

printout

Keystone MacCentral Macintosh Users Group ❖ 717-932-4009 ❖ <http://www.keystonemac.com>

Achieve the Best Results in Scanning

by Thomas Bank

Come join Keystone MacCentral on Tuesday, September 20th, at 6:30 p.m. as Linda Smith and Thomas Bank present tips and techniques to make the most of your scanner. A brief overview of the types of scanners available will be followed by the software options to get your scanner and computer communicating. We will then divulge tips, techniques, and trade secrets to get the best results out of your scanned images from printed material, photographs, and other media. Members are encouraged to bring in unique samples to learn how to achieve the best results in scanning them. 🗑️

Meet us at

Gannett Fleming

Gannett West Building

209 Senate Ave ❖ Camp Hill

Tuesday, September 20, 2005, 6:30 p.m.

Attendance is free and open to all interested persons.

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Keystone MacCentral is a not-for-profit group of Macintosh enthusiasts who generally meet the third Tuesday of every month to exchange information, participate in question-and-answer sessions, view product demonstrations, and obtain resource materials that will help them get the most out of their computer systems. Meetings are free and open to the public. The *Keystone MacCentral Printout* is the official newsletter of Keystone MacCentral and an independent publication not affiliated or otherwise associated with or sponsored or sanctioned by any for-profit organization, including Apple Computer, Inc. Copyright © 2005, Keystone MacCentral, 1020 Pines Road, Etters, PA 17319.

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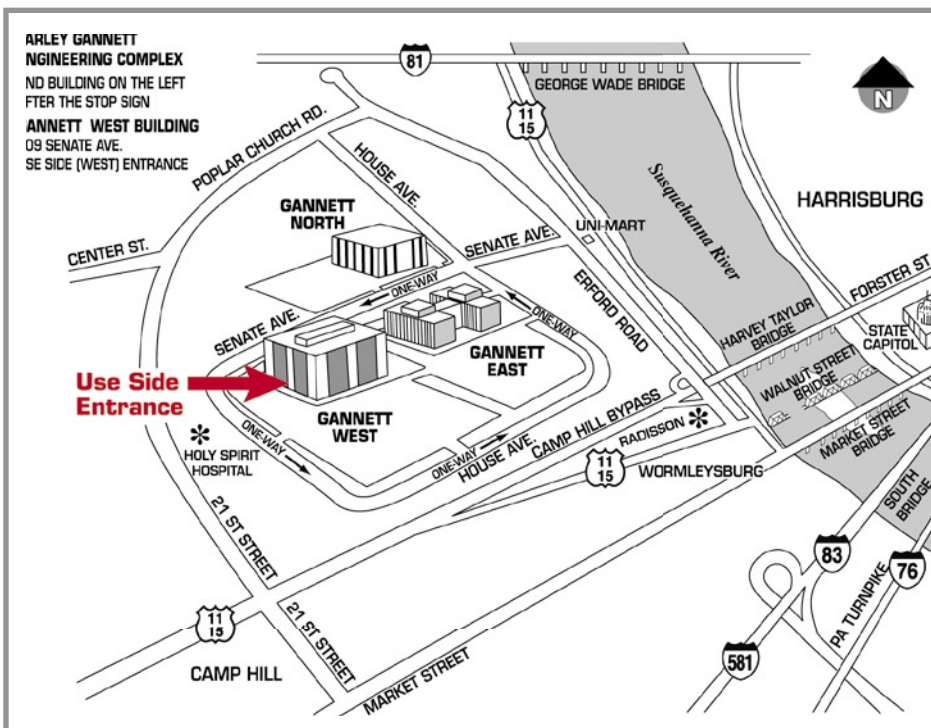
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Keystone MacCentral Essentials

Meeting Place

Gannett West
209 Senate Avenue
Camp Hill

Web Site

<http://www.keystonemac.com>

Mailing Address

1020 Pines Road
Etters, PA 17319

Phone

717-932-4009

President's Corner

Summer may not be over officially, but Kipona marked its effective end and school has started, so as far as I am concerned, it's fall, time to get back to our regular schedules and continue learning. Continued education is not only for school students but also for the those of us who graduated from school some time ago. As the new school year starts, I hope you will join us for what I believe are some excellent programs. Our September program, as you have seen in our cover story, is about scanning and is one I have been wanting to see. Unfortunately, Red Land's Back to School Night is also on Sept. 20, and as a teacher, I am obligated to be there. I actually enjoy meeting and talking to the parents but wish it were on another evening so I could do both. Attendees at our KeyMac meeting will learn a lot about using a scanner, so take good notes in case I have questions!

