

# THE GURU

## TRUMCUG

**Trumbull Computer User's Group**

Since 1984

**Supporting All Personal Computer**

January 1997  
Volume 4 Issue 5

Send mail to:

P.O. Box 8632  
Warren, Ohio 44484

**Meeting Notice: Third Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 7:00 PM.** Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday January 15, 1997 at the Warren branch of the Cortland Bank, on Elm road, North of McDonald's and across from Sims Buick.

### **TRUMCUG Officers 1996-1997**

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Future meetings are scheduled for Wednesdays  
February 19, March 19, April 16, and May 21.

## January Meeting

For the December meeting, Jay showed us his scanner at work and for a willing volunteer he scanned a picture for him. He also showed us his design jet plotter and printed the picture with the plotter. I showed everybody an "electronic post-card" that was sent to me for Christmas and we also sent some to our members who have e-mail accounts.

From PC Magazine, October 22, 1996

## Inside Track

By John C. Dvorak

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The Jinxed Machine Rises Once Again, Maybe, Dept.: The hapless Amiga, a machine a decade ahead of its time (there's a lesson in there somewhere) was sold by a bankrupt Commodore to Germany's Escom AG two years back. Users hoped the sale would signal a revival, but Escom AG couldn't do anything with it and went bankrupt in July 1995, leaving the Amiga in shambles. Now the machine's design has been sold to VISCORP, a Chicago-based set-top-box maker. Meanwhile, as a result of the bankruptcy, numerous companies are claiming rights to the machine.

No matter. VISCORP plans to revive the machine. There is some talk about porting the Amiga's OS code to the PowerPC, which would probably be a great idea, since the Amiga OS remains one of the great operating systems of the past 20 years, incorporating a small kernel and tremendous multitasking capability the likes of which have only recently been developed in OS/2 and Windows NT. The biggest difference is that the Amiga OS could operate fully and multitask in as little as 256K of address space. Even today, the OS is only about 1MB in size. And to this day, there is very little a memory-hogging, CD-ROM loading OS can do that the Amiga can't. Tight code--there's nothing like it.

I've had an Amiga for maybe a decade. It's the single most reliable piece of equipment I've ever

owned. It's amazing! You can easily understand why so many fanatics are out there wondering why they are alone in their love of the thing. The Amiga continues to inspire a vibrant--albeit cult-like--community, not unlike that which you have with Linux, the Unix clone. Expect to see VISCORP release a 68060 upgrade board for the machine. Amazing how high-quality machinery never dies an easy death.

Monday January 6 6:21 PM EDT

## **Exclusive: Apple's OS Plan Unveiled First Concrete Details of the New Mac OS Strategy**

*SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 6 /PRNewswire/* -- At the Macworld Expo tomorrow, Apple Computer Inc. will finally unveil its new Mac Operating System strategy based on the December 20 acquisition of Next, Inc., and its NextStep/OpenStep OS. Macworld Magazine has learned the details of that strategy, which it published today on its Macworld Daily news service on Macworld Online ([www.macworld.com](http://www.macworld.com)).

### **Parallel OSs**

Apple will develop and ship both the current Mac OS (System 7) and the new Mac OS 8 in parallel. Apple will deliver four more releases of System 7:

- \* System 7.6, code-named Harmony, is a minor upgrade to the current System 7.5 and will ship by the end of this month.

- \* In July, Apple plans to ship Tempo, which will probably be called System 7.7. That OS will include the first fully PowerPC-native Finder, the Java Virtual Machine for Macintosh to run Java programs, support for multithreading in the Finder, and a more 3-D-looking interface. Apple CEO Gil Amelio plans to demonstrate Tempo at his keynote speech at the Macworld Expo on Tuesday.

- \* In early 1998, Apple will ship the Allegra update to System 7, probably calling it System 7.8.

- \* And in mid-1998, Apple expects to release the Sonata update to System 7, probably calling it

System 7.9

Meanwhile, Apple will also be developing the Next-based Mac OS, which has the code name Rhapsody. Apple expects to offer developers the first version of Rhapsody in the third quarter of this year, with the first general release to the public around January 1998, and the first release that is Mac-program compatible in mid-to-early 1998.

### **The Game Plan for the Next OS**

Apple plans on developing a compatibility box for the Next-based OS that will let it run most System 7 programs. The so-called Blue Box is not hardware but a Window within the OS in which any System 7 program that doesn't communicate directly with the hardware should run. The programs would include system extensions and control panels, but not drivers and some utilities that do work directly with the hardware. This level of compatibility is more than was planned for Apple's original Mac OS 8 effort, known as Copland. That OS would not have run extensions and control panels.

