

NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG ISLAND MACINTOSH USERS GROUP

LIMac has been serving Macintosh users on Long Island since 1984, when the Mac was introduced. Annual dues for membership is \$24. First meeting is free. For information, you can contact any of the following:

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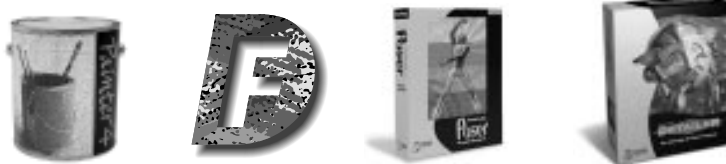
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October's Meeting: Fractured by Fractal!

The featured speaker at October's meeting was Denis Flynn, District Manager for Fractal Design Corporation. Fractal Design merged with Ray Dream a few months back and now has an extensive line of graphic software. He gave us an overview of their products and demonstrated two at the general meeting, and a third at the DTP SIG meeting.

With its impressive array of natural-media brushes, *Fractal Design Painter* has become a standard by which any painting program is judged. *Fractal Design Detailer*, which lets you paint natural media texture in 2D or 3D views, has many of these brushes. Denis went into some of the features of *Detailer*, a new program about to be shipped. He next explained *Poser*, a program for integrating the human figure into your layout. With more than a hundred pre-defined, life-like models, you have a variety of poses from which to choose. Easily adjustable, each part of the body can be scaled

or changed by adjusting orientation, lighting, perspectives, etc. You can save the poses in libraries and reuse them with other programs like *Painter* or *Photoshop*. *Poser* has received excellent reviews. Denis showed us some of the ways this program can be used for creating human models.

This presentation was followed by a demonstration of *Expression*, a natural-media vector drawing program, at the DTP SIG meeting. This program combines the stylistic expressiveness of brushstrokes and other traditional artists' tools with the flexibility, editability and resolution independence of a vector drawing program. Denis many of the different strokes and how you can add or delete points and introduce randomness as you paint. He also discussed the benefits of using a pressure-sensitive tablet for these programs. *Expression* is likely to ship by the end of October. An exciting program well presented. ■ —Balan Nagraj

November's Meetings:**General Meeting: Friday, Nov. 8, 7:00 P.M.**

Eyeglasses containing a prescription, worn only when working at a computer really can solve a problem, even for people who have 20/20 vision or wear contacts. PRIO Corporation will show and tell about their optical solutions.

Ed SIG: Friday, Friday, Nov. 8, 9:00 P.M.

HyperStudio for educational presentations

Beginners SIG: Friday, Nov. 15, 7:00 P.M.

Word processing.

DTP/Internet SIG: Friday, Nov. 8, 9:00 P.M.

Introduction to *PageMill*.

We are still collecting the annual dues for 1997 (\$24 only) at our November meeting. They remain at a reasonable level because of the support you have shown for LIMac. Bring your check to the next meeting or mail it to:

Alan Gordon
472 Linda Drive,
East Meadow, NY 11554

LIMac Meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held at the NY Institute of Technology (Bldg. 500), at Northern Blvd., Old Westbury. To see if school is open in bad weather, call (516) 686-7789.

The next LIMac board meeting will be held at the Plainedge Library on Monday, November 18, 1996.



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Spell Catcher

A review by Jim Alley/MAC MONITOR

Spell checking should exist at the system level. It is wasteful and even counter-productive to have a separate spelling checker installed in every application. We've come to expect spelling checkers in word processors and page layout programs, but in their attempts to "out feature" each other, software companies have even programmed spelling checkers into drawing programs such as *FreeHand* and *MacDraw*. The result of this is that your hard drive is likely to

have several megabytes of space devoted to dictionaries. Obviously, if each of these dictionaries is reliable, then it follows that all but one is redundant. Furthermore, when you instruct your *ClarisWorks* checker to "learn" a particular term, *Microsoft Word* and *QuarkXPress* remain ignorant of it. And, of course, each spell checker uses a different interface; you'll have to learn several different ways to do the same thing and remember which method is used in which program. *Spell Catcher* provides a clean solution to this problem by creating a single spelling check-

er that is available in all applications. *Spell Catcher* installs a new menu in any application, thus providing a consistent interface and easy access to all of its features.

