

DOUBLE CLICK

A Monthly Publication of Macintosh Users East (MaUse)



May 1994

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This Month's Meeting May 25 th.

By : Justin Derrick

This month's meeting will be on Wednesday May 25th., at our regular location, Anderson Collegiate, in Whitby. A map showing the location of Anderson Collegiate can be found on page 8 of this publication. The meeting starts at 7:30 P.M., and shareware disk sales begin at 7:00 P.M..

The Green Apple Special Interest Group is born!

With the new low-cost Macs, as well as a renewed interest in powerful, accessible computing, there are more and more people turning to Macintosh computers to fulfil their needs.

It is these new users to whom we want to tailor our next meeting, and every meeting after that, with the introduction of the new Special Interest Group (S.I.G.), 'Green Apple', which will take place at the same time as our regular MaUse meetings.

We hope to help many new users, and maybe some seasoned pros understand what really goes on underneath the friendly face that is your Mac. From how to copy disks to when to empty the Trash, and some more difficult topics like connecting new devices and the ins-and-outs of the System Folder.

If you'd like to see a topic formally presented at the Membership meeting, please feel free to contact myself on MaUse BBS, or you can leave a note on the MaUse Message Line. We hope that after a short demonstration, we can break the meeting down into a Question and Answer period, turning the direction of the meeting over to those users who have questions.

I hope to see all types of Mac Users for an educational and informal evening!

Justin Derrick
Programs Chairman

MaUse
Macintosh Users East



From the Prez./Editor

By: Hugh Amos

Ontario Computer Fair

Our club table at the Ontario Computer Fair was a great success thanks to Chris Greaves and his able crew of helpers. Many children were observed sitting in front of Chris's computer, oblivious to the world as they viewed the interactive book "Grandma and Me."

I found the rest of the fair to be worthwhile as well. There was a laser printer service company present and I was able to get some valuable information relating to my recently purchased laser printer. Several vendors were selling floppy discs at prices only available at a fair such as this.

Green Apples

At the last Executive meeting the idea of starting a Green Apple Special Interest Group, (Green Apple SIG), was discussed. This would be an educational group for new and not so new members to learn new applications and techniques. I believe that we can have access to the Anderson Collegiate Mac Lab for this purpose during the night school season when the lab is manned by a teacher from Anderson. Night school is over for this year so using the Lab is something to plan for next September. In the meanwhile, an effort will be made to start some Green Apple SIG activity using computers belonging to executive members.

I will appreciate any ideas from any source on this topic. Is it a good idea? Are you interested in participating? As an instructor or a student?

Hugh Amos

Meeting Calendar 1994

May

To be announced

June

Meeting to be held at E.D.S.

July

Pool Party at John Field's place

August

Barbecue at Bruce Cameron's Place

September

To be announced

October

LottoMac - Auction - Fundraiser Night

November

Executive Elections

December

There is no meeting in December

Executive Contact List

Please feel free to contact any of the following individuals if you have comments or questions relating to Macintosh Users East or Macintosh computing in general.

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Advertising Rates

Full Page	8 1/2 x 11	\$40.00
Half Page	7 x 4 1/2	\$25.00
Quarter Page	3 3/8 x 4 1/2	\$15.00
Inserts	Max. 8 1/2 x 11	\$50.00
Business Card	3 1/2 x 2	\$10.00

Contact: Hugh Amos, Double Click Editor (905) 683-4320

Call Waiting... Friend or Foe?

By : Justin Derrick

I'm sure we all know that quiet tone that alerts us to another incoming call. It's called Call Waiting, and although it provides teenagers with a way to receive calls end-to-end for hours, it can cause problems when trying to communicate with a modem, to Bulletin Boards like MaUsE BBS.

What is Call Waiting?

Briefly, Call Waiting is a tone that is heard when there is another incoming call, and you're already on the phone. This remedies the annoying busy signal to your callers, and is helpful in case of an emergency.

Why does it interfere with modems?

Either by plan or by mistake, the engineers at Bell Canada made the tone of the Call Waiting beep on just the right frequency to totally confuse a communicating modem. Modems communicate on the phone the same way we do, that is, by making sounds that are intelligible by the person on the other end. The sounds that modems make are very distinct and exact - we are, after all, talking about computers. When too much noise occurs, the modem simply gives up and hangs up the phone.

