System 7: Performa Versions Compared (9/95)

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TOPIC ---

This article describes the progressive changes made to system software versions
7.0.1, 7.0.1P, 7.1, 7.1P, 7.1P1, 7.1P2, 7.1P3, 7.1P5, 7.1P6, and System 7.5.

DISCUSSION --

SYSTEM SOFTWARE VERSION 7.0.1

Here are the features of system software version 7.0.1 that 7.0 doesn't
have:

Extensions (cdevs)

• Memory - Included RAM Disk, and updated virtual memory and RAM Cache
  to work with new RAM disk.
• Portable - Removed screen brightness and contrast sliders, and RAM
  disk.
• Brightness - A simple slider to control screen brightness.
• Network - Support for on-board Sonic Ethernet for the Quadra family.
• Battery - Updated to work with PowerBook family.
• Caps Lock - Indicator panel available only on PowerBooks.
• File Sharing - Internal file sharing buffer increased from 4K to 5K.
• Cache Switch - For Quadras to disable or enable 68040 cache.
• A/ROSE and DAL - 68040 compatibility changes.
• HD SC Setup - Format-time mode select change.

System File

• Operating System
  • Keyboard patch wakes up sleeping Macintosh Apple Keyboard II
    (Macintosh Classic) keyboards.
  • Support for 53C96 SCSI chip in Quadras and PowerBooks 140 and 170,
    and for PowerBooks 140 and 170 power manager.
  • Minor changes to LocalTalk (for 68040), Gestalt 'Iram', 'ram', and
    'kbd' selectors (for RAM disk), _hwPriv CPU cache management and
    dispatch routines, keyboard maps (for PowerBook).
  • Startup code can inhibit 68040 cache when Cache Switch cdev is set.
  • Bitmap system fonts marked purgeable.

- ToolBox
  - SANE performance improved via backpatching.
  - Disk Initialization Package prevents RAM disks from being formatted as MFS volumes.
  - Notification Manager calls IdleUpdate when NMInstall called (on portables) to wake the system.
  - Powerdown messages on Quadra 900 and RAM disk.
  - Support for Quadra and PowerBook sound hardware.
  - Backlight driver upgraded to work with PowerBook family.
  - SetHandleSize fixed for all 32-bit memory managers.

General

- Reduction in overall size of run time system heap.
- Installer script file revisions for new systems.

SYSTEM SOFTWARE VERSION 7.0.1P

System 7.0.1P is system software for the Performa 200 and 400. It's a
modification of system software version 7.0.1 that makes changes to the
Macintosh, simplifying the interface for new users. A control panel
extension installs the system changes. This version uses the control
panel portion of the file as a pseudo-Finder enhancement, for a
push-button application launcher.

Here are the modifications:

- Generalized reference to the computer
  Instead of "About this Macintosh..." the Apple menu reads "About this
  Computer..." The window doesn't identify the specific model.
  Applications can use a Gestalt selector to determine whether 7.0.1P
  is running.
- Push-button program launching
  When a Performa starts up, the Launcher control panel opens on the
  desktop (like a small version of At Ease) with an icon for each
  installed application. You can launch an application with a single
  click.
- Layer hiding
  When launching an application, the Finder layer is hidden, giving the
  illusion that only one application is open at a time. Clicking on
  the desktop won't bring the Finder to the front. You can still
  switch applications through the Application menu.
- Default folders
  The internal disk on a Performa is configured with an Applications
  folder and a Documents folder on the desktop. The standard Save As
  dialog box is modified to always default to saving in the Documents
  folder. This keeps all documents together rather than with the
  application that created them.
- Color default
  On color-capable Performas, the default Monitors setting is 8-bit
  color.
- Changes in desktop pattern
  A modified General control panel replaces the standard desktop

pattern editor with a pop-up menu containing a variety of 16x16
   desktop patterns.
• Includes At Ease 1.0
  Lets adults share the computer, and makes it easy for children to
  launch applications.
• Backup & Restore
  This provides an easy way to create a set of backup disks, and to
  restore the contents of the hard disk if necessary.

