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Power Macintosh: Software Issues Q & A (3/94)

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TOPIC ---

This article contains questions and answers related to software issues for Power
Macintosh.

DISCUSSION --

SOFTWARE ISSUES

Q) How compatible are today's applications with the PowerPC Macintosh?
A) Today's Macintosh applications should run, without modification, on
   Power Macintosh models. Apple expects their performance to be
   surprisingly responsive. In actual use, performance will range from a
   fast 68030 to a 68040 based Macintosh. Apple has been testing third
   party software at developer conferences throughout the world, as well as
   in our own labs. After testing over a thousand packages, we are
   confident that compatibility will be excellent.

Q) What about DOS or Windows?
A) Power Macintosh computers gives us a greatly improved story for
   DOS/Windows users. InsigniaSolutions is working on a native version of
   SoftPC, which they call SoftWindows, for Power Macintosh models. The
   PowerPC 601 microprocessor is a far better platform for their emulator
   than today's 68040. Consequently a DOS or Windows program can run at
   speeds comparable to a 486. With this technology, Power Macintosh
   offers a migration path for the two operating systems that really matter
   in the large marketplace today -— Macintosh and DOS/Windows.

Q) Will my existing peripherals work (CD-ROM, hard drives, scanners,
   printers)?
A) YES! AppleTalk devices (such as printers), SCSI devices (such as hard
   disks, scanners, and CD-ROMs), ADB devices (such as mice, trackballs and
   keyboards), and other Macintosh cards and peripherals are compatible
   with Power Macintosh. If a hardware device works with the new Macintosh
   AV systems, the odds are excellent that it will work on Power Macintosh
   with no problems.

Q) Will PowerPC and 680x0 based microprocessor systems co-exist on the same
   network or environment?
A) Yes. You will be able to mix RISC based and 680x0 based Macintosh

systems on the same networks, exchange files and disks between them, and enjoy all the other benefits expected from a Macintosh.

Q) Which applications will be ready at release and when will a substantial number of native applications be available?
A) Because Power Macintosh is being initially introduced at the mid to high range, areas of emphasis are business applications, high end graphics and publishing applications and higher education science and engineering applications.

Q) Will Apple be publishing a list of Power Macintosh compatible software?
A) Nearly all software that currently runs on 680x0 based Macintosh models will run on Power Macintosh. A list of exceptions is more likely than a list of compatibles, since most all applications will be running at introduction.

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