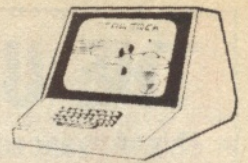


# Microcomputer News



## Is Apple's new 'Lisa' set to take over?

Apple's new top of the line computer, Lisa, looks set to change the way people think about computers in the office. Over \$200 million worth of research has been done to make Lisa easy to use for those who have no previous computer experience. So successful has this research program been that people who have mastered existing computer operating systems may be at a disadvantage when it comes to understanding Lisa.

Lisa has been designed to allow office workers to use the computer in a way consistent with normal office procedures without learning special control codes or computer languages. The display screen is organised as a desk top with documents and "folders" for file storage,

the keyboard and numeric keypad can be programmed for special character functions.

Six integrated applications programs allow Lisa to fulfil the most common office tasks, word processing, financial planning, project management, business

other familiar office objects. Once selected an object is used just as its real counterpart. Folders, for example, can be opened to reveal the contents, and documents can be refiled, copied or thrown away. Disk operating system commands are a thing of the past.

Each of the basic functions of all six of Lisa's software applications programs operate in the same way. Once a user has learned one application the others can be learnt quickly and easily.

Users of Lisa computers can share peripherals and exchange information and files over "AppleNet", Apple's new local area network system to which all Apple computers can be connected. Apple also plans to offer interface devices for other local area network configurations, including Xerox Corporation's Ethernet. As with AppleNet, all types of Apple computers will be able to use the interface.

"LisaTerminal", a data communications package, is also available to allow the computer to function as a teletype terminal, a DEC VT 52 terminal or an IBM-compatible terminal.

Computing power is provided by the Motorola MC68000 microprocessor, which has a 32-bit internal architecture and 16-bit external data transfers. Three other microprocessors control input and output functions, including the mouse, disk I/O and the keyboard.

A standard system has a million bytes of main memory and 1.7 megabytes of disk storage on two built-in 14cm minifloppies. The disk drive, the Apple 871, is a proprietary Apple mechanism featuring high density double-sided operation, with a faster data transfer rate than conventional drives.

Also in the standard system is the five megabyte Apple ProFile hard disk drive, allowing Lisa's applications programs and data to be stored on one disk. Three expansion slots are available internally.

Also introduced with Lisa were two new printers, a high resolution dot matrix device and a letter quality daisywheel type.

Cost of the Lisa system with one megabyte of RAM, two Floppy disk drives and ProFile hard disk drive with applications software is \$11,950 and stocks should be available shortly.



The Apple Lisa comes with built-in floppy disk drives and a 5MB hard disk. The small device at the right is the "mouse" for controlling a pointer on the screen.

a "trash can" for disposal of unwanted material and a series of command menus laid over the normal display.

The operator uses a small hand-held "mouse" which can be moved around on any flat surface to control the position of a pointer on the video display. A single button on the mouse allows selection of any of the menu options or activates a function symbolised by a small graphics image displayed at the side of the screen.

The video display is a 30cm, black on white bit-mapped screen capable of displaying 364 lines of 720 pixels each or up to 40 lines of up to 132 characters each. Although special function keys are normally replaced by pointer movements controlled by the mouse,

graphics and personal files on the screen simultaneously and transfer information instantaneously between any applications software.

"Lisa embodies a radical change in how users work with computers", says David Strong, general manager of Apple Australia. "Conventional computers created obstacles for those who want to make their jobs more efficient. We used progress in microtechnology, plus advances in software integration, to remove many of those obstacles and to make a computer that really is simple to use."

Selection of applications programs and options within programs is made by pointing at and activating the symbol for a file folder, memo pad, wastebasket or