SYSTEM SOFTWARE VERSION 7.1

System software version 7.1 has the system enabler that supports the
Macintosh IIvx and IIvi. It has the features described for 7.0.1
(minus DAL and SANE backpatching), with the following additions:

• WorldScript software
  This simplifies language script support.
• New control panels
  These allow customizing formats for dates, times, numbers, and text
  behavior (for example, sort and case conversion). Here's a list of
  the new control panels:

  • Date & Time
  • General Controls
  • Numbers
  • Text Control
  • PowerBook

• Improvements made by System 7 Tune-Up 1.1.1
  These improvements include resolving the problem of disappearing
  folders and files, and installing LaserWriter driver version 7.1.1.
• The QuickTime software extension
  This provides multimedia capability.
• Font folder
  This folder within the System Folder provides a single place to store
  all fonts.
• System Enablers
  These provide compatibility between Macintosh CPU hardware and system
  software. The Install Me First disk adds a software module, and
  not a whole new system.

SYSTEM SOFTWARE VERSION 7.1P

System software version 7.1P was created to support the Macintosh
Performa 600 (but works with all Performa models). It has the features
described for 7.1 and 7.0.1P, with the following exceptions:

• Includes Macintosh PC Exchange and the Apple IIe ProDOS extension.
• Removes Apple File Exchange.

SYSTEM SOFTWARE VERSION 7.1P1

System software version 7.1P1 supports all the Macintosh Performa

models, and has all the features described for 7.1, 7.0.1P, and 7.1P
with the following exceptions:

- Memory control panel
  The RAM disk memory could be set too high in version 7.1P. A change
  in the Memory control panel prevents this.
- Installs CD-ROM 4.0.2 and StyleWriter II drivers
- Pre-configures At Ease icons
  The application buttons appear automatically and don't require manual
  placement.
- System enabler modification
  There have been reports that the floppy drive sometimes won't eject
  disks. A modification to the system enabler corrects this.
- Minor interface changes
  There are a few cosmetic changes, like moving the Mouse Basics icon
  to the far left side of the screen.
- Serial driver for communications

SYSTEM SOFTWARE VERSION 7.1P2

System software version 7.1P2 supports all the Macintosh Performa
models, and has all the features described for 7.1, 7.0.1P, 7.1P, and
7.1P1, with the following modifications:

- Eliminates the system freeze when you click on the sea horse in Mouse
  Practice. This was corrected by reducing the application preferred
  memory size from 5000K to 2500K.
- Allows setting Monitors control panel to any number of colors or
  black and white selection. The 7.1P1 version reset the system to 256
  colors upon restart.
- Control panels "exercised" (opened and closed) during Custom Mac
  process

  Many control panels normally have compressed resources. This makes
  it easier to fit all the necessary files on system software floppy
  disks. Once a control panel is opened, the resources are
  decompressed, and then written back to disk decompressed. This
  process can take quite a bit of time (minutes, on a Performa 400),
  and is most visible with the Monitors control panel.

  If a user shuts down their system while the decompressed resources
  are being written back to disk, it can lead to problems. By
  providing users with control panels which already have decompressed
  resources, it should speed things up, reducing the risk that a
  customer might think something is wrong and want to shut down their
  system improperly.
- The Read Me document now very clearly provides information about
  the importance of the proper shut down procedure.

SYSTEM SOFTWARE VERSION 7.1P3

System software version 7.1P3 supports all the Macintosh Performa
models, and has all the features described for 7.1, 7.0.1P, 7.1P,

7.1P1, and 7.1P2 with the following modifications:

- Includes a Shut Down desk accessory to make it easier to shut down,
  no matter what application is open. User studies showed that many
  users were confused about having to "go to the Finder" in order
  to shut down.
- Detects, during the startup process, if an improper shut down
  occurred. If it occurs (dirty bit was set), a dialog warns to always
  shut down properly.
- Performa control panel provides System Folder protection, preventing
  the user from deleting, renaming, or removing items from the System
  Folder. This feature is on by default, but can be turned off via the
  Performa control panel.
- Performa Macintosh Basics provide detailed information about the
  importance of the proper shut down procedure.
- System and Finder version numbers changed to 7.1P3.
- FKEY 3 saves the PICT as a SimpleText file type instead of a
  TeachText file.
- Apple Restore 1.3 runs only if you start up with the Utilities disk.
  Provides additional room for error dialogs.
- Slight change in the patterns of General Controls 7.1P3.
- Launcher 2.0P version number change. Changed the icons for the
  Launcher Items folder and the Launcher. Finalized the About Box.
- Balloon help added to Performa 1.0. Replaced two check boxes for the
  documents saving options with three radio buttons in the Performa
  window. Performa control panel icon changed. Performa control panel
  checks for System 7.x before opening; if it detects a non-supported
  system, it passes an error to the Finder which displays a message.
  Displays an alert if Performa control panel is open even though INITs
  aren't properly installed.
- Finder Layer hiding, an extension in the Performa control panel,
  modified to never bring At Ease to the front. This solves problems
  where user launches a desk accessory from the Finder and is switched
  to At Ease when the desk accessory closes. Now it always goes back
  to the Finder.
- SimpleText 7.1P changed the minimum and preferred memory partition
  size from 256K to 512K to solve some problems with Photo CD and large
  images.

