Golden Orchard Release Notes

(These notes are also available on the World Wide Web at **http://www-leland.stanford.edu/ ~jagaroth/digisoft/release-notes.html**)

Partitions

The Golden Orchard CD contains six HFS partitions and one ProDOS partition. This was done for a few reasons:

- We found the GS/OS HFS FST to be very buggy in dealing with large (more than 100 megabyte) volumes with lots of files. Either it would corrupt them, or simply refuse to open certain files, returning garbage if you tried to read them on a GS. Obviously we did not want to make a disc that would only be readable on a Mac!
- In using several HFS partitions we also worked around the extreme overhead HFS imposes on large volumes. We actually freed up 50-100 megabytes of space by using six HFS partitions instead of one giant one!
- We wanted to be able to take advantage of the more leniant filename conventions imposed by HFS so we could add version numbers and other information to the names of directories, making the CD easier to navigate.
- By using HFS volumes for most of the CD, Golden Orchard is readable on Macs. This means if you have access to a Mac with a CD-ROM drive, you can copy Apple II files off the CD onto floppies and use them with your GS. This also means Golden Orchard can be shared over an AppleShare network using Macintosh System 7's Personal File Sharing feature.

Other Notes

Apple IIGS System 6.0.1 is installed on the ProDOS partition making Golden Orchard bootable. This is just for convenience and emergencies. We don't recommend you boot from it under normal circumstances since it is a lot faster to boot off a hard disk.

We tried to place most files useful to Apple IIe owners on the ProDOS partition of the CD, the only partition which can be read on an Apple IIe.

Using Golden Orchard on a Mac

All six partitions of Golden Orchard should easily be usable on an Apple IIGS. On a Macintosh however, there are a few hitches. Apple's standard Macintosh CD-ROM drivers only support one HFS volume per CD-ROM. As such you will need third party drivers that support more than one HFS volume. We recommend FWB's CD-ROM Toolkit. CD-ROM Toolkit also has the benefit of being able to mount the ProDOS partition on the Mac as well, so long as you have the Mac ProDOS File System Extension in your Extensions folder. (This extension is part of the Mac Apple IIe card software which can be found in the Apple Software folder on Golden Orchard; System 7.5 comes with this extension automatically in the PC Exchange control panel.)

Mounting Speed

Besides needing FWB's CD-ROM Toolkit to access all of the partitions on a Mac there is one other disadvantage to Golden Orchard's six partitions: mounting speed. This appears to be a disadvantage on the Mac as well as on the GS. The problem is that it can sometimes take up to 10-15 seconds to mount all the partitions of the CD-ROM when it is first recognized by the computer. In this time it might appear like your computer has hung, but it hasn't; just be patient and keep your eye on your CD drive's in-use light.

RamFAST Notes

Lastly, if you are a RamFAST owner, and you insert a multi-partition CD-ROM into your drive after booting, only the first 2 partitions will be accessible. This is not a bug in Golden Orchard, it is due to the design of the RamFAST. Luckily, a fix is simple: run a ProDOS 8 program (such as the RamFAST setup program, or BASIC, or AppleWorks, etc.) and then quit back to the Finder. This will cause the RamFAST's driver to be re-initialized (during the switch from ProDOS 8 back to GS/OS), and it will then mount all the partitions of Golden Orchard (until the next reboot.) Alternatively, if you boot with Golden Orchard in your CD-ROM drive, the RamFAST will also recognize all partitions right from the start (but you might have to go into the RamFAST configure screen to tell it to boot off your hard drive, not the CD-ROM, and to make sure all the CD's partitions are active.)

If the RamFAST doesn't appear to be recognizing Golden Orchard, or crashes when you try to boot with Golden Orchard in your CD drive, try going into the RamFAST setup program (hold down zero before the "Apple IIgs" ROM screen) and making sure that all the Golden Orchard partitions are active, and that a partition has been selected to boot from.

More Info

If you require technical assistance, please email **digisoft@hypermall.com** (preferred) or **jagaroth@leland.stanford.edu** on the Internet. If you have an absolute emergency, call 415-497-1537 and ask for Jim.

Our new World Wide Web site has the most up-to-date information on all DigiSoft products. You can reach it at: **http://www-leland.stanford.edu/~jagaroth/digisoft/**

User group discounts are available for all DigiSoft products (presently the Twilight II screen saver, and Golden Orchard CD-ROM).