



Worth the wait

Just like buses, you wait ages for one, then they all come along at once — new products, that is. Howard Oakley basks in the embarrassment of riches he thought would never come.

Just as a watched pot never boils, the moment I write that I'm still waiting for products, they turn up.

Just after completing last month's column, my dealer (or maybe I should call them a reseller now?) rang to say that my Apple LaserWriter 12/640PS duplex laser printer had arrived. It came in three large boxes: one for the printer, a second for the duplex unit which sits below the printer, and the third for the 500-sheet feeder which goes at the very bottom. Assembly and installation of the 8Mb of extra memory to support duplex printing was straightforward, and I soon had the printer and my Power Mac 9500 powered up and networked.

The first snag came when I tried to find and configure the 12/640 using a copy of the Apple LaserWriter Utility, and the more recent Apple Printer Utility. Although both could see the printer and connect to it, they quickly came to grief when trying to print test pages. I reached for the stack of floppy disks which shipped with the printer and installed LaserWriter 8.4 (already superseded by 8.4.1). Its newer version of the Apple Printer Utility worked fine,

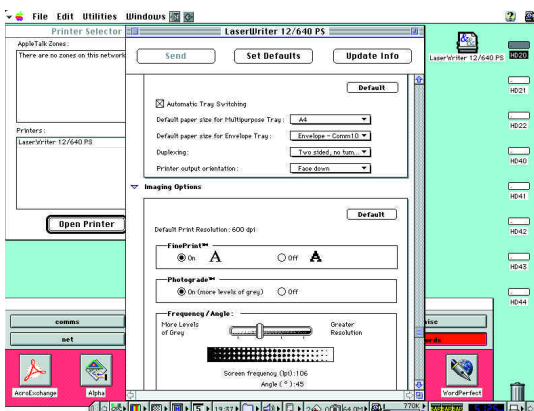
Full of the joys of spring cleaning

As the dark nights drag on, with Christmas and Hogmanay memories fading fast, set a few hours aside to start spring cleaning your Mac. Focus on these software topics:

1. Make a full backup of everything.
2. Run Disk First Aid to repair any problems which might have cropped up.
3. Run Norton Utilities for Macintosh (or an equivalent) to repair any glitches which Disk First Aid may not have dealt with.
4. Examine the allocation of disk space on each volume, ideally using the shareware DiskSurveyor.
5. Archive little-used files and applications which are wasting a lot of space.
6. Huck out redundant files in your Preferences folder; the shareware tools Prefs Cleaner and Yank can be quick and effective ways of doing this.
7. Clear out unused and unwanted System extensions and control panels; be ruthless!
8. Empty Netscape Navigator's cache folder.
9. Work through folders in which you store documents, archiving those which are inactive.
10. Use the Finder's Find... menu command to look for large files which can be compressed or thrown away altogether, files which have not been modified for more than a couple of months, and so on.
11. Run Disk First Aid and Norton again, and finally defragment each volume if you wish to.



DiskSurveyor maps selected volumes or folders to display how much space each folder and file occupies — a superb tool when you are performing housekeeping



showing me the duplex option, Photograde picture enhancement controls and so on. It was then I discovered that I could not use text and Photograde enhancement at the

The Apple Printer Utility from LaserWriter 8.4 gives full access to the LaserWriter 12/640 PS facilities, including multiple paper trays, duplex printing, and text and graphics smoothing

same time as duplex printing, without adding still more memory. A few days later, my dealer was visibly pleased at supplying me with a single 32Mb SIMM. I had a total of 40Mb of memory in the printer, and could make full use of all the options.

The 12/640 has performed faultlessly ever since. By the time I had added the duplex and 500-sheet feeder options, it is rather tall at 42cm, with a further 20cm or so being allocated for the opening top section. It has also printed two copies of the same letter back-to-back on the same

single sheet of paper, when common sense would have suggested that was pretty dumb. Otherwise, it is a beautifully effective printer of high-quality double-sided A4 pages.

Apple's Net Kit

Apple Internet Connection Kit version 1.1.5 arrived at more or less the same time. If you have a CD-ROM drive but have not yet got onto the internet, it is a cheap, polished and thoroughly sound basis for getting started. If you already know where to look for the latest version of Eudora Light (just released at 1.5.5, by the way) and can't wait for the next round of the Microsoft/Netscape browser battle, you will probably not find much on it to set your modem alight, apart from a limited feature edition of Claris EMailer, of course.