What are the consequences?

From a user's standpoint, losing a connection suddenly and instantly can be just plain annoying. Other users suspect their equipment is faulty. Realistically, there are no "had" effects to having the call interrupted by Call Waiting. You'll have to dial in to the BBS again, and maybe get back to where you left off. By no means the end of the world.

How do I make Call Waiting Wait for me?

To tell Bell's system to not interrupt your call, dial "*70", wait for the dial tone, and dial the number you want to call (don't hang up, and dial the number. That will turn Call Waiting back on again).

To instruct your modem to do this, place the command "*70," (that's STAR SEVEN ZERO COMMA) before the number you want to dial. This will tell you computer to dial the number, and wait for two seconds, just enough time to get the dial tone again, and dial the number. The number to call MaUsE BBS uninterrupted would be "*70,404-9874" (without the quotes).

As soon as you hang up the phone, your Call Waiting will be turned back on again.

Hope to see YOU on the BBS.

Justin Derrick

MaUsE BBS Administrator

Hunting The Fox

By : Chuck Hinkle

Editors note : This article was reprinted from the Houston Area Apple User Group's "Apple Barrel".

Can anyone explain it? Unreleased Macintosh software is usually surrounded by ultra-hype, yet one of the most anticipated products of the last several years was released by that mega-mountain of marketing, Microsoft, without the normal, prerequisite six months of strategic leaks. Perhaps it's because the product is a database (aka "boring"), perhaps Microsoft learned a lesson by overhyping Windows NT, or perhaps just no one would have believed them after waiting for at least three years for this version. Whatever the case, FoxPro 2.5 was finally released in early January.

Before I even begin describing my reactions, let me note that I'm working with a pre-release copy of FoxPro that I received near Thanksgiving. However, I'm already impressed with the product's stability. In the month that I've tested it, it rarely locked up. FoxPro is an industrial strength program that can assist in complex information analysis; its requirements are also hefty (but within reason considering how it will be used). FoxPro demands at least 2600K of memory to run and prefers 5000K or more and FoxPro subtracted about 17 MB from my hard disk.

To analyze FoxPro, it's important to understand its legacy; it began life as a dBASE clone on DOS. It's speed and power made it the primary challenger to dBASE. This means that FoxPro can be used both as a database and as an application generator. The current version is consistent with its history; it's still a dBASE program, and it blazes!

So What Does it Do?

Let me predict which features will be prominent in the ads. Let's start with the obvious items. Yes, you can build complete, standalone applications with FoxPro. It uses the the popular dBASE language (and I've seen reports which estimate that more dBASE code exists in the world than in any other language). Though you don't need to know dBASE to build and use a FoxPro database, you will need to know it extensively to build full applications. For example, buttons which you create will use dBASE code to guide their actions. Finished applications can run on the Macintosh, DOS, and Windows (there are even switches which can be set to make FoxPro programs on the Macintosh behave as if they were running under Windows (i.e., a window can only be moved within its parent's window as opposed to the Mac which allows any window to be moved anywhere on the screen). These applications will have custom menu bars, screens, reports, and dialog boxes which are created in FoxPro. Also noteworthy is that the final program can be compiled and used by people who do not own their own copy of FoxPro.

Microsoft will trumpet FoxPro speed reports. The numbers will

sound incredible, but they won't be hype. I ran some tests on a local database (expect network times to increase significantly). For the first test, I used a bookkeeping database of 1550 records, sorted by date. A query for all records between May 1st and May 15th retrieved 63 records in .2 seconds. Searching for all Miscellaneous records between May 1st and May 15th retrieved 4 records in .65 seconds. So far, I didn't find anything unusual; the same search on similar databases in other products gave equally fast responses. Then, I searched for all of the Miscellaneous records. I thought that I'd be waiting for it to search every records, for this was an unsorted field. .65 seconds later, FoxPro had a list of 130 records in .65 seconds!

I know a little about how FoxPro does its searches. From what I recall, it builds a bitmap every time it does a search, so that subsequent searches on the same field go faster, even if it's an unindexed field. My next speed tests were on a database of 10,050 records of unsorted, random numbers. A search for all records less than 100 retrieved 13 records in 7.8 seconds. At this point, I realized that FoxPro must be using memory to store all of the records and search them so rapidly. The next search was for the maximum value, and it found it in 2.1 seconds. Finally, I did a query on a calculated field and retrieved 24 records in 2.15 seconds.

