



MAC FACTS

from

Mac Help Desk

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🍏 Apple Solution Experts 🍏

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A Message from Dru

Time and Time Again - When we set an appointment with y'all, times are always approximate. Why? Ask yourself, "If Dru was working on my computer and then at some time he got up and said, 'I've got to go, I have another appointment to go to'...you wouldn't like that would you? Neither would the other person. I usually allot about 2 hours per call, but sometimes things take longer than planned. I'll try to call you if I'm going to be seriously late. And I apologize beforehand for any inconvenience that I might cause.

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Phone Procedures - Just so you know: We don't have a secretary. We have voice mail and pagers. When you leave a voice message it won't get picked up until the end of the day or, in all likelihood, until the next morning. **If you need to get in contact with me sooner (like to reschedule an appointment), page me at 214-249-9543!** I'll call you back ASAP. If you have an emergency, page me and add '*911' after your area code and phone number. I'll call you back immediately.[But just remember about the boy who cried 'Wolf!']

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It's just an Alliance - many of you have commented (and congratulated us) on 'our merger', 'our partnership', 'our sale' with/to Excelco Technologies. In reality it's none-of-the-above. It's an alliance. They do what we do but in the PC environment. We do what they do but in the Mac environment. We help each other by cross-providing for each others clients. I take care of their Mac users, they take care of my PC users. And that's all. Everybody wins!

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Need/Want to find folks that like Macs as well as you do? Join the Apple Corps of Dallas. At \$30/Yr it one of the best bargains around. New meeting is February 17th at the Lake Highlands High School Freshman Center. Presenter at the Main meeting is MYOB. Main meeting from 10 am -12 noon. Other activities from 9am - 2 pm. Attend for free, then join. Great for kids (of all ages)!

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Newest in the New Millennium - Bryan Mclean, Bobbie Holland, Bill Wallace, Sandra Mitchell, Dallas Child Magazine, Maxine Helfman, Twila Richardson, Sue Ableman, Northwood Mortgage, Jan Foster, William James, Marjory Myers, and Sally Keener. Welcome to our ever-growing family.



Powerbook Titanium G4 500 vs the PC world

By David Egger

I was a little anxious to find out how this one would roll out. Boy was I surprised.

The systems spec'ed out were a Powerbook G4/500, a Dell Latitude C800, a Compaq Armada M700, and an IBM Thinkpad T series.

To match the processor punch of the 500 MHz G4, the PCs were outfitted with 850 MHz PIII chips. In my opinion, the G4 will still stomp these CPUs, but alas, it's the best the PC world can offer right now.

Each system was also given 256 megs of RAM. Unfortunately for the PC side, the Compaq and IBM both came with RAM, but 128 megs of it was outside the laptop, meaning you have to crack open the case to install it. What joy, err, sorrow. Also, each system was given as close to a 20 gig drive as I could get. The IBM was the only one unavailable with 20 gigs. They had 20 gig drives, but not on the 850 MHz model. As you can see by the notebooks price-twelve gigabytes is awfully expensive.

The Dell laptop did come much closer to the Powerbook in screen size, and in fact, the pixel count is much higher on the Dell, so you can get higher resolutions. The Compaq and IBM are still way behind though.

I don't know much about the ATi M4 graphics card, but the Dell does have more graphics memory than all the other laptops. IBM used a Savage3D card, and Compaq used the same card as Apple. All the systems either had, or were configured with a DVD drive.

Once again, Compaq and Dell take the price with support, both offer three year warranties on the parts. Labor expires after a year with Compaq, though. Adding an AppleCare warranty might be a good idea, and looking at these prices, there's room for it.

So up to this point, the Dell doesn't look like it's doing too bad, right? Wrong. We just got to the size part of our contest! The Dell is a whopping 1.8 inches thick (I can't believe I just said that - we have come so far since the 25 pound Mac Portable!), and a chubby 7.9 pounds. That's heavier than my iBook SE! The Thinkpad and Armada hold their own, while being thicker, they are closer, and come awfully close in the scales.

What's the one thing you really want when you get a laptop? Battery Life, right? What's the point of it being a laptop if it's got to be plugged in all the time? Apple has made good use of lithium-ion batteries getting five hours in a single charge, and also giving users the ability to swap batteries without a restart. Compaq and IBM both came up over an hour shorter in battery life, and Dell must be awfully embarrassed, because we couldn't find any battery life information on their site.

All systems either had, or were given a 56K modem, and 10/100 ethernet for connectivity in all situations. Also, each was given firewire and USB. Amazingly, Dell did have onboard firewire with this model. Kudos to Dell for acknowledging a superior connectivity standard!

constructive, of direct infringement...Napster may be held liable for contributory copyright infringement only to the extent that Napster knows of specific infringing files."

Although the court said injunction is "not only warranted but required," it also said the lower court ruling had gone "overbroad" in its decision and instructed the court to create a new injunction. "We direct that the preliminary injunction fashioned by the district court prior to this appeal shall remain stayed until it is modified by the district court to conform to the requirements of this opinion."

The panel said Napster may be held liable for copyright infringement by its users to the extent that it knew of specific material on its system and failed to act to prevent its distribution. As a result and for Napster to avoid liability, it must now purge its system of infringing material and block access to those songs in its search index. Other material not protected by a copyright may stay online for users to share.

Regardless of the court's decision on blocking the swapping of copyrighted files, such a move will probably not happen anytime soon, as Napster lawyers are preparing an appeal which would halt the today's court decision until the a judge hears the appeal.

"Napster is not shut down, but under this decision it could be. We are very disappointed in this ruling by the three judge panel and will seek appellate review," the company said in a statement. "The court today ruled on the basis of what it recognized was an incomplete record before it. We look forward to getting more facts into the record. We will pursue every avenue in the courts and the Congress to keep Napster operating," it added.

Hilary Rosen, chief executive officer and president of the Recording Industry Association of America, called the decision a clear victory. "The court of appeals found that the injunction is not only warranted but required, and it ruled in our favor on every legal issue presented," she said.

For more than three months, the three-judge panel had been deciding whether or not to uphold a lower court's July preliminary injunction against Napster. Big music companies, like Universal Music, Sony Music, Warner Music and EMI Recording Group, claimed in their suit that Napster is illegally assisting consumers to copy and distribute copyrighted music files and they want an injunction to stop it from operating pending a final decision in this landmark copyright lawsuit. Napster contends that downloading songs for free online is protected by copyright law and that the company itself isn't responsible for the acts of its subscribers, regardless of whether they are breaking the law or not.

Despite today's decision in re-issuing the injunction, the case is far from over. The company's legal team is expected to appeal and take steps to stop the site from being shut down until further hearings are held. With appeals and possibility that an appeal will be turned down, it could take days or weeks to take effect. Industry watchers believe Napster will now quickly move forward to settle with the music companies and offer them a stake in a plan to sell music online. Bertelsmann, the parent of major label BMG Entertainment, invested in Napster last October to start a legal, fee-based subscription service.

Despite today's decision, many contend they will just go elsewhere to trade music in a sort of "online underground". In anticipation of just such a move, thousands of users accessed Napster over the weekend, downloading millions of copyrighted music files. One expert projected some 10,000 users were logging on to each of Napster's 100 servers on Sunday at any one time, swapping nearly 2 million songs.



Mac Humor -



Thanks for taking the time to read our newsletter. Feel free to 'pass it along'. Any comments would be greatly appreciated