HAPPY NEWTON YEAR!!!

Whew! 1996 was a doozy! But we've done it, we've taken a giant step forward, both as a technology and as a developer community. Hopefully most of you have had the opportunity by now to test the new Newton devices - the Newton MessagePad 2000 and the Apple eMate 300 - at the Newton Technology Conference last November or at a seed site. Both models were quite the hit at Comdex in Las Vegas!

We had a record number of attendees for the 1996 Newton Technology Conference, and according to preliminary reports, the feedback we've received is overwhelmingly positive. It seems that you appreciated the shorter conference time (2.5 days plus a day of lab time), and the General Technology session showcasing an array of technical talks was a hit. The "New to Newton" track was a sell-out, and the Business track allowed small business owners to hear about both marketing and technical information. Of course, the highlight of the conference was who else but our own talent extravaganza, the DTS Players ("Read the charges: $249 for a skit or $5 for a song!"). If you have more feedback about the conference, please let me know at dunvan@newton.apple.com, and we'll be sure to consider it when planning for this year's conference.

During Comdex, both the eMate 300 and MessagePad 2000 took Byte's Best of Comdex Finalist honors and were demonstrated to thousands of people. Current MessagePad owners were blown away by the sheer speed of the MessagePad 2000. Also popular were the extra PC slot and gray-cale display. And nearly everyone who walked through the Apple or Newton booths and caught a glimpse of the Apple eMate 300 had to stop and take a closer look at the unique and interesting design. Typical observations ranged from, "It's cute!" and "It looks like the front of a car!" to "Can I get one in [fill in the color]?" and "My kid would love this!" Cameras flashed, people "ooh"ed and "ahh"ed, and nearly everyone asked where they could get one for themselves, especially college students, parents, and mobile business people. Show-goers seemed most impressed by the eMate 300's durability, projected price, and extraordinary battery life. Breaking the news that this device was not initially intended for retail sale disappointed more than a few folks!

In this first Newton Technology Journal issue of 1997, we cover everything you need to know to port your applications to the new hardware, and we've even boiled it down to a convenient list in the "Updating Your Application" checklist. The article "New Product Overview" offers you quick access to an understanding of the new features of both products. You'll find in-depth information on several topics, with "MessagePad 2000 Screen Size and Gray-Scale Graphics" and "Introducing Works for Newton". Don't miss part 1 of the excellent article "Data Structures - Storing and Retrieving".

It is an exciting time here in the Newton Systems Group while we prepare for the release of the MessagePad 2000 and the Apple eMate 300. As Newton developers, you are the future of these products. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and firm belief in the quality and future of Newton technology. From all of us in the Newton Systems Group, we wish you outstanding success and a great year!

Jen Dunvan