

# System 7.5

A major upgrade to the Mac operating system software.



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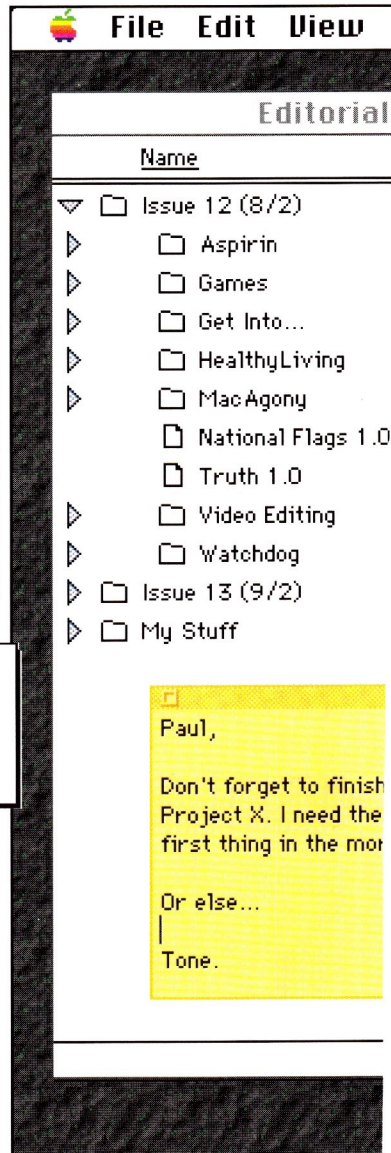
IT'S NOW over four years since Apple launched System 7. The release introduced some radical changes to the Mac's operating system, the software that controls how a computer looks and works.

Since then, Apple has brought out a few minor upgrades to System 7, each making small tweaks and addressing some of the software's glitches. And last year saw the arrival of System 7 Pro, which added a range of new features specifically for business and professional users.

Now comes the latest upgrade, 7.5, and it's a major advance on the 'old model'. With it come a whole raft of new features. Pro's 'advanced' facilities at last enter the

Power Mac version of the System is finally brought in line with the software used by every other Mac. From this point on, whatever Mac you buy you'll be using System 7.5.

So what does System 7.5 offer? Apple has been dropping hints and broadly outlining features the new version will contain. *The Mac* has seen and used a pre-release copy of System 7.5 sent to developers for final testing. We found it packs in many more features than predicted. Here's an exclusive sneak preview.



## Menu Folders

No longer will you have to open several folders to find the file you want – the Apple Menu will display them automatically. The whole menu can be adjusted using a new control panel.

## Find File

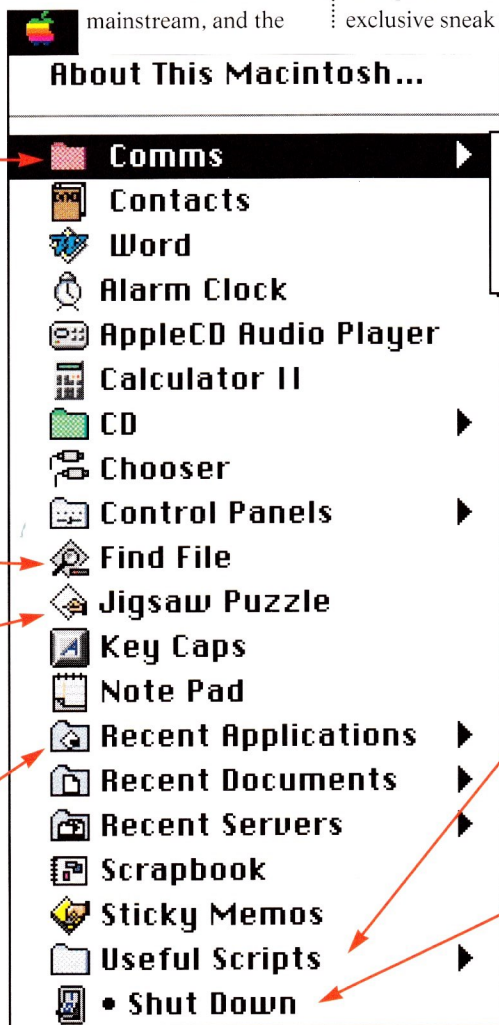
Expanded beyond anyone's wildest dreams, the new superfast File Find utility allows you to search for documents and applications with the most bewildering array of options yet seen on a Mac.