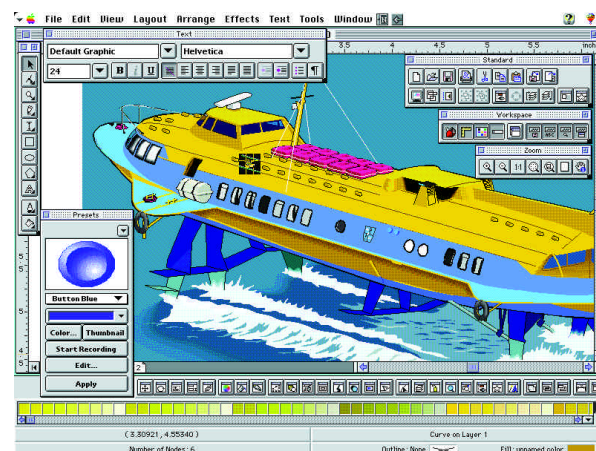
Free Lisp

I am delighted to be able to add another excellent free Mac programming language to the list started last month. Admittedly it is only a demo version of a commercial product, but this is fully-functional and runs for a limited time before quitting. Mac Common Lisp 4.0 (for Power Macs) is a mature, complete and impressively quick implementation of modern ANSI Common Lisp, from a software house just down the road from MIT, Digitool.

If you still believe that Lisp is slow, ungainly and impractical, MCL should be a revelation. It is also a reassuring piece of Apple history: its original incarnation, Macintosh Allegro Common Lisp, was developed by a small but brilliant third party company called Coral, until Apple bought the product and personnel by mutual agreement. MCL then went on to sell hundreds if not thousands of Macs into MIT and other US universities, where Lisp remains the key language for much of artificial intelligence. Apple's bright minds in Massachusetts fathered the Dylan language too, but a couple of years ago the group was broken up, MCL going back out to a third party, Digitool, who are clearly bearing the torch with pride.

DAVE not Bob

Software which uses personal names always makes me cringe, more so than inadvertent linguistic blunders in names such as Publish It! After Microsoft's Bob, perhaps it is only appropriate to welcome DAVE, an obviously American product as it



Left CorelDraw 6 is a most tasteful port which makes full use of the Mac OS environment but sacrifices none of the power it enjoys on the Windows platform

Below Corel Artisan is a combined painting and image-editing tool with more features than the majority of users will ever use

is either in capitals or some hideously contrived acronym. But beneath the name, DAVE sounds like the first item on a lot of wish-lists. By dint of TCP/IP protocols, it enables you to make Win95 and NT files and printers available to networked Macs. Thursby Software Systems claims that it integrates fully with NT Services for Macintosh and supports messaging, and I will report further once I have had a chance to try it myself.



mere 250Mb of disk space, but it is easy to install single components in order to decide whether you want to use them. The price? An astonishing £100 or so provided you are cross-grading from any of a long list of other products. If you have a CD-ROM drive CorelDraw Suite 6 is an essential purchase, even though you may only ever use one or two of the applications.

Corel Classic

After a shaky start, and in spite of some nasty bugs, Novell WordPerfect 3.1 always struck me as being much less irritating than Microsoft Word. Acquisition by Corel worried me greatly, and I confess that I retreated to Word even if it now does everything but highlight the right words and characters. Corel's track record in porting (or rather, failing to port) CorelDraw to Mac filled me with gloom. But I take it all back — the three CD-ROMs which make up the new CorelDraw 6 Suite are exceptionally good value (about £100 for a cross-grade from almost any Mac graphics application) and reveal a true understanding of the Mac interface on the part of the programmers.

On the CDs you'll find the massive suite of Corel graphics software including CorelDraw itself, CorelDream, a 3D modelling application, CorelArtisan, a bitmap image editor, CorelTexture, for bitmap texture creation, CorelTrace, CorelChart and WordPerfect 3.5.1. These are not cheap-and-cheerful tools but are competitive with products from Adobe and Macromedia. Installation of the whole suite, less clip-art and other goodies, will require a

•PCW Contacts

Howard Oakley loves to hear from Mac users and can be contacted via the usual PCW address or on email as mac@pcw.vnu.co.uk

Apple Computer is on 0181 569 1199, and has web home pages at www.apple.com and www.euro.apple.com. The Apple LaserWriter 12/640 PS Duplex with 500-sheet feeder and 12Mb RAM costs around £1400 (plus VAT), and the Apple Internet Connection Kit £50 (plus VAT). **Digitool's** free demonstration version of Macintosh Common Lisp 4.0 is at www.digitool.com/MCL-demo-version.html. The full version costs from £380 (plus VAT) from Full Moon Software Distribution on 01628 660242. **DAVE** is by Thursby Software Systems, which is on 00 1 817 478-5070 or email sales@thursby.com, and should cost around £160 (plus VAT). The **CorelDraw 6** suite for Power Mac costs around £100 (plus VAT) (introductory cross-grade) from Corel on 0800 58 1028.

DiskSurveyor 1.1 is by Tom Luhrs, costs \$5, and is available from all good online archives.

PrefsCleaner 1.1 is by Luc Pauwels, costs 450 Belgian francs, and is available from all good online archives.

Yank 1.3.1 is from Maui Software, costs \$15, and is available from all good online archives.