Apple has once again introduced cool new technology, and I get the impression that whoever is in charge of naming the new products (Steve, maybe?) watched and enjoyed the same TV shows as I did. After all, wasn't Mighty Mouse a Saturday morning cartoon super hero before morphing into a multiple button mouse with a scroll ball? Apple's Mighty Mouse looks mighty impressive as the innovative scroll ball offers 360 degree scrolling, going not only up and down and left and right but also diagonally. It is so

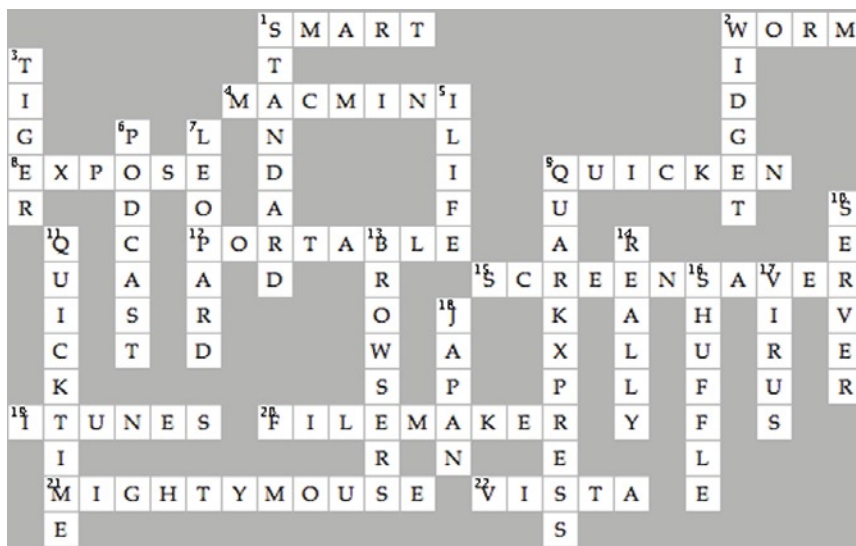
great that I am glad that my 30 beautiful, new, G5 iMacs in the lab at school were shipped before Apple's Mighty Mouse was introduced and thus sport one button mice. "What?" you may say. "That makes no sense!" Actually, it makes total sense when you know that Mighty Mouse will also work with Windows XP or 2000. Students generally are not tempted by the one button mice, but, trust me, the Mighty Mouse would inspire scroll ball envy in their Windows souls, and iMacs missing their mice would be hard to use!

And how about the new iPod nano? The name could perhaps go back to Robin William's trademark "Nano, nano" from Mork and Mindy, but to me it brings to mind the word "nanites" which I first heard years ago on Star

Trek Next Generation (STNG to you fellow Trek fans!) OK, OK, I know that "nano" denotes a very small item, and that according to my Oxford American Dictionary its origin via Latin from Greek means "dwarf," but having been the proud owner of a StarTek cell phone which mimicked the Star Trek communicator and made me feel that if I really needed him, Scotty would have been on the other end, I respectfully submit that Apple and Star Trek have a lot in common. Both are creative, innovative, far seeing, and appealing to intelligent individuals. 😊 That StarTek phone was from Motorola too, just like the newly introduced ROKR iTunes enabled mobile phone. "Fascinating," as Mr. Spock would say.

