



NewtNews Pro

For additional information contact <nnpro@aol.com> or <NewtNews@pobox.com>
Comments and suggestions welcome!

Volume #2 Issue #7

1 March, 1996

Top News!

MP2K and EMate Officially Announced

Apple officially announced at MacWorld Tokyo 1997 that the MessagePad 2000 and the eMate 300 will be shipping in the United States in March 1997. The MP2K will ship in Europe, Japan, and Australia in April 1997. A single eMate will cost US\$759, or they can be purchased in packages of 8 for US\$699 per unit. A MP2K without a keyboard and software bundle will sell for under US\$1000, and a 'bundled' MP2K will retail for under US\$1100.

[Note: Monday, 24Mar97 is the expected MP2K availability date.]

Amelio to Examine Future Newton Support

The San Jose Mercury News (SJMN) and USA Today ran with big stories on Friday, 31Jan97 about the state of Apple and included the following blurbs from Apple CEO Dr. Gil Amelio. SJMN reported:

Amelio also said he is taking a close look at Newton, Apple's \$1,000 hand-held computer, which, after three years, has yet to turn a profit. "Maybe we missed the boat," he said.

Whatever happens, Amelio said, Apple would continue to support current Newton customers. Apple has licensed the Newton operating system to a dozen other companies that make hand-held computers. He remains committed to the eMate, Apple's \$800 portable for kids based on the Newton.

USA Today ran with:

Although these cost cutting measures are definite there is one more technology that Amelio will be keeping a close eye on, Newton. Newton is Apple's US\$1,000 handheld computer, which, after three years, has yet to turn a profit. Amelio says, "Maybe we missed the boat". Amelio did say he is committed to the eMate, Apple's US\$800 portable for kids based on the Newton.

Selling the Newton Division?!

The Los Angeles Times was one of the first with 'the Newton forsale' spin mentioning it in their Saturday, 01Feb97 "Top Story". This link appears to be to the daily top story but you should be able to find more info using this link: <<http://www.latimes.com/HOME/NEWS/BUSINESS/topstory.html>>. The Associated Press ran with a story on 03Feb97 that list the Newton division has a key asset that Apple could sell off to cut costs. Analysts are saying that Apple will have to cut 20% of its workforce to survive at the

project income level of US\$8 billion they are expected to bring in this current fiscal year.

The Wall Street Journal <<http://www.wsj.com>> reportedly also has a similar story on its site with 'rumors' of recent meetings with venture capitalists to purchase the Newton Systems Group employees and technology. The article did point out that shedding the Newton product would reduce Apple's near term costs, could provide a future revenue stream, and could even accelerate Newton development if the Newton was under new ownership. The San Jose Mercury News (SJMN) also had an Reuters article posted via: <<http://www.merc.com/stories/cgi/story.cgi?id=1374679-851>>.

A Message From the Newton Systems Group

Mr. Sandy Benett, Vice President, Newton Systems Group sent out a message late last week on Friday, 07Feb97 to Newton Developers and Customers. In summary:

- Apple is not shutting-down the Newton division
- Apple is committed to their current products and to their developers and customers who have supported these products
- Apple will ship the MP2K and the eMate 300
- Apple's Newton continues to participate in industry events: Demo '97, HIMMS, MacWorld Tokyo, FETC, and CEBIT
- Apple has a complete line of print advertising already scheduled for the eMate 300 in education publications, and MP2K ads in Mac, Windows, and other tech industry magazines
- Apple plans to continue to revamp their Newton website
- Development of future Newton-based products has not stopped.

To read the complete text of the message check out the following Apple site at: <http://www.newton.apple.com/newton/message_Feb.7.97.html>.

Business EMate?

As we go to press we learn of details about a 'business eMate' from the Mac OS Rumors page at: <<http://www.macosrumors.com>>. Details are sketchy but this device would most likely be powered by a StrongArm processor instead of the ARM 710 in the current eMate 300.

Recent Events

Macworld Expo Tokyo Tidbits

Tim Meggs <tim@fa.yamatake.co.jp> reported the following tidbits from MacWorld Expo Tokyo:

- Main Apple booth didn't have any new Newtons on display, just the MP130.

INFORMED FILLER FOR NEWTON - Custom Electronic Forms

Shana Corp - <info@shana.com> - <<http://www.shana.com>>

WinSlurp from Rare White Tiger Creations

<<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/heringermr/winslurp.htm>>

Stand Alone, Inc.

For info on purchasing and more, check out our web site at <http://www.standalone.com/newton>, or call us at (773) 471-2492



DateMan 3.0

The complete date manager. Allows drag-and-drop creation of items from almost anywhere on the Newton, provides you with a fully integrated agenda display, and allows you to link together all of your Newton's data. DateMan is fully compatible with all of the Newton's built-in apps.



Super Names

Enhances the built-in Names file of your Newton, adding more comprehensive searching, the ability to tag names and create custom filters, and a small view for quick access to your names.



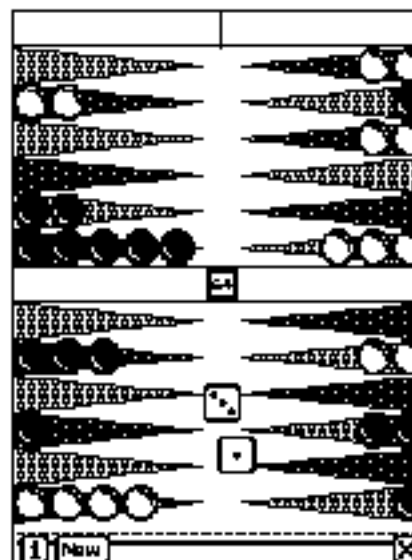
Backgammon 2.0

Backgammon for the Newton for 1 or 2 players. Features 10 skill levels, several play styles, and full game statistics.



BackDrop Plus

Replaces the Notepad as the backdrop app, freeing up heap and give you quick access to frequently used packages and several system functions.



Stationery Construction Kit

Create your own stationery types right on your Newton! Use powerful tool palettes to create views, buttons, input lines, and much more.

For info on purchasing and more, check out our web site at <http://www.standalone.com/newton>, or call us at (773) 471-2492.

- The primary Apple developers booth did have a MP2K on display.
- The Enfour booth had several eMate 300s on display and at least one MessagePad 2000.
- Tim found the MP2K to be overall very snappy, and handwriting recognition to be much faster.
- Tim thinks the price of US\$1000 is way to high to compete against the Sharp Zaurus in Japan.
- There is someone in Japan working on a PHS phone network connectivity solution for the Newton.

Short Report From HIMSS'97 Conference

Joseph Wagner <jwagner@mich.com> was kind enough to forward to NewtNews his thoughts on what was interesting at the recent HIMSS '97 conference held in San Diego, California. Apple did have a small booth at the conference that was nearly totally focused on the Newton (MP130, MP2K, and eMate 300). The booth was staffed with representatives of companies who are building medical solutions for the Newton along with several Newton evangelists. PocketDoc by Physix was one of the solutions being shown on the MP2K along with a version on a Windows CE device, and a Win95 enabled Fujitsu PC tablet computer. Joseph (as a MP120 user) was extremely impressed with his 'test drive' of the MP2K, and also found the form factor to be better than his MP120.