Query capabilities are extensive; figure one shows the dialog box which builds a query. FoxPro uses Relational Query by Example to build SQL commands. This suggests that FoxPro will be able to access Oracle or DB2 databases eventually. I think that allowing us to see the SQL, which will be executed is a nice touch; it can be used to help learn SQL. Unfortunately, the actual SQL code cannot be modified or entered directly; that limitation doesn't make any sense to me (except that Microsoft Access has the same problem).

FoxPro will be positioned as an alternative to FileMaker and 4th Dimension, so a critical feature is FoxPro's import capability; it can import data directly from a variety of delimited files, Excel or Lotus spreadsheets, or Paradox, 4th Dimension, and FileMaker Pro databases (along with other minor formats). This will make it trivial to move the actual data from these databases into a FoxPro database, although screens, report, and procedures will not be copied.

Is It Mac or Is It Windows?

For a program with roots so embedded in DOS, it's amazing how Mac-like it appears. All of FoxPro's commands are accessed by the pull-down menus or through dialog boxes instead of on button bars. I appreciated that, as I always turn off button bars so that I can put information on the screen space instead of duplicated commands, but I always realize that I seem to have the minority opinion. Besides that, there were a few anomalies in the interface. FoxPro only recognizes three shades of gray and twelve colors when building screens and reports. Also, the numeric keypad only works if the num lock setting is on. This is consistent with DOS keyboards which use the keypad for navigational keys unless num lock is on, but it seems inconsistent on the Macintosh. In fact,

using the keypad without num lock (remember that this is pre-release software) usually locked up my entire Mac and forced it to be restarted.

What About the Kitchen Sink?

Certainly, FoxPro does a superb job in the areas for which it will be measured: speed, dBASE compatibility, and crossplatform capability. However, I found it surprising that it was less than perfect in so many other areas. Although many people will consider most of these items minor, I didn't expect them to be missing from FoxPro.

- FoxPro does not offer a simple method of converting FoxBASE applications to FoxPro. FoxPro comes with a 90-page manual which describes the conversion process, and the introduction lists an eight-step overview (of which step six is "Edit the code manually to finish the conversion and to take advantage of added functionality in FoxPro"). I suspect that most FoxBASE users will automatically upgrade to FoxPro without realizing that there are many incompatibilities which may require significant effort to allow old FoxBASE applications to run under FoxPro.
- Variable length fields. FoxPro forces you to predefine the size of every field. This keeps it consistent with dBASE, but it is archaic and wastes space. Databases such as FileMaker, Helix Express, and Microsoft Access allow fields to fill as much space as they need.
- Smooth interface. It sometimes seems that it take a great effort to accomplish a simple task. For example, to add a field to a screen, you must select the Field tool and draw a box on the screen. Then, push the Input button in the dialog box, double-click the field to use, press OK, press OK (on the original dialog box), and resize the field.
- From what I saw, FoxPro does not do a good job with calculated fields (and I'm not talking about summary fields, which FoxPro calls calculated fields). An expression cannot be defined for a field and stored as part of a database (probably a dBASE deficiency which Microsoft decided to perpetuate). That means that if I want to use a complex expression, I must reenter it for every screen, report, and query which uses that expression. I am also unable to reference one calculated field in another calculated field, so that makes each expression much more complex. (Perhaps I could have worked around this limitation by diving into dBASE code.) Finally, no calculated expressions cannot be displayed in Browse mode — only on custom screens (building custom screens isn't prohibitively difficult but it isn't trivial). This also means that although you can search on calculated fields in queries, the resulting records cannot display those values.
- FoxPro does not support Publish and Subscribe (but it does support OLE, which is the Windows version of Publish and Subscribe). System 7 has been out for a couple of years now, and I find it reprehensible that a major program, especially a newly released one, does not support these features. The Help system doesn't even recognize the terms "publish" or "subscribe." Whether or not this was Microsoft's intent, supporting their OLE version instead of the standard Macintosh commands appears as an externally jerry move to

make satisfy a Microsoft manager instead of Macintosh users.