Gud Spelling (beep)

Two types of spell checking are available; interactive and batch. In the interactive mode, *Spell Catcher* notifies you of possible mistakes as you are typing. The batch method allows for checking an entire document, or portion thereof, at a later time. *Spell Catcher's Compatibility Modules* (for most applications) guarantee that

the corrected text will not lose its formatting. No matter which method you prefer *Spell Catcher* can give you suggestions. It not only catches spelling errors, it also flags double words, capitalization, and punctuation errors. **Quick, what's another word for thesaurus?** *Spell Catcher* also provides easy access to its *Thesaurus* feature; simply highlight a word and choose "Lookup Selection" from *Spell Catcher's* menu (or use a keyboard shortcut). Most entries provide a definition plus synonyms, related words, contrasted words, and antonyms. You can



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Training Sessions:

The 3 training sessions (in Photoshop & Illustrator) conducted at Briarcliffe College were well received by the attendees. A number of members have asked me about future plans for such classes. We are currently in the process of scheduling such classes. Please send your requests to Bill Medlow (Tel: 938-9662 or e-mail: Archbill@aol.com), indicating the programs you are interested in and the weekdays/Saturdays that would be convenient. We will try to accommodate your requests, when we discuss the schedule with Briarcliffe College. As indicated earlier, we need at least at least 6 people for each class.

President's Remarks

Finally, some good news regarding Apple's financial status. It exceeded Wall Street's expectations by returning to profitability in the quarter ended September 30. Apple is expected to announce shortly, aggressive price cuts on many of the Power Macs, as well as an attractive program for school districts to earn points towards purchase of Macintosh products. Hopefully, with these promotions, the current quarter's returns will maintain this momentum.

In the past few years, the GUI debate has focused on a comparison between the Mac OS & DOS/Windows. However, as we build that famous bridge to the 21st century, is it possible that the Web will be the most popular GUI of the future? Will the network computer (NC) become more common than desktops and laptops? Recent articles in trade publications evoke these thoughts.

After originally dismissing the idea of a network computer (a.k.a. Internet viewer or Internet appliance), Intel has recently announced that they are forming a development team to create a network computer? Deja Vu! Apple, in collaboration with IBM, Motorola & Sun, announced NC development plans last spring. The first-generation Pippin, the *@World Player* is set to ship in November and Apple is firming up plans for its next-generation design based on the proposed Network Computer Reference profile. Lotus is serving Notes with an HTML front end. The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is developing standards for the Web.

Apple has been a pioneer in the development of the World Wide Web. The movement towards the Web should help the Mac OS more than the other platform. Let us hope that the Amelio team has the marketing savvy to keep Apple in the forefront of this changing computing landscape.

"...the computer is...also a window into the electronic universe, a portal to cyberspace."
ROLLING STONE, April 4, 1996.

LIMac is actively looking for a place where we can go online for our Internet SIG. If you have any suggestions, please give them to Al Choy or any other board member. With your support, we can build an exciting Mac bridge to the online 21st Century. ■

Technical Corner

What is *Open Transport* and why would I want it?

Open Transport is a modern (Apple calls it workstation class) networking and communications model. For the programmer, it allows one programming interface for any network protocol. For the user, it will mean more network savvy programs and better performance. There is some native PowerPC code in *Open Transport*, so for Power Mac users can see a nice boost in telecommunications and file transfer speeds. *Open Transport*, now at version 1.1.1, takes better advantage of the potential speed of *Fast Ethernet* (aka *100BaseTX*) and *ARA 2.1* takes advantage of V.34 and ISDN MODEMs and OT/PPP (still at 1.0f1c9) adds PPC code to speed up Internet connections. The *Open Transport TCP/IP* control panel adds switchable configurations for different providers. Especially useful for users with accounts with more than one Internet Service Provider or AOL 3.0 beta testers. *Open Transport 1.1.1* now works on the 5200 and 6200 series Performas. *OT* is required on PCI Desktop MacOS machines and optional on older Macs with 68030 or better microprocessors. Use the *Network Software Selector* application in the Apple Extras folder to switch to *Open Transport* from *Classic Networking*. The *Open Transport 1.1.1* update (4 disks) updates from version 1.1 introduced with *System 7.5.3* (aka *System 7.5 Update 2.0*) *Open Transport*, like most new System advances, requires updated software to go with it. I've found that *MacPPP 2.5*, the version that comes with Apple's Internet Connection Kit, does not work well with *Open Transport*. I suggest *FreePPP 1.0.5*, or *FreePPP 2.5v2* for Global Village MODEM users. I'm now using the new *Apple OT 1.1.1* with the *PPP 1.0f1c9*.

