

EXHIBIT Q

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Salt Lake Tribune (Utah)

June 5, 1994, Sunday

BYLINE: By Craig Crossman**SECTION:** Business; Pg. F6**LENGTH:** 702 words

Q. I have purchased a CD-ROM drive to add to my Windows-based computer. It came with software that lets me run a CD from DOS but not Windows. I have been told that I could also play ordinary compact discs with this drive, but I don't know how to accomplish this. I also have a CD that has collections of photographic images on it. How can I access this CD?

A. Since you just bought the drive, I will assume that it is a current model and supports most of today's CD formats. This gives the drive the physical capability of reading and playing the CDs you mention. Different manufacturers supply a variety of software that allows you to use the drive. Unfortunately, this value-added software does not always measure up. That's good for companies such as Phoenix Technologies, which has just released a complete CD-ROM controlling program for Windows. CD Essentials makes using your CD-ROM drive easy and automatic in most cases.

With CD Essentials, Windows is capable of automatically sensing the insertion of a CD-ROM into the drive. And depending on the type of CD-ROM you insert, CD Essentials will let you display the correct control panel to match from its master panel display. As you insert different CDs, CD Essentials automatically learns and remembers how it was used.

For example, if you were to insert a music disc, you would see the title, and then it would launch the Audio Player control panel. This display looks like many of today's stereo front panels, with slider controls for volume and track selection. A digital counter displays the number of tracks, the track being played and length of time.

You also can make a list to arrange the songs to be played and repeated in any order. The same panel also displays a tape cassette that allows you to record sound files and store them to your hard-disk drive.

Another panel allows you to view images from your photo collection disc and supports Kodak's Photo CD format. The video module lets you display any full motion video clips that might be on the CD. As with the audio player, you can arrange the video clips to be played or looped in any order.

And since CD Essentials works from within Windows, you can run other applications while accessing the CD-ROM. So if you want to listen to music while typing a letter in your word processor, simply click on CD Essentials, play the disc, run the word processor and begin typing.

-- CD Essentials sells for \$ 49.95.

-- Phoenix Technologies (800) 542-0120 or (617) 551-4000.

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Q. I'm drooling over the new trackball replacement being used by the new Apple PowerBook portables. Instead of the quirky trackball, these new portables have some sort of flat glass surface that senses the movement of your finger. As you move your finger over the surface, the pointer moves in the respective direction. If I owned an Apple, I would trade it in for this. But I own an IBM compatible. Last I heard, Apple was not trading for those. Where can I find something like this for my PC?

A. The device you refer to is called **GlidePoint**. It senses not only your fingertip's position, but velocity. The faster you move your finger over the same area, the more distance the pointer will move. So if you need to fine-tune the pointer, moving slowly will track the pointer with a great deal of accuracy over a small area. Moving quickly will pro-

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pel the pointer from one edge of the screen to the other. Tapping the surface lets you click, double click and drag as you would with mouse buttons. The tiny device also sports two conveniently located mechanical buttons on the bottom edge for your thumb.

It's made for Apple by Cirque Corp. The 1.8-ounce device can fit in the palm of your hand or sit on a table surface. With no moving parts to wear out, it plugs into any PS/2-compatible mouse port.

Cirque plans to come out with its own external version for IBM-compatible computers.

-- **GlidePoint** sells for \$ 99.

-- Cirque Corp. (800) 454-3375 or (801) 467-1100.

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LOAD-DATE: April 14, 1995

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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