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Macintosh AP and UPI Solutions: A Listing (9/93)

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TOPIC -----

My university is ordering Macintosh computers to replace old terminals for the production of our newspaper and magazine publications. I need current information dealing with connectivity to AP (Associated Press) and UPI (United Press International) news feeds.

DISCUSSION -----

We checked the Redgate Buyers Guide on AppleLink, performed a periodical search, and also contacted AP in New York for their recommendations. To locate a vendor's address and phone number, use the vendor name as a search string.

- Crosfield Inc's Newslite Solo, a wire photo receiver and transmitter kit, is reportedly popular in Canada but is also distributed in the United States.
- Mainstream Data Inc's Mainstream Newscast uses FM band or satellite dish to deliver leading news wires directly to Macintosh computers. Mainstream's software runs in the background and lets users clip stories on particular topics. Several wire services, including Reuters, Dow Jones and The Associated Press, use Mainstream's technology to deliver news.
- WireManager by Baseview Products, Inc.
Business And Professional Software
Wire capture and story management
Macintosh Plus or larger; 1 MB of RAM; System 6.0.5 or later.

WireManager was developed for the news publishing and broadcasting industry. It sorts through the wire, automatically placing stories where users want them. It is available in low- and high-speed formats to capture AP, UPI, Canadian Press, Reuters, broadcast wires and foreign language wires, including AFP, EFE and Notimex. The program puts stories to primary and backup paths and creates the subject directories asked for. When used in conjunction with Baseview's IQue database, searches can be tailored to specific tasks, cutting back on the time wasted searching the wires. WireManager is designed as a primary wire capture package for multiuser environments, but can also function equally well in single-user

environments. Copy management can be made even easier with NewsEdit, Baseview's editorial program, but WireManager is compatible with all major word processing and layout programs, MultiFinder and AppleShare. WireManager's AppleShare setup allows the creation of "read only" and "group access" folders.

- The Internet has become a medium for bulk information service delivery. Dow Jones News Retrieval, Dialog, AP, UPI, Reuters, Mead Data, Lexis/Nexis, and LEGI-Slate.
- Dialog Information Services, Inc. offers more than 400 databases and two terabytes of data.
- Dow Jones News/Retrieval gives users access to more than 1,300 publications and 70 databases.
- Numerous consumer BBs offer access to UPI and AP (typically for read access only - you must check with the supplier):

America Online Inc.
ClariNet Communications Corp.
CompuServe Inc.
DataTimes
Dialog Information Services, Inc.
Dow Jones & Co.
GE Information Services
Mainstream Data Inc.
Mead Data Central Inc.
NewsNet Inc.
Prodigy Services Co.
Ziff Desktop Information

- The Associated Press distributes PhotoExpress, a service that sends non-AP photos via PhotoStream. PhotoStream transmits photos in digitally compressed format. Advances in compression technology allows AP to offer the service to non-AP newspapers and distributors.

They also distributes AP MacArchive, which enables users to store and retrieve digital image files from the AP's image-handling system. AP MacArchive is Mac-based and utilizes Aldus Fetch to store and retrieve files.

AP recommends the university contacts their local AP Bureau for consultation. The local bureaus are said to be very familiar with Macintosh connectivity and solutions. AP as well recently came out with a new Macintosh solution called NewsHound. It is a database with a HyperCard search engine.

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