

🍏 Apple Lisa Computer
Technical Information



Apple Lisa Computer: Background Press Info (Apple 1983)

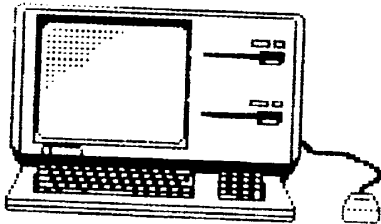
Lisa Computer: 1983 - 1985

PRESS INFORMATION

1983

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

HOW LISA WORKS



**Apple Lisa Personal Computer
1983 - 1985**

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LISA: A REVOLUTIONARY PERSONAL COMPUTER FOR THE OFFICE

Lisa[™], Apple Computer's new personal computer for the office, introduces a new kind of relationship between the user and computer. Instead of having to adopt rigid conventions and special languages, the user works naturally with familiar objects and tasks represented as pictures on Lisa's screen.

Apple's goal was to create a personal computer that would maximize office performance without requiring the user to sacrifice familiar work habits. John Couch, vice president and general manager of the Personal Office Systems Division, describes Lisa's development this way:

"The office is not a place; it's a collection of people. Apple looked within its own offices to examine the procedures and information everyone uses. We felt that if we could design products useful to us, they would work in other offices as well. It's the individual-centered approach, we think, that sets Apple apart."

But first, Apple examined why personal computers had not yet fully penetrated the office market. Research indicated that personal computers were often difficult and time consuming to learn (and, therefore, expensive). Additionally, they were "single-minded"—they didn't allow people to move data easily from one application to another, nor to transfer information from one user to another.

Thus, Apple set out to develop a personal computer that was extremely easy to use and easy to learn, that had the ability to transfer data between applications and between users, and that allowed users to run existing programs and write new programs in widely used, high-level languages and operating systems.

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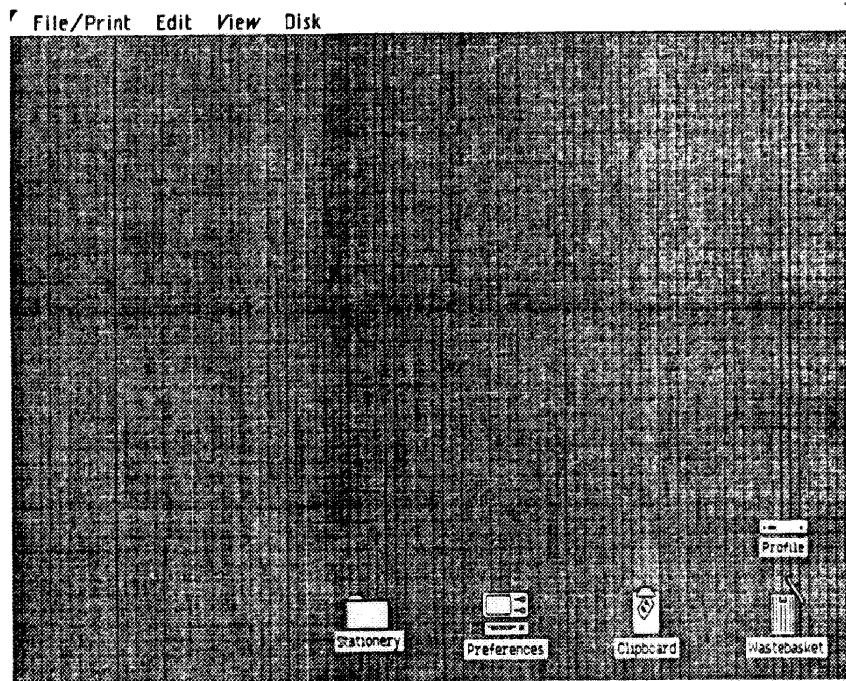


