

Gareth Jones, in his article "HyperCard for the Unconvinced" says:

HyperCard has always been a hard program to define. As a result, many people have not realized what it has to offer. Among other things, HyperCard IIGS is:

- **A paint program for 640 mode pictures It has some very nice features, including a "regular polygon tool" for making triangles, squares, pentagons, and other geometric shapes. For many people, HyperCard may be as much of a paint program as they will ever need.**
- **A clip-art collection featuring castles, maps, full-screen backgrounds and (of course) a set of functional and fanciful icons.**
- **A collection of clip-sounds that can be used by the Sound Control Panel.**
- **A visual aids or presentation graphics program that lets you go from picture to picture in the order that you select. You can add cinematic special effects to each transition from picture to picture, such as "iris out" or "wipe left" or "dissolve slowly." ... You could also use this ability to make automated flash cards, Science Fair displays, "Music Videos" and so on.**
- **A database program that allows graphics, calculated fields, text fields with up to 30,000 characters in them, import and export of data, keyword searching, and password-protection of sensitive databases.**
- **An icon editing program. To be precise, the package includes a "stack" (a program created in HyperCard) to create or edit icons for use by other stacks. There are ways to move Finder icons into HyperCard and HyperCard icons into the Finder.**
- **Quite nice address list and datebook stacks. The latter has a perpetual calendar.**
- **A programming language (called "HyperTalk") that can automate any of HyperCard's painting, database, calculation, or presentation capabilities.**

In other words, it is a set of useful tools for making your computer do what you want. And it is easy to get started.

Resources for HyperCard

HyperCard Sources

Apple Computer (http://download.info.apple.com/Apple_Support_Area/Apple_Software_Updates/English-North_American/Apple_II/HyperCard_IIGS_1.1/). I have not been able to unpack these files. They are Macintosh self-extracting archives and you probably need OS 9 for them to work.

I can't find HyperCard anywhere else on the web right now except on the **Golden Orchard CD** (which can be downloaded at http://digisoft.callapple.org/golden_orchard/). It is on some CD compilations - **Time in a Bottle, TABBS, DeluxeWare** - that I know of, and of course on the **Script-Central CD** (see below).

Syndicomm (<http://store.syndicomm.com/>) sells both the HyperCard disks and manuals (**Getting Started with HyperCard IIGS, HyperCard IIGS Reference, and HyperTalk Beginner's Guide**).

Tutorials:

Gareth Jones has a tutorial on his website (<http://modena.intergate.ca/personal/gslj/lessonindex.html>) This guides you through making a stack - in this case an appointment calendar stack. In addition to the tutorial there are about a dozen articles on HyperCard that are useful reading.

On **Time in a Bottle** is a set of four lessons, "HyperTalk 101". These cover how HyperCard works, many commands and concepts, and what other resources you may want.

Getting Started with HyperCard IIgs (the book) is basically a tutorial.

Script-Central was a disk magazine published from July to January 1995. All the issues are on a CD from Shareware Solutions (<http://users.foxvalley.net/~joko/sccatalog.html>). There is an incredible amount of information here. Every issue has lessons, sample scripts, hints, tips, sounds, clip art and other tools. If HyperCard interests you at all get this.

Other Resources:

The **HyperTalk NDA** is a desk accessory that is a dictionary of HyperTalk commands. It can be found at <ftp://ftp.gno.org/pub/apple2/gs.specific/system/desk.accs/nda> and probably other places.

The CD compilations **Time in a Bottle**, **TABBS**, and **DeluxeWare** all have both the HyperCard program and other HyperCard stacks and aids.