What I hear about Apple's future System 8. What does it offer?

The basics are: protected memory, so if one program crashes, the whole computer still operates; pre-emptive multitasking instead of cooperative multitasking, so background tasks will get a fair share of the CPU's time; Symmetrical Multiprocessing on PowerPC based systems, as opposed to the nPower Asymmetrical multiprocessing; will allow multiple processors to work as equals on separate threads and processes for



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Elections:

Elections for LIMac Directors will be held at our November meeting. The Nominating Committee is presenting the following slate:
President:
Balan Nagraj
Vice President:
Bill Medlow
Secretary:
Wally Lepkin
Treasurer:
Don Hennessy
Directors:
(select 5)
Al Choy
Kirk Cronk
Helen Gross
Bob McAteer
Max Rechtman
► Nominations will also be taken from the floor.
Alan Gordon
Election Committee
Chairperson

Raffle Winners:

From *Fractal Design*:
Painter 4:
Leon Berman
Dabbler 2:
Richard Pullman
AddDepth 2:
Victor Susman
From *Microsoft*:
Music Central 96:
Geoffrey Broadhurst
► LIMac thanks *Fractal Design* and *Microsoft* for their generous program donations.

choose an alternate word, and *Spell Catcher* will automatically replace it.

GhostWriters in the Sky
GhostWriter records your keystrokes and stores them in text files. In case of a crash, you will be able to recover the words you've typed. The *Control Panel* lets you specify a time period to wait before automatically deleting old files. A user-definable hot key lets you temporarily turn off *GhostWriter* when typing in passwords.

Extra Features.
 A pop-out menu accesses a number of text util-

ties. Case conversion choices allow the user to convert text to upper case, lower case, word caps, etc. Other choices allow for correcting straight (or "dumb") quotes to curly quotes, and converting space runs to tabs and vice versa.

Code VTY
Spell Catcher glossaries are like macros for commonly-used phrases. For instance, type "vty" and it immediately expands to "Very truly yours." If you type "ddd," today's date appears. You can even have *Spell Catcher* type your entire name and address from a few keystrokes. There are

lots of user-definable preferences, and you can specify different prefs for different programs. *Spell Catcher* is the upgrade to the popular *Thunder 7* now that it has been taken over by Casady and Green. A few new features have been added, and the utility runs smoothly on modern Macs. *Spell Catcher* comes with two main dictionaries, the larger of which contains approximately 90,000 words. Optional legal, medical, scientific, and HTML dictionaries are included. And, you can add as many of your own words as you like to your own user dictionaries.

Spell Catcher is one of a very small handful of programs I wouldn't want to be without. *Spell Catcher Casady and Green Street price: \$79.95. Competitive product and Thunder 7 upgrade prices available. Requirements: A Mac Plus or greater with at least 1MB of free RAM, 1.5MB of hard disk space. System 7.0 or greater is recommended.*



Stufft Engine.
 This extension is what allows the *Magic Menu* and *Stufft SpaceSaver* as well as the *Stufft Expander* and *DropStuff* utilities to work outside of the main application.

Serial Tool.
 This is a *Communications Toolbox* tool that allows CT compliant programs to use the serial ports of your computer. A program like *Claris-Works* would use it, but a dedicated program like *Microphone Pro* would not use the CT, so any CT tools would not be needed by *Microphone*.

Shared Code Manager.
 This extension allows certain sets of applications to share a common set of program code stored in a separate file. An example would be *Microsoft Word 5.1*, where Microsoft's OLE (Object Linking and Embedding) architecture is shared with *Excel 4*.

Shared Library Manager.
 This Apple extension is similar to Microsoft's *Shared Code Manager* (above), in that many applications from different companies can make use of some common code stored in Library files or in resources buried in the *System* suitcase. -Bradley

More Technical Corner

better performance. There will be intelligent agents to help do automated things for you. The graphic user interface will have various selectable themes to taste. The current mess with System Extensions will be revised, but there will be a compatibility mode for transition. Various parts will be introduced each quarter year in an effort to phase in the features and smooth the switchover. Apple will introduce *System 7.6* in January. Look for more native code and thus faster speed than 7.5.5.

