

THE SHADOW KNOWS...



MacWorld San Fran notes: Apple's new OS X Aqua interface looks like it was done in KPT5 -- but be warned: you'll need at least 64MB just to run all those cool new features...Newtek stole the show with its new Lightwave 6 3D software...Heard but not believed -- Apple's hired stage bimbo repeatedly referring to the new "G3 and P4 machines"...Strange goings-on at MetaCreations, which cut loose all software sales and support staff just before Christmas and posted a cryptic letter on its website saying the company will now focus on MetaStream and pursue e-commerce business opportunities only...hmmmm...Look out! Apple Canada is being sued by Toronto's Computer Graphics Warehouse Direct over the MacWarehouse monopoly on national distribution rights in Canada -- stay tuned...Next time your mother complains about not having any new pictures of you, get her a Ceiba cyberframe -- looks just like a regular picture frame but connects to the Internet and lets you download pix daily -- US\$249 from www.ceiva.com...In the "i-everything" department -- Dupont decided "Photopolymer & Electronic Materials" wasn't catchy enough, so it has changed the business unit name to "iTechnologies"...Q4 was a bonanza for Adobe with record sales of \$282 million, making it a billion dollar year -- but now that founder Chuck Geschke is retiring, will co-founder John Warnock be far behind?...Grab the Gutenberg wave -- check www.heidelberg.com for details on the Gutenberg Global creative competition...Great news for printers: now you can buy a press online at Heidelberg's new cyber store (www.heidelberg-cps.com) -- "That'll be \$3 million, please -- VISA or Amex?"... Is that a hard drive in your pocket or are you just glad to see me? -- LaCie's new 18MB USB Pocket-Drive weighs less than a pound and fits in a pocket...



APPLE NEWS

iTools-based Internet strategy debuts, new Aqua interface on tap for Mac OS X

Apple has unveiled Mac OS X, the next generation Macintosh operating system, and initiated its new Internet strategy. Mac OS X is a completely new implementation of the Mac operating system, featuring state-of-the-art technology and a new user interface called Aqua. Mac OS X is designed to make computing easier for consumers, while extending its functionality for professionals. Over 100 developers

have pledged their support for the operating system, including Adobe and Microsoft. Mac OS X will be commercially released this summer.

At the core of Apple's Internet strategy is iTools, which are delivered on the redesigned Apple.com web site.



KidSafe is a way to protect kids on the Internet; Mac.com is an email service; iDisk is a way to store, transfer and share files over the Internet; and HomePage is an easy way to build personal web sites. The web site also features iReview, a web site review guide, and iCards, an electronic greeting card system. Apple has also entered a multi-year partnership with ISP EarthLink, in which Apple will invest \$200 million. For more details visit www.apple.com.

SCANNERS

Expression 1600 delivers full page full color 300 dpi resolution in 20 seconds

Epson's new Expression 1600 is a high resolution, high speed graphics scanner that utilizes Epson's MatrixCCD and Micro Step Drive technologies to achieve a 1600 x 3200 dpi true hardware resolution. The Expression 1600 can scan by "half stepping" in the vertical direction, doubling resolution to 3200 dpi. It offers 36-bit color depth both internally and externally and has a Dmax of 3.3. The focal distance can be changed to 2.5 mm above the glass scan bed to avoid light refraction problems. According to Epson, the Expression 1600 can create a full color preview in eight seconds and scan an 8.5" x 11" color photo in 20 seconds at 300 dpi.

The Expression 1600 comes in four cross-platform configurations: Special Edition (\$1229), Artist (\$1389), Professional (\$1699) and Professional FireWire (\$2149) models. The Special Edition includes the Epson TWAIN Pro drivers only. The other models contain a suite of software including *MonacoEZcolor*; Adobe *Photoshop 5.0 LE*; NewSoft *Presto! PageManager*; and Xerox *Textbridge Classic OCR*. The Pro and Pro FireWire models come with a transparency unit. For additional information call 1-800-GO-EPSON or visit www.epson.com.

MASKING SOFTWARE

Corel KnockOut 1.1 for Mac or Windows



The first version of Corel *KnockOut*, new masking software for use with image-editing software, is now available as a download for Mac and Windows. *KnockOut 1.1* finds transitions rather than edges, making it easy to produce seamless composites that preserve fine details, such as hair, transparencies, smoke, motion blur and shadows.

Corel *KnockOut 1.5* will be available in April for free to registered users of *KnockOut 1.1* and Ultimate *KnockOut 1.0*. For US\$99, users can purchase the downloadable version of *KnockOut 1.1* from www.corel.com/corelknockout/index.htm.

PREPRESS SOFTWARE

Agfa set to introduce Apogee PDF distiller

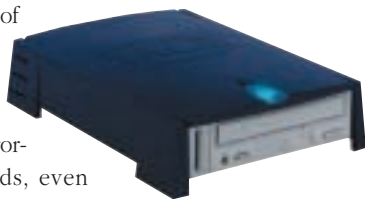
Agfa will soon bring Adobe Extreme technology to the desktop with Apogee *Create*, a PDF distiller that will allow designers to do local normalizing, local preflighting, and local soft proofing and editing. *Create* also generates a Portable Job Ticket for use in Agfa Pilot. Preflight parameters which identify standing imposition templates and engine-specific device settings can be preset with a Pit-Stop 4.0 plug-in by prepress shops or printers. They can then be triggered once the PDF file (with PJT) is sent to the remote Apogee Pilot. These device-specific settings are controlled by Pilot, since the PDFs in an Apogee workflow are device-independent.

Apogee *Create* will come with the Adobe-based Normalizer, the Apogee Job Ticket Editor, Agfa's Quark XTension for Colorized TIFF support, and AgfaSet to download fonts to the Normalizer. Now clearing beta, Apogee *Create* will be released first on Mac, then on Windows NT. For additional information visit www.agfa.com.

CD-RW DRIVES

LaCie's CDRW-12432s+ records at 12x speed

Using Sanyo's "BURN-Proof (Buffer Under RuN) technology, LaCie's new CDRW-12432s+ drive eliminates buffer overruns and offers error-free recording at 12x speeds, even with lower-performance personal computers. In 12x CD-R mode, the CDRW-12432s+ writes a complete 650MB CD in about 6 minutes. The SCSI-2 drive can also be used to write/rewrite CD-RW media at 4x speed. The drive is compatible with most leading 8X CD-R media and will burn some 8X media at 12X.



The CDRW-12432s+ comes bundled with the LaCie Recording Utilities CD package: Adaptec Easy CD Creator for Windows 95/98/NT, and Adaptec Toast Standard Edition for Macintosh systems. Linux users may download X-CD-Roast from the Internet.

For more details visit www.lacie.com.

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