SYSTEM SOFTWARE VERSION 7.1P5

System software version 7.1P5 supports all the Macintosh Performa
models, and has all the features described for 7.1, 7.0.1P, 7.1P,
7.1P1, 7.1P2, and 7.1P3 with the following modifications:

- Mouse Basics, Mouse Practice, Performa Basics, Sharing Your Computer,
  Why Back Up, 800-SOS-APPL, DOS Compatibility and Helpful Tips are
  compressed using Application VISE 2.1.1. This results in the
  fulfillment kit fitting on eight disks plus the Utilities disk versus
  nine disks plus Utilities.
- An alias to AppleCD Audio Player is in the Apple Menu.
- Includes the latest LaserWriter 300 and StyleWriter II drivers.
- Apple Restore 1.3

When Restore finishes (because all software is installed or the user
quit early) the last dialog has a restart button instead of asking
for the Utilities disk. This forces a restart, causing a rebuild of
the desktop.
- Rolled in all Apple HD SC Setup 7.2.1 fixes.
- General controls 7.1P3 desktop default pattern is second instead of
  third pattern.
- Performa 1.0 fixed this bug: when saving a document in an open
  application with the Performa control panel window open, Performa
  preference settings reverted to saved settings.
- Cleaned up the "not shut down correctly" dialog in the shut down
  check, an extension in the Performa control panel.
- The standard file patch, an extension in the Performa control panel,
  now resolves aliases most of the time. When aliases don't resolve,
  an 'X' appears over the Performa icon during startup.
- Added a file icon for the desk accessory called Shut Down 1.0P.

SYSTEM SOFTWARE VERSION 7.1P6

System software version 7.1P6 supports all the Macintosh Performa
models, and has all the features described for 7.1, 7.0.1P, 7.1P,
7.1P1, 7.1P2, and 7.1P3 with the following modifications:

- Backup Partition Software-automatically detects corrupted system folders
  When a bad System Folder is detected, the user is given the option to
  re-load another System Folder into their system.
- CD ROM Support-supports the AppleCD 300+, an all other Apple drives
- New Instructional Products Suite-adds a searchable hypertext glossary.
  It also provides paths for electronic as well as phone-based third party
  support.
- HyperCard 2.2 Player-Includes a number of HyperCard stacks to provide
  additional functionality, and supports sales of the HyperCard 2.2
  development kit.
- Improved incorrect shut-down dialog.
- Improvements to Apple Backup and Apple Restore.
- Inclusion of the '040 cache switch-provides compatibility with certain
  '040 cache incompatible programs, such as the current version of Prodigy.
- Optimus Support
- Bug fixes to improve reliability.

System 7.5

System 7.5 is qualified for all 680x0 based Performa computers with at least 4MB
of memory (8MB for PowerTalk or QuickDraw GX), and at least 8MB for any PowerPC
based Performa computer (16MB for PowerTalk or QuickDraw GX).

SOFTWARE BUNDLE

The software bundle for the Performa 550 has dozens of updates including:

- ClarisWorks 2.1-Supports PowerTalk and has bug fixes
- ClarisWorks Education Sample files-Allows us to use this bundle for the
  Educator Advantage Program

- Mario Teaches Typing 1.3.1

Fixes crashing Performa bug and sound manager problems

- American Heritage Dictionary Font Fix
- Quicken 4 Release 6

Fixes recalculation and other bugs

- New ClarisWorks Tour
- To receive upgrade kits from Global Village has been revised to eliminate
  the confusing dialog box at install time.

This 694-0261 bundle is qualified to be used for the Marts/Catalog 410 and 466,
and the CE/MM 460 and 475, the Performa 550 with the CD 300+.
(M1982LL/A,M1985LL/A, M2156LL/A M1904LL/A, M2147LL/B) as well as the all
Performa 570 series computers.

New bundles will be built at the end of February to support the rest of the
Performa line. (M2157LL/A, M2154LL/A, M1981LL/A, M2155LL/A) In addition, these
other bundles will have updated copies of Mavis Beacon
Typing, DateBook Pro, TouchBase Pro, and DataViz translators.

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28 Mar 1994 - Added info on 7.1P6 and made the article Performa specific.

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