Newton Tidbits

Newton Ad in New York Times

Marton Carungay <martonc@earthlink.net> points out, that according to MacWeek's Don Crabb, Apple recently ran several full page ads in the New York Times which included the MessagePad 2000 and the eMate 300. You can check out the ad via: <<http://www.apple.com/>>.

An Opinion About the MessagePad 2000

Jude Mansilla <jude@hotpocket.com> the Editor-In-Chief at HotPocket reported the following recently on comp.sys.newton.misc:

I am in possession of [an MP2K] evaluation unit -- just got it a few days ago. So far, I can say that I am pretty amazed by the MP2000's stellar performance leap over the MP130, which is only one generation older. Expensive? Yes. But our opinion at HotPocket so far is that it will be worth the price to many people. We've only just begun to put it through its paces, and we'll give you our full impressions when we've had ample opportunity to use it daily for a time.

To answer your question: the MessagePad 2000 is certainly wonderful.

New AMUG Newton CDROM Collection

Michael Bean <bean@amug.org> has announced the availability of their 8th Volume of the Totally Incomplete PDA CD-ROM for Newton offering 600+ MBs of Mac and PC format 2.x and 1.x packages. The cost is US\$29+S&H. For more info: 602.497.2244, <sales@amug.org>, or <<http://cdrom.amug.org/>>.

Newton Shop in Germany

Michael Putz <Michael.Putz@munich.netsurf.de> has announced the creation of his Newton Shop (called DATA mobil) in Munich, Germany in the Schwabing district near the University. If you are interested in getting a price list send a message to Michael with the word "PL" in the subject with your address and FAX number in the body of the message. For more information call: (+49 89 523 100 26) or fax: (+49 89 523 100 27).

GSM PC Card for MP2K

Jan Fuellemann <jff@berlin.snafu.de> reports that they are busy working on releasing a new Type II GSM ready PC Card for the MessagePad 2000. For more specific information check out: <<http://www.novamedia.de/>>.

MP2K at Newton Source

Barry Rock <docroc@pipeline.com> reports that New York City's Newton Source employees are expecting to receive their shipment of MP2Ks on 17Mar97, and will immediately begin shipping them out to pre-paid customers. There will probably not be enough MP2Ks in this shipment to go to walk-in sales.

Jobs Wants Newton Out of Apple

Rich Simons <richs1@tiac.net> reported on the USENET newsgroup comp.sys.newton.misc that the recent issue of FORTUNE magazine has a not-so-nice Newton mention on page 108 -- "[Steve] Jobs suggested that Amelio dump the Newton hand-held computer, a John Sculley favorite."

Job's Dump Newton Clarification

Terry Gritton <tgritton@sprynet.com> reports that Apple has sent out a clarification piece written by David Harrah, Director of Corporate Public Relations, that denies many of the facts presented in the above mention from Fortune Magazine. According to this clarification, the 'rumor' that Steve Jobs suggested that Gil Amelio dump the Newton should be taken with a huge grain of salt.

Using a Keyboard With a Newton??!

Clay Irving <clay@panix.com> suggests that those interested in using a full-sized keyboard with the Newton check out:

- *FreeKey* <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Flo_Biehler/>
- *ObPlug*: Found in the Accessories/Keyboard section of the Newton Reference <<http://www.panix.com/~clay/newton>>

Solar Powered Newton Add-on

Keep It Simple Systems <darrel@wildwestweb.com> has announced that they are now shipping their US\$99 Luna II solar charging unit for the Newton. This device is a highly efficient polycrystalline solar panel, integrated into a stand-alone carrying case that is compact, and lightweight. The Luna II provides 1.8 watts of solar energy (160 mA at 7.5 volts - equal to the output of Apple's AC Adapter for the Newton), the Luna II augments the power of the internal battery when the MessagePad is running, and as a battery charger when the Newton is turned off. When assisting the internal battery, the panel will extend the users runtime from 100% to 700% (depending on power consumption of the MessagePad, and other, environmental considerations). This allows a user of a MessagePad and a LUNA II to attain nearly unlimited runtime from their Newton, no matter how far they are from an AC outlet. For more information call: 406.442.3434 or 800.327.6882; or fax: 406.457.0460.

More Russian Newton News

Alex <fuzeev@maccentre.ru> reports that Paragraph's FreeStyle is now available from his company MacCentre Company for Russian users. If you purchase a Newton from MacCentre you will get a free pre-installed version of Cyrillic Freestyle on your Newton. For more information check out: <<http://www.newton.ru>>.

A Tip And Trick

Roger Coleman <Roger_Coleman@compuserve.com> reports the following 'tip and trick' for the Newton:

You can use the 'expand' feature of the personal word list to convert seemingly meaningless (but easy to write) squiggles into meaningful things. For example, I have set 'eee' to expand to my full name. All I have to do is write a three-looped squiggle and "Roger Coleman" appears - great for signing letters. I have set 'eeee' to expand to my job title, and 'eeeee' to my email address. I can just write out a letter, and then finish it off with a load of long squiggles! It is worth setting up for purely for those occasions when you are dazzling people with a demonstration of the Newt's abilities! It should be noted that you have to be using cursive handwriting for

this to work.

Small Keyboard Pointer

A while back NewtNews had a reference article about a new small keyboard created by MIT's David Levy. You can get more information about this Sub Miniature Ergonomic Keyboard via the following URL: <http://web.mit.edu/afs/athena.mit.edu/org/i/invent/www/levy.html>.

Some Japanese Newton Information

Michael Ruttley <100015.3557@compuserve.com> reports that you should be able to find the Japanese system patch for Newton 2.0 units via this URL: <http://www2.apple.co.jp/FTP-database/reference/MessagePad130-2.0-J.HTML>. Robert Kawaratani <bobk@gol.com> reports that the Newton Shop in Tokyo was taking reservations for the Japanese capable version of the MP2K at MacWorld Tokyo Expo 1997 last week.

New Desktop Sync Formats to Be Supported By Gaia

James Uther recently pointed out on comp.sys.newton.misc that the next available iteration of Netscape Communicator will support vCalendar and vCard formats, and was wondering if there are plans for Newton compatibility. Keven Boyett <keven_boyett@gaia.com> responded that his company Gaia has commercial clients that can deal with importing and exporting to/from vCard and vCalendar data and a Newton. For more information send Keven email or check out: <http://www.gaia.com>. You can get more information about these formats by checking out: <http://www.imc.org/pdi/>.

CDW MP2K Information

Bruce Modell <BRUCMOD@cdw.com> reports strong demand for pre-orders for the MessagePad 2000. He also reports that the CDW price for the MP2K without the Keyboard has been adjusted down to US\$940. For more information about pre-ordering your Newton from CDW contact Bruce by phone at: 800-400-4239 x.8219 or send email to: <BRUCMOD@cdw.com>.

Review of ClubPDA Specials

ClubPDA List <clubpdalist@list.pacbus.com> runs specials on a weekly basis. In the past they have had 'software deals' on PelicanWare's QuickFigure Pro, Ascribe's Newt Tools; Balcones' Leverage 2.0; and LandWare's proCALC. ClubPDA has also announced a major price reduction on their current stock of MP120s from their list price of US\$439 to US\$299. The product number for the is deal is: #A102-1214. For more information about how to get in on these deals and for general information about ClubPDA check out: <http://www.clubpda.com> or send an email to: Chris Parker <Chrisp2@pacbus.com>.

