

Access

Newsletter of the Louisville Computer Society
Kentuckiana; Macintosh Users Group

February, 2001



Macworld is the Comdex of the PC world. Where vendors hawk their wares, swag is easy to find, and the Macintosh community holds it's collective breath during Steve's keynote address. The products Apple rolled out this time are both subtle and revolutionary, again rocking the PC world and setting standards for others to follow. We'll go in the order of the announcements because it's more fun that way.

March 24th. More precisely Saturday, March 24th. That's the day Mac OS X is released to the public for the retail price of US\$129. Mac OS X is UNIX with a Mac interface built on an open source platform. From many people's standpoint, this is Utopia. While I'd like to cover X in more detail, I'll wait until March to do so.

Next up was an upgrade of the PowerMac line. These are the desktop computers. They're getting a much faster BUS and a speed bump with four models available-466, 533 (available in a dual processor configuration), 667, and 733 MHz models. Prices are US\$1699, 2199, 2799, and 3499 respectively. All models come with CD/DVD/CD-RW drives standard except the 733. Here's where things get, well, revolutionary. The 733 model comes with something called a SuperDrive. The SuperDrive can read and write CDs AND DVDs!

Now, most of us have seen a DVD movie and we know they have interactive menus and backgrounds. Apple thought about that. Welcome to iDVD. As easy to use as iMovie, iDVD lets users create their very own DVDs and its free with the SuperDrive in the 733! It took a while to create a DVD in the past. A one hour DVD may take as much as 24 hours to process. This is unacceptable to Steve. Creating DVDs with iDVD can be done at 2x! That means a one hour movie will only take two hours to encode! All this for a price of US\$3499! Steve said this marks the end of a dream he has had. The place went wild. He followed that with professional grade DVD software called DVD Studio Pro. As easy to use as Final Cut Pro, DVD Studio Pro is a bargain at US\$995 for the professional.

Then came iTunes. A free download from Apple that allows users to burn audio and MP3 files direct to CDs, connect to Internet radio stations, collect and save playlists, and much much more. This is yet another free gem from Apple that compliments the free iMovie software nicely.

We were almost done when, in standard Steve Jobs fashion, he simply states, "Oh there's one more thing..." Apple's new PowerBook G4.

Totally redesigned, this will make even the most diehard PC person go, "I want one!". They include a 5.3 hour battery, 15.2 inch mega wide screen, built-in FireWire, USB, Audio I/O, SVGA and composite video out, 56k modem, 10/100 Ethernet, infrared, PC card slot, AirPort wireless ready, a 400 or 500 MHz G4 processor, slot loading CD/DVD drive, (no tray!) 10, 20, or 30 GB hard drives, 128 or 256 MB of RAM (up to 1 GB), 5.3 pounds (!) and, are you ready for this 1 inch thick! Made of 99.5% pure titanium, this is one killer portable. Talk about a laptop. Rush to your nearest Apple dealer to gander at one of these!

While many people often understate Apple's influence in the market, taking in a Macworld and seeing what Apple is capable of may cause more than a few people to start thinking a little different. And that's all Steve asks.



Web Sites

Now that most of us have survived the Superbowl for another year, you might want to check out <http://www.redlightrunner.com/appleads.html> for the most outstanding Apple Ads video commercials, including the famous one from the 1984 Super Bowl. Note their warning that, as some of the files are very large, a high speed internet connection is recommended. The 1984 commercial, at 2.4 megabytes took about 10 minutes on my dial up 56k modem.

From Superbowl to Supernova

Thanks to Bill King (for the following:

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>

Astronomy Picture of the Day. Beautiful, fascinating and FAST loading. This site can lead you to all sorts of space shots. Click on the APOD archive which contains the largest collection of annotated astronomical images on the internet. Also click on the About APOD and this will take to the home page which will also supply you with a link to a random number generator, just in case you need one. I was particularly interested in The first 10 million digits of the square root of 2:

((http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/htmltest/rjn_dig.html).

And speaking of NASA, you might try

<http://fly.hiwaay.net/~fbeaver/>, the Home Page for F. L.

Beaver, which has hotlinks to NASA sites, Search (all major search engines), News, Search and under MISC> you'll find Odds and Ends which has hotlinks to Everything Macintosh. <http://www.everythingmac.com/ads/> as well as to other interesting and sometimes useful sites. I just use Beaver's home page for my WWW "gray pages." Why clutter up my Bookmarks, when I can access so many sites through his. Thanks to F. L. Beaver I can keep track of the National Debt on my way to looking for recent Macintosh information which might impact my debt.

