Hot Topic - Newton OS 2.0

NEWTON 2.0 WILL SHIP SOON! It is now official, as of 20Oct95, Apple has decided to show off their Newton 2.0 Operating System being heralded as Newton 2.0 at COMDEX in Las Vegas, 13-17Nov95 (Booth #4354, North Hall, Las Vegas Convention Center) as well as Macworld Sydney, Australia, and Apple Expo, UK, the week of 06Nov95.

Newton 2.0 is a major revision of the operating system and is the result of more than two years of extensive customer feedback and user testing. It is designed to advance the Newton platform by providing improved organizational and communications capabilities, as well as the ability to integrate Newton PDAs with Windows and Mac OS-based personal computers and enterprise environments. The Newton 2.0 platform is also designed to provide a more flexible and extensible architecture for a growing number of partners and solutions providers, including independent software vendors (ISVs), systems integrators (SIs), and value-added resellers (VARs).

Newton 2.0 will be available worldwide initially on the Apple MessagePad (MP) 120 beginning in Dec95, and is expected to be available on products from Newton licensees in 1996. Additional technology features that focus on giving customers the capability to connect with their personal computers and enterprise structures will also be available starting in Dec95 and then throughout Q1-Q2'96. The new, more open operating system will be accompanied by more flexible, productive tools for developers using Windows or Mac OS-based personal computers, making it an ideal platform for vertical applications development.

Apple's current distribution strategy for the MP120 includes a mix of channels, including computer, consumer electronics and specialty retail outlets, as well as catalog sales. Consumers will also be able to access information about the Newton platform via the Newton homepage on the WWW: <http://www.info.apple.com/newton>. Or you can attempt the following URL that is suppose to have the actual press release: <http://www.info.apple.com/pr/press.releases/1996/q1/951020.pr.rel.newton.html>

Existing MP120 customers will be able to upgrade their systems beginning in Dec95, with a retail price of $109. Customers with the earlier MP100 and 110 models will be able to take advantage of a rebate program beginning early next year.

SOME KEY NEWTON 2.0 Q&A

Q: What's new with Newton 2.0? The 6 key improvements in the Newton 2.0 platform are:

- Improved ease of use with a broad range of input options, including significantly improved handwriting recognizer for printed text, support for ink text , and the new external Newton keyboard
- More intuitive, flexible and integrated built-in personal information management applications
- A consolidated universal in and out box with fax send and receive and a built-in email client with internet access
- Third-party solutions for information organization as well as communications applications for both LANs and WANs.
- New solutions for integration with both Windows and Mac OS-based personal computers and enterprise environments
- A flexible, more productive development environment for developers using Windows or Mac OS-based personal computers

Q: Will existing third-party applications work with Newton 2.0?

The next generation Newton 2.0 operating system, based on customer and developer feedback, is a major advancement in PDA development. As with the previous versions of the Newton operating system, we expect that many new applications will be available for Newton 2.0 beginning in December.

As with any major update of an operating system we do expect some incompatibilities with older software applications. There are a number of resources, such as a Newton Solutions Guide and a list of compatible third party products that will be available to customers to determine which software will run optimally on your Newton 2.0 device. These resources will be available via on-line services, Apple's Newton homepage on the worldwide web, the Apple Fax back program and

retail locations in the weeks following the availability of the MessagePad 120 with Newton 2.0.

GET MACWORLD DECEMBER 1995

NewtNews urges all NewtNews readers to go out and get the latest MacWorld, December 1995. There is a major Newton insert running on pages 171 - 200. The section is called Newton World and has individual page numbers, so it could be published at sometime as an independent magazine (maybe at COMDEX or MacWorld).

Newton World is packed full of information about Newton 2.0, and many new software and hardware ads from Newton venders. There is a major article by Nick Wingfield <nick_wingfield@infoworld.com> that looks at all the new Newton 2.0 features, and an article by Steve Mann <cdi@cdigital.com> that looks at a range of popular Newton 2.0 savvy applications. There is also several "personal" looks at Newton 2.0 beta testers and how they feel about Newton 2.0.

FOR MORE INFO...

You can get some excellent Newton information from MacWEEK at: <http://zcias3.ziff.com/~macweek/mw_10-30-95/newton.html>. Check out the Newton Tech Journal, Volume 1, Number 5 at: <http://www.info.apple.com/dev/newton/newtdevinfo/ntj1.5/ntj1.5.html>. The main Newton Development WWW page is at: <http://www.info.apple.com/dev/newton/newtondev.html>.

Newton Tidbits

Newton Coverage In MacWeek

James Staten <james_staten@macweek.ziff.com> reports that MacWeek has plans to start up a new "Newton sectionette" that will be in the printed MacWeek and on MacWeek online services. The focus will initially be very poised on Newton 2.0. They expect to start coverage soon, so if you have info for James send him email or give him a call at: 415.243.3519.

Medical Students' Guide to the Newton

Ron Risley <rrisley@ucsd.edu> reports that he recently completed a draft of "The Medical Students' Guide to the Newton." Anyone who is interested in medical applications of Newton technology is welcome to review the draft and offer comments and suggestions for improvement. If you would like to see a copy, please send email to" <rrisley@ucsd.edu> with the subject "msgn-request" and he'll email you a copy as soon as possible.

GPS Info

David Bengtsson <david_bengtsson@vtc.volvo.se> reports that you can find information about Trimble's GPS PC Card on the WWW at: <http://warrior.com/trimble/pcmcia.html>.

Adam Hardt <AHARDT.SVC@pc.Trimble.COM> reports that Trimble has plans for further integration their GPS products with the Newton. They have two GPS offerings: the Locator ($495.00) or Scoutmaster ($995.00), but to really do anything with these devices you have to do some programming. If you'd like more information please send Adam email or you can call him at: 800.827.8000 x8647.