What Is Up In The Stylus World?

Paul Schiller <panache@li.net> reported some "PDA Panache 97" news to NewtNews. Here is a short summary of Newton related news: a MessagePad 2000 stylus alternative is in the works, and they some new stylus inserts for Cross and for Mont Blanc pens. These new inserts feature a 'safety' retractable tip that gets 'engaged' if you press to hard. It should also be noted that PDA Panache has: Pilot, Windows CE, and 'generic' styluses also available.

Apple: Out of the Sand and Off With the Gloves

Apple CEO Gil Amelio told company shareholders: "As most of you know, I've dealt with troubled companies before. I am well acquainted with what it takes to bring them back to health. When I joined Apple, I said the journey back would take about three years. Today, we're about a third of the way there. We're working hard to move faster, but unfortunately there are no shortcuts, no magic bullets." He's asked Apple employee to do three things: "Manage the fundamentals to keep us on a firm business footing; focus on the strategic core of our business so we concentrate our efforts where we can make a difference and win; and attack the competition. We're taking our heads out of the sand. We're taking the gloves off. And we're

ready for action." (San Jose Mercury News Center 6 Feb 97)

Save the Newton, Sell the Newton

Henry Norr <henry@norr.com> has an article called "All we are saying is give Newton a chance: Sell it!" on page 18 of MacWeek published on 17Feb97. To read the complete article online check out : http://205.181.112.110/mw_1107/op_decade.html or start at the top of: <http://www.macweek.com> and work your way to Henry's column archive.

Adding DRAM to the MP2K

The rumor mill is stirring up the potential news that Newer Technology maybe offering DRAM upgrades for the MessagePad 2000 -- making it possible to have an MP2K with more than 9-MBs of internal storage on the MP2K.

Digital Maps on Handhelds

There has been an interesting thread about "Urban Street Atlas" on USENET newsgroup comp.sys.newton.misc. If you are interested in this subject you should check out HotBot <<http://www.hotbot.com>> or your favorite search engine.

Big Newton Picture

The main Associated Press article that was circulated to most of the Business Pages in the USA and Worldwide about Apple's future layoffs and the possibility of shedding unprofitable businesses included an 'optional' big picture of what appears to be a MessagePad 130, two Styluses, a Motorola Paging card, a Newton case, and a MP110/120/130 Newton charging station. The article was written by Catalina Ortiz. [San Diego Union-Tribune, 04Feb97, C-2]

Availability Of The EMate?!!

Several posts from several different Newton developers on the USENET newsgroup comp.sys.newton.misc seem to confirmed the news that initially the availability of the eMate 300 will be restricted to those in the Education Channel. It appears that 'parents' wishing to purchase an eMate for their child may be able to do so via the school's Apple sales representative.

Upcoming PDA Conferences

The following are being sponsored by PDA, Inc.:

- Forum for Handheld Computing in Healthcare; 20-30May97; Boston, MA
- Utility Industry Handheld & PDA Forum; 20-22Aug97; St. Louis, MI
- Handheld & PDA Expo and Forum; Feb98; San Francisco, CA

For more information: <info@wmsltd.com> or call: 415.252.8008.

Newton is a Weapon for Road Warriors

Black Enterprise magazine published on 01Feb97 has an article with a Newton mention called "Weapons for the road warrior: mobile technology that will make business trips easier" written by Muhammad Tariq. The article focuses on select technology what would "make the difference between making the sale or losing an account." Here are the technologies evaluated in this article: Winbox FX; Apple PowerBook 1400; Sharp WideNote Notebook Computer; Citizen PN 50 (Black-and-White Portable Printer); Apple Newton MessagePad 2000 (MP2K); and Sharp Zaurus ZR-5800FX. The MP2K is 'billed' as a laptop alternative that offers Internet and office-ready capabilities. Along with strong desktop connectivity, accurate handwriting recognition, multitasking, and extensive PIM functionality.

Newton Reference, Vol. 3 Updated

Clay Irving <clay@panix.com> reports the latest release of Volume 3 of the Newton Reference via: <http://www.panix.com/~clay/newton/>. This version is now database-enabled and has an improved reference links for information about the MP120, MP130, and the MP2K.

Newton Research Project Updated

Mike Pinkerton <mpinkert@cc.gatech.edu> has updated his thesis pages that are now called LlamaShare -- a project that makes use of several key Apple technologies (OpenDoc and Newtons) in studying the user-interfaces (UI) and applications for using information stored on mobile devices in desktop environments. For more information, including several screen shots, check out: <<http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fce/llamashare/index.html>>.

Newton News From Russia

Alexander Fuzeev <fuzeev@maccentre.ru> reported some recent news from the Russian company MacCentre. They have a new Newton KeyPlug Lite that lets you connect a low energy consumption keyboards (ie. Cherry keyboard) and Newton KeyPlug Pro for connection to standard IBM-compatible keyboards. Another unique built-in NotePad dictionary of Russian-English idioms dictionary for doing business correspondence. For more information check out: <<http://www.newton.ru>>.

MP2K Part of Concept Car

There is a very interesting MP2K mention being circulated by the PR Newswire and an article in reference to this 'unique' use of an MP2K in the March 1997 Car & Driver on page 27. Ford Motor Company's new Mercury L'Attitude -- a new concept family wagon with many sport utility aspects was recently featured at the 1997 Chicago Auto Show. One of many new cutting edge innovations is the integration of a "portable Apple Newton MessagePad 2000 computer housed in the front console." This enables the L'Attitude to be email, fax, and Internet ready along with being able to access maps, routes, and trip logging. Since the MP2K is mobile a "driver [can stay] in touch [while doing] activities such as hiking and camping."

ClubPDA List Server Announcement

Jarrold McKitterick <JARRODM@pacbus.com> reports that ClubPDA is now running a list-server to keep people informed of the latest in the PDA world. This is expected to be a low traffic list with less than 10 messages a week. The messages will include product announcements, product information, product availability, and ClubPDA special deals on products related to: Apple Newton, US Robotics Pilot, Sony MagicLink, Sharp Zaurus, Psion, and Windows CE (Casio, Compaq, HP, NEC, and Philips). For more information check out: <<http://www.clubpda.com/>>.

Getting Your Opinion About the Newton to Apple

John Catlin <john@theonly.com> & Edward Martin <Edmartin@marsoftware.com> both suggest that those interested in letting Apple management know about your Newton opinions, should do so, by send a specific and brief email message to: <webmaster@newton.apple.com>.

Another Source for Comments and for Orders

Ray George <digsol@ovnet.com> reports that you can also send comments about why the Newton is important technology to Apple's management via: <leadership@apple.com>. Ray would also like to let NewtNews readers know that his company Digital Solutions is also taking backorders for the MessagePad 2000 via: 800.272.8552 or you can send email to: <digsol@ovnet.com>. The 'pure' MP2K is listed as US\$949, and the 'spread-sheet, keyboard, case' version of MP2K is US\$1099.