## Jigsaw Puzzle

Out goes the pointless old sliding-tile game, in comes an equally pointless jigsaw. Makes a change, I suppose.

## Recent Files

Your Mac will now keep track of all the applications and documents you've opened, and the other Macs you're connected to. How many files it tracks is up to you.



## Useful Scripts

With AppleScript, Apple's application and System customisation software, built in, it's easy to create simple programs to automate mundane or repetitive tasks.

## Shut Down

You can now switch your Mac off from the Apple Menu, not just from Special. If you shut your Mac down any other way – possibly through a crash – System 7.5 reminds you when you start it up again.



## Connections

System 7.5 includes the MacTCP software you need to link your Mac – whether directly or via a third-party – to the Internet.



## Window Shutters

Finding you need a large number of folders open and they're cluttering up your screen? Now you can double-click on the menu bar to close them temporarily. Click on them once and they spring open again.

## Clock

There are countless shareware utilities which place a clock in the menu bar. Now this useful facility has been built into the Mac's own System.

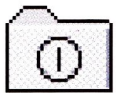
## Help

The Mac's help facilities have been overhauled, introducing Macintosh Guide, an interactive system that takes you through many Mac operations. See page 34.

## Foreign Files

Apple PC Exchange, which lets your Mac read disks from IBM-compatible PCs, is now a full part of the System software. So too is Mac Easy Open, a utility that bannishes the infamous 'Application Busy or Missing' message and lets you open documents created by colleagues in applications you don't own.

## Shutdown



System 7.0 introduced the Startup Items folder – a place to store applications you wanted opened when you switched your Mac on. 7.5 extends that with the Shutdown Items folder. Just after you've shutdown is an ideal time to run applications checking for viruses or backing up your data.

## Desktop Printing

QuickDraw GX, System 7.5's new graphics and text display software, lets you print straight from the desktop. Just drag a file onto the printer icon of your choice and it will print. Double-click on the printer icon to display a list of files being printed. Grab one of them and drop it on another printer and it will be output there instead.

## Desktop Patterns

One pinched from the Performa. System 7.5 comes with a huge array of built-in desktop textures, set through a new control panel. The old General Controls panel has been thoroughly redesigned, too.