Mats Hummel <hummel@everyday.se> reports that you can get information on GPS Map for the Newton that works with the Garmin 45 GPS device by send email to: Gerd Staudenmaier

<sgerd@dkserv.dofn.de> the author of GPS Map.

Creating Newton Form Solutions

The folks at the Newton Store <http://www.newtonstore.com/> have a great information piece called "Creating And Using Electronic Forms for the Apple Messagepad" at: <http://www.newtonstore.com/forms_paper.html>.

Reading News on your Newton

John Schettino <js12@gte.com> reports on comp.sys.newton.misc that he is putting the finishing touches on a Mac AppleScript Shareware application he is calling "NetNews Grazer" that can extract news articles, format them up in HTML (including a mailto:poster) and email them to you overnight, or write them to a file for manual download to NewtsCape. For more info check out: <http://users.aol.com/pdcjohns/>.

Newton in the Mainstream Press

A recent "NEWTON" search on online services has turned up several new Newton references:

Gene Koprowski has an article called "New Markets: Plugged In" in Washington Technology (WSHT) published 26Oct95. The article examines the Newton 2.0 PR release and the Wildfire voice communications electronic personal assistant.

Paul Bray has an article called "Mobile Communications: rovers with radio notebooks" in The Daily London Telegraph published 24Oct95. The article looks at the Psion Organizer and the Newton MessagePad. The Psion is a more popular mainstream device, but the MessagePad has found a real niche in the vertical market. Both offer similar wireless services in Great Britain.

Lauren Guzak has an article called "Computer lifestyle on campus" in Computer Life (CLIF) published on 01Sep95. The article outlines what technologies you need to have to be hip on US college campus. Included on the list is: the MP120, QuickTake 150, Photonics Cooperative Networking Device, QuickCam, and Zip drive.

Jonathan Gornall has an article called "Don't laugh: Apple has finally got the message" in The Times of London (TLND) published on 25Oct95. The article plays off the past history of the Newton and then warms up to the Newton via information available from the Newton 2.0 press release. The good news though is that market is massive, and any mistakes Apple has made with the Macintosh do not seem to be happening with the Newton.

New User Group in Southern California

Greg Brown <GregdB@eworld.com> reports that there is now a Newton user group in Orange County (south of Los Angeles). The first meeting will be Wednesday, 08Nov95 at SR Labs, 2909 Daimler Street, Santa Ana, California 92705 from 7 pm to 9 pm. For more information you can send email to Greg at the address listed above or call him at: 714.442.1070 x5030.

Sony New Technologies and Farcast are working on a new electronic info service to provide customized news and stock quote retrieval for PDAs. [iNews]

Lunar Engineering is Acquired

Sine of the Times, an engineering consulting firm, has announced the creation of its Newton software team, headed by two experienced

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Newton 2.0 will be available world-wide starting in Dec95...

software developers. In addition, the company has acquired all rights to software produced by Lunar Engineering Corporation as of 18Oct95. The company is offering 1 year free support to owners of Lunar Engineering software for products purchased from Lunar Engineering before 18Oct95. Any other enquiries concerning Lunar Engineering software should be redirected to Sine of the Times by emailing Mike Jacobsen, VP External, at: <SorenLee@eWorld.com>.

CNN Has Quicktime Movie on the Newton

Folks in Cambridge, Massachusetts can via the Internet order groceries from a new store called the Smart Food Co-op. The CNN article (this was originally a video blurb that was shown on CNN) can be found on the WWW at: <http://www3.cnn.com/TECH/9509/online_market/index.html>. Near the end of the article you can download a QuickTime Movie that has a guy creating and uploading an order using a Newton, a bar-code scanner, and a modem. [Source CNN Technology WWW Page, reporter Liz Weiss]

Newton Easter Eggs

Eric Fonville <fonville@fle.gmpt.gmeds.com> is working on a list of "Easter Eggs and other Bits of Fun." He has been posting this list periodically on the USENET newsgroup comp.sys.newton.misc. Please contact Eric if you are interesting in getting the list or have some new information to be added in the list.

Newton Modem FAQ

Richard Schaeren <compower@thenet.ch> is working on a Newton Modems FAQ. He recently posted version 1.0 to USENET newsgroup comp.sys.newton.misc. If you have any questions about if a specific modem will work with a Newton, you should check out this document. Richard hopes that if you have any information you'd like to share about this topic that you send him email so he can keep the document up to date. Richard plans on posting this information regularly on comp.sys.newton.misc and to the Newton FTP sites.

Package Installer and Win95

Thomas Otten <otti@megatel.de> reports on comp.sys.newton.misc that the Windows based Newton Package Installer will work with Windows 95 if you do not use the LogiTech mouse driver. Instead, choose the 'generic serial' mouse driver and you should have more success.

Newton Development Help

David Dunham <dunham@nw.pensee.com> reports that he just posted an article Pensee Corporation wrote a couple years ago (intending for magazine publication) to their Web site at: <http://www.pensee.com/pensee/newtonUI.html>. It discusses how to design applications for the Newton platform. Also, there's some source code for our sample Newton Books at the Pensee FTP site: <ftp://socrates.pensee.com//Socrates/pub/NewtonBooks/Source/>.

Unabomber Manifesto Newton Book

Jonathan Conradt <Jonnwt@eWorld.com> reports that he has made the Unabomber Manifesto into a Newton Book and it is available on his WWW site at: <http://137.65.45.240:9000/index.html>. The Newton Book is available in SIT and ZIP format. It is in the "My Software" section. This contains the complete text as published by the New York Times and the Washington Post. The FBI has said that they support the publishing of the manifesto in the hopes that someone who reads it will recognize a phrase or the argument and be able to lead them to the bomber.