Newton Poll

MacCentral (an excellent daily Macintosh ezine) was running a Newton poll last week at: <<http://www.maccentral.com/news/0297/feb05.shtml#vote>>. In summary, 2416 people voted, with 62% wanting to keep the Newton at Apple with little overt changes; 17.6% wanted Apple to make a much smaller Newton (thus changing the focus of the current group); 18% wanted Apple to try to move the Newton technology to third-parties; and 2.4% wanted Apple to discontinue the Newton completely. You can check out the complete results via the following URL: <<http://www.maccentral.com/news/0297/feb10.shtml>>.

Speech Recognition Savvy Newton

Mac The Knife has a Newton blurb in his/her column on page 70 of MacWeek published on 27Jan97. It appears that Dragon Systems is indeed planning to integrate speech-recognition technology into the 'almost released' MessagePad 2000.

Newton OS Updates

Peter Richardson <webmaster@newton.apple.com> recently reminded readers of comp.sys.newton.misc that the latest updates to the Newton OS are posted to the following page on the Apple servers: <<http://www.newton.apple.com/newton/solutions/solutions.html#Updates>>.

NSG Opens Tech Support Online

Rob Cox <robcox@austin.ibm.com> reports that Apple's World of Newton at: <<http://www.newton.apple.com/newton/newton.html>> has opened up a technical support discussion list to talk about Newton issues. This is *NOT* the place to post "Save The Newton" messages.

Cool Newton Project Underway

Word on the street from a recent Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) conference held in San Diego, California comes with news about an innovative Newton based solution being used by United States Marine Corp (USMC). Expect more information about this in the future as the 'veil of secrecy' gets lifted.

Barcode Product Special Offer

Peter Collins <barcode@mac-barcode.com> reported on Guy Kawasaki's MacWay list that the Mac-Barcode Company also has Newton barcode hardware and software solutions available including the: Walk-About Pen Scanner, Walk-About Laser Scanner, DataGrabber Software, and the Newton Rubber Boot. For more information send email to: <barcode@mac-barcode.com> or check out: <<http://www.mac-barcode.com>>.

Russian Newton Web Site

Fuzeev Alexander <fuzeev@maccentre.ru> reports that his company MacCentre has created a Newton site in Russia: <<http://www.newton.ru>>. The focus of the site is to discuss Russian specific MessagePad problems, and to provide a forum for Russian Newton developers to discuss their software offerings.

Good Newton Deals???

Robert Durff <rdurff@earthlink.net> reports that since many of the Incredible Universe stores around the United States are closing, some of them are having some pretty good sales on Newton related products. Robert bought the Apple Leather Wireless Communication Case for US\$7.50 at the Denver, Colorado store.

Newton & the Web

Linking Newton WWW Pages

Newton Classifieds <bnet@pobox.com> has announced the creation of a Newton Web Ring, and you can get more information by check out the following URL: <<http://pobox.com/~bnet/newton/webring.htm>>. This project is an excellent way for Newton vendors and information providers to link together, and expand the Newton users WWW experience.

NewtWorld Gets Major Updates

Jeff Wright <wrightad@airmail.net> reports that NewtWorld has grown to over 50 pages in just two short weeks. He is very thankful to all that has helped NewtWorld get started so successfully. For more information check out the following URL: <<http://www.fw3.com/newtworld>>.

Site Pointer for the Newton Book of NewtNews

Mark Richard Heringer <HeringerMR@pobox.com> reminds NewtNews readers that you can download the Newton Book version of NewtNews

from the following site: <<http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Park/9987/>>.

Update on Newton Ezine and Good EMate Market Analysis

Rik Ahlberg <rik@newtuser.com> reports that the ezine Newton Today has been renamed 'NewtUser' and can be found on the World Wide Web via: <<http://www.newtuser.com>>. NewtNews readers are encouraged to check out the following pages regularly:

- eM300 Watch: <<http://www.newtuser.com/news/em300watch.shtml>>
- MP2K Watch: <<http://www.newtuser.com/news/mp2000watch.shtml>>

New Newton FTP Site

J. Leko <leko@ix.netcom.com> reports that the Tennessee Valley Newton User Group has created a new anonymous FTP sites for Newton 1.x & 2.0 shareware and freeware via: <<http://newton.uah.edu>>. For more info send email to: <newton@newton.uah.edu>.

Another New Site and New Newton Reference Book

Chris <jfrost@hiwaay.net> reports that he has posted a new book to a new site about the Newton. The book is a complete list of Newton errors that you might encounter along with a description. The site can be found at: <<http://fly.hiwaay.net/~jfrost>>.

New Newton Web Site

Jeff Wright <wrightad@airmail.net> reports the creation of a new Newton specific Web site that he hopes will become a favorite place to visit for NewtNews readers. You can check out the site via the following URL: <<http://www.fw3.com/newtworld>>.

Another Source for Newton Stuff

Ron Marlowe <marlowe@thenet.net> reports that the following site at <<http://www.ascii.net>> has a how host of MessagePad products: MP130, Telescoping Pens, Newton Keyboards, Carrying Cases, and pre-orders for MP2K.

Some Updated Newton Links

A host of Newton sites have been updated lately. Browse the following links and learn a great deal about the Newton:

- Newton Products and Solutions listed: <<http://www.newton.apple.com/newton/newton.html>>
- The Newton Solutions Guide <http://www.jointsolutions.com/newton_3/>
- Newton Reference <<http://www.panix.com/~clay/newton/>>
- NewtonCentral: <<http://newton.theonly.com/>>
- Newton Modem list: <<http://devworld.apple.com/dev/newton/commsoln/modsetup.html>>
- Win2Go [WinLinX in Germany]: <<http://www.pica.de/winlinx/>>
- Filez search engine: <<http://www.filez.com>>
- Newton Classifieds <<http://pobox.com/~bnet/newton/index.cgi>>
- Newton Doctor <<http://pobox.com/~bnet/newton/doctor/index.cgi>>
- Newton FAQ <<http://pobox.com/~bnet/newton/faq/>>

Updated Daily MP2K Info

Rik Ahlberg <rik@newtontoday.com> the Editor at the ezine Newton Today has created a daily news page called "MP2000 Watch" at: <<http://newtontoday.com/news/mp2000avail.html>>.

NIE 1.1 Posting Location Announced

Newton Developer Information <newtondev@newton.apple.com> reports that when the Newton Internet Enabler (NIE) 1.1 is released for the MessagePad 130 with PAP and CHAP authentication support along with support for SecurID cards it will be posted to the Newton Development Website at: <<http://devworld.apple.com/dev/newton>>. For more information about Newton Developer Programs you can check out the following

URL: <<http://devworld.apple.com/dev/newton/newdevprogram.html>>.

New NewtonCentral URL

John Catlin <john@theonly.com> reports that the new direct URL to NewtonCentral is: <<http://newton.theonly.com/>>.

SDNUG Site -- Pointer To Eudora Demo

Scott Gruby <sgruby@notifymail.com> reports the creation of a 'rough draft' of the San Diego Newton User Group (SDNUG) WWW pages via the following URL: <<http://www.notifymail.com/sdnug/>>. The page does have link to the recently release demo of Eudora Pro for Newton (requires MP130 or better, with Newton 2.x, and Apple's Newton Internet Enabler).

