

Access

Newsletter of the Louisville Computer Society
Kentuckiana's Macintosh Users Group

June, 2001

Buying a New Mac by Anne Cartwright

Assuming I have any money left after paying this month's bills (including estimated taxes), I am going to buy a new Macintosh in July. Besides the funds, the only problem I have is which model and what other "accessories."

First I'll list what I have and then what I think I "need." Currently I'm running a Power Macintosh 8600 (200-MHz 604e processor) with 2 GB of hard disk storage and 128 MB RAM. I'm still using Mac OS 8.0 since I've never gotten around to putting on OS 9.0.43. I use a Kensington Orbit Trackball, an AppleVision 1710AV Display, an Epson Stylus Color 800 printer, a Global Village TelePort 56 modem, a Connectrix gray-scale QuickCam and a Visioneer's PaperPort Strobe (5.0). The major software I use is AppleWorks 5.0.3 and Netscape Navigator 3.01. I have lots of other software, some of which I use when necessary: ColorIt! 4.0, Calendar Creator 1.01 are two that I use at least once a month.

Shopping List

Computer: Desktop or Laptop? G3 or G4? If Desktop than G4, But which one? Cube? \$1,599 for the 450MHz, 128 MB RAM, 20 GB HD, CD-RW or \$2,144 for the 50 MHz, 256 MB RAM, 60 MB HD, CD-RW (\$545 difference doesn't seem like much.) But I'll need a display: \$2,999 Apple 22" Cinema Display (I wish), \$799 Apple 15" Flat-Panel Studio Display (1024X768) or the \$499 Apple 17" CRT Studio Display (1600X1200).

Laptop: G3: July MacWorld cover looks great: I'd go for the 128 MB RAM (but would get more RAM), but would I want the DVD-ROM, CD-RW or CD-RW/DVD-ROM combo? Prices range from \$1499 to \$1799. And for an extra \$200 I could get a 20 GB HD. OR G4 Titanium PowerBook. 20 GB HD for \$3499 versus 30 GB HD for \$500 more.

Any of these computer choices would require an iMic for audio in (\$40); AirPort and Card (\$398); Zip 100 or 250 Drive (\$9100 or \$180); Wacom Intuos or Graphite (\$180 versus \$100) (Is 4"X5" large enough?). Software: AppleWorks 6 (\$80); MacLinkPlus Delux (\$42); ViaVoice Mac Enhanced Edition (\$125); Upgrades for other software? (\$??). And another \$800 to \$1,000 for the camcorder. Also about \$90 for the USB SCSI adapter. That's about \$1,000 for this paragraph! And that doesn't include a flatbed scanner (There are too just too many models for me to decide.)

And for the computer: Over \$5,00 for the Cube (and 22" Cinema Display; but I'd also have to add the neat-looking speakers, (both the SoundSticks and iSub, not that I'd ever use them.) to \$4,000 for the Titanium G\$4 to \$2,000 for the 20 GB G3.

I'm finding it very difficult deciding how I want to throw my money away. Any suggestions? Send to cartwrig@aye.net. Thanks

I also have a PowerBook 100 (680HC00 processor, 16 MHz, 4 MB RAM and a 20 MB hard disk) running Mac OS 7.5.1 and ClarisWorks 2.0. (At the time I bought it, used, my desktop computer (LCIII: 68030, 25 MHz) was just a little bit faster and was running OS 7.0.) I used (and still use) an external 1.4 MB floppy disk drive to communicate between the two computers. My laptop only runs via the AC power adapter. The only games on either of my computers are Solitaire and MacPipes. All-in-all, I must be a very boring computer user. But it gets the job done.

Except it is so very slow!

I remember when I thought my first computer, the LCIII, was like lightning! And then it got slow. But I also remember buying the LCIII just before they announced the Power Macs. And I finally bought my Power Mac just before they came out with the G3. If I buy a new Mac before July 18, what will Steve Jobs present at the MacWorld Conference & Expo? I have just got to buy a new machine! I really "need" one. But which one, which OS?

What do I want? I want a faster computer. One that will scroll large AppleWorks databases fast. I want lots of RAM. Plenty of RAM to handle graphics in the multimedia fields. Already my 8600 tells me the disk is full. (Also I want to put FileMaker Pro on the new machine. I have FMP 4.0 but it's still in the box.) I don't know that I will ever use a real hog like Photoshop (I don't have enough graphic (artist) skills to warrant the expense. However I want a flatbed scanner and that might come with Photoshop LE. I want a digital camcorder (I liked the Sony Handcam Lee brought to the last July meeting) and that will require lost of memory and storage space. I'll definitely need a Zip-drive. My printer is okay for the moment, but I'll need a USB SCSI adapter for it. Maybe I'll need a Wacom tablet (which one?). Any computer I buy will have a build in modem, but I'll need an AirPort and card. Do I need CD-R or CD-RW or DVD? Will I need to get an iMic adapter? And the list goes on...

Notes from the Motherboard
by Harry Jacobson-Beyer
A Chip off the Old Block

I subscribe to MacWorld, MacHome, Wired, and The AppleWorks Journal, the publication of the AppleWorks User Group (AWUG). Every month, as I peruse these publications, I am always amazed by new, and/or updated, technology and software. While reading through the latest issue of Wired I decided to share some of the new technology with you.

