can read the diskette on the IBM I can read it directly with the Mac. The reasons the files aren't readable is because they are submitted from unsupported wordprocessors or often damaged diskettes (US Postal Service?). I have not been impressed with the IBM's ability to read ASCII but the

Mac does fine (both reading from files using PM).

Once you've read your files into PM your ready to set up a publication. The menus available are just about the same on both machines and both use mice heavily. You either open a new or old publication. You can use either the mouse and menus or hold a command key down and type the appropriate letter. For most heavily used commands you can use the mouse or keyboard.

If your publication is going to have the same format it is worthwhile setting the parameters on the master sheets. This will allow all succeeding pages that are opened to have the same parameters. You can set the number of columns, type, font and many other parameters you probably don't need to use.

Although I had used many programs on an IBM before PM I found the interface different enough to be confusing. On the Mac, 8 of the 11 commands under file are ones I use in all other Mac programs. The only one of the 3 new ones that I use is 'Place', which places a given article into the publication. Since I use a Mac everyday this makes it easy to just bring PM up and work for awhile. This is because most of the commands are ones I use constantly in other programs, they are standard on the Mac. Although the order in which you enter files into PM doesn't affect the order in the publication, - 'Placing' files does.

It is not really hard to add or delete articles, but some strange and unwanted things can happen, especially on a small monitor. To be able to show two pages at a time PM uses "greeking" which shows the position of text but not letters or words. You can really fool yourself if

what you think you are 'Placing' and actually are 'Placing', are different files. You can flip up to a print size you can read but then you only see a small part of one page. It takes so long to do this that I often thought I had made a mistake and started pressing other buttons. This in turn would cause all kinds of problems. Not much fun.

On the large screen you can read the print with 2 pages up at one time. The Mac is very fast, and a pleasure to use. Of course an IBM compatible with a 80486 chip and a large screen would make life a lot easier. But the interface would still be different from other programs you use on the IBM and would require extra time to learn...

As you 'Place' articles you can flow the text around spaces you leave for graphics. You can also flow all the articles together to make one document or keep them separate. If all the articles are going to have the same format and you're expecting to make changes, having one big document is an advantage.

If you have one document you get essentially the same effects as using a wordprocessor. Make a deletion or insertion and everything reformats itself. If they are separate articles then changes in one can cause it to overrun a later article. Trying to hand format a half dozen articles is not fun, is prone to lots of errors, and is very time consuming.

Once you have 'Placed' all your material you can select any amount and change parameters to your hearts content. Very easy to try changes out and see what document looks like.

Although you can certainly use PM as a wordprocessor, for anything

over a few paragraphs I would use a regular word processor and 'Place' the finished document in PM.

If it sounds interesting you'll probably find it worthwhile to get some help as you start. An experienced colleague or a continuing ed course makes it a lot more pleasant to learn.

Victor Bendall
Eastern Kentucky University

Sticky Keyboards on the Laser128

The Laser 128 is the most successful of the cheap Apple II clones. Recently, however, we have been plagued with keys that either did not respond when depressed or demanded several successive taps before reluctantly responding. Since these computers are out of warranty, we decided to try to fix them ourselves. It turns out to be a simple operation to do despite the label on the base which says "no user serviceable parts inside."

You will need a fine bladed screwdriver, a Phillips screwdriver, diagonal pliers, four 2 inch blocks, and several pencils with clean erasers on them. The following step-wise procedure should be followed.

1. Turn off the computer and remove all attachments including power and monitor leads.

2. Turn the computer over and

remove the nine screws which hold the case together. There is a screw in each corner, one in the center of the front and sides and two shorter ones next to where the handle is attached to the case.

3. Turn the computer right side up again. Turn it so that the keyboard is away from you. You are about to remove the plastic strip that covers the rear of the computer. It's the strip with the red warning label on it and the raised letter descriptions of the various points of attachment.

4. The plastic strip is held in position with small clips which engaged as the strip was pressed into place. Release the right hand third of the strip by putting the fine-bladed screwdriver into the right edge and prying it back. There are two clips on that edge which should come loose. Now pry the top of the right third and release it.

5. Now do the same to the left third of the strip to release it.

6. There are two clips in the top of the middle third and one at its base. Pry with the screwdriver to release them. The plastic strip will come off.

7. Note how the handle rests in slots in the case. That is how it must be replaced when the case is reassembled.

8. Turn the computer so that the keyboard is before you and lift off