Wireless

Newton to Get Vector Mapping Solution

Jason Hong <jhong@cc.gatech.edu> at the Georgia Institute of Technology recently responded to a thread on comp.sys.newton.misc about "Urban street atlas" with a pointer to a project he is working on called Cyberguide. The system uses 'vector-based US TIGER/Line data', and will have plugins to GPS devices and digital cameras in the future. They are planning to port this project from their PC laptop prototype to a MP2K when they become available. For more info about this project check out: <http://www.cc.gatech.edu/fce/cyberguide/project_notebook/nfhome.html>.

Enterprise Wireless Newton Solution

Derek A Austin <dekka@ozemail.com.au> has announced that ceMis' version 1.2 of their Wayfarer Newton Client software now supports Apple's soon to be released MessagePad 2000. Using Netwave wireless savvy PC cards, and a Windows NT based Wayfarer server you can 'easily' create a wireless TCP/IP Newton solution. For more information: <<http://www.cemis.com.au>>.

MP2K Wireless Mention

Merman Hehling has a MessagePad 2000 mention in the 17Feb97 edition of Computer Reseller News on page 67. The article is entitled "Wireless Helps You Plug In: Remotely, of course, and with a vengeance and is focused on the new growing trend for wireless connectivity in the business environment with more emphasis on Internet/intranet access. Some companies working on making this happen include: AT&T, RAM Mobile Data, Apple, Metricom, and Pacific Communications Sciences, Inc. (PCSI). The only 'handheld computer' mentioned in the article as being Web savvy (email, HTML, GIF) is the new MessagePad 2000. The article also has details on: AT&T's CDPD service; Metricom's Ricochet wireless Internet service; and PCSI's Personal Access Link (PAL).

Wireless Desktop Sync???

Rumors continue to circulate on the Net that several companies are working on an IR desktop pod that enable 'wireless auto-sync' with the MessagePad 2000.

All Highways Available with Teletype GPS

TeleType GPS has announced the release of their "Highway Navigator" feature for their Newton and Windows CE GPS software/hardware bundles. Using new data overlay package with TeleType GPS moving map software lets you gain access to all the U.S. Interstate highways as you use your GPS receiver. Pricing starts at US\$549 and upgrades are available for current customers. For more information check out the following URL: <<http://www.teletype.com/gps/gpspr.html>>; call: 888.TELETYPE or 617.734.9700; or FAX: 617.734.3974.

Other PDA News

More WinCE Connectivity

Michael Gatton has an review article entitled "Symantec Extends Reach of Windows CE Handhelds: pcAnywhere CE delivers reliable remote access but magnifies OS' shortcomings" on page 43 of PC Week published on 24Feb97. Some of the shortcomings include: small screen, small keyboard, and slow performance. On the plus side, Michael found: good remote access features; and using a Web browser via pcAnywhere can be better than built-in Web browser.

New Pilots on the Way

U.S. Robotics is just about ready to announce two new Pilot based PDAs - \$299 PalmPilot Personal Edition, and \$399 Professional Edition PalmPilot. The differences are based on built-in software features. The Professional will offer TCP/IP and email functionality. These new units are also expected to support an 'external modem and Network HotSync software.' [Mark Moore, PC Week, 10Feb97, page 6]

Email on the Pilot

Olivier Meirhaeghe <olivier.meirhaeghe@smartcode.fr> reports that SmartCode Software is now shipping version 1.0 of their POP/SMTP/PPP Internet email client for the Pilot called "HandStamp". For more information check out: <<http://www.smartcodesoft.com>>.

Windows CE

PC Week published on 03Feb96 has a short blurb about HP's future Windows CE device on page 3. The unit is expected to be called the HP 300LX and will offer a 80-column, 640 x 240 pixel LCD screen. No shipping date mentioned in the blurb. The blurb did mention a new 'enhanced' version of the HP200 LX will be available soon for US\$599, and will be marketed towards Windows 3.1 and DOS PC users.

Magic Cap

Network World published on 03Feb97 has a small blurb in their Net Buzz column on page 78 about the recent layoff news at General Magic. The article does mention that General Magic stock is trading at under \$2 a share. There is also an interesting quote from a venture capitalist on what went wrong at General Magic -- "From Day One, the founders couldn't agree on a cohesive strategy, so the company was all over the map. It never had a focus, or a direction."

Which Handheld Computer Is Best?

Ziff-Davis magazines has announced a new review of 'six leading of the newest PDAs' including Windows CE machines via the following URL: <<http://www5.zdnet.com/products/content/grids/handheld.html>>.

CNET Has Handheld Reviews

Long time NewtNews reader Joop Kaashoek <jck@insaltd.com> reports that CNET has a "not that great review of the Newton" in a 'review of handhelds.' The article is reportedly very bullish on the new Windows CE devices. To read the actual article check out the following URL: <<http://www.cnet.com/Content/Reviews/Compare/Handheld/>>.

CRN Quick Blurbs

Computer Reseller News has two small blurbs of interest on page 107 of the issue published on 27Jan97 -- Melard Technologies has a new US\$3147 ruggedized, wireless savvy handheld called the 'Scout' that can support up to four PC Cards; and resellers for Psion handhelds are planning to meet 06-08Feb97 in Palm Beach Shores, Florida for a free conference.

Software Releases

Emailing Newton Data Types

Celso Maiolo <celso@netcom.ca>, a principle at Netstrategy Software, pointed out on comp.sys.newton.misc that their client EnRoute i-net (bundled on MP2K, and available for purchase for the MP130 and eMate 300) will allow you to send Newton data types from one Newton to another Newton over the Internet. For more information send an email to: <sales@netstrat.com>.

More Details on UniFEP

Smittie <smittie@enfou.com> points out that Enfou's UniFEP completely localizes a U.S. Newton to the Japanese market. You can get some screen shots to see what things look like on a "Japanese" Newton by checking out: <<http://www.enfour.co.jp/newton/unifep/index.html>>.

Demo Of Eudora Pro for Newton

Scott Gruby <sgruby@qualcomm.com> reminds NewtNews readers that you can check out a demo of Eudora Pro for Newton via the following FTP link: <<ftp://ftp.qualcomm.com/>>. You can get more information via this URL: <<http://www.eudora.com/newton.html>>. Eudora Pro for the Newton has a list price of US\$49.95.

Remote Control Software in Mac and PC Format

Ashish Mishra <ash@sineware.com> has announced the posting of a Mac and Windows version of their US\$15 shareware ShowMate -- Newton scriptable remote control that works with most Sony and Panasonic equipment via: <<http://www.sineware.com/products/ShowMate>>.

New Stuff From Foundation Systems

Adam Tow <atow@tow.com> has released Styles+ 1.2 (01Mar97) -- a utility that replaces the built-in styles palette. Styles+ supports multiple styles, larger font sizes, and more fonts. Adam also reported the Beta 6 release of WriteHere 2.0 on 28Feb97. This HWR input solution will ship with Corrector+ for free, and enables handwriting recognition in applications that doesn't support handwriting recognition (it will also work in nearly any other application). For more information: <<http://www.tow.com/>>.