Important Stuff

In need of more Newton storage space? Check out the give-away offer in the "Admin Stuff" section at the end of this edition of NewtNews Pro!

Learning to Program the Newton

The Developer University is offering a 5 day course on Newton Programming: Essentials (N:Ess) for $1,500 on October 23 - 27, 1995 and on December 11 - 15, 1995. For more information call: 408.974.4897 or send email to: <devuniv@applelink.apple.com> or check out the following URL at: <http://www.info.apple.com>.

New Newton Books

AP Professional is planning the following books for the future:
- Programming for the Newton using Windows, by Julie McKeehan & Neil Rhodes, ISBN: 0-12-484830-3, available in December 1995, $34.95
- Newton's Second Law, by Gore/Ratcliffe, ISBN: 0-12-291655-7, $24.95, released in 1996
- Newton Solutions, by Gore/Ratcliffe, ISBN: 0-12-291652-2, $24.95, released in 1996 For more info, send email to: <app@acad.com> or call: 800.3131.APP.

Newton in Switzerland

Michael Bodmer <mbodmer@access.ch> reports two very interesting tidbits: - there is a "fifth" Newton specific store called NewtonShop. You can get more info at: <http://www.access.ch/newtonshop> - NOSE (Newton Owners Switzerland & Europe) has over 340 paying members and is still growing strong

Be Careful With MP100 and Compaq PC Card

Several readers requested that I let folks know that the MP100 and the $29 Compaq PC Card Modem are not very friendly. The main reason is that the MP100 doesn't have the internal RAM necessary to handle the PC Card and run communications or email applications. Also be warned that the AAA batteries are not capable of powering the MP100 and the PC Card (the PC Card will work with the AC adapter attached). Sorry for any confusion the article from last week may have caused.

Total Newtons Sold?

There has been several numbers game being played out on the Internet and in some of the print magazines. The following is from stats NewtNews has collected over the last year about Apple Newton sales: 50,000 in 1993 78,000 in 1994 65,000 in 1995 This is 193,000 total. Pen Computing (June/July 1995) reported 200,000 and includes Newtons from Motorola and Sharp. But BIS Strategic Decisions has stated that Apple has only sold 110,000 Newton since launch date and this number does include Motorola and Sharp Newtons. Unfortunately, neither Apple, Motorola, or Sharp have officially released any sales information so we may never really know.

Upcoming Events

Medical Office Newton Conference

If you are doing Newton and medical stuff then you might want to call: 800.967.6577 to get in on a conference being sponsored by Apple, HealthCare Resources and Newton Source. The first edition of this conference is in San Francisco on 01Nov95 at 5:30 pm, and the second one is in San Jose on 02Nov95 at 5:30 pm. The goal of this conference to highlight office automation solutions for physicians.

PDA Developers West Announcement

Creative Digital, the publishers of PDA Developers magazine, has announced PDA Developers West '96 -- a technical conference designed to give developers who are creating PDA products:
- an in-depth technical understanding of the most popular hand-held platforms and their development environments;
- a broad overview of third-party PDA development tools and products;

- crucial information about what it takes to succeed as a PDA software developer;
- insight into wireless technologies and the service providers that are looking for development partners; and
- a glimpse at new, exciting technologies that will have an impact on the PDA market.

The first day of the conference consists of full-day tutorials on Magic Cap, GEOS, Newton, and Psion development. The second and third days include tracks on wireless development, advanced programming topics, the business of software development, and new technologies. There will also be ongoing developer tools exhibits and demos all three days. To maximize attendee flexibility, there are separate registrations for the tutorials and the second and third days of the conference.

PDA Developers West is scheduled for January 14-16, 1996, in San Mateo, CA, following the San Francisco MacWorld Expo. Individual tutorials are $150 until 30Nov95. Conference registration starts at $375 for both days, including breakfast and lunch. Further agenda and registration details can be found by contacting Creative Digital via email at: <cdi@cdigital.com> or by phone at: 415.621.4252.

Mobile Computing Conference
MobiCom95: Mobile Computing & Networking presented by ACM on November 13 - 15, 1995 at the Claremont Hotel, Berkeley, California, USA. For more info send email to: <mobicom95@samson.enet.dec.com> or check out:

<http://www.acm.org/sigcomm/mobicom95/>.

Utility Industry Hand-held and PDA Forum
The Utility Industry Hand-Held and PDA Forum is holding a strategic meeting of the minds December 7 & 8, 1995 in San Francisco, California to focus on the problems that Utility Industry customers want solved and to bring together all industry leaders to address mutual needs related to the Utility Industry. For more information contact World Market Strategies by phone at: 415.252.8008 or by fax at: 415.252.8055 or by email at: <newspda@aol.com>.

World Market Strategies is sponsoring a major conference to be held December 6 - 8, 1995 in San Francisco, CA that will focus on using PDAs in the Utility Industry. For more information call: 415.252.8008 or send email to: <newspda@aol.com>.

Rumor Mill

Oracle and Apple?
It appears that Oracle and Apple are very close to signing a joint venture (US$20 million range) to develop and market Newton based PDA solutions leveraging Oracle's database technology. Both PCWeek and MacWEEK had articles about the possible joint venture in regards to creating Newton based solutions using $500 device called the "Network Computer." Expect some sort of announcement during COMDEX and an actual product in early 1996.

