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LIFETIME MACINTOSH BACKGROUND

This is a chronicle of my long-standing background and interest in the Macintosh Computer legacy. I have been using and supporting the use of Macintosh Computers since their introduction in 1984, at which time I sold Macintosh and other computers and system devices while employed with Forsythe Computers in St. Louis Missouri. I purchased one of the first Macintosh Computers under an employee purchase program instituted by Apple Computer called the "own-a-Mac-program". I upgraded this machine several times in the years that I owned it. I used my Macintosh for personal and extensive professional applications and on many occasions introducing the Mac to other computer users that later would purchase their own Macintosh Computers.

After leaving Forsythe Computers in early 1985 I joined the professional staff in the Department of Physics at the University of Missouri - St. Louis. As Supervisor of Technical Facilities I supported teaching and research laboratory technical instrumentation and computers. In addition I provided the talent for hand-rendered camera ready ink drawings for faculty scientific journal publications. I demonstrating desktop publishing solutions and how the Macintosh could be used to enhance this task, and contributed to the spread of numbers of Macintosh Computers later to be purchased by the Physics Department for this and other purposes.

In 1990 I moved to a nonacademic appointment with the Electrical Engineering Department at Washington University, lured by the aggressive growth and development of the Engineering School facilities funded by the recent 1/2-million-dollar Stuckenberg laboratory endowment. As Supervisor of Technical Facilities, I had directed the day-to-day operations and renovations of the 3 Electrical Engineering Teaching laboratories, (approximately 4500 square feet). Macintosh computers were used in all the undergraduate laboratories for data acquisition, lab data reduction, instrument control, and microprocessor code development (cross-assemblers) . A significant investment was made in National Instruments Lab View software and hardware subsystems.

The Electrical Engineering Department had selected the Macintosh as a preferred platform for department operations in teaching as well as department administration. My early experience in using legacy Macintosh computers placed me in the role of primary support source for this growing base of Macintosh computers. At the peak of Macintosh usage, the EE Department had acquired approximately 60 Macintosh systems. I contributed to placing the Mac systems on an AppleTalk / Local Talk network. Later I provided the technical support for moving the Macs to Ether net TCP/IP protocol, as well as finishing a multi-drop Bryan Hall network wiring project consisting of more than 23,000 feet of coax and twisted pair ether net agile cabling plant and routing chase located on the 3rd floor of Bryan Hall.

I provided a variety of Macintosh support, which included "end-user -hand-holding", system upgrades, and repair work, data recovery, data exporting and importing, and programming in filemaker Pro. I also installed and managed a file server(Apple Share 3.0) and worked on several projects in our teaching lab interfacing Macintosh Computers with instrumentation as well as locating and installing software cross-assemblers for the support of microprocessor development systems used in senior design and development classes.

As a result of my Macintosh experiences and growing reputation, I was sought out to help other Washington University academic and administrative departments. I designed and implement a custom-invoicing package on filemaker for the Engineering Central Services facility which replaced software that no longer functioned on dedicated minicomputer. Later I consulted with the Chemistry Department on a similar data base system for outside billing of their technical services. For the Washington University Chancellor's Search Committee I provided a filemaker Pro application solution for the management of candidate / applicant resumes data for the candidate search for Chancellor, Washington University.

In 1998 The Electrical Engineering Department as well as the School of Engineering and Applied Science gradually abandoned the Macintosh platform for teaching and department administration in favor of PC and UNIX systems. This marked the decline in the Macintosh operations in the Engineering School as well. In addition, a political reorganization in both the Electrical Engineering Department and the School of Engineering and Applied Science eventually precipitated the loss of my nonacademic appointment with the University in June 30, 2000.

During a 4.5 month unemployment period between July 2000 and November 2000, as I sought permanent full time employment as an engineer, I took on Macintosh consulting projects, including several which constituted volunteer work for nonprofit organizations. In November 2000, I was able to secure temporary Macintosh consulting contract work at Liguori Publications, shortly there after I accepted an engineering position with Watlow Heater Technology Center in Fenton Missouri, in light of benefits and superior earnings.

After working 14 months for Watlow Heater Technology Center, a major financial crisis surfaced in that organization which precipitated an aggressive Reduction-In-Force (RIF) initiative. As a result, over 600 most recent hired employees including myself were let go over a period of 6-months from November 2001 through April 2002. After exhausting my unemployment while in search for a professional position in engineering or science education, I re-launched my consulting business, Industrial and Educational Consulting January 2003. This business venture was intended to develop professional contacts with the ultimate goal of attaining full-time statutory employment. As a result of the current business culture in that of out-sourcing and contract employees, I have continued to support small client operations and yet have secured permanent employment.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

I originally owned a Macintosh 128 which I upgraded to a Mac Plus over the years of ownership, later I replaced this machine with a Umax S900 PowerPC 604e system and over the years upgraded that to a 500mhz G3 processor by Powerlogix. In Dec 2005 I replaced the Umax S900 with a Macintosh Mirror Door G4 Dual 1.25Ghz desktop, and am currently running OS X 10.4.8. With the advent of a more agile Macintosh system I was able to pursue more working experience's with nonlinear video editing and digital photography. I am fluent in the following Mac applications: MS Office 98 suite, File Maker Pro, and Claris Works. I can code web pages using HTML 4, and have on occasion tried web page preparation software. I am reasonable in pacemaker, and photocopy. I have done some programming in BASIC and Fortran.