"Kirk, er, Cober out." 🗑️

Solution to Last Month's Crossword Puzzle



Keystone MacCentral Minutes

August 16, 2005

Business Meeting

President Linda Cober welcomed members and guests in attendance at the August meeting. She mentioned the program scheduled for the September meeting, with the focus on scanning. Newsletter Editor Tim Sullivan reported some problems with sending out e-mail notification of the URL for the August newsletter. He apologized for the duplicate notice that many members received. Linda told members of two software titles we received from Feral for review. Tom Bank II had agreed to review Commandos Battlepack for the newsletter and we were looking for a member to volunteer to review Chessmaster 9000 for the October newsletter. Abigail Schearer volunteered to review that title, provided she can find a Mac that can play the DVD.

Q&A & Comments

Any members interested in upgrading their system with a SuperDrive were directed to contact Tim Langdale of APS Technologies at 1-800-628-6085 for a possible deal. At meeting time they were selling internal 16x dual layer DVD drives (#300985) for about 90 dollars and external 16x dual layer drives (#300921) for about 150 dollars. Those drives handle both -R and +R format media and Toast Lite software is included. Tell Tim that Ron Rankin sent you. For media at reasonable prices, you might want to check the supermediastore.com web site. Jim Carey navigated to the dealmac.com site which was listing 16x dual layer DVD drives for \$52 shipped. OS X Tiger includes support for dual layer drives. If you are using a prior

operating system, you may need to use Toast to burn dual layer.

(OT)-Abigail recommended Zinn's Crack Cream for fast healing of wounds. Another question dealt with adding startup items in OS X. Open System Preferences>User Accounts>Login Items to add them. Jim showed Abigail how to use System Profiler to check if she had a DVD drive on her Mac. Linda Cober mentioned problems she had encountered upgrading to Tiger. Jim Carey recommended having at least 25% free drive space before doing the upgrade.

Gary Brandt asked about syncing files between multiple hard drives. ChronoSync was recommended to him. A .mac account can also be helpful with this process. Someone wanted to open MS Word 9 documents. NeoOffice was mentioned. This is an open source program that should open MS Word documents. AppleWorks may also be able to open those files. We were given a tip that could benefit any federal government employees in our club. There is a separate section of the Apple Store web site that offers substantial discounts to federal employees.

Program Notes

For the August meeting we watched the second part of the video on Keynote 2. This section titled "Going Beyond The Box" delved into more advanced features of Keynote. The video host began a new project by inserting a picture and creating a custom slide size to fit that picture. His project was a tour of the USA. He demonstrated using builds with time effects to animate the tour and how applying the correct effects would lead to a smooth presentation. He

also showed how to add sound to a project. Movies can also be added to Keynote projects.

For complex sequential builds, it might be easier to apply all necessary builds to objects before those objects are positioned within the project. Individual objects would be easier to select if they were not obscured by other objects in front of them.

The host demonstrated how to create a standalone presentation that included hyperlinks. This process involves use of the Link Inspector. A tip he offered was using an "invisible" shape over grouped objects as a hyperlink button. Placing web content is accomplished by using the Insert Web View command and typing in the appropriate URL. This web page content can be set to automatically update if desired. The video host went over a lot of this material rather quickly but I trust that we all got a good feel for all that Keynote can do. After the video, Jim Carey offered one last tip. Jim suggested setting the size of your project to 800 x 600 if you will not be using your own projector to present it. ☺



Quick Tip

Most of us are acquainted with the Command-I key combination to access the Get Info window of a file selected in the Finder. Occasionally we may need to see information about more than one file. If this is the case, select the first file, then press Command-Option-I.

You will still open the Get Info window for that file. Then as you select other files, this Get Info window is updated with the information for the newly selected file. This can come in handy in Tiger if you want to add Spotlight keywords to several files. This procedure also works in Jaguar and Panther.