Figure 1

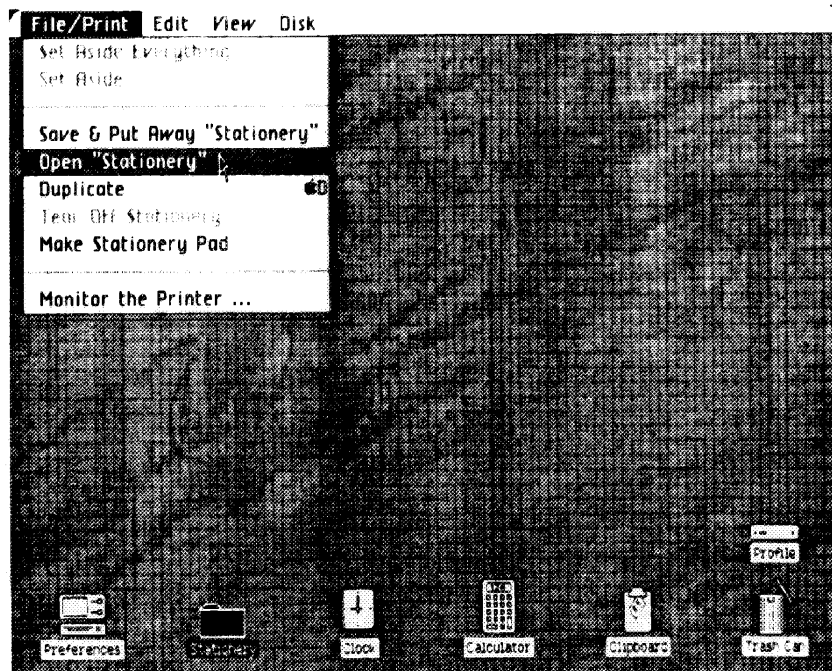


Figure 2

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3-3-3
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The result was Lisa, a personal computer that Apple feels will set the standard for office systems for the next five to ten years. Lisa employs advanced software and hardware technology, makes extensive use of graphics, and uses the same basic functions to operate all its integrated applications. Lisa is so easy to learn that a user can be doing useful work in under 30 minutes.

How Lisa Works

Lisa utilizes a "mouse," a palm-size device that positions the cursor, or pointer, anywhere on the screen. By moving the mouse on the desktop, the user points to and selects objects on the screen.

The Lisa screen features graphic representations of objects--stationery, clipboard, wastebasket, and more--typically found in an office environment. These pictures also represent tasks--writing, setting aside documents on the desktop, putting documents back in folders, or throwing documents away. Collectively, these objects form the "desktop manager," the part of Lisa's software architecture that organizes information, documents, and tasks just as the user would in a typical office.

(See Figure 1)

The menu bar, a component of the desktop manager, is always visible at the top of the screen. It changes automatically with each application and informs the user of the options available in that application. After making a selection from the menu bar, additional options for performing specific tasks are offered through a pull-down menu.

(See Figure 2)

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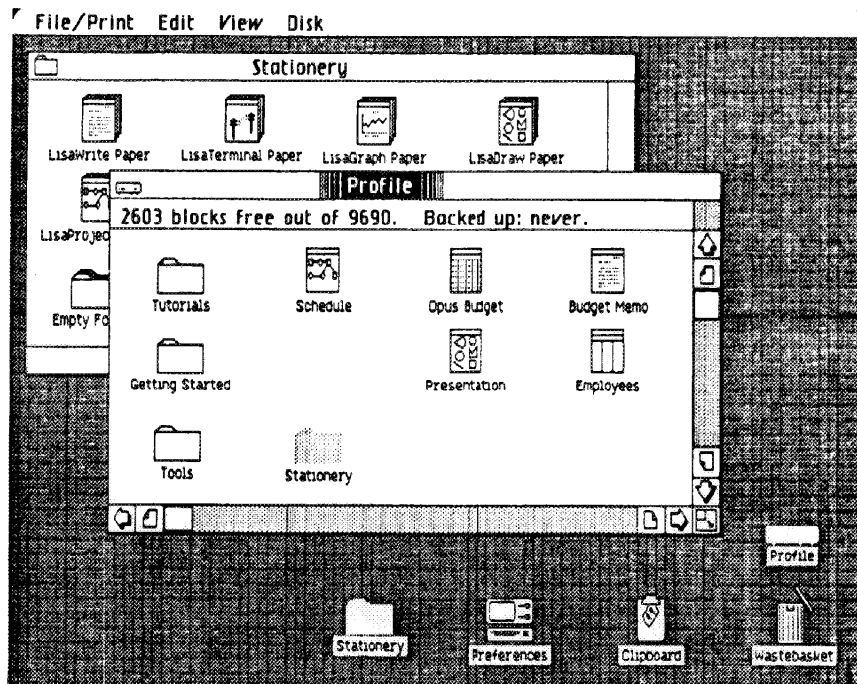