## Sticky Memos

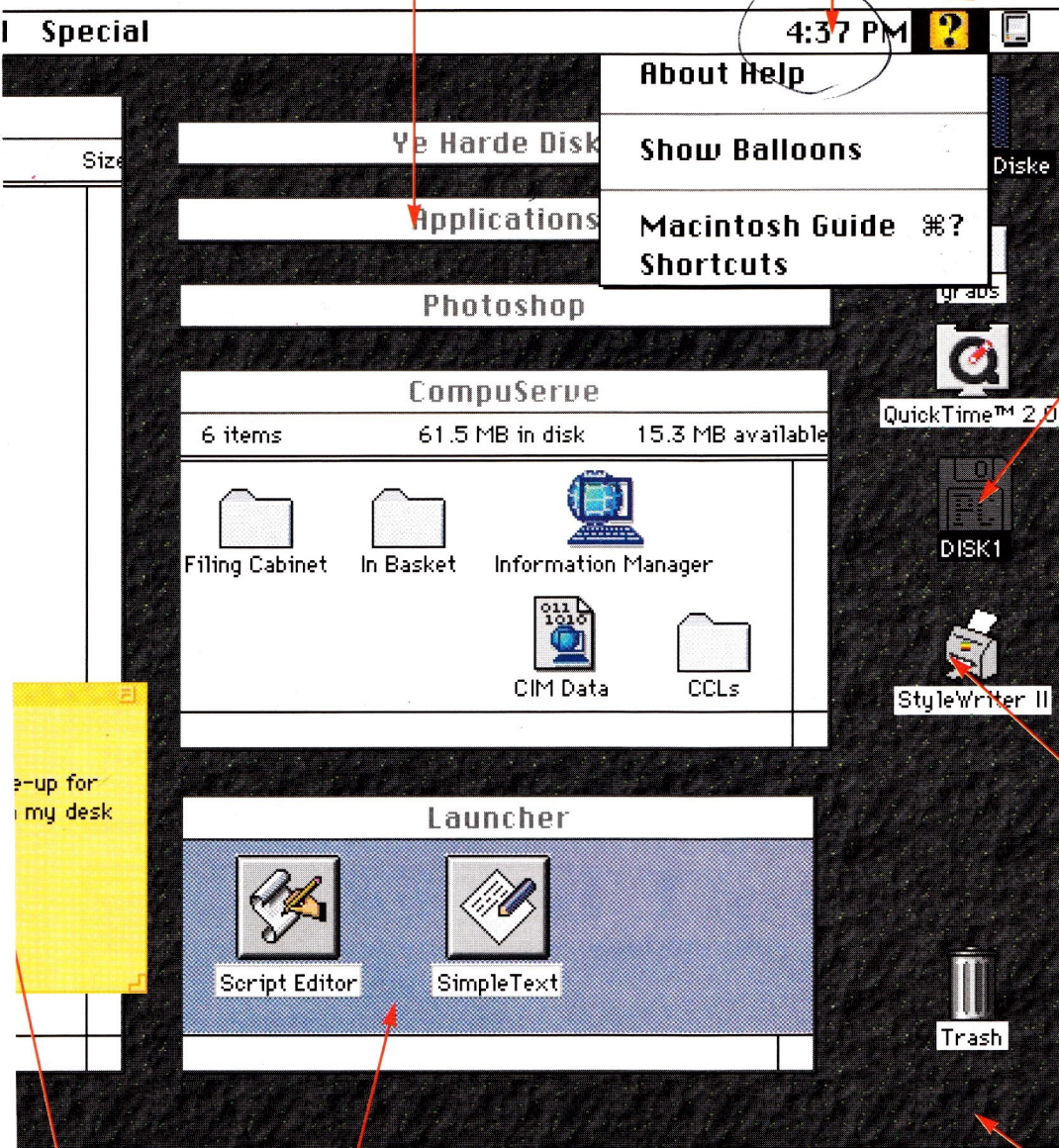
System 7.5 lets you attach Post-it style notes to your screen. They can be any size and are ideal for leaving messages for your colleagues or as reminders for yourself.

## Launcher

Performa users will already have seen this. It's a simple utility that provides a floating panel of your most frequently-used applications and documents. Place a file in the new Launcher Items folder in the System Folder and they'll appear here, ready to be opened with a single click.

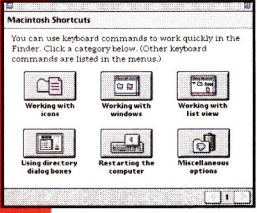
## Memory

System 7.5 is very memory hungry. Installed without PowerTalk and QuickDraw GX, it takes up over 3.5Mb – owners of 4Mb Macs will need to give serious thought to increasing their memory, through extra Ram chips or a package like RAM Doubler, before buying System 7.5.