Latest Net Rumors
Here is a summary of rumors that popped up on USENET News and in the NewtNews email box:

- the MP120 with Newton 2.0 will ship with a Newton Backup Utility that will allow users to keep their data safe by backups to desktop machines and allow for downloading of Newton packages. Upgraded MP120s should also get this software.
- the MP120 with Newton 2.0 is also going to ship with cables to connection your Mac or PC to your Newton. Upgraded MP120s may not get the cable.
- the Apple Keyboard for the Newton is about the size of a Duo keyboard and will retail for $99.
- Apple has a new NewtonScript framework in the works to make doing Newton development easier.
- Routing of information could be one of the big new features to have the most impact on new innovative Newton solutions.
- The Oracle and Apple joint venture could be very big and far reaching.
- Newton 2.0 ROMs are in short supply. So short that many important Newton evangelists do not yet have a seed unit, and multiple developer shops have to share their Dante units

Press Release Forced by MacWorld
The rumor is that Apple was forced to released the Newton 2.0 press released on Friday, 20Oct95 because of the Newton insert that is in the December 1995 edition of MacWorld. Apparently the 'Newton World' insert wasn't suppose to be out until sometime in early Nov95. Oh, well, maybe this might speed delivery to consumers -- Dec95 is a long time to wait.

A Most Interesting Rumor
Direct from people who claim to be in the loop. It appears that the Newton may have actually gained some major ground in the recent Apple Board of Directors battles. The Newton is not only safe from being sold out to another party, but may have a new initiative to further craft the Newton OS with the Mac OS. So, you could see in the not so distant future, a Newton interface running on your Mac.

Status of Tabula Rasa?
Tabula Rasa by Brand X Software, a very much hyped forms and data entry software program, has really dropped out of sight. Beta testers report that new versions are not being sent out, and email to several Brand X developers have gone unanswered. Some folks in the know report that management at Brand X has decided that continued development of Tabula Rasa is not a good business opportunity, but the team developing Tabula Rasa want to take the technology and try to become an independent unit.

MP120/1MB Discontinued
According to several people who have visited their local Newton dealers, it does appear that Apple has discontinued the MP120/1MB. It should also be noted that at MacWorld, Apple and Newton Source were really pricing the MP120/1MB to sellout, which it did. Considering how important internal storage is, this isn't too big of a surprise. And with NOS 2.0 on the horizon, NewtNews thinks that you will probably only really want at least a 120/2MB. [Summary of posts from comp.sys.newton.misc]

> Oracle and Apple are very close to signing a joint venture to develop and market Newton based PDA solutions...

Newton & the Web

Catamount's WWW Site Updated
Catamount Software's WWW site at: <http://www.together.net/~hardy/> has been updated and restructured. Most of Catamount Software's software can now be downloaded directly from this site. Each software title has its own page with separate Windows and Macintosh versions of each program available for downloading. Windows users can also download StuffIt Expander for Windows. This is their first attempt at providing files for download directly from this site so please report any problems to: <hardy@catamount.com>.

Getting NewtNews Downunder
Dan Horth <dhorth@geko.com.au> has volunteered to distribute NewtNews via FTP in Australia at: <ftp://ftp.geko.com.au//pub/newton/newtnews/>. He will keep the last ten issues online at this site. NewtNews thanks Dan for helping us out.

Survey Done
Tristan Bostone <tbostone@uu.net> reports that he has completed the last section of the PDA Survey he started a while back. You can get all the details at: <http://www.clever.net/tristan/survey.html>.

Wealth of PDA Info
Nigel Ballard <pelham123@pobox.com> has an FTP site that has his PDA & Magic Cap hardware and software charts. You can check stuff out at: <ftp://ftp.plym.ac.uk/pub/magic/> or you can check out a great WWW page at: <http://www.pobox.com/~pelham123>.

Latest Newton Freeware and Shareware
All freeware and shareware Newton Programming programs are now on "JUMBO, The Official Web Shareware Site!" Check out: <http://www.jumbo.com/>
or <http://www.jumbo.com/prog/mac/newton/>.

Wireless

Mobile Messaging Continues To Get Apple Support
Socket Communications has announced the PageCard Wireless Messaging System (WMS) for Apple's PowerBooks and Newton MessagePads. The PageCard WMS is a complete wireless data communications solution comprised of the PageCard receiver, Ex Machina communications software and Socket's Wireless Messaging Services (SWiMS). The PageCard receiver can be used as an ordinary alphanumeric pager and has the added ability to communicate with any personal computer system equipped with an industry standard PC Card (formerly PCMCIA) Type II interface. The communications software, along with SWiMS, will allow mobile computer users to receive email and a variety of other information virtually anywhere in the United States. The PageCard WMS has a list price of $399 and is available immediately. For more details, contact Jim Thylin at: 510.744.2770. Socket's part number is 9010-00046. Additional information can be found at Socket's web site at: <http://www/socketcom.com>.

Paging: Gets Two-Way Power
Soon you will be able to send messages back and forth between pagers and PDAs. At the moment you can only use service from SkyTel but expect major competition in the near future. By this time next year there will be over 10 carriers offering a wide range of services with subscribers growing by 20% annually with paging stock going up over 80% in the past 15 months. This past year the pager market was only worth $2.2 billion but MobileMedia recently announced it was going to spend $1 billion for BellSouth's paging group. Some of the 'extra' future services include: retrieving and sending email, and wireless "answering machines." Reportedly HP and Apple will be some of the first computer companies providing services using two-way paging. [Information from The Wall Street Journal, 09/19/95 "Lowly Beeper May Finally Get Respect As Two-Way Paging Services Emerge" by Gautam Naik]

Motorola's Wireless Data and ARDIS have announced limited-time price promotions which offer resellers and end-users Envoy and Marco Wireless Communicators at a reduced cost for the holidays. [iNews]

Other PDA's

Accurate Handwriting Recognition
Synaptics (408.434.0110) reports that their HR 1200 Handwriting Recognizer based on neural networking technology is six times more accurate than other solutions. This software is going to be offered on some Norand's PenKey systems. [PC Week, Mark Moore, page 41]