Media Tracking Utility Name Contest

Hardy Macia <hardy@catamount.com> has a 'new' application currently being called 'MediaBuff' that will enable a Newton user to track CDs, records, videos, etc. ... Hardy is currently holding a contest to find a better name. To participate check out: <<http://www.catamount.com>>.

DeskTop To-Do Sync Tool

LandWare <sales@landware.com> has announced that they are now shipping their US\$29 Macintosh application ToDo List 2.1 that will sync with a Newton's built-in To Do task list in Newton 2.0. For more information please check out: <<http://www.landware.com>>.

New Version of QFP on the Way

Don Vllum <donv@teleport.com> reports that PelicanWare will be shipping soon the new QuickFigure Pro (QFP) 2.1 -- a subset of this application is distributed on the MP2K and the eMate 3000. The cost will be US\$59.95 and you can get more information via: <<http://www.pelicanware.com>>. This version is reportedly 'significantly' faster on older Newton 2.0 MP120s and MP130s.

New Terminal Emulator

Andres Martinez <martinez@netside.net> has announced the release of his Newton terminal emulator -- EasyConnect 2.0 for Newton 2.0. For more information check out: <<http://www.netside.net/~martinez>>.

Newton Internet Enabler 1.1 Posted

Apple's Newton Internet Enabler (NIE) Version 1.1 for Newton 2.0 with the following new TCP/IP capabilities:

- Support for TCP and UDP protocols over PPP and SLIP
- A domain name resolver
- A dialer with scripting capability
- Support for PAP and CHAP authentication

can be downloaded from <<http://devworld.apple.com/dev/newton/tools/nie.html>>

Multimedia on Your Newton

Lee Moon <leemoo@aol.com> has announced a Mac OS utility called PALMEDIA Media Transfer 2.0 that allows you to send images (PICT & JPEG), movies (QuickTime), and small System 7 sound files to the Newton. The software uses Steve Weyer's Slurpee (on the Newton) and HyperCard 2.x on the Mac. PALMEDIA Media Transfer (Mac OS) is freeware. PALMEDIA Player (Newton) has a \$10 shareware fee. For more information: <<http://members.aol.com/LeeMoon/>>.

Internet Apps Updated

Serg Koren <archimag@netaxs.com> has posted a host of fixes to Newt'sPaper (Newton USENET newsreader) and Newt'sWeather (Internet weather information tracker) on 16Feb97. For more information check out: <<http://www.netaxs.com/~archimag/Newton/MyStuff/>>.

Form Tool Released

Chris Heimark <CHeSSy@webleap.com> reports that FormIt for Newton and Macintosh has been released. This tool works with Notes Stationery and with Newton Works that ships with Newton 2.1. It is ideal for the 'non-programmer' to great form based solutions, and to upload collected data to desktop systems. A Windows hosted version will ship in May97. A 30-day trial version has been posted to: <<http://www.webleap.com>>. You can also get more information by calling: 610.296.0549.

FTP Utility Announced

CeMis based in Brisbane, Australia has announced newtFTP -- a NIE savvy FTP client released for the Newton MessagePad that lets you easily browse packages and documents before creating a selected transferring session. The software is expected to ship by Q2'97 and you can get more information by check out: <<http://www.cemis.com.au>>.

Workout Utility Released

Waverley Software Design has announced a new completely customizable training journal called Workout Log for Newton 2.0. The software lets you track, graph, and summarize personal workout data including templates for running, swimming, cycling and weight lifting. The retail price for this product is going to be US\$59. For more information contact Matt Brown by email at: <WaverleySD@aol.com> or by phone at: 415.322.5356.

Newton VT100 Emulator in Beta Testing

Sanjay S Vakil <sanj@mit.edu> has announced the v0.95b release of "PT100" for Newton 2.0 -- a VT100 emulator for the Newton that supports modem and serial sessions. PT100 will retail for US\$25 and you can get more information by checking out at: <<http://www.scrawlsoft.com>> or sending email to: <help@scrawlsoft.com>.

Newton Connectivity to Lotus Notes

Rob Colver <rcolver@commontime.com> reports that his company CommonTime has announced a new Newton connectivity solution, called Cadenza, that enables a mobile Newton user to interact with Lotus Notes. Release 1 of Cadenza is expected by the end of Q1'97. The software will initially support: access to Notes, searching Notes views, and downloading select files. The next iteration of Cadenza is expected to support: Notes forms to Newton stationary translation. For more information please check

out: <<http://www.commontime.com>>.

New Project Manager for Newton

Sine of the Times has announced that they are now shipping their US\$69.95 BluePrint 1.2 -- a project management solution for Newton 2.0 with the following features:

- multiple projects
- task outlining
- start & finish date relations
- completion bars, priorities, notes
- automatic time scheduling
- printing & faxing

For more information check out: <<http://www.sineware.com>> or send an email to: <sales@sineware.com> or call: 888.SineWare or 519.725.6520.

Astronomical Time Utility

Richard Parker <rw@primenet.com> has announced the version 1.0 release of Sidereal -- a Newton utility that automatically computes and displays the local mean sidereal (astronomical) time based upon the home location that is set in the Time Zones application, and the time from the Newton's internal clock. This utility is US\$5 shareware. For more information check out: <<http://www.primenet.com/~rw/rezco/index.html>>.

More Updates From Serg Koren

Serg Koren <archimag@netaxs.com> has recently released:

- Newt'sPaper 02/09/97-1: <<http://www.netaxs.com/~archimag/Newton/MyStuff/NewtsPaper.html>>
- Newt'sWeather 02/09/97-1 <<http://www.netaxs.com/~archimag/Newton/MyStuff/NewtsWeather.html>>
- Open beta on Newt'sBrot: <<http://www.netaxs.com/~archimag/Newton/MyStuff/NewtsBrot.html>>

The first product, Newt'sPaper, is a full fledged NNTP newsreader for the Newton for those running Newton Internet Enabler (NIE) on their Newton. This new version has several bug fixes and the first release of the Newt'sPaper electronic book manual.

Newt'sWeather is a NIE enabled weather report client that has a host of cities pre-programmed in it for easy access. This version adds support for major cities in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia.

The third product released is the US\$15 shareware Newt'sBrot 1.0 -- a Mandelbrot fractal analysis application that is ideal for studying fractal mathematics and for generating digital images.

Super Hero Creation Tool

Richard Parker <rw@primenet.com> also recently announced the version 1.0 release of Champions -- a Newton 2.0 utility that assists in the onerous process of creating characters for the Hero System Champions role-playing game system. This utility is freeware. For more info check out: <<http://www.primenet.com/~rw/rezco/index.html>>.

New Medical Reference Product

K2 Consultants <k2@skyscape.com> and Mosby-Year Book have announced a new medical product called Ferri -- an ART compatible medical reference of "The Practical Guide to the Medical Patient" by Ferri. ART references 'books' offer: advanced compression, graphing, graphics, searching, hypertext links, and extensive table of contents. The SRP is US\$60 or US\$89.95 bundled with Archimedes Medical Calculator. To order check out: <<http://www.1stopsoft.com/newmed.htm>>.

