LISA NOTES

A Death in the Family - In January of this year, Apple announced that the Lisa name was to be changed to Macintosh XL. Lisa 7/7 software would no longer be supported. (Of course that has been largely true for some time now.) So, after some sighing, many Lisa users were getting set to think of our machines as "XL" and were trying to look forward to moving into the Apple mainstream as Macintosh software became as good as our Lisa 7/7 software.

But now Apple has taken the next step and declared that the vaunted Macintosh XL is also dead! Sometime in the next month or so Apple will stop making the XL. What a great public relations bonanza for them.

At least we can go back to talking about Lisa instead of XL. Many Lisa users are now in a position to say
"The XL is dead; long live Lisa!!"
Lisa 7/7 version 3.1, in spite of a bunch of problems, remains a great tool for many applications. Some owners will simply stick with Lisa and 7/7 and keep on solving their current problems in solid, comfortable ways.

I have had opportunities over the last few months to talk to a couple of dozen Lisa owners and I always ask how they like their machine. The very consistent answer I get is that they basically love it. Sure, there are some difficulties and frustrations, and Apple has never really talked to them, but on balance the users I talk to express considerable affection for good ol' Lisa.

As you might expect, many users also express considerable disappointed that Apple has shown so much disdain for Lisa. I talked to one poor guy who owns an Apple III and a Lisa; he is now inclined to never again believe any of the promises that Apple makes. Other Lisa users are determined not to switch to Macintosh until there is a version that is at least as good as Lisa already is. One owner went out and bought a second Lisa and figures to be content for a few years.

For Apple there seem to be perhaps three basic advantages of Macintosh relative to Lisa: (a) The abundance of Macintosh software now coming to market; (b) Lower manufacturing costs and higher profit margins; (c) Macintosh is less strictly a user-dedicated machine. On the other hand, from a user point of view - that is, for someone looking for solutions rather than a computing experience - and for the many applications covered by 7/7, Lisa is really superior to Macintosh. And in its latest pre–death embodiment, Lisa has also been less costly than Macintosh when buying the equivalent capability.

In both direct and subtle ways, moving from Lisa to Macintosh is clearly a step backwards. The user-interface on the Lisa is just plain cleaner and smoother and more transparent than on the Macintosh. And, desktop-to-desktop, Lisa is not really slower. Macintosh may be insanely great but I think Lisa is calmly greater.

Lisa users tell me that Macintosh software is just not as good as Lisa software. 7/7 operation is very consistent from application to application. It seems incredible that Apple can expect to seriously attack the office market with a Macintosh that does not do background printing. Lisa 7/7 queues up many printing tasks and executes them while permitting other operations. The transparency of the Lisa operating system is good from the user point of view. (Some hackers and programmers seem to prefer Macintosh because they enjoy manipulating the finder and other system resources.)

While LisaWrite has some drawbacks, it is certainly much better overall than MacWrite. (Do you realize how difficult it is in MacWrite to have single spaced lines and 1.5 spaced paragraphs?) The LisaWrite speller is extremely well done, especially compared to the Hayden Speller or the Mac Spell Right. Microsoft Word has its own limitations plus a strange interface style with nested levels of dialog boxes.

LisaCalc is one of the best of the Lisa applications and I think it is probably the best spreadsheet program around. Multiplan has a few nice features but is not well integrated with other Macintosh stuff, and it takes odd approaches to some aspects of spreadsheeting.

But: NEVERMIND; it is all moot now. Lisa is dying. (And please don't get me wrong: there is much to appreciate in the Macintosh relative to, say, the IBM PC.) It seems probable that Macintosh will evolve in the direction pointed to by Lisa. If it ever arrives there I will (gleefully) proclaim **"I told you so!"**

DAVID T. CRAIG

Flipping between Lisa & Macintosh - For those of us who are operating both 7/7 and MacWorks on our Lisa 2/10 machines, it would be nice if there was a way to flip back and forth without turning off power. This is desirable since the hard disk likes to stay on all the time, if possible, to maintain thermal equilibrium. It would also be faster than turning power off. However, it is only partially possible.

To go to MacWorks from 7/7:
1. Hold down the Apple key and push the on/off button. Lisa will then shut down the desktop and will remember the state of all documents. It then takes you to the "Environments Window."
2. In the Environments Window there are START and RESTART buttons on the screen, among others. Click the RESTART button.
3. As soon as there is a single click from the speaker, insert the MacWorks XL disk, hold down the Apple key and hit the number 2.
4. The XL disk will be loaded and the Macintosh desktop will appear, ready for work.

To go to 7/7 from MacWorks:
It would be nice to be able to just hit the hardware reset button on the back of the machine so that the machine would restart the 7/7 office system without powering down. Unfortunately, that does not work; the Macintosh desktop will not remember the state of documents and folders. Instead try it this way:
1. Return to the Macintosh dektop, pull down the **Special** menu and select **Shut Down**. This gives the system an oportunity to memorize the state of the desktop.
2. As soon as power is off, turn it back on again right away so as to minimize thermal surges in the hard disk. (If you do not plan to use the machine for several days, you might, of course, simply leave the power off.)
3. As soon as there is a single click from the speaker, either let the loading of 7/7 proceed or hit the space bar so that the machine will be able to just sit there powered up and ready to go later.

Document Transfer - Be careful if you keep the Lisa-to-Macintosh program installed on the Lisa desk-top. When the Lisa Office System is reinstalled, a Lisa-to-Macintosh stationery pad is automatically generated. DO NOT TRY TO USE THE STATIONERY. Just throw the pad away.
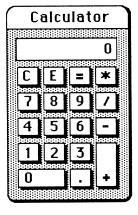
MacUnWorks - The latest pre-release versions of MacWorks XL for Lisa are improved over earlier editions. MacWorks is now on one disk instead of two and it boots directly up to the hard disk. It now runs more Macintosh programs than before. In addition, some suppliers of Macintosh software are making sure their programs really do operate with MacWorks. Nonetheless, there remain some problems with running some programs.
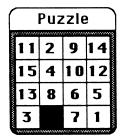
Programs that make use of the sound capabilities of Macintosh usually work only partially on Lisa. They are not included here. The following list indicates other programs that have been found to not run properly under the current MacWorks.

* The Desk Organizer
* Multiplan
* Switcher
* Life
* 3-D Demo
* Snow
* Daleks
* Megaroids

We will be updating this list as new information is received. Lisa users running with MacWorks: please let us know your own experiences.

- Joe Kroeger