Apple Manuals   Apple][Pascal   Apple Macintosh   ][Swyft Card   Canon Cat

Jef Raskin
Information

More on the Canon Cat

The Analytical Engine 2.2

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MORE ON THE CANON CAT

I think the Canon Cat is version 2. Version 1 was the Swyftcard, a plug-in ROM card for the Apple //e that turned it into something Cat-like. Jef Raskin came to a Washington Apple Pi meeting way back when to give a presentation and demo the thing. It was pretty nifty, and obviously designed to be simple, general, and powerful. The things that stick out in my memory:

(`) available at power-on (which was why it was in ROM). (a) No DOS, diskette directories, or formatting. You just stuck a disk in, pressed <save>, and whatever happened to be in memory at the time got written on the floppy in one format-and-save operation. (b) There was some support for telecommunications in the thing. (c) There was some way to escape into a FORTH-like language for extensions. You wrote your "source" as part of the in-memory document. This wasn't expected to be used by most folks. (d) There was some way to partition the in-memory document, so you could have (e.g.) a letter and an address database for mail-merge kinds of things.

If I dig around I can probably find my old WAP Journals and maybe find a review (maybe even with a mention of the meeting).

Frank McConnell