⚡ **My Mac crashes as soon as I insert a SyQuest cartridge after updating to System 7.5.3. What do I do now?**
 What you must do is obtain the very latest version of the formatting software you used to first initialize your disks and update the driver on each disk. The new Systems not only use *SCSI Manager 4.3*, but require it. If you can't find the update, switch to some other software. Startup the formatter and then insert the SyQuest disk to update it's driver. FWB's *Hard Disk Toolkit* is my favorite (it's up to version 2.0.1). Micronet and LaCie (Silverlining) post updaters to their software on their web and FTP sites. Don't forget your fixed hard drives too. Apple's formatters are *HD SC Setup 7.3.5* and *Drive Setup 1.0.5* for new Macs. The drivers should have been updated before the System update.

⚡ **When I close a window in an application or when I quit or switch applications I get a System Error. Any ideas?**
 A fairly long standing programming error has recently come to light that is wide spread amongst Mac software. The control panel *WDEF Leopard version 1.2.2* fixes these types of problems. *Window, Control and Menu* definition resources have been regularly designed to be purgeable from memory to conserve RAM. Unfortunately, during a switch to another application this purge causes the crash. *WDEF Leopard* suppresses this. A better solution is to actually modify the resources in the applications to fix the problem. Try *Crash Less Often* or *Fix Purgeable WDEFs*.

⚡ **Just bought a new Mac and my flatbed scanner's driver can't find the scanner. I'm using the same cables and SCSI Probe shows the scanner at the set SCSI address. What can I do?**
 First I would check carefully to see if there is a newer version of the scanner driver. Also many scanners may need a ROM firmware upgrade. UMAX UC630, 840 and 1260 series are classic examples. They are up to *ROM revision 2.8*. *SCSI Probe* can reveal what version you have, without opening your scanner. Also most scanner drivers aren't *SCSI Manager 4.3* savvy. The main problem is with the higher end Macs with more than one *SCSI bus*. The Quadra 900 and 950 first started this, the Power Mac 8100 series then sported this advantage and now the 8500 and 9500 series. The Mac and the scanner driver scans for valid SCSI address first on the internal *SSCSI bus*, then the external bus, and finally any *SCSI busses* from NuBus or PCI SCSI cards. If the scanner, on the external *SCSI bus* is set to the same SCSI address as some drive connected to the internal bus, the driver will not find it. The Mac itself won't mind, but the driver will. So keep scanners on unique SCSI addresses, even unique among both internal and external busses. It's best to keep a little SCSI address table handy. This drawback limits the number of internal SCSI devices to leave room for external scanners. Only on big boxes like UMAX's SuperMac S900 series and Power Computings PowerTower Pro series would the situation likely arise.

▶ A related note regards ROM upgrades. You've heard me talk about having the latest version of software on your hard drive. Keep in mind also that scanners, many MODEMS, video cards, SCSI cards and other hardware get upgrades too. Some can be upgraded by you with a software utility, others need a chip replacement. Supra and Global Village Teleport Platinum MODEMS have flash ROM updates periodically posted as a good example of this. ■

We welcome the following members who have joined or renewed in LIMac in the past month:
 Tom Camilleri
 Michael Norcia
 Paris Art Label Corporation,
 (Randy Hallam)
 Richard Pullman
 Rosemary Rudolph
 Tony & Lucille Tortora
 Arthur Rasi
 Shelly & Helen Gross
 Al Choy
 Elvia Reynolds
 Nancy Schmidt

VOTE!
Elections:
 Elections for LIMac Directors will be held at our November meeting. The Nominating Committee will present a slate and conduct the election at the meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor. We will elect a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and five directors. If you wish to nominate another member (or yourself) for any position, please contact any member of the Election Committee: Alan Gordon 516-538-7013 or agmac@aol.com Shelley Gross 212-799-5655 or shel1@yorick.ny.cybe.mex.net Bob McAtteer 516-587-8750 or boblmac@aol.com



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Are you one of the millions of people in the U.S. who spend time at a computer and experience headaches, tired eyes, blurred vision, or other symptoms of computer eyestrain? **Then don't miss PRIO's presentation on Friday, November 8th at 7P.M.**

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Helen and Sheldon Gross
 SHEL1@cybernex.net

TIPS!