Medical Application Updated

Rick Adams <jradams@kagi.com> reports that JRAd Consulting has released a free update to Palmedic, version 1.1 -- a patient management software package. This software is ideal for the medical student who wishes to

remain organized on rounds. A demo version of Palmedic has been posted to: <<http://marlin.utmb.edu/~jradams/>>. It should be noted, that if you are a full time student, you can purchase the software direct from Rick for a 20% discount.

New Submarine Game!

Bob Verduzco <bob@iambic.com> has announced the version 1.0 release of a new game for the Newton called Sub Patrol by iambic Software. In Sub Patrol you command one of three surface ships, two destroyers or a patrol boat. An increasingly aggressive enemy traverses the waters beneath your ship launching torpedoes to the surface. Accumulate points by sinking enemy subs and progress through higher levels of difficulty where you accumulate more weapons. For a limited time you can order Sub Patrol for a special price of US\$29.95 and get free shipping and handling. For more information or to order check out: <<http://www.iambic.com>>.

FormIt Released

Chris Heimark <CHeSSy@webleap.com> reports the official release of FormIt for Newton & Macintosh. This system was designed to let a Newton user design a stationary form for data collection and to allow for easy data upload to a Macintosh desktop system (a Windows version should be completed by May97). You can get more information about this product via: <<http://www.webleap.com>>.

Explore Azerbaijan with Your Newton

Jeff Iverson <j5rson@prairie.lakes.com> has announced a new 'HyperTextBook' for the Newton called "Explore Azerbaijan with your Newton." Azerbaijan, a republic in the Transcaucasus region of western Asia, is bordered on the north by Russia, on the northwest by Georgia, on the east by the Caspian Sea, on the south by Iran, and on the west by Armenia. Formerly a republic of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), the republic includes the regions known under the Soviets as the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and the Nakhichevan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (ASSR), which is separated from the rest of Azerbaijan by a mountainous strip in Armenia. This book is US\$19 shareware. For more info: <<http://prairie.lakes.com/~j5rson/business/ebooks.html>>.

VT100 and Telnet Beta Testing

There is a new open beta of a Newton 2.0 VT100 and Telnet (using NIE) client. You can get more information at: <<http://www.scrrawlsoft.com>>.

NCU 1.0 Beta 5 Posted

Debra Kuck <newton@web-quest.com> reports that you should be able to find very soon the Macintosh and Windows versions of Newton Connection Utility 1.0 beta 5 at: <<http://newton.info.apple.com/newton/solutions/ncu.html>>. Bug reports, comments, etc. ... should be sent to the following email account: <newton@web-quest.com>.

National Parks Reference Tool

Thomas Pfaff <thomas@zippy.sonoma.edu> has announced that his USA Parks West Newton application that documents 130+ national parks in the Western United States is now available for free via the following URL: <<http://www.cs.sonoma.edu/~thomas/forNewton>>. Version 2.0 supports Newton OS 2.0, version 1.0 supports Newton OS 1.x.

Updated NIE Savvy Apps

Serg Koren <archimag@netaxs.com> recently posted new versions of his Newt'sPaper (1/26/97-1) and Newt'sWeather (1/26/97-1) to his WWW site. These NIE savvy applications are shareware. For more information: <<http://www.netaxs.com/~archimag/Newton/MyStuff/NewtsPaper.html>> <<http://www.netaxs.com/~archimag/Newton/MyStuff/NewtsWeather.html>>

New Sounds for Your Newton

Robert Bruce <rbruce@tactile.com> reports that he has posted several new sound packages that you add to your Newton via the following WWW site:

<<http://rainbow.rmi.net/~rbruce/tactile/sounds.html>>.

Medicus Can Be Purchased Via First Union National Bank

Jack Starmer <jack@simplemed.com> reports that you can now purchase Morgan Creek Medical's Medicus Newton software via First Union National Bank's CommunityCommerce site: <<http://www.firstunion.com/>>. For more information about Medicus or Morgan Creek Medical check out: <<http://www.simplemed.com/>>.

Construction Tool Available

PDA Construction <EstiMATEmm@aol.com> has a Newton 2.0-savvy cost estimating application called "EstiMATE." This solution is ideal for mobile architects, engineers, and construction trade professionals. The application supports: divisional cost data, standard cost data, and composite cost data. For more information call: 909.653.3344.

HWR in Word Processor

Stand Alone <info@standalone.com> has announced the release of a freeware utility called HWRWorks 1.0 that will 'enable' handwriting recognition in the new Newt Works Word Processor that is expected to ship on MP2000s and eMate 300s. For more information: <<http://www.standalone.com/newton>>.

New Cool Note Tool

Burr Oak Software <<http://infoweb.magi.com/~burroak/>> has posted a recent beta of their new application called "Sticky Newts" for Newton 2.0. This US\$20 shareware product makes floating resizable Note windows easily accessible within any Newton application. If for whatever reason, you still use paper sticky notes, this utility should cure you of this habit. For more information send email to: <burroak@magi.com>.

New Version Of Diabetes Newton Tool

Darin Capp <dcapp@halcyon.com> at Oracware has announced the Beta 6 release of Pocket DiabetiCare 1.10 -- a personal diabetes management software that lets you record blood sugar readings and analyze your readings. For more info: <<http://www.halcyon.com/dcapp/OrcaWare>>.

Unix To Newton Link!

Reinhold Schoeb <schoeba@str.daimler-benz.com> reports the release of a new freeware Linux to Newton data exchange utility -- "Newtonlink for Unix." The software will let you transfer data between Unix applications like Xrolodex, Addressbook, and Plan. For more information check out: <<http://privat.swol.de/ReinholdSchoeb/Newton/newtonlink-doc-en.html>>.

Announcement of Holidays97

Toad Hollow Software <<http://www.pobox.com/~toadhollow/>> is pleased to announce the release of Holidays97 -- a NewtonOS 2.0 freeware utility that adds twenty-seven U.S. civil and Christian holidays to the Newton datebook. The following are included:

New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Election Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Memorial Day, Thanksgiving, Independence Day, John F. Kennedy's Birthday, April Fool's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Washington's Birthday, Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter, Valentine's Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Holocaust Remembrance Day, Groundhog Day, National Quilting Day, St. Patrick's Day, Earth Day, International Left Handers Day, Halloween, Christmas.

Two New Utilities

Richard Schaeren <rschaeren@newton.ch> has released two new utilities:

- Backlight Control Button 1.6: creates an 'invisible' button to let you turn on and off backlighting on a MP130
- PowerNavigator 1.7: gives you instant access to your most used packages and instant Fax and Beam receive.

For more information check out: <<http://www.newton.ch/compower/>>.

Developer's Corner

NS Basic Needs Experienced Testers

George Henne at NS BASIC is looking for experienced NS BASIC testers who will run their formal test suite on a host of systems. You should have at least the following qualifications:

- An MP120 2.0, MP130, MP2K or eMate
- Already using NS BASIC
- Ability to describe what went wrong
- A sharp eye
- Lots of patience

Send email to: <gh@nsbasic.com> for more info.

VisualNewt Gets Upgrade

Serg Koren <archimag@netaxs.com> (Serg Koren) has released a new version of VisualNewt (02/23/97-1) -- a programming tool for the Newton. Some new features include the following new 'functionals': protoTable, protoTableEntry, and protoKeypad. In the future the following tools will be implemented: Tiny Tim, User protos, and Select bitmap.