CLIENT EXPERIENCES

Over the past several years I had notable experiences with clients which I will list below.

The Victory Christian School , is located in south St. Louis County at 10255 Music Road and during the year 2000 I volunteered time to help Cathy James. I met Cathy while selling her refurbished printers through advertisements in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Their school had limited funds so I donated my time at no charge and helped Cathy develop an 8-seat keyboarding classroom/computer lab from old donated Macintosh computers of every kind she had acquired at garage sales and by donation. She was originally trying to put a printer on every computer, and I later donated a appletalk networked Laserwriter II printer so all the computers could share one printer. I am very pleased to have helped get the Microsoft Word software properly licensed on all the machines, by purchasing a 10-seat site license.

Bob Altage is a freelance Artist, and resides in Clayton. I met Bob after selling a used piece of equipment through the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. I have performed a variety of software and hardware functions for Bob's installation. Replaced a dead power supply, rescued lost files, repaired printers, and assisted in memory and hard disk upgrades. I chat with Bob now a then and he seems to have a stable system now that I worked all the bugs out. Bob has an exceptional collection of paintings he has made of St. Louis landmarks. In later years I upgraded Bob's 604 Power PC to a Mac G3, then most recently upgraded to a 933 MHz Macintosh G4. The latest machine was combined with a nice 19" monitor easily advancing Bob into the OS X environment.

Randy Titus is a freelance Artist, and teacher of Computer Art in the St. Louis Public Schools system. Originally I helped Randy with the integration of new equipment, and helped him resolve a huge SCSI device problem that ended up being a bad cable. At this time Randy lived in Cedar Hill Missouri (what a drive) but now moved into the Tower Grove neighborhood in South St. Louis City. Bob purchased yet another G4 Mac early this year, and I worked up a mini-network hub solution in his home so he could share a networked printer and files across is older Mac 8500. He has a nifty setup, is a prolific computer artist, and I seem to have resolved the majority of his difficulties. Randy has a collection of paintings he has done in the Monet impressionist style.

Liguori Publishing is a small Catholic Publishing company located in Liguori Missouri south of St. Louis. Liguori staff uses most common Macintosh software for page layout and graphic arts work, pacemaker, Quark, and photocopy. I found permanent positions for Liguori listed on Monster.com in late 2000 but was never called for interviews on these positions. Instead Mr. Ron Holtman, manager of their MIS department called me in for contract temp work in November 2000 to work exclusively on Macintosh systems. I did three weeks work repairing crashed systems, doing file recovery, and making numerous recommendations for management of their vast library of desktop publishing software licenses. I left Liguori reluctantly to take a real full-time permanent job with benefits at Watlow HTC. I have reports and logs regarding the work performed on the end user equipment operated by the following personnel: Kasey Nugent, Julie Hampton, Mary Marlow, Cecelia Portlock, Grady, Loren Borstall, Israel, Jody Hendrickson, Wendy Barnes, D Rohde, and Database Support for Mark Schmersahl in Marketing.

Loyola Academy , located on Washington Ave in St. Louis has been one of my most active clients. Loyola is a member of the NativityMiguel Network of Schools striving to provide successful education for high risk poverty level middle school students in a safe spiritually guided place to learn. In fall of 2005 I performed about 2.5 years of IT support work in just two weeks. This included installing two unmanaged Ether net switches replacing lightning damaged equipment, diagnosed and repaired Ether net cable and installed structured wiring

systems, performed OS fresh installs on 36 Apple Macintosh Computers, located unused equipment and deployed it as a server to support vertical market education software. I replaced about 1-dozen optical mice on computers which either were missing or had malfunctioning mice. This visit provided needed stabilization of OSX and OS 9.2 based Macintosh systems. Picture of Loyola installation can be viewed at: http://www.dpdtech.com/iec/loyola_pics/

Athena Advertising, is a small woman owned advertising agency providing copy writing and ad placement services for specialized client institutions such as hospitals and prison systems. Over seven years I moved equipment twice, registered agency internet domain, secured hosting services deployed web page content setup and managed local area network performed OS upgrades to 3 Macintosh systems, deployed PC accounting software to a dedicated Windows XP Laptop, and continue the support of this client as their approach the break into OSX technologies.

To be continued