
Subject: Re: Issue with 6.3, Mac OS X 10.4, 3 displays, X11
Posted by [Ben Panter](#) on Tue, 17 Oct 2006 17:51:37 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

> All I want to know is whether the money for all
> of this expensive gear was diverted from the planned
> Mars mission? It seems we don't have our priorities
> straight here. :-(

Hi David,

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.

Cheers,

Ben

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

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Ben Panter, Edinburgh, Scotland.
Email false, <http://www.benpanter.co.uk>
or you could try ben at ^^^^^^^^^^^