Figure 3

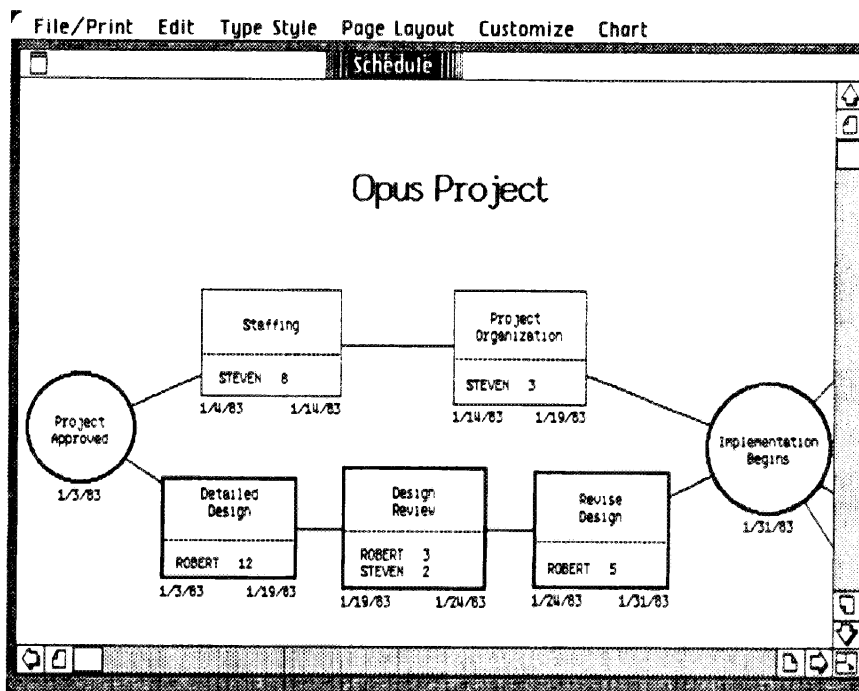


Figure 4

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5-5-5
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All of Lisa's software programs can be stored on the ProFiletm mass storage system, allowing the user to run applications concurrently and to go from one to another without rebooting diskettes. Although the user can work with only one application at a time, all applications can be viewed on the screen simultaneously—just as real documents can be spread out on a desk. Instead of being concerned about what application to use, the user merely selects the desired document; Lisa does the rest.

The following paragraphs illustrate how a manager would use Lisa to accomplish a series of tasks. He moves easily between LisaWritetm, LisaProjecttm, LisaCalctm, LisaGraphtm, LisaDrawtm, and LisaListtm in succession.

The most common office task, writing a letter, begins by opening the stationery folder. Using the mouse, the manager points to the picture of the stationery folder on the screen and clicks the button on the mouse to select the folder. Several selections appear on the menu bar. He chooses the File/Print menu and opens it by holding down the button on the mouse. The pull-down menu is displayed and additional options are listed, one of which is "Open Stationery." With another click of the mouse button, the stationery folder is opened and the contents revealed graphically on the screen. If the manager wants to refer to a previously prepared document, he chooses the "ProFile" object from the desktop manager and scans the information that's on file.

(See Figure 3)

For example, let's consider a document called Opus Project schedule. First, the manager opens the File/Print menu, views the choices listed on the pull-down menu, and selects "Open Schedule." Only a small part of the project is revealed. To view the rest, he can open the Page Layout menu, select "Reduce to Fit" from the pull-down menu, and the entire schedule is displayed.

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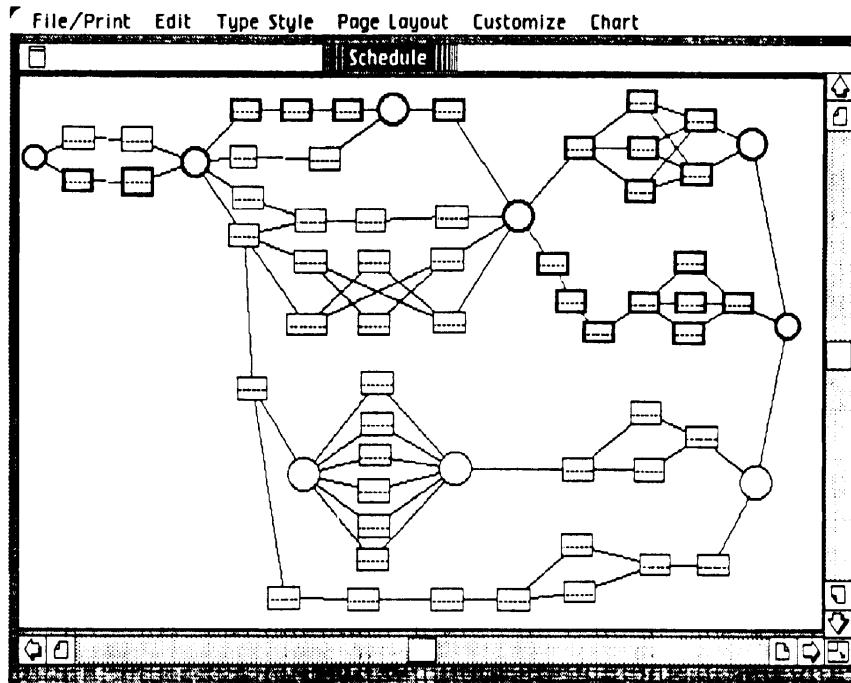