- I'm surprised that FoxPro isn't more object-based; it's general look and feel hasn't changed much from FoxBASE, and that's about five years old. Paradox for Windows, Microsoft Access, and even dBASE for Windows (according to rumors) all utilize objects much more and are easier to use because of it. The next version of FoxPro is rumored to have these advances, too, but maybe I'm just cynical after seeing how long this upgrade took to reach the market.
- Add-ins/code generators. One of the reasons that FoxPro was so successful in DOS is that there are many add-in modules from third parties to make it easier to use and shorten the time it takes to build applications. These add-ins don't exist on the Macintosh, so programmers must trudge through all of the extra work that they would otherwise be able to skip. Unlike FileMaker or Helix Express, FoxPro requires much more work (coding and debugging) to generate applications.
- FoxPro's RQBE dialog is quick and powerful, but some things are missing. As mentioned earlier, the SQL which queries generate cannot be modified. Also, records returned by a query cannot be modified, and I didn't find a simple way to select a record from a query result and have it made the current record on an update screen.

Conclusion

After the previous section, you might wonder why I feel that FoxPro is a wonderful program. It's wonderful, but not for everyone. It is certainly not a FileMaker replacement. In fact, it's interesting to see that Microsoft positions FoxPro for Windows as a highend database tool and Access as its easier to use database. Figure two shows the users for which databases on various platforms are most appropriate. FoxPro is most appropriate for moderate power users through developers (but not quite as able to handle the most demanding aspects). To be more specific, there are four particular cases in which FoxPro seems to be the ideal choice.

- Macintosh users who have to program for PC users. FoxPro will let them write programs that run on PCs without having to actually do the work in Windows.
- dBASE experts. FoxPro provides the best choice to apply these people's dBASE expertise to the Macintosh.
- Macintosh users who need to use dBASE programs. In these cases, I'm advocating FoxPro to run programs which were written on PCs and which need FoxPro for the Macintosh to run (since I don't believe that the PC program can be "transported" to the Macintosh).
- Power users who understand Relational Query by Example well and who need to perform ad-hoc data analysis. FoxPro's speed and strength in its queries make it an excellent tool to retrieve sets of data which meet a variety of conditions.

As with most programs, the decision to buy a program should be made after you decide what you need it to accomplish. I would stick with FileMaker for simple databases and stick with Helix Express and 4th Dimension for sophisticated database applications for the Macintosh. However, to build database applications for the PC, FoxPro seems the way to go for now, and it would certainly

be my choice if I had to spend most of my time running queries.

Members Fees

By : Doug Kettle

A year ago we attempted to have all members pay their fees to the end of March 1994 with some success in an attempt to improve our budgeting for the year. We would like to repeat the process. I sent out an invoice with a previous Double Click but if you have lost it and do not know what your fees are, please give me a call at 905-683-3214. Basically the fees are \$35 per year for membership plus \$20 per year if you wish to access the CD on the BBS. Basically the fees are \$3 per month. If you are in areas you should pay \$35 plus \$3 for each month previous to March 31/94. If you joined after March 31/94 you should pay \$3 per month between the month you joined and March 31/95. Please send your check to Doug Kettle, 40 Sherwood Road East, Ajax, Ontario. L1T 2Y9 made out to MAUSE.

MaUsE Classifieds

MaUsE members are encouraged to use this section to advertise anything that they want to sell (or give away) (it doesn't have to be computer related). There is no charge for this service for MaUsE members.

Wednesday, January 5, 1994 12:48:25 AM
DC Classifieds Item

From: Jim L. Foster
Subject: Genie & CIS Trials!
To: DC Classifieds

I recently purchased a new modem for home and also got a new modem at work. With both, I receive some promotional literature and discount price offers to become a member of CompuServe (just 1) and of Genie (both). If anyone is interested in using these packages, please let me know and I'll be glad to supply them to the first respondent.

Jim



May 1994 Vendor Information Overview for Canadian User Groups

Adventures for Gifted and Talented

Click D. Mouse is a self instructional guide to getting started on HyperCard programming. The book has been especially designed for the young motivated programmer but is also useful as a starting tool for all ages. Teachers will find this product useful for the classroom to be used as a curriculum guide with teacher notes and hints. The package has been thoroughly field tested in the classroom. The package includes a disc with sample stacks. The PML and Pict Installer is a very useful utility which easily inserts QuickTime movies and color pics onto cards in a HyperCard stack. Special User Group prices are indicated on the flyer.

