Macintosh vs Windows 95

#5 "At Ease" Security

Summary

At Ease™ is a security program that lets people share an Apple® Macintosh® computer while protecting important applications and documents. It can protect files from young children at home, or prevent unauthorized configuration changes to a shared computer at work. At Ease also includes a simplified interface, with powerful features like talking buttons, that makes it very easy for young children to use the computer. It is bundled with every Macintosh Performa® home computer, and is available in a special networked version for business and schools.

This is part of a series of short reports on the contrasts between a Macintosh computer and a PC with Windows 95. To see previous entries in the series, visit us on the Internet at http://www.apple.com/whymac/

The Macintosh Advantage

At Ease offers a choice of user-friendly interfaces that can be customized for every age and experience level:

• Young people and computer novices can use the simplified At Ease desktop, with its large buttons and folders.

• A restricted version of the normal Macintosh interface with complete security is available for more experienced users.

• The normal Macintosh interface is available for authorized, full-access users.

Menus let you quickly designate which desktop each person will use. You can easily control each user's ability to open, delete, copy, or rename specific files. You can also assign passwords to each user. At Ease can control where documents are saved, and can even limit saving to only floppy disks.

Unlike Windows 95, At Ease lets you easily match the user interface to each person's age and level of computer experience. At Ease makes it much easier for kids to use the computer. The At Ease shell has large one-click buttons to make it easy for children to access files and applications. There are also talking buttons for those just learning to read. And each person's files are in a single folder so they can easily organize their own documents. With At Ease you can simply and easily authorize access to specific programs and files, protect system settings, and assign passwords.

At Ease supports up to 40 users on one computer, so it's perfect for small businesses and classrooms. For enterprise systems (whether large school labs or businesses), At Ease for Workgroups supports up to 4,000 users over a network, and includes advanced features like activity logging (tracks shared application usage and duration by user) and the ability for an administrator to configure At Ease from any Macintosh on the network. At Ease is bundled with all Macintosh Performa computers, and is available at a suggested retail price of U.S. $37. At Ease for Workgroups has a suggested retail price of U.S. $295 for 10 systems. Volume licenses and school site licenses are also available.

At Ease is available in most major languages, including English, Japanese, French, German, Italian, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish.

What It Means For Users

In homes, At Ease lets parents feel good about sharing their family Macintosh. Young children can use the computer through the simplified At Ease desktop without risk of having files deleted or unauthorized applications opened. At Ease lets parents and older children have full or restricted access. Parents can even control which CDs children can access.

In schools, At Ease provides security and prevents accidental file deletion and other system changes. At Ease offers a simplified user interface for young users and a restricted interface for more experienced students. Teachers and authorized users can have full access. At Ease also lets teachers designate where students save their work, and they can set up drop boxes for students to hand in their work electronically.

In business, At Ease makes it much easier for IS managers to prevent unauthorized configuration changes to Macintosh computers. This is especially important when Macintosh computers are shared by a workgroup. Access to the hard drive can be prevented if necessary, and users can be limited to saving files only in certain locations.

What About the Future?

Apple's plans for the future of At Ease include making it more flexible, giving greater network management, and allowing even more user customization.

Questions or Comments?

You can send e-mail to the Macintosh Platform Marketing team at competition@applelink.apple.com

For more information on At Ease, use the Internet:

At Ease: http://www.austin.apple.com:80/productinfo/ datasheets/as/atease3.0.html

At Ease for Workgroups: http://www.austin.apple. com:80/ productinfo/datasheets/as/ateasewg.html