Figure 5

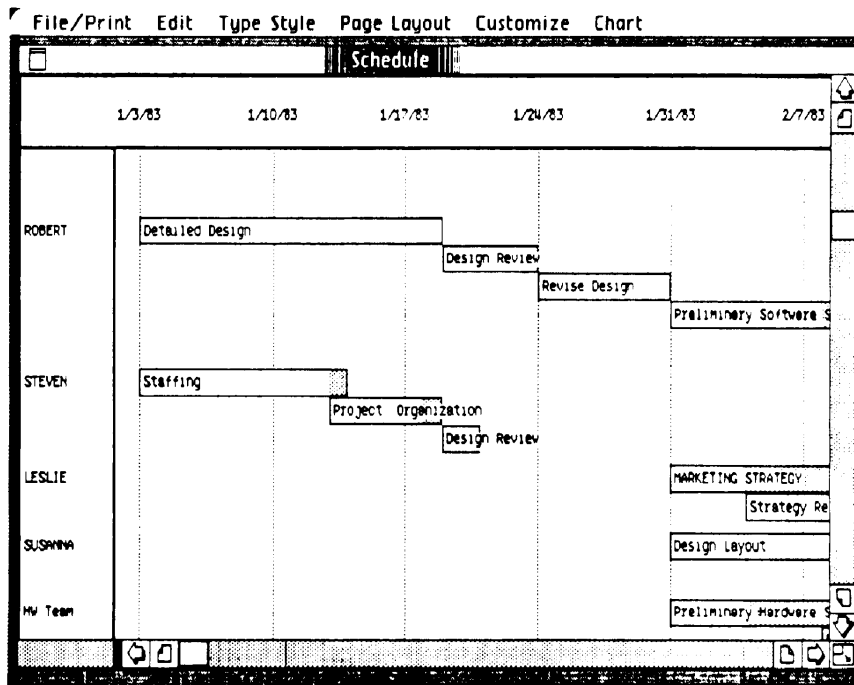


Figure 6

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7-7-7
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On the screen are circles that indicate project milestones, and boxes that represent tasks to be completed. Inside each box is the name of the task, the person responsible for it, and how long it will take. Underneath each box is the latest date on which the project can be started if it is to be completed on time, and the latest date on which the task can be completed if the project is not to be delayed. Lines between tasks show their interdependency.

(See Figure 4)

With the mouse, the manager can add tasks to the chart by drawing boxes and entering in each box (via the keyboard) the name of the new task. Lines connecting the previous tasks can be deleted and new ones drawn in. Lisa automatically charts and highlights the critical path, calculates the results of any changes, and updates the chart.

(See Figure 5)

Lisa gives the manager the flexibility to alter the chart—to find out in advance what to expect if new assignments should come up or if tasks are not completed on schedule. For example, if the manager has assigned Robert a new task and given him six days to complete it, he can see how this new job will affect Robert's work load by viewing a resource chart.

(See Figure 6)

The chart shows that Robert is overbooked, but Steven has extra time. The manager can balance the workload by reassigning the task from Robert to Steven. Again, Lisa does all the updating and calculations. The manager also can keep track of how the project is progressing by entering the remaining days for each task. The resource chart is updated automatically with each change.

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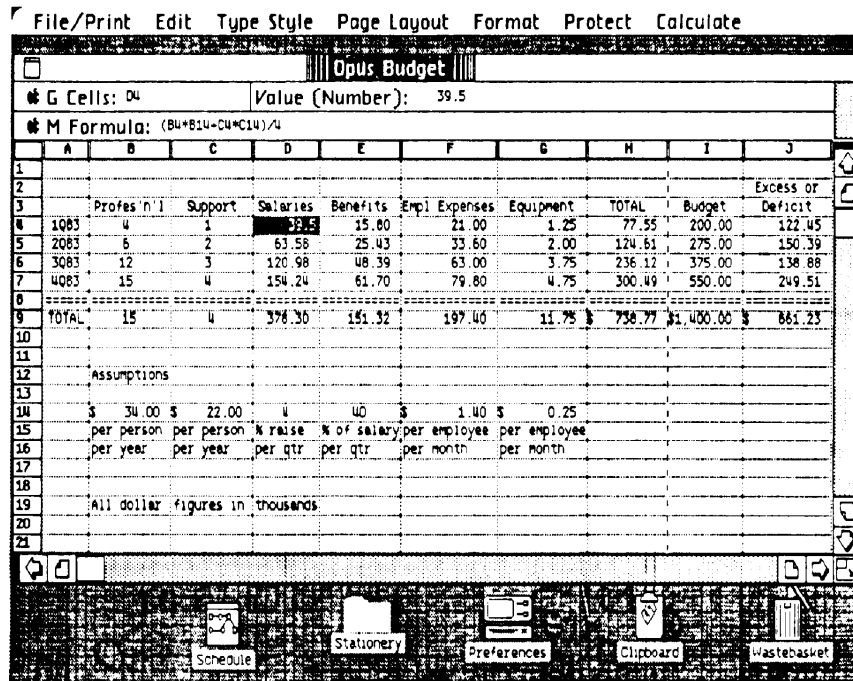