According to Macworld's sources, the Blue Box will be bug-for-bug compatible with System 7, so programs patched to work around bugs in the current OS will not need to be modified to run in the Blue Box compatibility window. That also means that technologies such as QuickDraw 3D, QuickTime, OpenDoc, QuickDraw GX, and the DayStar multiprocessing API will be supported in the Blue Box environment. The Blue Box will not be a Mac emulator but the actual System 7 OS running on the new Mac OS microkernel, the part of the OS that manages the hardware and basic system operations.

But the new Mac OS is the Yellow Box, or in other words, the Mac OS 8 to be based on the recently acquired NextStep OS's OpenStep version. Unlike Copland, Yellow Box will be fully preemptive, multithreaded, and have full memory protection. This means that programs can work in parallel without causing each other to crash if something goes wrong. It also means that users should be able to run several tasks in parallel, such as faxing while printing, or doing a database sort while reading e-mail. Under the Copland plan

that Apple killed in August, only some parts of Mac OS 8 would have these capabilities. Rhapsody's Yellow Box will also support fully symmetrical multiprocessing, in which any available CPU can run any program or program thread. System 7's multiprocessing architecture reserves one CPU as the traffic cop, which divides the tasks of only programs specifically written for multiprocessing among the available CPUs. The primary CPU is less available for task sharing because of its role as traffic cop.

Apple plans to rework the NextStep OS's interface so it is Mac-like. While Apple will adopt some NextStep conventions, the company is convinced that the Mac OS's human interface is the best available and wants to ensure that this approach is maintained. Within the Next-based OS, Apple will hide the remnants of its Unix command-line interface.

Like the abortive Copland effort, the Next-based Mac OS, in the Yellow Box window, will support multiple looks. Thus, you will be able to customize the interface's visual appearance and how some of its features operate, such as preventing network access for some users.

Programs running in the Blue Box will be able to share some data with programs running in the Yellow Box, and vice versa. According to Macworld's sources, programs in the two environments can share data via Apple events (Apple's OS-based messaging technology) and via copy and paste. However, direct interapplication communications probably won't be allowed, so the two environments can't cause each other to crash if something goes wrong in one of the boxes. Not yet clear is how users and programs will be able to deal with files created by programs running in the two environments. While the hope is to let both Yellow Box and Blue Box programs access each other's drives and folders, it is too early in the Rhapsody development effort for Apple to know whether, or how, it can accomplish that goal, at least in the 1998 releases.

#### **System Hardware Compatibility**

Under Apple's new OS plan, Rhapsody will work on all currently shipping PowerPC-based Macs from Apple and the licensed Apple clone

makers (DayStar Digital, Motorola Computer Group, Power Computing, Umax Computer, and, in Japan, Pioneer Electronics) and their sublicensees. Apple has also committed to supporting all future Macs, including systems based on the Common Hardware Reference Platform architecture developed by IBM, Motorola. Apple says the CHRP design should become available to licensees later this year and will spur the interest of even more Mac clone makers.

Apple is exploring support for previous Power Macs, such as those using the NuBus peripheral bus, but is making no commitments, Macworld's sources say.

Apple will continue to support and sell the Intel x86 and Sun Sparc versions of the NextStep OS, but its main focus will be on the Macintosh development.

## **POWER COMPUTING AND BE, INC. SIGN LICENSING DEAL TO BUNDLE BE OS ON POWER COMPUTING'S POWERPC-BASED MACINTOSH SYSTEMS**

**Addition of High-Performance, State-of-the-Art Operating System Will Benefit Customers Seeking Powerful Tools for Multimedia and Communication, Content and Creation**

*(ROUND ROCK, Texas) November 26, 1996* -Power Computing Corporation, the leading MacOS systems vendor, and Jean-Louis Gassée's Be, Incorporated, today announced that beginning in the first quarter of 1997, all Power Computing systems will ship with the Be Operating System (BeOS) in addition to the Macintosh Operating System.

The BeOS will provide Power Computing's customers with a powerful and rich tool that accommodates a growing number of cutting-edge multimedia and communications-based applications without forcing users to make additional hardware investments. The BeOS offers advanced features such as high-performance, symmetric multipro-

cessing, preemptive multitasking, multithreading as well as object-oriented design.

The BeOS was first demonstrated publically as a technology on a Power Computing system at Macworld Boston in August, 1996.

