

Appendix 1.

InfoWorld

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Crazy Quilt

I could not agree more with the letter from Oscar Christophersen (May 11). The crazy quilt of operating software for the Apple causes a lot of wasted time. If I had a dollar for every time I sat staring at the terminal while booting a disk to change operating systems, I could buy myself a UNIX license. I am not aware of any other computer on which it is common practice for each programmer to write his own DOS.

Every member of the "Apple family" seems to have his own story about incompatibility problems. After I bought an Apple Silentye printer, I discovered that some previously reliable programs were mysteriously crashing during printout of text. Through trial-and-error investigation, I found that the driver routines on the Silentye inter-

face use locations in zero-page memory that were previously unused by Apple system software. If a user's program also happens to use these addresses, it will crash.

Since there is nothing about this in the Silentye manual, I wrote Apple asking which addresses the Silentye uses, so that I could avoid them in the future. Their only response was that this information was unavailable.

On the whole, I think the Apple is a well-designed computer, and its popularity is no accident. I only wish that Steve Wozniak had read *Software Tools* before he went into business.

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