Chessmaster 9000

OK, let's play chess. I insert the DVD into a brand new G5. Up comes some truly elegant graphics of the master players who will be my "teachers, mentors, and challenging opponents". The voices of the instructors, through my headphones, sound just like they are sitting right beside me

Scanning through the options, I first noted the wide range of skill levels accommodated, from the novice to the dedicated player, right up to the world class champion. There is an extensive suite of chess lessons, tutorials and drills to walk you through mastering this game. And, within each choice is an incredible range of features. For example, you can design the layout of your playing area from a huge selection of graphic options. It's great fun trying out the different audio effects, like the sound the chess pieces make when you move. You can also choose whether or not you want the voice to give you advice or a running game analysis.

Using the image of the house of chess, you first enter the "Lobby". From there you can see seven "doors" which lead to seven Chessmaster rooms - the Library, Classroom, Tournament Room, Game Room, Kids' Room, and CM Live.

The Game Room is where you can play for fun where nobody is rating you, where you can also choose to hone your skills with Chessmaster's "Blunder Alert" feature.

The Class Room is filled with tools to help you master this game. The tutorials are fully interactive, with instructions, tests and instant feedback.

Then there is the Tournament Room. Here every move counts, you can't take back a move, there's no voice to help you. It's set up like a real tournament situation.

Open the door to the Library and you find that it is filled, wall to wall, with hundreds of classic games which span four centuries. Here you can study with and learn from some of the best players in history.

The Kids Room is the first choice for those who want to learn the basics, and to have an opportunity to practice and to test what you've learned, with instant response and analysis of your moves.

If you haven't seen enough chess yet — open the door to the Database Room and step into the huge database, and go back in history. Here you will find over 500,000 chess games that have been played, complete with detailed information on each game.

Any time you feel up to a live interaction, go ahead...open door number seven, The Chessmaster Live Room. This door leads directly outside, onto the internet where you can play chess with other Chessmaster 9000 owners — LIVE.

And, when you are ready for the next level of challenge, the Chessmaster 9000 includes a component for psyching out your opponent, an eight-part course of 20 annotated games, "The Psychology of Competition", put together and narrated by the international chess champion, Josh Waitzkin. This is one serious teaching device. Look out future opponents...you ain't got a chance.

If, after you check out all the "rooms" with their vast array of options and you feel that there still isn't enough to keep you challenged with what comes with the original Chessmaster 9000, I have discovered that there are frequent upgrades with new drills, great new teaching devices, and lessons being added all the time to enhance your proficiency and enjoyment of this very challenging game.

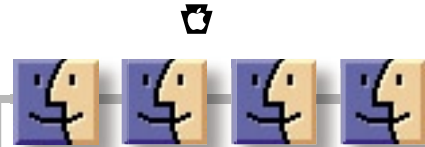
There are also lots of opportunities to test your chess skills free online, with some tournaments and ladders being announced periodically.

I tell you — if you are looking for an elegant tutorial to hone your chess skills, so that even you can challenge President Jed Bartlett of "The West Wing", a most worthy opponent,

I can't imagine a more comprehensive tool than the Chessmaster 9000. You have quite an adventure awaiting you!

System Requirements

Minimum	Recommended
OS 10.2	OS 10.3
700 MHz	1 GHz
256 RAM	512 RAM
Graphics Card: 16MB VRAM	16 MB VRAM
Hard Disk: 1.3GB	1.3GB
Drive: DVD	DVD



Superdrive

For a new Superdrive (16x double layer) call Tim Langdale at APS Technologies 1-800-628-6085.

Internal drive 300985 about \$90
External drive 300921 about \$150

Tell Tim that Ron Rankin sent you

Media is available at
supermediastore.com
Verbatim is the recommended
brand

by Tim Sullivan

Rumors and Reality

Around Apple

- Steve Jobs introduced a long anticipated music-playing cell phone on Wednesday, Sept. 7th. The phone, called the ROKR, is made by Motorola Inc. It will come loaded with iTunes software, store up to 100 songs and include a color display screen and a built-in camera. It also will include built-in dual-stereo speakers as well as stereo headphones that also serve as a mobile headset.

Users will not be able to load the phone with music files over cellular networks, however. They must transfer songs from their computers. The ROKR phone will be offered by Cingular Wireless in the United States.



Music will automatically shut off when a call is received and users can listen to music while text-messaging.

