
Subject: Re: Issue with 6.3, Mac OS X 10.4, 3 displays, X11
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 17 Oct 2006 18:03:39 GMT
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Ben Panter writes:

- > As soon as you start talking about putting *anything* into orbit,
- > the cost of (even) hardware like this is lost in the noise. In fact, you
- > might say that it's one of the most crucial parts of the mission -
- > relaying data to a public, even if it is only a small public who get to
- > see it in the flesh, to convince them of why they are spending all that
- > cash. The science and understanding of our own planet might mean that
- > our kids have the opportunity to visit Mars - if we get it wrong here
- > then perhaps there won't be an 'us' to make that trip.
- >
- > That's not to say that I don't think that we should be cancelling all
- > Mars trips, or cancelling astronomy missions, it just means that as an
- > ordinary scientist I'm glad that it's not taking *all* the cash.

Hi Ben,

As you know, I was being a little facetious. (Or maybe the feeling I was expressing was envy, I'm not sure.) In any case, I don't begrudge the NASA folks fancy hardware. Lord knows the most exciting experience of my life this year (other than having two state tennis singles champions from our local high school) was being inside that Gemini dome when the big telescope was opened up! Talk about a piece of machinery. *That* feeling was sublime. Like visiting the Astronomy Library in Edinburgh and seeing that first edition of the Principia.

- > PS: Played conkers the other day. Lost to a seven year old.

I still have my two sitting here on my desk, to remind me of how expensive it is to live in Munich. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
