

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. The month's article is a second part of my experience with Apple Macs.

What if the business had an application that requires a specific piece of software (I have a client that has a web application that only runs in Internet Explorer)? The answer, let's see and he goes surfing the web for a Mac version of IE. We couldn't find one but you can install some software that allows you to run Windows applications on the Mac. Actually, it's about 3 pieces of software with one of them being Windows XP. Could I see this? Well no, we're having a problem with a Mac right now and will probably need to reinstall the system. At this point the Mac Pro quickly changed the subject to the Mac built in anti-virus protection. Actually, the protection is built into the Safari web browser. And this was a good thing as the other anti-virus companies don't have reliable clients for Macs. And since it's built into Safari, you don't have to pay the yearly maintenance fees. This is all well and good if all of your exposure is through the browser. But I asked about protection when you're on a business network. The Mac Pro paused blinked and then went on to other features.

As for the computers themselves, the desktop units (Macs and Mac Pros) are very impressive. They are sleek and have very good monitors and plenty of ports to connect things to them. The notebooks (Mac Books, Mac Books Pro, and Mac Airs) are somewhat disappointing. While the specs for these notebooks vary from the low end Mac Book, to the high end Mac Book Pro, to the lightweight Mac Air, it was only the later that had a good screen. I wonder why Apple hasn't adopted the Mac Air screen to the other notebooks. I would like to point out that all Macs are now built on the same CPU and video cards as PCs. While this is good, Apple only offers a few models in each of the lines. This leaves users with a rather limited range of choices.

Since I need to do more research (playing) with Macs, I'll be purchasing one soon.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer too, please forward them to me. My email address is meggert@wi.rr.com, my phone number is 262-679-7704 and my fax number is 262-679-7664.