Atain Corporation launched new IN CONTROL 3.0—the only Personal Information Manager that lets you instantly look up contacts and other data from FileMaker Pro, Touchbase Pro, Now Contact and Dynodex! It combines the powerful, multi-column Action Outliner™ with full-featured daily, weekly and monthly calendars to help you plan smarter, stay organized and save time. Much more than just a calendar, IN CONTROL lets you plan, manage and schedule every detail of you busy life faster and better than ever! Plus, IN CONTROL's flexible, easy-to-use interface allows you to work the way you're accustomed to working. Through June 15, 1994, User Group members can purchase IN CONTROL 3.0 for an incredibly low \$49.95—a savings of almost 60% off the regular retail price—and version 2.0 users can upgrade for only \$34.95!

Keep It Simple Software introduces a revolutionary new product line, the SunPack™ series. These products allow you to recharge or run an Apple Powerbook or Newton from the rays of the Sun! Simply place the solar panel in the Sun, plug the end of the six-foot cord into your computer, and you can run all day long without worrying about running out of battery charge. This packet contains a specially discounted price for all members of registered User Groups. Be the first one on your block to use the rays of the Sun to power your computer!

National Instruments Corp.

HiQ is a new numerical analysis product for the Macintosh from National Instruments Corporation. This trailer announces the new HiQ demo disk. In HiQ more than 600 math, scientific, and engineering functions are tightly coupled to insightful 2D and 3D graphics for immediate visualization of results. Its publication-quality output and annotation features make it easy to generate technical reports. HiQ easily shares data with LabVIEW, the National Instruments graphical instrumentation software for data acquisition and instrument control. A native Power Macintosh version of HiQ is expected this summer.

Pacific HiTech makes a variety of CD-ROMs with Macintosh programs taken from the Internet. Our premier disc is the Info-Mac CD-ROM, which contains recent programs and files from Stanford University's Sunex-Aim archive, the most active Macintosh site on the Internet. Our other titles include MacSource CD-ROM, with Macintosh source code and programming utilities; HyperStacks CD-ROM, with over 1,000 HyperCard Stacks; and MacGames, a collection of the top Macintosh games. (Please remember that you are required to pay separate fees to authors for continued use of shareware programs.)

Photonics Corporation's COOPERATIVE products utilize diffuse infrared technology to create a wireless solution for LocalTalk devices in minutes. Two or more PowerBooks, Mac's or other AppleTalk devices equipped with COOPERATIVE transceivers can exchange information anywhere—in a conference room, a bank, a classroom, even on an airplane. Our Instant Personal Area Network (PAN) gives you the freedom to work collaboratively whenever and wherever you want. For adventuresome early adopters, Photonics is offering a spectacular introductory price of \$99.95 (US), a savings of \$500.00 over the suggested retail price, for the COOPERATIVE starter kit. With two transceivers and an access point you have everything you need to set up your own wireless LAN today!

Pixel Resources, Inc. announces PixelPaint® Pro3, a major upgrade to PixelPaint Professional that is now shipping. PixelPaint Pro3 is the first Macintosh bitmap graphics application to fully integrate 32-bit image creation and editing, color-correction, photo-retouching, and multi-layer compositing into a single software program. It is aimed at graphics professionals who want to add a new pizzazz to their artwork, whether it be for print work or multimedia presentations. In addition to the application itself, the Pro3 package includes: AppleScript™, ColorSync™, QuickTime™, the KPT Glass Lens filter family and dozens of Pro3 paper textures and full-color patterns for use with any PixelPaint Pro3 artwork. Over a 50% discount to User Group members through July 31, 1994! See insert for details.

Radius has captured a variety of testimonials from video professionals who have incorporated VideoVision Studio and the Apple Professional Video Production Solution into their environments. These featured professionals describe how digital video capturing and editing can be accomplished at the desktop level, at a price that is remarkably less than conventional analog methods. In addition, Radius has included a separate brochure outlining the benefits of the Radius display system for use in the color publishing industry. These professionals benefit from the use of graphics accelerators and video solutions in their publishing environments. Discover how these tools will buy more time, offer greater precision, and let users take print to video and video to print.

Apple User Groups Can Now See More than Red

For superb desktop color without the usual red ink, try the IBM Jetprinter PS 4029 by Lexmark.