Figure 7

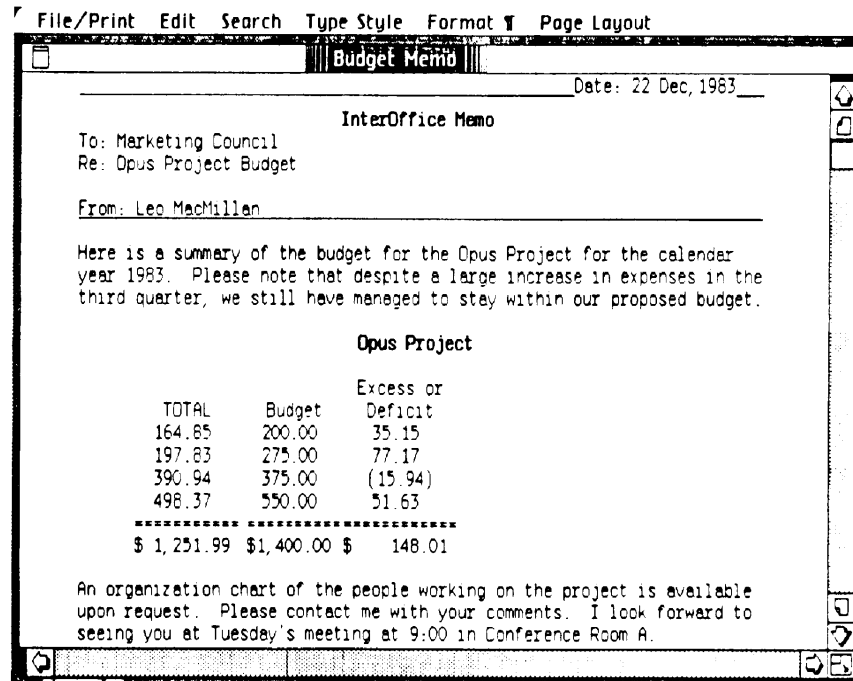


Figure 8

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Let's move on to the Opus Project budget. Using the mouse, the manager opens ProFile from the desktop manager and selects the budget. Again, all or part of the budget can be displayed on the screen. To change a value, he points to the appropriate column and presses the mouse button to select it. The new value is typed in from the keyboard. Revising a model is easy because Lisa automatically recalculates the entire chart.

(See Figure 7)

Our manager can easily insert the budget into a memo or report. He makes a copy of the budget and sets it aside on the screen; then he writes the memo which is also displayed on the screen. With the mouse, he positions the pointer at the location in the memo where he wants to insert the budget. From the Edit Menu, he chooses an option that automatically "pastes" the copy of the budget model into the memo.

Text, such as the heading "Opus Project" above the budget model, can be entered in the same manner. It can be centered, boldfaced, italicized, and more. Lisa provides options that allow a document to look just the way the manager wants it.

(See Figure 8)

For budget information that is obvious at a glance, our manager creates a graph. He selects information from the original budget, copies it, and inserts it into the graph application by using the "Paste" option from the Edit menu. Lisa draws the graph automatically. Options include a bar graph, line graph, bar/line mixture, scatter graph, or pie chart, plus a variety of tpestyles and sizes for titles.

(See Figure 9)

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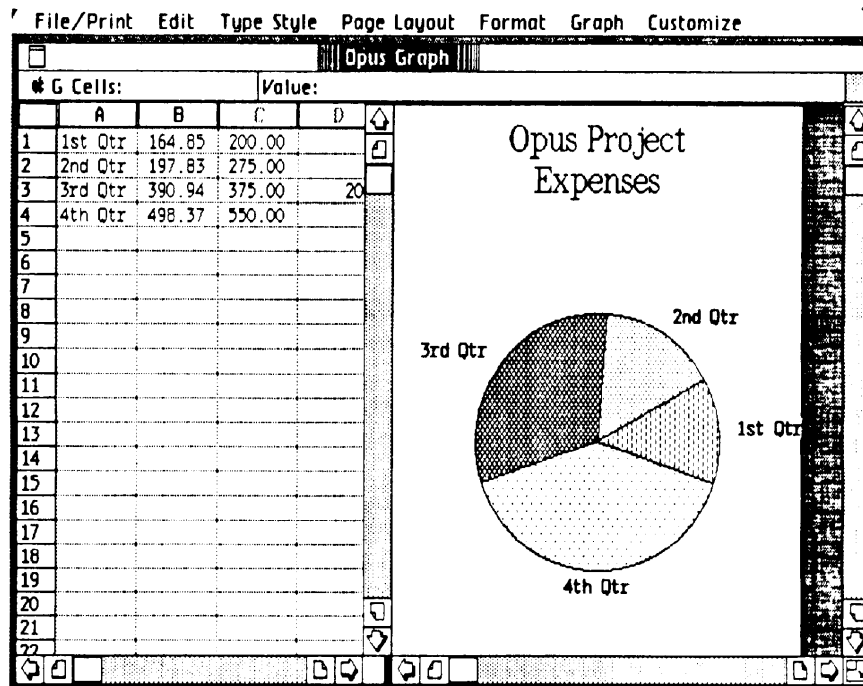