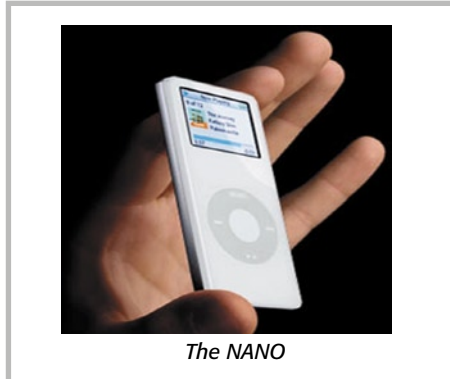
The phones sell for \$250 with a two year commitment at all Cingular stores nationwide.

- Along with the ROKR, Apple introduced a new iPod, called the Nano, that will replace the iPod Mini. The Nano relies on flash memory, making it lighter and more energy-efficient.

One-third the size of the Mini, the Nano weighs about 1.5 ounces. Apple says it can store up to 1,000 songs or 25,000 photos.

A 4-gigabyte Nano will retail for \$249, and a 2-gigabyte model will sell for

\$199. The devices should be in stores at this time.



- Beginning sometime this autumn, Apple reportedly plans to begin offering TV/HDTV input hardware and DVR software, as an option on several of its consumer models (most likely, beginning with the iMac). Eventually this will become standard on desktop consumer models, and an option on PowerMacs and laptops.

- Apple Computer's chips may take a bit longer than expected, if a deal announced by the computer company recently is any indication.

Apple has reached a new purchasing agreement with longtime supplier Freescale Semiconductor, which produces the PowerPC G4 chip for the computer maker, according to a regulatory document filed Friday by Apple. Under terms of the new deal, Apple has the right to buy — and Freescale has the obligation to supply — PowerPC chips through the end of 2008.

That's a full year after the date when the company plans to move its entire line of Macintosh computers from PowerPC to Intel processors. Apple uses Freescale's G4 chips in its notebook computers and in its lower-end desktop models such as the Mac Mini.

The deal with Freescale doesn't necessarily imply that it is delaying the completion of its move to Intel processors. Under the agreement,

Apple has no obligation to buy any chips from Freescale except those in orders the chipmaker is already processing.

- OS X 10.5 Leopard release is scheduled for late 2006 or early 2007. Some anticipated features include:

- PowerPC and Intel compatible.

The first and most obvious feature will be the fact that the entire operating system will be available for both PowerPC and Intel processors. Builds since 10.0 have been written for both processors, but never publicly available until Leopard.

- More Transparency. The control panel will feature a customizable transparency control that allows users to change the opacity in which the menus and dock are displayed. A slide control allows these items' backgrounds to go from fully opaque to completely transparent.

- Animated icons. Those bouncing icons in your dock will come alive. Reports suggest that the dock icons will have much more life to them when opening an application or alerting users about an application. Alert sounds that accompany the animation are also being developed but may not be included with the final release.

- Dashboard improvements. As users begin to fill their entire Dashboard screen space with widgets, developers are creating Multiple Dashboards, a technology that offers up a nearly unlimited number of partitioned Dashboards which minimize to tiles in the Dashboard Manager. Clicking on a tile expands it to full screen, so that users can have separate Dashboards for different times, locations and purposes.

- Desktop pictures and screen savers may be merged into a single application, allowing a "screen saver" to run on the desktop, behind windows and applications.

- Last month the United States Patent and Trademark office denied Apple a patent for some user interface elements of the iPod, citing a patent submitted by Microsoft developer

John Platt five months before Apple's claim.

One industry analyst, Roger Kay, said that even if Microsoft were to win a patent challenge from Apple, the chances of it having any significant effect on Apple's future business are slim. "I think that in practical terms, no judge will allow Microsoft to stop Apple's iPod business from going forward," said Kay. "I think that if Microsoft makes a narrow claim stick, the settlement will be a cross-licensing deal with little or no money changing hands."