Omnigo PDA from Hewlett Packard
HP (800.443.1254) has announced the OmniGo 100 a $439 GEOS OS based PDA that supports both pen and keyboard input via Palm Computing's Graffiti. It should ship sometime in November 1995. [PC Week, 16Oct95, Mark Moore, page 39]

A few more interesting items about HP's OmniGo PDA: fits in your shirt pocket, weighs 12 ounces, runs on two AA batteries for more than a week, uses Graffiti for pen input, if you are a geek you can synchronize with your PC PIM application, and sells for $350. But the bad thing is that it is not integrated with a desktop system. [InfoWorld, 23Oct95, page 122]

CNN Focus on PDA's
On the CNN Technology WWW page, there is an article called "Organizing your life with PDA's" by Correspondent Lori Waffenschmidt. The article was published on 08Oct95, 2 pm EDT. The article looks at both "wireless communicators" by Motorola: Marco (Newton) and Envoy (Magic Cap). The Marco gets pluses and minuses for handwriting recognition. The Envoy gets pluses for communications but minuses for lack of built-in handwriting recognition. The article also looks at the Zaurus (no handwriting recognition but good built-in keyboard) and the HP 200LX Palmtop PC (runs DOS, small, but not a PC). For the complete article check out the following URL at:
<http://www3.cnn.com/TECH/9510/pda/index.html>

Magic Cap FAQ Pointer
Tom Branham <tbranham@mm.wellesley.edu> reports that he is working on the next version of the Magic Cap FAQ. This version will have some reviews of software and services. If you would like to get the FAQ send an email message to: <listserv@brownvm.brown.edu> with the body of the message containing "get magicfaq package" (with no ").

Telescript Information
There is a listserver for discussing General Magic's Telescript. There hasn't been a whole lot of good info flowing on the list so far, except for the information posted below. It is a general feeling on the list that this list will pickup after the upcoming MagicCap developer conference. If you are interested send email to: <listserv@brownvm.brown.edu> with the body of the message containing only: "subscribe tscript YourName" (no ", and substitute YourName with your name).

New Psion PDA on the Horizon
Daily Telegragh, a British newspaper, is running a new ad from Psion regarding its new PDA called the "Psion Workabout". Its appears to be

targeted at the vertical market -- it has:
- a small 3" x 2" LCD screen on the top end
- can handle up to 16MBs of storage
- multi-tasking 16-bit OS
- can have a plug-in barcode reader or scanner
- a docking station for automated data transfer to office computer system
- has main function keys and cursor controls, numeric keypad
- a non-qwerty key cluster (like the very first Psion organizer).

The popular Psion Series 3a has a qwerty keyboard. Each unit costs GB$270. Psion claims to have supplied over 1.5 million handheld computers, and is also now currently offering software development services. For more information call: 44 171 2587330 (in Great Britain). [Information forwarded to NewtNews from Andrew Tong <amwt@hk.super.net>.]

New PDA Chips and Operating Systems
According to Electronic Engineering Times (September 4, 1995, Issue 864, Page 1, article by Ron Wilson) there is going to be a big showdown between Hitachi and Intel over the Asian PDA markets. EE Times reports that Intel is getting ready to show off their "Hummingbird" low-powered (rumored at under 2.5V) 486 CPU, and that Hitachi's processor (currently being used in Amstrad's InfoPad) is going to get a Win95 compatible OS. [Forwarded to NewtNews by: Troy Ryder <tdryder@freenet.vancouver.bc.ca>]

Advanced Recognition Technologies is developing handwriting recognition using "signal-processing algorithms." The product is going to be called 'Smartwriter' -- should have between 90 to 97% accuracy, and will work on the following systems: GEOS, Magic Cap, PenRight for Windows, and Microsoft's pen extensions used for Windows and Win95. [PCWeek, 18Sep95, Mike Moeller, page 47]

PageNet is going to provide and market wireless messaging services for the Sharp Zaurus keyboard-enhanced PDA . [iNews]

NEC plans to begin sample shipments in October 1995 of a large scale integration (LSI) chip for handheld devices such as PDAs.

Sony (via Nikkei English News) has plans to introduce in early 1996 in Japan a PDA that can be connected to cellular phones. The PDA can connect to regular cellular service as well as with their newer Personal Handy-phone System. [iNews]

Intuit reports that they are planning to deliver some time in the future a "pocket-sized gizmo" that will let people track their expenses via Quicken. [iNews]

Check out this page if your are interested in the **Zaurus**: <http://www.inforamp.net/~wap/zaurus/zaurus.html>.

IBM Japan has announced it will soon release three new palmtop computers targeted at the emerging Japanese PDA market. [iNews]

Software Releases
Flash-Data is Newton 2.0 Ready
Mike Cohen <isis@netcom.com> reports that FlashData is undergoing final Newton 2.0 compatibility testing, and will have an update if it is necessary. ISIS is also busy working on a plug-in API for Flash-Data. You can get the preliminary plug-in API kit at ftp.netcom.com in /pub/is/isis/FlashData/PlugIn-API.sit.hqx or via most online services. The plug-in API should make extending the applications that FlashData can interact with easier and more robust.

Upgrades from Avail
Avail Technology is now supporting the new Newton 2.0 OS in the latest versions of AvailWorks 2.02 and Avail ClipArt 1.02. AvailWorks integrates text processing, spreadsheets (with over 100 built-in functions), charts and graphs, and drawing; and full 8-1/2 by 11 inch page layout tools into one convenient package. When AvailWorks is run on a Newton 2.0 machine the following capabilities are activated:
- Received fax put-away & viewing.
- Export to Notepad adds "Picture/Text" export types.
- Multiple PCMCIA support with card actions moved to Folders dialog.
- Automatically reconfigures to any screen size/orientation.
- External keyboard support.
- Additional font support.