It's Mac and PC ready, and PostScript™ compatible, right out of the box. It handles paper and transparencies up to 11"x17," without expensive extra trays. You get true 300 dots-per-inch resolution, plus Lexmark's Color Grade™ Enhancement - for smoother blends and up to three times as many brilliant colors as 300 dpi machines. And it uses CMYK inks and a Pantone-licensed color system.



So what you see on your proofs and comps is what you get on press.

The Color Jetprinter PS comes to you from Lexmark, the independent, worldwide company formed from a division of IBM. To order, or to find your nearest dealer, call 1-800-358-3835 (in Canada 1-800-663-7662).

Lexmark supports the Apple User Group Community through MUG News Service (MNS).

About Double-Click

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Hugh Amos
Macintosh News Service

Double-Click is produced monthly, where possible, by and for members of Macintosh Users East (MaUse), an Apple Macintosh Computer Users' Group serving the Durham Region & environs, for the purposes stated in its constitution. There is no charge for this publication. Articles published in Double-Click may be reproduced for non-commercial purposes by other Macintosh User Groups or interested parties without prior permission. Any other reproduction of any part of this newsletter requires the written permission of the author(s).

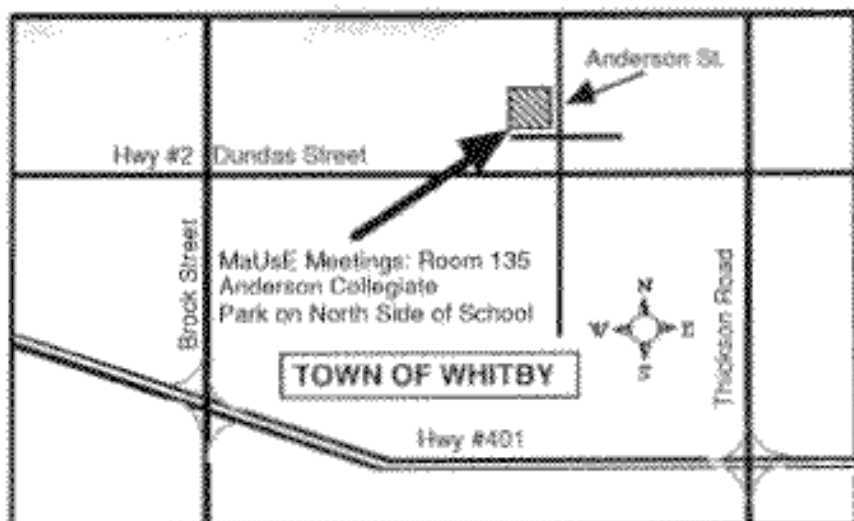
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This month's issue of Double-Click was produced on a Macintosh Centris 650 computer with a 16" monitor using Clarisworks, a product of Claris Corporation.

Typefaces:

Headers are set in Helvetica
Body type is set in Times

MaUse Meeting Location & Schedule



Members of the general public, guests of MaUse members, and all regular MaUse members are invited to attend any of MaUse's membership or Executive meetings. It is NOT necessary to bring your Macintosh with you...all that's required is an interest in Macintosh computing.

Listed at right is the schedule for 1994. Membership meetings are generally held at Room 135, Anderson Collegiate in Whitby (see map above) starting at 7:30PM. Shareware disk sales begin at 7:00PM. Executive meeting locations vary...call ahead to confirm exact locations/times.

Month	Exec Mtg	Member Mtg
January	6th	26th
February	3rd	23rd
March	3rd	23rd
April	7th	27th
May	6th	25th
June	2nd	22nd
July	7th	27th
August	4th	24th
September	1st	28th
October	6th	26th
November	3rd	23rd

Acknowledgements

MaUse is a member of MNS, the Macintosh News Service, which acts to distribute information/articles between Mac User Groups in North America. Various articles in Double-Click are provided courtesy of MNS and its Corporate

Sponsors:

Lexmark is this month's MNS Sponsor. The Executive of MaUse and Double-Click Editor thank Lexmark for providing this service. We encourage MaUse members to advocate the products/services of MNS Sponsors.

Each month's MNS disk becomes a part of our MaUse Public Domain software library and members are welcome to see Bruce Cameron for copies or information regarding the contents of these MNS disks.

Lexmark

MEMBER
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