For all you budding photographers, especially those with an extra \$24,000 (who needs a car or a down payment on a house anyway) Foveon makes a studio camera that uses standard Canon L-Series lenses. The camera attaches to a windows PC and each photograph (17.3 Mbytes) is put on the PC's harddrive. Of course, for the big bucks you spend you get other bells and whistles. If you buy one, I sure would like to see it.

The perfect accessory for your Foveon camera is Epson's new Stylus Photo 785EPX printer (\$249). With its detachable preview monitor (\$99), you can view and alter your pictures right at the printer or connect it to your Mac or PC. The printer accepts smart media, compact flash, or memory stick cards.

Sharp has a new MiniDisc Long Play (MDLP) CD player/recorder. \$500 gets you a portable unit that writes up to 296 minutes of Audio on a single disc. Now that's compression!

While we're talking about CD-RW drives, Sony has a battery-operated, portable drive, Digital Relay CRX10U-A2 drive (\$399). It connects to your Mac via a USB port and you can back up and store files on CDs. Since it's battery operated you can also take it with you and listen to your CDs with MP3 files. If you are thinking about setting up your own home network and web server, have I got a deal for you! For a mere \$600,000 you can purchase BlueArc's Si7500 SiliconServer. With a throughput rate of 1,900 Mbps you'll be web based gaming at lightning fast speeds.

If that technology's too rich for your blood check out the Game Boy Advance. At \$100, it has a faster processor and 10 times more colors than its predecessor and it accepts all your old Game Boy modules, too.

If you are an iMovie buff you might enjoy the ShuttlePro multi-media controller from Contour Designs. At \$100, this USB device, with 13 programmable buttons and a jog-shuttle dial, allows you to manipulate your iMovies frame by frame. Windows users eat your heart out because this device won't have Windows drivers till next spring.

Are you a Palm or Visor user who is Graffiti challenged? Well write no more. With Matias' Half Keyboard (\$99) connected to your PDA, you can type notes, addresses, etc. to your hearts content. Way cool!

That's just some of the new technology that's come out in recent months. In a future article I'll cover new and updated software.

Selected Web sites:

Foveon II Digital Portrait Camera - www.foveon.net/prod_new

Epson Stylus Photo 785EPX - www.epson.com

Sharp MDLP CD player/recorder - www.sharp-usa.com/about/AboutPressRelease/0,1130,C143,00

United States Mint - www.usmint.gov



It's the latest from Apple, a Titanium PowerBook G4³

LCS e-mail address book

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

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

- June 26** Bill King. Airport
July 24 Harry Jacobson-Beyer. Online photo clubs to share digital pictures
August 28 Byron Songer, Apple's education engineer for Louisville. The latest and greatest from Mac World.
September 25 Andy Arnold, Financial Advisor. UBS | PaineWebber. Online Financial Resources.

Any suggestions for future programs will be greatly appreciated.
 Please contact Harry Jacobson-Beyer at harrylb@bellsouth.net.

Suggestions for future articles should be addressed to Harry or to
 Anne Cartwright (cartwrig@aye.net).

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: _____

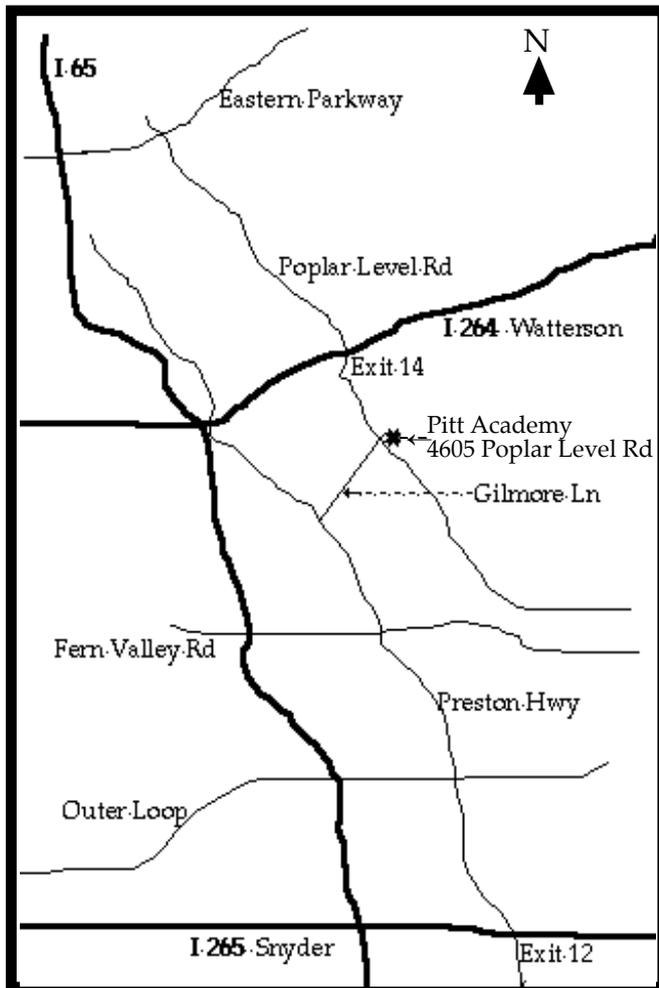
Home Phone: (_____) _____ Your E-Mail: _____ Your Home Page: _____

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.



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