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Canon Cat



# Jef Raskin Information

**DOCUMENT TITLE**

*CANON CAT COMMENTS*

**SOURCE**

*BOOK "TOG ON INTERFACE" MAY 1992*

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# Canon Cat Comments by Bruce Tognazzini

The following comments appeared in the book **TOG on Interface** (2nd printing, May 1992, p.182):

## MAIN BODY:

There are some really good abstract interfaces, ... Jef Raskin's Canon Cat interface is another.

## FOOTNOTE:

Jef Raskin, before starting his own company, Information Appliance, launched a fairly popular computer called the Macintosh. Before he left the project, Macintosh was far more dependent on the keyboard, and Raskin knew what to do with the keyboard, too. For example, the Find function on the Canon Cat is some 50 times faster than the same function on the Macintosh. Raskin didn't use "Command-key equivalents": he designed a true keyboard interface from the ground up.

The Canon Cat did not sell well, but this should be attributed to the hardware on which the system ran, as well as Canon's decision to target this ideal interface for professional writers almost exclusively to low-level clerical workers, who didn't need its functionality and were confused by its "invisible" interface. The interface was ideal for intuitives in general, and it is sad that so few of its innovations have yet to be picked up by the HI (human interface) community.

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