Figure 9

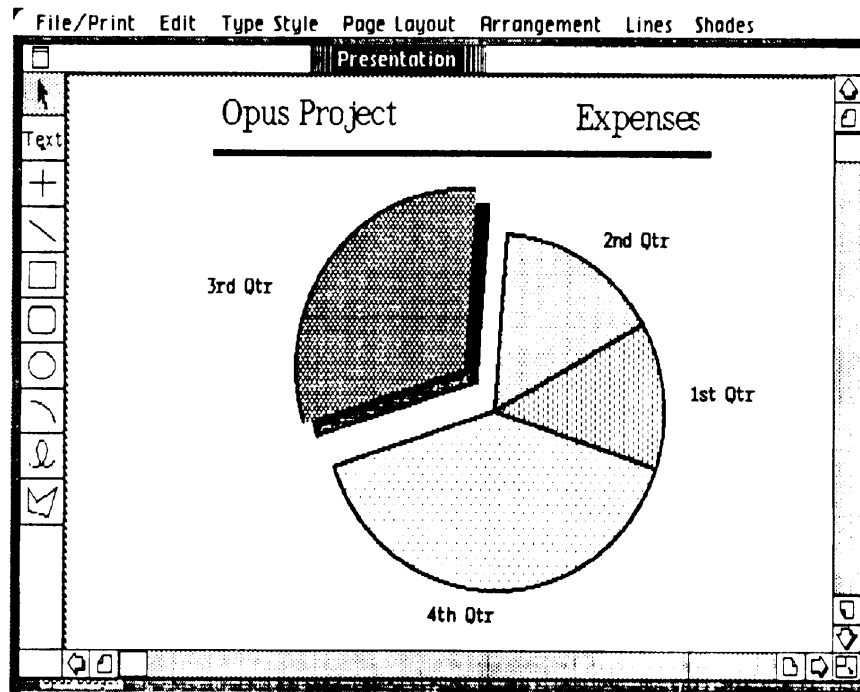


Figure 10

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11-11-11
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In some instances, the manager may need a custom drawing to further illustrate the information. With Lisa, neither an artist nor drafting table is needed. From the Edit menu, the manager selects the "Copy" option and the graph is duplicated. Using shapes and free-form graphics, he now can work with the copy to create a custom graph. On the screen is a customized pie chart of the Opus Project budget. Sections can be separated, duplicated, or shaded with different fill patterns. These objects can be rearranged to produce a drop shadow, or lines can be drawn and boldfaced. Text also can be added and moved.

(See Figure 10)

With the schedule, budget, and graphs finished, our manager may want to send his documents to a list of people. He opens a document that contains a list of all the employees in the company--their names, mailboxes, departments, and other information.

(See Figure 11)

Suppose he wants the report sent to everyone on the marketing council. When he selects the "Find What" option from the List Menu, the manager is presented with a search specification table containing the column headings from the employee list and one blank row. He would then go to the Marketing Council column and type the word "yes" in the blank row.

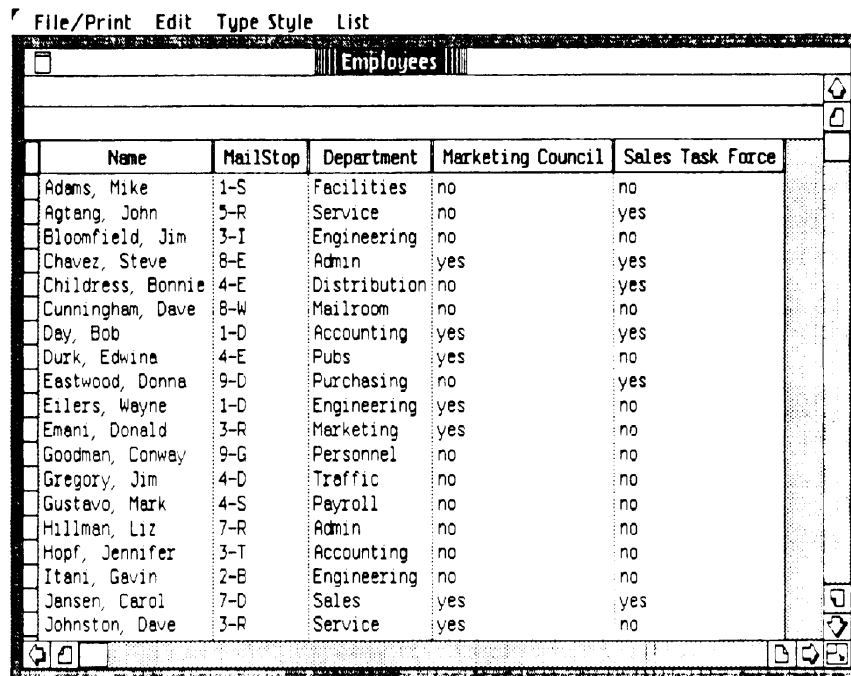
(See Figure 12)

