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Although on occasion this column is organized around a theme (see last month's excursion into music, for instance), sometimes I return from my Net-travels with a real miscellany of shareware and freeware.

hoever Dies With The Most Toys...

WebbToys

As well as authoring the new column about programming for Apple Wizards, the seemingly tireless Chilton Webb is the webmaster/raison d'être of DevHQ, the Macintosh Developer Headquarters located at <http://www.devhq.com/>, and the author of WebbToys, a \$25 shareware suite of Internet utilities.

WebbToys (v.1.6.1, Jan '99, 1356 K) provides a toolbar from which you can control every aspect of your Mac that relates to connectivity. You can toggle your connection status, check to see if you have new email, and launch your favorite web browser, email app, FTP client, or newsreader, all from within one convenient interface. Additionally, a plug-in architecture extends the functionality of WebbToys with PowerPacks like Launcher (a command-line for opening applications or URLs), Channels (related websites), and Diagnostics (for troubleshooting your connection software).

Download the latest version from <http://www.webbtoys.com/> and play to your heart's content, and see below for your chance to win a free registered copy of WebbToys!

o Biased Amputation Sleeps!

McPoet

Got a surplus of surrealism? Or a dearth of dadaism? Either way, Chris F. Westbury's McPoet is a pure prose-morphing kick. Using a sophisticated set of rules, McPoet scrambles any text you input, or generates "poetry" according to your specifications. Randomly combining words yields surprising insights and/or meaningless rubbish, much like the cut-up method of composition popularized by William S. Burroughs. Interface glitches like having the Print command in the Edit menu can be chalked up to its dadaist sensibility.

McPoet (v.4.6, Dec '98, 1711K) is freeware/dadaware — the author has explicitly renounced claim to its copyright, so the program can be distributed without restriction. There's no McPoet website available, as far as I can tell — it can be downloaded from the Info-Mac HyperArchive at <http://hyperarchive.lcs.mit.edu/HyperArchive/Archive/text/mcpoet-46.hqx>

ide The Snake

Slithereens

The latest shareware game from Ambrosia Software is a wonderful update of that old classic Pac-Man, except that, instead of a yellow circle and colored ghosts, Slithereens is played with snakes. You use the arrow keys to navigate through mazes and consume whatever tasty treats you can find. The more you eat, the bigger you get, and the safer you will be from the other snakes you encounter. Eat or be eaten! Beautifully rendered 3D graphics and hilarious commentary on the soundtrack make this game (like Ambrosia's other offerings) well worth the \$20 shareware fee.

Slithereens (v.1.0.0, Dec '98, 9405 K) was programmed by Jesse Liesch and is available from Ambrosia Software's website <http://www.ambrosiasw.com/> or from the dedicated <http://www.slithereens.com/> site.

arty Over, Oops, Out Of Time

Y2KCD

It's not a rare affliction — the year 2000 has been much on my mind of late, Prince's "1999" keeps running through my head on some sort of apocalyptic infinite loop mix, and pondering the full implications of the millennium bug and its possible attendant chaos alternately spooks and amuses me. To feed my anxiety through the days remaining until the counter clicks over to three zeroes, I rely on Y2KCD by Brilor Software. Written by Brian S. Stevens, Year 2000 Count Down is a tiny freeware app which displays the time (down to the second) until the Big Event.

You can download Y2KCD (v.1.0.3, Jan '99, 92 K) from Info-Mac, at <http://hyperarchive.lcs.mit.edu/HyperArchive/Archive/app/time/y2kcd-103.hqx> . And yes, I was dreaming when I wrote this, so please forgive me if it went astray.

Warehouse Trivia Contest

This month we're giving away three copies of WebbToys, Chilton Webb's outstanding collection of Internet utilities. Look for the latest version of this \$25 shareware gem at <http://www.webbtoys.com/> .

With "Contest" in the subject line, email your answers to brian@applewizards.net

The Five Apple Wizards Questions for February 1999

1. What was the code-name of Macintosh Plus?
2. What is the keyboard shortcut for Undo?
3. What company makes DOCMaker?
4. As of January 1999, how many colors is the iMac available in?
5. Did Microsoft sabotage QuickTime for Windows? Explain your answer.

Errata: last month, I listed the December winners instead of those for November. Oops, my bad. And, in an unrelated matter, the complete list of winners for January was not available at press time,

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