For additional information, contact: Avail Technology by phone at: 408.730.6855 or by FAX at: 408.746.3630 or send email to: <Avail2@aol.com>.

Flash Data Gets Upgrade
ISIS International has released Version 1.8 of Flash-Data, which now provides quasi-relational database capabilities on the Apple Newton PDA and compatible hand-held devices. Flash-Data allows you to easily create a flat-file PDA database application that lets you interact with non-Flash Data files. For more information send email to: <isis@netcom.com> or check out the following URL: <ftp://ftp.netcom.com/pub/is/isis/home.html>.

Create a Newton Book from HTML
Steve Weyer <weyer@netaxs.com> and Greg Simon <grs124@psu.edu> have announced the availability of Newt's Cape 1.0. Creating Newton books with text, graphics and forms from HTML, Newt's Cape is a ground-breaking product for the Apple Newton moving the platform one step closer to the Internet. Newt's Cape is a NewtonBook authoring tool using HTML. Using nearly any computer with a text editor and serial port one can author and publish sophisticated, fully bona fide Newton Books. Newt's Cape 1.0 supports most of the HTML 2.0 standards, including support for images and forms. In addition, HTML files can contain NewtonScript providing fully scriptable Newton-form development using HTML. Until TCP support is available, Newt's Cape can additionally generate requests for web pages via email through the WebMail service. Newt's Cape, along with associated documents and tools, is shareware - registered users receive additional docs, examples, tools and support. You can order Newt's Cape via SWREG(CIS), credit cards via Register for $38.50 or $35.00 for checks in US $. For more information check out: <http://www.netaxs.com/~weyer/newton/newtscape.html>.

Tactile Systems Announces Support for Newton 2.0
Tactile Systems has announced a series of products designed to run under Newton 2.0. These include:
- TranScriber: a tool that generates free form text templates without relying on handwriting recognition
- Prescriptions on Tap: generates legible prescriptions in a rapid manner
- PD Tracker: helps case managers complete rounds (Tested at The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions.)
- Medical Plug in Pack: adds medically relevant fields to the built in Name file in Newton 2.0
- Inventory Management System: supports scanning
- Sales Force Automation: allows the mobile workforce to generate quotes and invoices in the field

All products are anticipated to ship late 1995. Tactile will be demonstrating software in the Apple Newton Booth #4354 at the upcoming Comdex show in Las Vegas. For more product info send email to: <info@tactile.com> or via the WWW: <http://rainbow.rmii.com/~rbruce/tactile.html>

Eudora Light for the Newton

To get this, check out: <http://www.qualcomm.com/quest>. For more information about Eudora Pro for the Mac or for Windows send email to: <eudora-sales26qualcomm.com>.

Pelicanware has Big Plans for Newton 2.0

Don Vollum <donv@mail.teleport.com> reports that PelicanWare is planning to ship QuickFigure Pro (QFP) 3.0 concurrently with Newton 2.0. QFP 3.0 will have support for many new features of the OS, including landscape orientation and stationary. QFP 3.0 will run only under Newton 2.0 -- but they will continue to make QFP 2.5 available for users with 1.x Newtons. QFP 2.5 (the current shipping version) should run under Newton 2.0 without problems. In addition, ICS and PelicanWare will be shipping NewtCase 3.0 -- a Newton 2.0 enhanced version of NewtCase. New features will include: package and extension managers, and integration of GestureScript and Gesture Launch, and SleepAid. NewtCase 3.0 will run under Newton 2.0 only.

Notes HTML Utility

Serg Koren <archimag@netaxs.com> reports that he has released HnewTML 1.00 -- a $15 shareware Newton application that allows you to quickly and easily format HTML-text on your Newton's built-in Notepad. The software has been uploaded to most online services and is available directly from the following URL: <http://www.netaxs.com/~archimag/newtsrc/HnewTML.html>. HnewTML 1.00 can be used standalone for the production of Web pages, but its main purpose is as a helper application for Steve Weyer and Greg Simon's NewtsCape product which allows you to produce standalone Newton Books on your Newton.

Personal Media 1.5 Released

Gaia Software has released version 1.5 of its Personal Media software environment for the Motorola Marco and Apple MessagePad. With this latest version, Personal Media has been redesigned to be smaller, quicker and easier to use. The software now fully uses standard Newton electronic ink, which greatly reduces the storage and memory size of written notes, and adds handwriting and shape recognition to notepads. Also added are full text and title searches throughout workspaces in the Personal Media environment, and ability to edit and work with contacts within Personal Media. For more information about Gaia or Personal Media you can call: 503.221.4242, or FAX: 503.221.3025, or email: <info@gaia.com> or check out the following URL: <http://www.teleport.com/~gaia>.

More Info Gets Update

SilverWare has released "MoreInfo 2.54 Demo" to the Internet and most online services. If you are a current owner of More Info and have electronically updated your copy, you can install the demo as an upgrade. MoreInfo is an application that allows you to add additional important information to your names directly from the Names application. MoreInfo allows you to save other addresses, company information, family information, account information and travel direction and link it directly to a particular name in your Names File. In addition, it allows you to make appointments, add To Do reminders and track contacts all within the Names application. Appointments made with MoreInfo can have an alarm attached to them. MoreInfo 2.5 is available from SilverWARE at the price of $59 + $6 for S&H within the US. For more information you can send email to: <info@silverware.com> or call: 508.521.5262.