And thanks to Edie Marta, who gave me the source for the Haiku Error Messages I put in the November, 2000 issue of

Access. They were originally published in Salon.com. If you want to see the complete list and also access other great Salon.com sites

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If you wish to be added send message to cartwig@aye.net

Answer to #9 from the December and January Computer Biology Quiz

Example of a pome (type of fruit). Apple

Upcoming Programs 7 P. M., Pitt Academy, see map on back:

- February 27** Bradley Bishop is a Macintosh user and consultant who specializes in the crafting of custom FileMaker Pro solutions. He will demonstrate the latest version of FileMaker Pro.
- March 27** Andy Arnold, Investment Broker with J. C. Bradford & Co. Using Quicken to Simplify Your Financial Life.
- April 24** Lee Larson, Professor of Mathematics at University of Louisville and VP of LCS, will give a hardware demonstration. He will take apart a Macintosh CI and reassemble it. Left over parts will be given away as door prizes.

Louisville Computer Society Macintosh Users Group Membership Application

Please send your \$26 check for a year's membership, made out to Louisville Computer Society to:

Louisville Computer Society
P.O.Box 9021
Louisville, KY 40209-9021.

Thanks! See you at the next meeting.

Fill out the following ; clip on the dotted line (or copy to another piece of paper) and send in with your check .

New or Renewal Membership

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4: _____

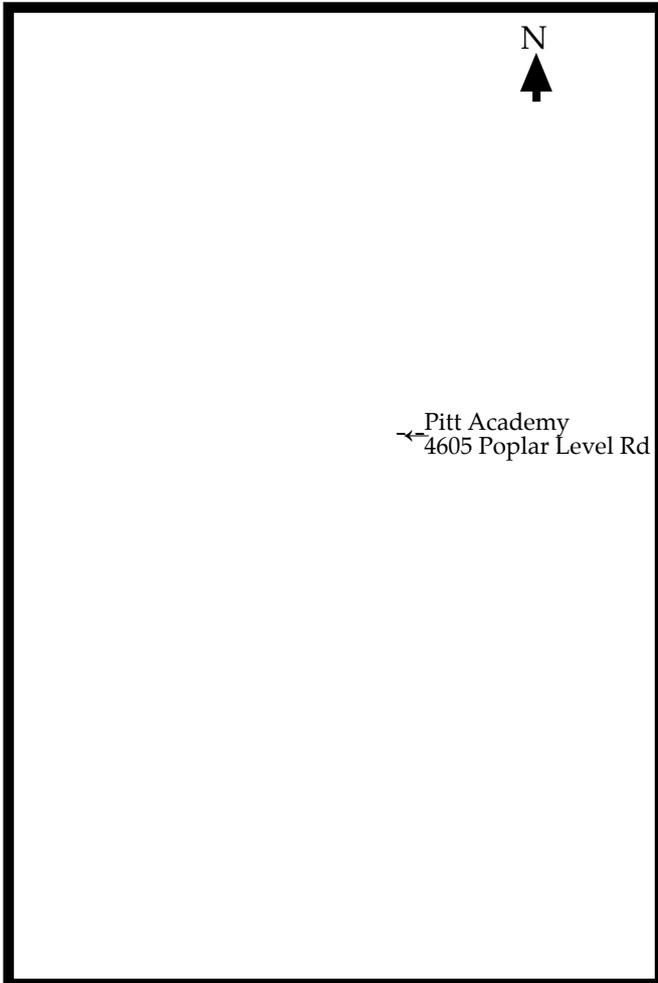
Home Phone: (_____) _____ Your E-Mail: _____ Your Home Page: _____

How did you hear about LCS? _____

Come to our monthly meetings

The Louisville Computer Society meets the 4th Tuesday of each month, 7-9 P.M. (**except December**) at Pitt Academy, 4605 Poplar Level Rd. (Poplar Level Rd. at Gilmore Lane), Louisville KY 40213 (see map below).

Pitt Academy is 1 mile south of the Watterson on Poplar Level Rd. If coming from the Snyder Freeway, Gilmore Ln is 5 miles north of I-265 on Preston Hwy. Turn right and when you get to the end (Poplar Level Rd), Pitt Academy is directly across the intersection.



Louisville Computer Society, Inc.
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Trademark names are sometimes used in this publication. Rather than put a trademark symbol in every occurrence of a trademark name, we state that we are using the names only in an editorial fashion, and to the benefit of the trademark owner, with no intention of infringement of the trademark.

For more information write to the above address or call 502-363-3113 between 5 and 9 P.M. only.

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Mailing Label