

After Thoughts

AfterThoughts is an occasional publication of After Hours Macintosh Consulting. An independent Apple Macintosh™ service firm in North Carolina's Triangle (Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill). For subscription information via email: AfterHoursConsulting@att.net <http://home.att.net/~afterhoursconsulting/> (919-271-7479 voice, 919-788-0099 fax)

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NEWS

Bits & Pieces this issue: Big news: OS 8.6 is out! While not a major obvious upgrade from 8.5.1, 8.6 does offer a lot of hidden features. One of the big ones is stability. Apple has repaired a bug which haunted EtherNet users with the first-generation of PCI-based PowerMacs. Apple also improved the stability of Sherlock. After Hours has always followed the adage that "If it ain't broke, don't fix it", but this update may solve some of those infrequent crashes. The update is applicable to users of 8.5 and 8.5.1 only (earlier versions of system software have to be taken to 8.5 first). Bug reports will begin to trickle out in the near future, but so far, so good! www.apple.com* §

Stuffit users, take note: have you had trouble recently opening files that say they are compressed with Stuffit (end in .sit), but your Expander just doesn't work with them? Well, there's a reason: with the release of Stuffit Deluxe 5.0, Aladdin changed the file formats. Only the version 5 expanders (now at v 5.1.3) will decompress these files properly. If you have an earlier version 5 Expander, definitely take the time to download the latest version. For more on this and related compression issues, visit our FAQs page at the After Hours website: <http://home.att.net/~afterhoursconsulting/FAQs.html>. For Expander, visit: www.aladdin.com* §

Quark users: if you haven't updated your version 4.0 up to 4.0.4, now is the time to do it. With several bug-free months under our belts, Quark users are finally beginning to relax about all of the problems and headaches moving to 4.0 begat. The update fixes a host of headaches from 4.0 to 4.0.3. All of this just in time with PageMaker 6.5 Plus beginning to sell and the PageMaker replacement, InDesign, preparing to ship. Obtain your free update for Quark at www.quark.com.

Adobe Acrobat has seen a boost with the release of v. 4.0. There's no urgent need to update from version 3.01, but 4.0 adds a host of editing features and form generation lacking in the older version. A new Reader version has been released (v4.0), along with versions for Win3.1/95/98, NT, and Unix. www.adobe.com*

(Note: * means we maintain a link to these popular websites from our site, listed above) §

Frequently Asked Questions

- **FAQ:** Are computers really prone to power surge problems, or is this a myth?
- **AH:** Absolutely TRUE! If there is an industry where Murphy's Law rules, it is in computers. Macs are no less prone to power surge problems than other computers, digital phone systems, fax machines, heck, even refrigerators. Fortunately, most of the time we can use our electrical appliances with little or no worries in the U.S. However, there are times when Mother Nature or the Utility companies cause us major headaches with an untimely surge (normally just before you've backed up that hard drive or just after the unconditional warranty expires). Download our white page on power and surge protection (see the FAQs page at our website). §

The PBC: News - Apple releases the latest G3 PowerBooks! The newest models to join the G3 ranks bring a slimmer design, faster processors, and some new technology to the laptop world. Two models were announced at Apple's developer conference in May: the G3/333 and G3/400. Both are slimmer & lighter, with 14.1 inch TFT screens, dual monitor support, USB, SCSI, better battery life, 10/100 BaseT Ethernet, 56K modem, InfraRed port, and supports up to 384 Mb RAM Specs:
G3/400: (<\$3500, 64MB RAM, 8GB HDD, 14.4" TFT, DVD). G3/333 (<\$2600, 64MB, 4GB, 14.4", CD). Performance-wise, these are the fastest laptops on the planet. §