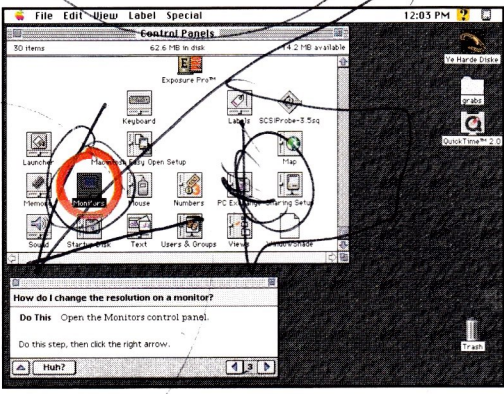
# Mac, As Easy As 123



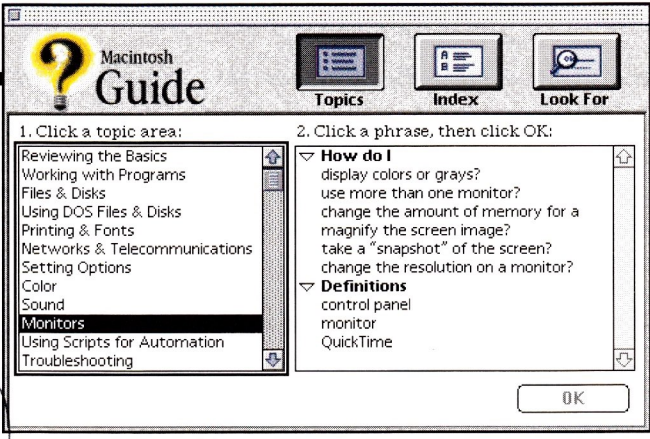
ONE OF the chief difficulties any user faces when they start using unfamiliar software – whether it's new features in an old package or simply new software – is learning how to use the facilities that are suddenly available to them. System 7 introduced Balloon Help and Finder Shortcuts to help make the process

smoother. Its successor, 7.5, sands down the few rough edges left. Its main help feature is Macintosh Guide, which demonstrates every step you need to follow to achieve any Mac task. It encourages you to perform the steps yourself while it presents them. Almost every aspect of using a Mac is covered, from simple tasks like switching the colours on a monitor to connecting your Mac to a network. And it's not just a tutorial, either. Working through a task actually performs it.

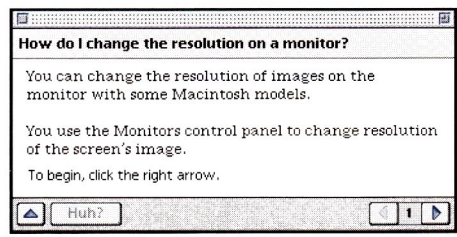
The shortcuts information, meanwhile, has been redesigned, it's now more accessible and simple to find the specific shortcut you want without plodding through the ones you don't.



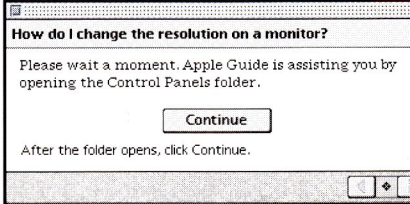
Not only does Macintosh Guide tell you what to do, it shows you. Icons are circled in red, buttons are pointed to with big red arrows. The lines are animated, so it looks like someone is reaching over your shoulder and drawing on your screen.



Selecting Macintosh Guide from the Help menu brings up the main Guide dialog. Tasks have been grouped – selecting a group brings up its list of tasks.



Each task is split into a number of steps. You can go back to any step and extra information is available by clicking on the Huh? button.



If you don't do what Macintosh Guide asks, no problem – it will perform the step for you, all the way through the demonstration, if you want.

## System Allsorts

SYSTEM 7.5 now includes a control panel called Extension Manager. Extensions and control panels, that add extra features to the System software when you start up your Mac, occasionally clash with each other.

Extension Manager lets you

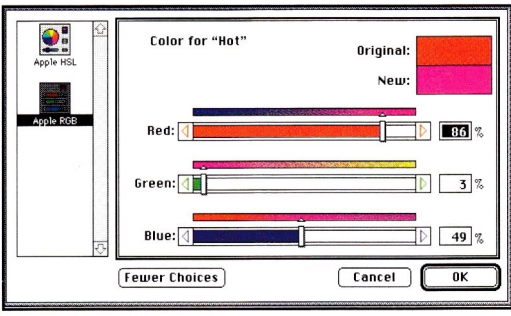
select which extensions you want to load and those you don't. So if two extensions clash, you can start your Mac up with only one of them. If you need the other, switch off the first and restart. You won't need to take icons out of the System Folder and then have to put them back when you need them.

This feature is especially useful if you already have some extensions which perform tasks that are now built into System 7.5.

▶ The Mac now remembers where every application was last working. So if

you open, say, Photoshop, System 7.5 puts you straight into the folder where you last worked on a Photoshop document. Open up ClarisWorks immediately after, and System 7.5 moves you to the folder containing the most recently-edited ClarisWorks file. Switch back to Photoshop and so will System 7.5.

▶ The Mac's colour picker has been redesigned to make selections, whether through the old-style colour wheel or using RGB 'sliders', simpler.



▶ Open and save dialogs now show the icons of the files and folders listed so you know which applications they belong to.

## And Finally...

IN THE next issue of *The Mac*, out on 11 August, we'll be reviewing System 7.5 in full, less than a week after it's scheduled to be released.