"Power Computing has earned a strong reputation by providing leading-edge PowerPC systems to meet the needs of today's growing digital media market," said Steve Kahng, chairman and CEO of Power Computing. "With the addition of the BeOS to our offering, Power Computing customers will now have the option of utilizing the remarkable power and performance of the BeOS along with Power Computing's already world-class systems."

"Power Computing is an ideal partner because we are after customers that are pushing the envelope in media and content creation and Power Computing is the company that is pushing the envelope in PowerPC system design" said Jean-Louis Gassée, CEO of Be, Inc. "Power Computing has moved to the forefront of the PowerPC system space, and we're excited to work with them."

As part of the agreement announced today, the two companies will work together to ensure that the BeOS will run on all Power systems, including PowerTower Pro, PowerTower, PowerCenter and PowerBase systems. The BeOS will be bundled at no additional charge for customers purchasing Power Computing systems and will come on a bootable CD-ROM. While contract specifics were not announced today, both companies indicated that specifics including available applications and utilities would be announced formally at the upcoming Macworld Expo San Francisco in January, 1997.

Power Computing will make the BeOS available at no charge to customers ordering and receiving systems between now and the date of first ship of the BeOS. Existing Power Computing customers will be able to purchase the BeOS directly from Be's worldwide website.

The companies added that the announcement should serve as a clear signal to the software development community that there will be a large and growing number of BeOS seats starting in

the first quarter of 1997. In addition, both Kahng and Gassée indicated that they are enthused about both the quality and number of software developers currently in the process of porting and writing new and existing applications to the BeOS on the PowerPC MacOS platform.

### **About Power Computing**

Power Computing is the first and only Mac OS system provider to offer custom-configurable systems personalized to the needs of each user. Power Computing, a privately-held corporation, manufactures and markets a full line of award-winning, competitively-priced Mac OS-based systems.

Chosen by Apple as the first licensed manufacturer of Mac-compatibles, Power Computing was created in 1993 with a single focus - create a worldclass systems company focused on increasing the overall size of the Mac OS market by providing more choices, more service and more affordability.

## **The TRUMCUG Web Page**

The new web page now has more graphics and now includes some hotlinks. Check it out at:

<http://cc.ysu.edu/~s0176111/trumcug.html>

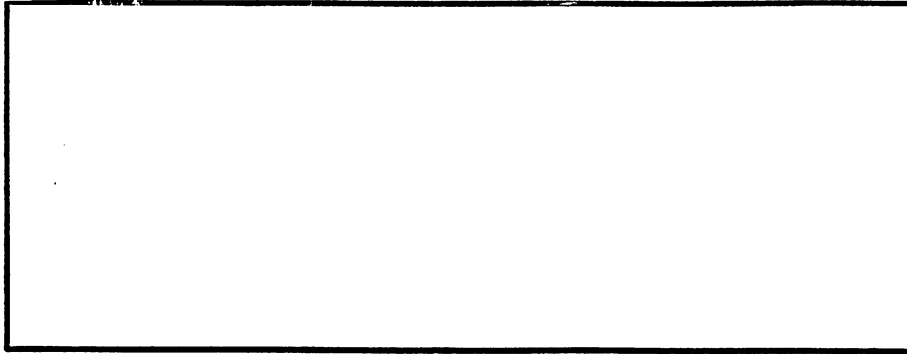
## **Newsletter**

The Guru is produced on an 50 Mhz Amiga 1200 running FinalWriter 4.02

Many thanks to Jay Shonk for laser printing of the newsletter (Postscript at 600 dpi)

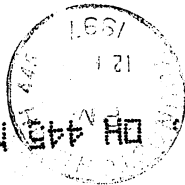
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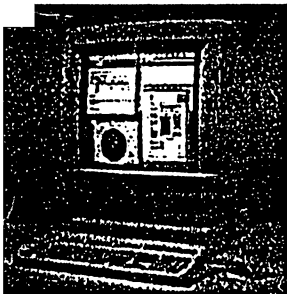


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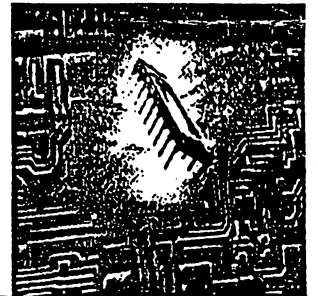
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Trumbull Computer User's Group

Computer meeting on the  
3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00PM  
(except July and August)



Warren branch  
Cortland Bank  
Elm Road-Warren, Ohio



## ***TRUMCUG Dues Notice***

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