Good Programming Example

Want to move a package using a NewtonScript?!? If you do, Mike Engber <engber@apple.com> suggests you check out the SafeMovePackage API that is documented in an article he wrote via the following FTP link: <<ftp://ftp.apple.com/pub/engber/newt/articles/PackageDeal.rtf>>.

Button Bar Article Available for FTP

Mike Engber <engber@apple.com> suggests that those Newton developers who would like to learn more information about the new Newton 2.1 button bar and screen orientations check out the following document recently posted at: <<ftp://ftp.apple.com/pub/engber/newt/articles/BehindBars.rtf>>.

Voice Recognition SDK Costs a Pretty Penny

Gavin Maxwell <gkm@magna.com.au> forwarded details that he collected about the cost of the future Speech Recognition Software Development Kit (SDK) for the MessagePad 2000 to the USENET newsgroup comp.sys.newton.programmer. Here is the 'low-down':

- SDK with mic, amp and 1 run-time license is ~US\$1000
- The SDK will come with a few hundred word standard vocabulary.
- Developers will have to pay for customized vocabulary production.
- There will be relatively high run-time licensing fees.
- The 'standard' MP2K will not work, it will have to be upgraded to 4-MBs from 1-MBs.

RAD Tool for Newton Connectivity Released

Network Multimedia, developer of Microbrew, a visual, rapid application development tool for desktop and Internet software, has announced the availability of a specialized version of its tool for Newton developers. In addition to its support for building standalone applications and CGIs, the new toolkit, Microbrew for Newton, provides numerous high-level objects and over 100 functions for real-time data exchange with the Newton from Macintosh and Windows desktops.

Microbrew for Newton is the foundation for another of Network Multimedia Newton products -- the Revelar Connection Utility (RCU) -- a commercial connection package for Newton that is customizable and extensible.

The suggested retail price of the Personal Edition of Microbrew for Newton is US\$695. A Commercial Edition is available for US\$2995. Through 01Mar97, the Personal Edition of Microbrew for Newton is available at a special intro price of US\$299. RCU lists for US\$59.95. For more info contact: Robyn Buckwalter, 801.485.3291, <robyn@revelar.com> or Sarah Firmage, 801.261.8232, <sales@networkmultimedia.com>.

Guest Opinion

Take it to the Captain

by David MacNeill <dmacneill@pencomputing.com>

It was weird, like a bad dream. The day I received my MessagePad 2000, the handheld computer of my dreams, was apparently the day Newton died.

I should have known better than to waste my time reading such nonsense on the Internet when I was in such a good mood. CNN had just reported that Gil Amelio had just said that Apple "may have missed the boat" with the Newton MessagePad. Strangely, he also intimated that the eMate would definitely live. I've got nothing but praise for the MessagePad's stout, keyboard-equipped sibling, but the eMate is a purpose-built variation on the original PDA theme. I believe it cannot support the platform on its own.

The CNN story fueled the recurring rumors that Apple was considering selling off the Newton to save the Macintosh. The strident upper-case howls of incredulity and outrage that paraded across my screen could almost be heard over the humming computers in the editorial office, where I sat alone that Friday afternoon. One true believer after another begged Gil not to be so short-sighted as to throw away his company's last, best hope for future greatness. I couldn't agree more.

Backlight's on, somebody's home

I looked at my shiny new MP2K, fresh batteries, jacked in, lit up, and newly filled with almost four years of personal information. In short, ready to rock. As I gave the nasty rumor some thought, I must admit that my first emotion was one of ironic relief. I got mine! Then reality quickly set in as I realized that wasn't going to do much for the millions of potential MP2K owners out there. Too shallow, even for a gizmo-gonzo like me. We're not talking about limited edition art prints here; this was the smart little device that is supposed to bring about the dream of ubiquitous, intimate computing. No, being one of the lucky few to own one would be an empty thing, indeed. (I think I'll hang on to it, though, just in case.)

Take it to the Captain

Captain Amelio is wrong about the MessagePad. The MP2K must live and evolve. Apple has most certainly not missed the boat with the Newton. They set the standards, invented the rules. Now they simply must show the leadership to continue the mission. I am frankly sick of seeing great, life-enhancing technologies and products casually tossed overboard for short-sighted reasons. This is no time to abandon ship just when it is about to come in.

David MacNeill
Executive Editor
Pen Computing Magazine

Admin Stuff

To receive a notification when NewtNews Pro is first released each month, send email to <nnpro@aol.com> with "Notify NewtNewsPro" in the subject line. Past issues and additional information can be found at the NewtNews Pro website at <<http://members.aol.com/nnpro/newton.html>>. Please contact me with any questions, 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 & Producer, NewtNews Pro
<nnpro@aol.com>

Products/Services

Solutions from **LANDWARE**. All work in the Newton 2.0 OS.

- *ProCalc Ex*: Programmable calc. w/ SAN & RPN, includes: proCALC 12c.
- *QuickNames Pro*: Rapid access to names and much more.
- *X-Port*: The 2.0 connection utility. Send/receive notes, contacts...
- *KwikMenu*: the Newton dashboard, includes GestureLaunch Lite.
- *NewtPaint*: "MacPaint" on your Newton, w/zoom-in and screen shot.
- *Sync+*: Dates to Schedule+ 1.0 or 7.0

LandWare, 201-347-0031, <sales@landware.com>, <<http://www.landware.com>>

Frustrated by the amount of time required to input long notes? Looking for a faster method? **GESTURE MOSAIC** is a hybrid keyboard/recognition system which enables the rapid (30-40+wpm) pen-based entry of text. Now updated for OS2.0, you can use it to quickly input text anywhere in your Newton. FREEWARE versions are available at: <<http://www.amtelcom.com/Mosaic>> For more information contact: <amtelmit@aol.com> or call: 800-696-6724.

ChessPad 2.0 turns the Newton into a digital chess book and a portable chess set. It contains 28 fully-annotated games played by the greatest players of all time, 100 brilliant winning combinations by Morphy, Tal, Fischer, and Kasparov, and 100 chess problems. ChessPad can also import games in Portable Game Notation format. Only \$39.95. Clear Lake Research 713.663.7513 <DavidL62@aol.com> <<http://members.aol.com/clrsch/chesspad.html>>

Stand Alone offers a variety of Newton applications for Newton 2.0:

- *Package Pop-Up*: instant access to all your packages, launch with a tap, automatically thaw and re-freeze. \$15.
- *Secure-a-Newt*: Password protect folders in your NotePad, Names, and Extras Drawer. Protect your info from prying eyes. \$20.
- *KeyMan*: Adds function keys, a multi-function calculator, and a new keyboard designed for one-fingered typing. \$20.
- *NoteMan*: Instant access to the NotePad from any package. \$10.
- *BackGammon*: The classic board game, brought to Newton. \$20.
- *Super Sorter*: Fast, Usable list management, featuring fully expandable and customizable list creation and editing. \$20

For information about any of these or other Stand Alone products, contact us at: <info@standalone.com>, or (312) 262-5150. Also check out our Web site at: <<http://www.standalone.com/newton>>.

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