SEPTEMBER 7, 1987



NEWS

Vendors and analysts forecast new laptops in the next few months Personality cards let users tailor the new QMS laser printer to their specific needs Dynamic Decisions introduces a

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out by the end of the year..... Oracle is developing an SQL menuing program..... Industry leaders predict trends in the desktop publishing market.....

More than 20 companies are planning Seybold announcements......

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IBM Finds Mislabeled Micro Channel Pin

IBM is notifying developers designing boards for the PS/2 Micro Channel Architecture that there is a mislabeled pin in the pin-out design appearing on Page 2-14 of the *Technical Reference Manual*. Pin A81 is marked as having Plus 12 volts; instead, it should have Plus 5. Chet Heath, IBM's senior designer of Micro Channel Architecture stressed that this doesn't represent any danger to either individual users or to the PS/2 systems themselves, but said there would be "peculiar errors" if the mislabeling was not rectified. IBM has already acted to correct the manuals, and all subsequent releases of the technical reference materials will include the correct labels, Heath said.

- Alice LaPlante

Kit Boosts Hard Disk Capacity of Model 50

With the purchase of one upgrade, IBM PS/2 dealers will soon be <u>able to boost hard disk capacity in the Model 50 from 20 to 40</u> megabytes and install a hard disk in the Model 25 at the same time, thanks to an upgrade kit announced at PC Expo by Rodime Inc. of Pepper Pike, Ohio.

The kit, available later this month for \$1,395, includes a controller board and cabling to allow installation of the removed Model 50 20-megabyte hard disk in an IBM PS/2 Model 25 or Model 30. Rodime officials said their 40-megabyte disk for the Model 50 has a 28-millisecond access time, as opposed to the 80-millisecond access time of the 20-megabyte IBM drive. Dealers will be able to perform installation of either drive and required upgrade parts in PS/2s in about 15 minutes, said James Bankhurst, manager of product development at Rodime.

- Scott Mace

Ashton-Tate Finally Delivers Dbase Mac

After several well-publicized delays since August 1986, Ashton-Tate announced last week that it has started shipping Dbase Mac, the Macintosh version of its relational database management program. The \$495 program, compatible with the Mac II, Mac SE, and Mac Plus, enables users to create relationships between up to 32 files without programming, though the program contains a procedural language for more advanced applications, according to the Torrance, California, company.

- Laurie Flynn

Lifetree Program Simplifies Use of Fonts

Users can redefine the names of type styles to simplify use of fonts in Lifetree Software's Total Word, a revision of Volkswriter displayed at PC Expo. Other features include import of graphics to Total Word documents, built-in networking with a standard license for running Total Word on three network nodes out of the box, and a set of more than 500 scientific and technical symbols. Lifetree, based in Monterey, California, did not announce any pricing but said Total Word would be available at Comdex.

- Scott Mace

Dave Winer Opts for Product Development

Living Videotext founder Dave Winer plans to leave the business of managing a company and devote himself to developing a "breakthrough product" for Living Videotext, now a division of Symantec. "I hope to produce a product as innovative and unique as Thinktank was in 1983," said Winer, who is leaving the Living Videotext offices to work on the desktop presentations project. His brother Peter Winer will continue working on new projects, and the company will keep an eye toward acquiring technologies, according to a company spokeswoman. Management of Living Videotext will be left to Spencer Leyton, who recently transferred to the company from Borland.

- Rachel Parker

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