After Thoughts

Volume 1, Number 5, August 1999

NEWS

Wow, what a lot of developments for one summer month! With the resurgence of Apple (www.apple.com), we've been swamped keeping up with the new products available for the home and business user. Case in point: the introduction of a multiuse office machine for the Mac. For over a decade, our Small Office / Home Office (SOHO) clients have been clammering for an all-in-one product for printing, faxing, copying and scanning. There have been some great devices (remember the LaserWriter 360 which could also fax?), and all scanners can be considered copiers if you had a good printer to use, but not a multifunction printer in one box. Well, a few years ago, Ikon and Canon (www.ccsi.canon.com) developed a solution for Appalachian State here in North Carolina. And now, Canon has released its new MultiPASS C635. The C635 is a Color Bubble Jet printer combined with automatic document feeder (ADF) color scanning, color copying and plain-paper faxing. The software bundle includes the Apple Desktop Manager (imaging sw), Adobe PhotoDeluxe 2.0 and ScanSoft's TextBridge Professional Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software. We can expect a street price of around $300.00 US • HP (www.hp.com) has announced an impressive addition to its JetDirect cards, a three-in-one USB / Serial / LocalTalk card, due out in September for under $130.00 US. This will be a big bonus to those of us who want to continue using our reliable HP LaserJets, yet move up to an iMac, iBook or latest G3. Pssst: HP: how 'bout EtherNet? • For the gadget-fascinated, Piper is releasing a cordless phone which interfaces with a USB Mac, where the Mac can act as a deskset (complete with Caller ID, dialing control, and messaging). And, yes, it's bondi blue - a unique telephony solution. There's also a MP3 player for your USB system from these folks, too. (www.mcpiper.com) • For those of you who use our Expert Consultant business package, we've made some minor but important revisions to many modules. We are currently evaluating your suggestions that we change layouts and color schemes for easier reading, along with incorporating new features for broader business use. Download EC v 1.0.6 now: http://home.att.net/~afterhourssales/   §

Frequently Asked Questions

• **FAQ**: My internet browser becomes progressively slower and more likely to freeze or crash as I surf. What can I do about this?

• **AH**: Without knowing what web browser we are talking about, let's cover the two most popular: **Netscape** and **Internet Explorer**. While this could be many things (not enough RAM installed or allocated to the browser program, a corrupted file, or more likely, a corrupted preference setting), **the MOST COMMON cause is too many cache files choking the browser**. In a nutshell, you need to find the setting for clearing the cache periodically. This setting is usually listed in the preferences for the browser. Detailed instructions for clearing these cache files off of your hard drive are posted on our website **FAQ** page (http://home.att.net/~afterhoursconsulting/)   §

The PBC: The big news in the PowerBook corner has to be the introduction of the iBook, Apple's portable version of the iMac. This beastie won't be available until September, but its specs are raising some eyebrows: wireless networking (with the AirPort attachment), a 12" color TFT screen, USB, 56k modem, 32 Mb of RAM (max: 160 Mb), 24x CD, 3Gb hard drive, LiIon battery and weighs under 7 lbs -- oh, did we mention built-in EtherNet? All of this in tangerine and blueberry color choices, with a rugged plastic case that even sports a handle -- it's not for the poweruser (that's the G3 PowerBook), but for the 95% of us, this is the portable answer to the iMac (www.apple.com) §

PowerBook Corner