Print a Month View from Your Newton

Wendy Stevenson <WStevenson@eworld.com> reports that she has a US$15 shareware program called Time of the Month 1.1 (TotM) that imports Newton Dates information to let you print a monthly calendar. Some new features in Version 1.1 included:

- fixed locale problems for locales other than Canada/US

- reduced chance of FAX timeout
- added the ability to mark certain days as important
- added the ability to import and export calendar day notes
- for registered users, import and export day notes on a per month basis

Bills to Pay Gets Upgrade to Version 2.5

MAR Software is now shipping a major upgrade to their Newton bill management system -- Bills to Pay. The new version adds a variety of user-requested enhancements, and is the 7th upgrade since version 1.0 was originally released in October 1994. Among the new features are a floating button that lets users access Bills to Pay quickly; the ability to send bill items to the Calendar and Bills Lists to the Notepad; improved alarms, including a Preference option for displaying and/or clearing all active Bills to Pay alarms; improved balance and total display options; two new printing formats: Bills List and Unpaid Bills; support for the Intelligent Assistant; and localized currency symbols. There is also a new expanded help file in Newton Book format, and an online Adobe Acrobat formatted user manual with illustrations. A demonstration version Bills to Pay can be downloaded from online services and Newton FTP sites. The upgrade is available to registered users for the small fee of $10. Bills to Pay has a retail price of $25. For more information call: 510.337.0231 or send email to: <EdMartin@eworld.com>

New Version of Amigo

ACCSYS Corporation has released version 1.5 of their AMIGO program for the Newton. AMIGO is a Spanish to/from English dictionary reference and translation program. Version 1.5 features and improvements include:

- a updated user interface
- dictionary consists of approximately 8200 words of English and Spanish, including specialized medical and computer terms
- a much improved search and translate process
- new custom dictionary manager allowing unlimited custom entries
- preliminary testing indicates that AMIGO 1.5 will be compatible with NOS 2.0.
- a new feature for practicing vocabulary
- manual has been rewritten in more detail.

You can request a demo copy of AMIGO 1.5 directly from ACCSYS, email, <rkaplan@acm.org> or FTP a copy of the demo version from newton.uiowa.edu or from the AMUG ftp site. For more information send email to <rkaplan@acm.org>, or call: 610.436.4570.

New Version of Calendar Marker

John Schettino <js12@gte.com> reports that he has updated his $10 shareware application Calendar Marker from 1.2 to 2.0. Calendar Marker lets you glance at your upper right hand monthly calendar to see if you have day notes or meetings scheduled. A very handy application. Some new features in 2.0 include:

- Must be installed on internal store (*NOT* on a card) to avoid the grip of death.
- Faster operation!
- User configurable
- Works with older (1.05 and 1.11) Newton software to display dates correctly in non-US locals.
- Prefs app can be removed from Newton once preference are selected.
- Only works with current Newtons running OS 1.3x, 1.11, and 1.05.

For more information you can also check out: <http://users.aol.com/PDCJohnS/index.html>.

NDCrypt Upgraded

Geert Jadoul <76271.2121@compuserve.com> reports that he has

update his freeware NDcrypt utility from version 1.5 to 1.6. NDcrypt is an application that allows you to encrypt / decrypt the Notes in your NotePad application. Some new improvements include:

- 8 digit password
- Encrypted Notes will have a comment attached
- there are preference settings for Password and Comment
- the Warning message will only appear one time
- Encrypt/Decrypt "All Notes" is deleted.

New Version of FirstClass Newton Client

Black Labs has released version 1.1 of FirstClass Retriever+ (FCR+). Significant enhancements include:

- better memory management (optimized heap usage)
- increased speed
- improved interface

FirstClass Retriever+ allows access to FirstClass email and conference messages through a modem or LocalTalk connection. Messages can be read and replied to online or offline. You can reach Black Labs by phone at: 303.938.8580 or by FAX at: 303.938.8546 or by email at: <john@blacklabs.com>.

NEWTL! Newton/Linux Communication System

Newtl 1.5 allows your Linux system to communicate with your Newton using Steve Weyer's Slurpee Newton communications program. Although Newtl was originally developed for Newton development (using Makefiles and Newt source code on your Linux system), it can, in fact, transfer any Slurpee-compatible text to and from your Newton soups! Check out the Newtl Home Page at: <http://www.yggdrasil.com/~aehall/newtl/newtl.html> or FTP it from: <ftp://ftp.yggdrasil.com/~aehall/newtl/newtl/newtl-1.5.tar.gz> or email the author Anthony at: <aehall@netcom.com>.

New Translation Software

CreaTEC <100116.1565@compuserve.com> has released DicStar 1.0 - Spanish/English translation dictionary. The software can be downloaded from CompuServe via (GO NEWTON) and was posted to the NEWTON ftp sites but the copies posted are reportedly corrupted. Please contact CreaTEC by email if you can't get a working copy. DicStar includes more than 13000 words for each language (more than 27000 entries total!!) and is fully integrated in the Newton OS, including IA support. Unregistered version works only with words that begins with the "A" letter. Register cost is US$48.

Rebooting Utilities

Allan Wright <aew@pease1.sr.unh.edu> has released two new freeware utilities to the Internet via: <http://pease1.sr.unh.edu/1/aew/newton>. The two programs are called Newton Sleeper and Newton Rebooter. Newton Rebooter: Allows you to reboot your Newton without having to pull off your battery cover. Rebooter also has two additional buttons. One is labeled "GC" and will do a garbage collection on your Frame Heap memory recovering any unused memory. The "Sleep" button will cause your Newton to sleep or power off. The Sleeper: places a button on the Notepad status bar that would allow the Newton to sleep immediately when the button is tapped. When you hold the pen down on the button (selecting it with the familiar chirp sound) it will also run Rebooter if it is installed.