After selecting "Find and Show" from the List Menu, only the names of those employees on the marketing council appear on the screen. If only part of the employee information on the distribution list is needed, such as names and mailboxes, the manager can select the "Order and Format" option and type a "no" in all the columns of information not needed. Lisa automatically revises the

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12-12-12
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File/Print Edit Type Style List

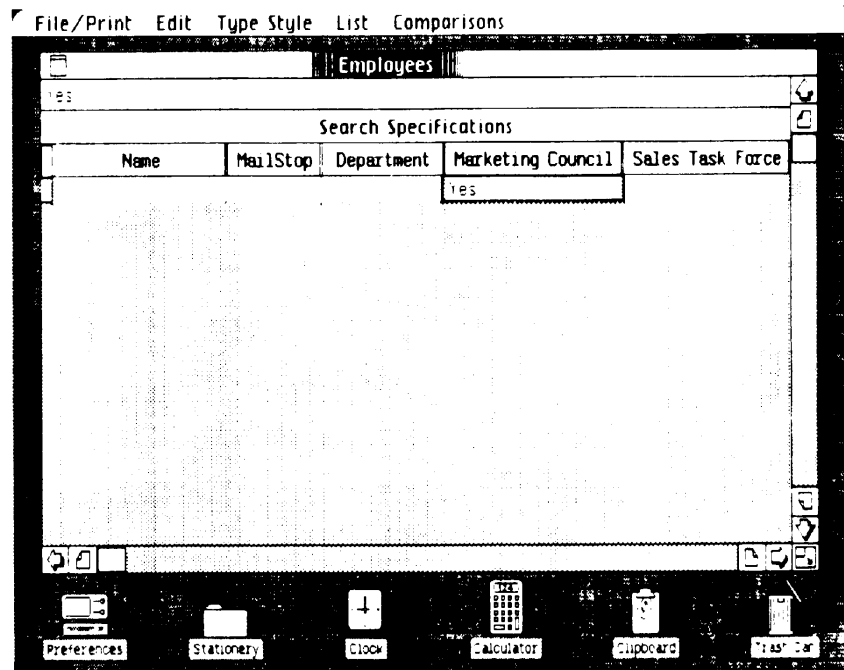


The screenshot shows a window titled "Employees" with a menu bar containing "File/Print Edit Type Style List". The window contains a table with the following data:

Name	MailStop	Department	Marketing Council	Sales Task Force
Adams, Mike	1-S	Facilities	no	no
Agtang, John	5-R	Service	no	yes
Bloomfield, Jim	3-I	Engineering	no	no
Chavez, Steve	8-E	Admin	yes	yes
Childress, Bonnie	4-E	Distribution	no	yes
Cunningham, Dave	8-W	Mailroom	no	no
Day, Bob	1-D	Accounting	yes	yes
Durk, Edwina	4-E	Pubs	yes	no
Eastwood, Donna	9-D	Purchasing	no	yes
Eilers, Wayne	1-D	Engineering	yes	no
Emani, Donald	3-R	Marketing	yes	no
Goodman, Conway	9-G	Personnel	no	no
Gregory, Jim	4-D	Traffic	no	no
Gustavo, Mark	4-S	Payroll	no	no
Hillman, Liz	7-R	Admin	no	no
Hopf, Jennifer	3-T	Accounting	no	no
Itani, Gavin	2-B	Engineering	no	no
Jansen, Carol	7-D	Sales	yes	yes
Johnston, Dave	3-R	Service	yes	no

Figure 11

File/Print Edit Type Style List Comparisons



The screenshot shows the same "Employees" window as Figure 11, but with a "Search Specifications" dialog box open. The dialog box has a menu bar with "File/Print Edit Type Style List Comparisons" and a "YES" button. The dialog contains a table with the same columns as Figure 11, and the "Marketing Council" column has the value "yes" entered. The dialog also has a "NO" button and a "Cancel" button. The desktop background shows icons for "Preferences", "Stationery", "Clock", "Calculator", "Clipboard", and "Lisa's Car".