Send your favorite tips for working in any Macintosh program to:

Mo Lebowitz, 2599 Phyllis Drive, North Bellmore, NY 11710

Fax: (516) 221-8376

via e-mail: MoLeb@aol.com

or bring them to the next meeting.

Off The Shelf

This is a very easy column to write. We were surfing the net and found all sorts of interesting files. Then we wrote to Bradley. Here's the gist of the letter.

"Bradley, While surfing we found: *System 7.5.5 update, QuickTime 2.5, Page Spinner, Cyberdog 1.1, FontBox 2, Netscape Defrost, MovieStar Plugin, & MacUser's FindPro III 1.12*. What is worth while? Brad answered, 'Just about all of them.'"

Goodies available this month include: All of the above!!!!

LIMac1007,8&9: *System 7.5.5 Update, LIMac1010/Quicktime 2.5; LIMac1011/Utilities (FindPro III 1.12, Netscape Defrost, MovieStar Player & Type Reader); and LIMac 1012/GifBuilder & Font Box.*

Take another look at last months specials:

LIMac1001/MoreUtilities: *Newswatcher-212 (for net surfers), msw to html 1.5, Updates 4.08 for Sam, & PPPop1.32; LIMac1002/ALM SharewareSH: Alex's Encrypt 1.0.1FAT, CoffeeTimer 1.0.1FAT, DragAnyWindow 3.2.1FAT, IconArchiver 1.0.2FAT, KeyQuencer 1.2.2a, List Files 2.5.4FAT, Name Finder 1.1FAT, No Desktop Cleanup 1.2.1, PowerP-Check 3.0.2FAT, PowerXplorer 1.0.5FAT, Shutdown Delay 2.3.1 & SimpleText Color Menu 2.1.4; and LIMac1003/ToolsSH: Laserwriter 8.3.4, TechTool1.1.1, RAMCheck2.1 & Simple-Date 1.3.1.*

Don't forget our *LIMac Internet Starter Kit and Acrobat Reader*, (essential for reading the documentation. Check the August *Off The Shelf* column in the FORUM for additional details. See you all on line. Don't forget to forward your e-mail address to Al Gordon so we can all write to you. ■

User Group Connection

At our September and October general meetings Macworld Club applications were distributed to interested members. If you were not able to attend the meeting, or did not get an application but would like one, please contact me via e-mail or at (516) 864-4130 (between 6 and 9 P.M.). More information regarding Macworld Club is available on their website: <http://www.club.macworld.com>, or in the September issue of the FORUM. Our User Group ID number is 564. You will need this number when filling out the application. Macworld Club has informed us that we were one of the first ten User Groups to affiliate with them.

The sixth UGTV broadcast is scheduled for Thursday, November 14th from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. PST. Some suggested viewing sites are: private home, K-12 school, library, museum, corporate office, and university/college. You could also check with your local cable access channel to see if they would be interested in carrying the broadcast. The website for UGTV is now up and running. Check out www.ugtv.com for all the latest information. UGC hopes to simulcast this event on the website. If this works, and you don't have a site to watch via satellite, just turn on your computer and watch it on the Internet.

UG Store will be mailing a special full-color holiday issue on or around November 1st. To receive it, you must be on the UG Store mailing list (contact Alan Gordon, membership director at (516) 538-7013 or AGMac@aol.com).

When at the general meeting, don't forget to check out the UGC binder at our back table for interesting offers from Adobe, Eidos Interactive, Mainstay, and many others. ■



Max Rechtman
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TIP!

Stop AOL:
 Are you stuck in AOL, watching the beach-ball cursor endlessly spin while the host is tied up? *Command-period* never seems to work, but here's a way to break away without performing a total *Force Quit*.

Press *Command-Option-D*. You'll see a dialog box that says *Creating Dumpfile*. Clicking on *OK* interrupts the host and allows you to continue working. You'll find the dumpfile in your AOL folder, with a name such as *Dumpfile 9/27/96 2 34 52 PM*.
 -MacUser