National Parks Reference Application

Thomas Poff <thomas@zippy.sonoma.edu> has released the final version of USApp at the following sites:

- <http://www.cs.sonoma.edu/Newton>
- <ftp://ftp.cs.sonoma.edu/pub/Newton/Apps>

The app has been renamed to USWest and covers the western half of the continental United States. Over 130 National Parks are featured in the application with park descriptions and instructions on how to get there. New features have been added to simplify the application's operation. The popular "tap-and-drag" interface used in the previous version of BayAreaParks has been moved over to USWest and improved upon. Additionally, parks can now be selected from a list and autoscrolled within the map view.

Update to Short List

Short List 1.1 is a Notepad based list editor that lets you view and modify your lists in the Notepad or by launching Short List. Lists created by Short List can be treated like any other Notepad note. After installation, a new item will appear on the pop-up called "Short List" for the Action Button (envelope) attached to each note. Version 1.0 to 1.1 changes:

- Fixed bug that corrupted notes during restart, or "not enough memory" problems.
- Added "Cancel" button. This button will close Short List without making any changes to the note

For more information send email to: Cesar Maiorino <Cesar@eWorld.com>. To download Short List check out the following URL: <ftp://ftp.amug.org//pub/newton/recent/short-list-1.1.sit.hqx>

Admin Stuff

You're reading the third issue of NewtNews Pro. Thanks to all who have sent in comments and suggestions - I appreciate any and every type of feedback, and I'll do my best to incorporate the suggestions I receive. The newsletter will undoubtedly change over time as I get info on what the most people want to see. In order to get a general idea of who is reading this (and how many), we're giving away a FREE 2-MEG CARD to one lucky person (sorry, we've only got one card to give away right now, but in the future, who knows...a trip to Cupertino? A free car??). Just send me <daverh@aol.com> or Steve <sholden@ridgecrest.ca.us> an email saying that you've read the newsletter - or anything else to that effect (make sure to mention NewtNews Pro), and you'll be entered into the random drawing! We'll do the drawing just prior to the next issue (1 Dec.).

About the schedule: I'll do my best to provide each issue by the first of each month, although things may slide a bit due to natural disasters, the world being overtaken by Microsloth, etc. Hopefully, we've started to find an audience out there that wants to read about the Newton PDA in this type of format. The plan has been to provide a monthly overview of news within the Newton world (and a bit about other such devices) in a printable format. It is our idea that it will appeal to those who either don't have time to read all the info provided in NewtNews on a weekly basis, or who prefer to read a shortened digest on a montly basis. We also hope to reach some of the millions of prospective Newton users who haven't yet discovered why they can't wait to become a user.

Please contact me with any question, comments, etc. Any contributions to the content of NewtNews should be sent to Steve Holden <sholden@ridgecrest.ca.us>, Editor and Publisher of NewtNews.

Dave Hina
Editor & Publisher, NewtNews Pro
<daverh@aol.com>

Products/Services

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Newt. Learn object-oriented programming with NewtonScript, develop applications and save packages directly on your Newton with the Newt Development Environment. Shareware: $49.50. For registration info: <http://www.netaxs.com/~weyer/newton/releases.html> or <weyer@netaxs.com>

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NEED A **NEWTON PROGRAMMER?** NewtNews has a list of over 25 Newton programmers who are interested in working on vertical or horizontal market applications. Email to: <sholden@ridgecrest.ca.us> for the document or to be added to the list.

QUICKNAMES PRO - facilitates rapid retrieval of contact information using an easy interface ($39)! Only 67K ($39). For more info, contact LandWare, Inc. by phone at: 201.347.0031, fax: 201.347.0340, email: <sales@landware.com>.

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For information about any of these or other Stand Alone products, contact us at <info@standalone.com>, or (312) 262-5150. Ciao!

BILLS TO PAY 2.3 - never get charged for an over due bill again! Bills To Pay lets you easily track bills and expenses; create budget projections; and set alarms to remind you of bills coming due. From MAR Software $15 (shareware). Download demo version from most Online Services or email: <EdMartin@eWorld.com> for more info.

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The **NEWTREST** desktop PDA stand. Place your OMP, 100, 110 or 120 Messagepad onto the NewtRests angled frame while sitting at your desk and keep your Newt at the perfect viewing angle without having to pick it up. Just $12.95. Available through the Newton Source at (800) Newton1

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NEW! The Third Volume of the **Totally Incomplete PDA CD-ROM** for Newton is now shipping! This CD-ROM from AMUG contains over 3500 files, 1000 packages, and 220 megs in Mac and PC format. $29 + S/H. Call 602.553.0066 or email <info@amug.org> to order! Web order page: <http://amug.org/amug/store/order.html>.

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THE ANGLER is simplicity itself. Simply insert the tips of The Angler into your MessagePad Charging Base and instantly get an extra 30 degrees of tilt. That's enough angle to view your Newton's screen at a glance. $9.95. Available through NewtonSource - 800.Newton1.

AMIGO, an English and Spanish dictionary reference and simple translation program is now available for the Newton. Only $19.95 plus $1.50 S&H from ACCSYS Corporation. Call 610.436.4570 for more information or email: <rkaplan@acm.org>.

NEW! **AvailWorks 2.0** For Newton -- the only Newton software to integrate text processing, spreadsheets, drawings and graphs into a single application. $79.95+S&H. Info/orders, contact: Avail Technology, Phone: (408) 730-6855, email: <Avail2@aol.com>.

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ChessPad turns the Newton into a digital chess book and a portable chess set. Contains 28 annotated grandmaster games played by the greatest players of all time and 100 chess problems. New low price: $49.95. Clear Lake Research 713.663.7513; <DavidL62@aol.com>.

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