Name	MailStop	Department	Marketing Council	Sales Task Force
			yes	

Figure 12

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13-13-13
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list to show only the information specified.

(See Figure 13)

When the work is complete, the manager returns to the File/Print menu, opens the stationery folder, selects an empty folder, and names it "Opus Project." He now files all the Opus Project documents in one folder for easy access later on.

(See Figure 14)

Lisa's other functions are just as comprehensive and easy to use as these applications. The keyboard features a numeric keypad for calculator-style entry of numbers, and standard characters that can be shifted to mathematical symbols or foreign characters. Presentation-quality printouts reflect what appears on Lisa's high-resolution screen. Manuscripts, schedules, graphics, charts, and designs can be reproduced on paper with Apple's Dot Matrix and Daisy Wheel Printers.

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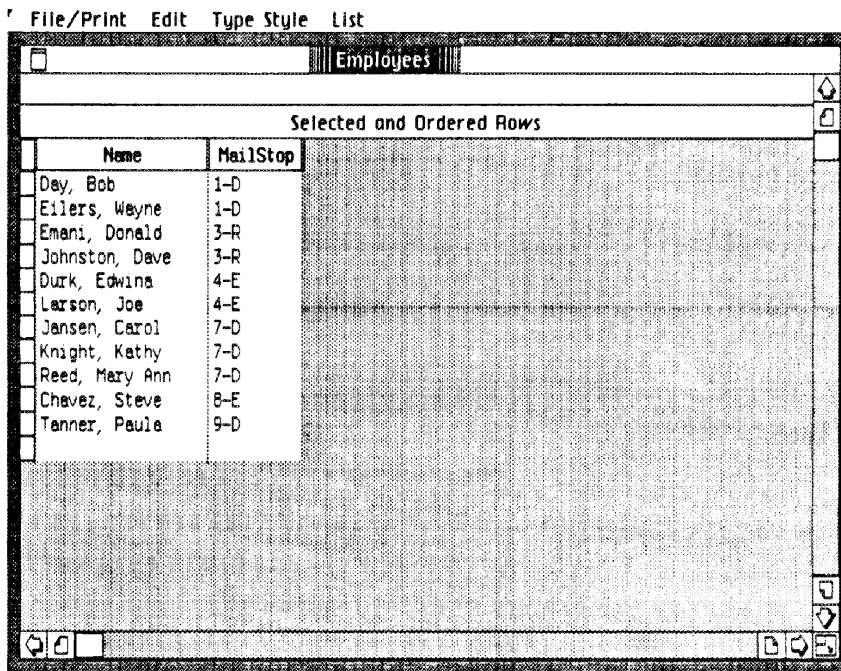


Figure 13

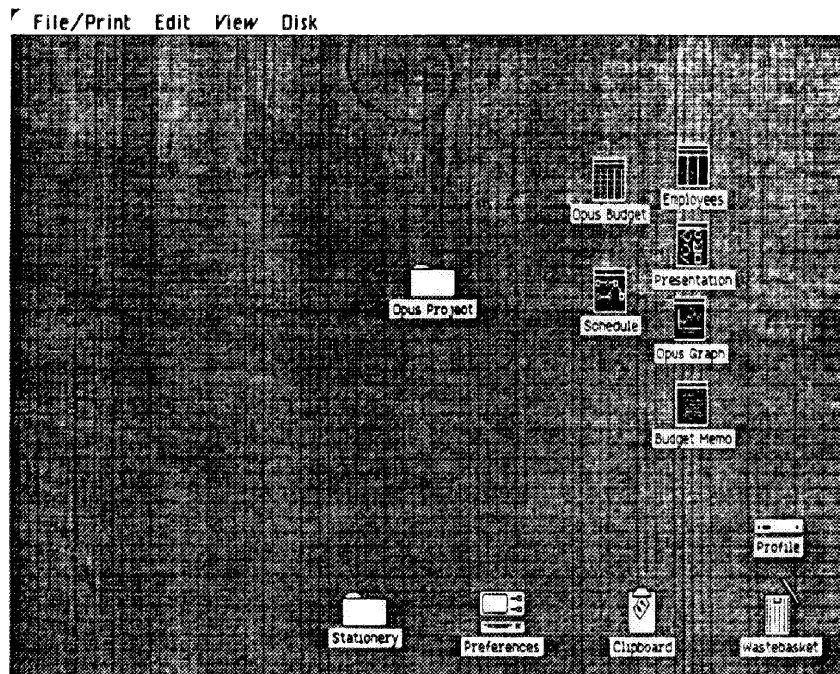


Figure 14

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FINIS