Microsoft over the years has tried to impose its own version of Web Standards on the world. Recently the Web Standards Project (WaSP) held a conference. It was during this conference that Microsoft "technical evangelist" Robert Scoble felt he was being snubbed by other participants. He complained in his blog.

The effect was entirely unexpected: Microsoft entered into an unlikely partnership with WaSP, forming a joint task force to help Redmond get an array of software titles up to snuff on standards. It almost appears that Microsoft is moving toward accepting Web browser standards long supported by advocates such as the Web Standards Project.

We should not read into this that Microsoft is capitulating. With a 90-percent share of the browser market, Microsoft has a lot of say about web standards. Can you say 600 pound gorilla?

Screen Savers Again Screen savers began life as a way to save CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) based monitors from burn in. Static images when left on a CRT for a considerable length of time would burn in, i.e. stay on the screen forever. Screen savers, with their moving images, prevented that sort of thing.

As it happens, LCD-based (Liquid Crystal Display) monitors are equally as vulnerable as CRT-based monitors in regards to having a still-image burn into the display. However, unlike CRT-based displays, LCDs

generally don't suffer from permanent damage due to images burning into the display. Because LCD's use individual pixels which constantly refresh themselves, damage done due to still-images burning into the pixels can be resolved by unplugging and leaving the LCD unplugged for 24 hours — the same amount of time it takes to create the image originally. Leaving an LCD without power for typically 24 hours is enough time for the pixels, which make up the display where the image is displayed, to drain themselves of the image that may be burned into them.

E-books This year ten colleges will offer an alternative to the hard-covered books that the students are used to buying. A variety of books will be available for 33 percent off if students decide to download a digital version of a text instead of buying a hard copy.

If you haven't been to college lately, I can assure you that text books do not come cheap. Even beat up, heavily underlined and annotated texts are expensive.

However the new digital textbook program imposes strict guidelines on how the books can be used, including locking the downloaded books to a single computer and setting a five-month expiration date, after which the book can't be read.

The digital form does have some advantages. The downloaded books can be searched by keyword and read out loud by the Adobe software, as well as highlighted and bookmarked.

One disadvantage: the restrictions mean that students won't be able to sell their books back to the bookstore, a traditional money-saving activity at the end of classes.

Henrico Four years ago, Henrico County school system purchased iBooks for some of their classes. This year, they decided to go with Dell. This decision was not taken lightly. The school system would need to deal the normal student nonsense such as downloading (inadvertently)

all kinds of viruses and visiting sites that should not be visited by anyone under 21.

School technology staff members and Dell employees started developing the standard configuration for the laptops as soon as a contract was signed. Plans call for laptops to have anti-theft stop tags and tracing capabilities to show the location of each machine, said school and Dell officials. Students will not be able to download new software. Filters are designed to keep students from accessing inappropriate Web sites, but in the event that they do, a non-deletable history will log their activity.

Having set up a plan to deal with the new laptops, the question arose: what do do with the old iBooks? (At this point I must confess to a certain bias against management types who exist in a different reality than most of us.)

Those who manage the Henrico County school system seem to have no idea of the relative value of used laptops. They decided to unload 1,000 four year old iBooks for \$50 apiece. At some point in time they decided that there was enough interest in the sale, so they restricted the sale to Henrico County residents.

People began gathering at 1:30 a.m. for the 9 a.m. sale. Estimates of the size of the crowd range from 10,000 to 12,000 people. I trust you can see what's going to happen. Do the words pandemonium and chaos strike a chord? The news services were there to record the event which included people knocked to the ground, people bashing others with chairs, and even one person trying to drive through the melee in his SUV.

"It's rather strange that we would have such a tremendous response for the purchase of a laptop computer — and laptop computers that probably have less-than-desirable attributes," said Paul Proto, director of general services for Henrico County. Maybe in four years when they try to get rid of the Dells the response will be a lot less hectic. ☹

Back to School Software

Last week, I imagined myself in a college student's shoes and offered several recommendations for Mac-related gear to take back to school (see "Mac to School 2005" in TidBITS-793). Perhaps because I'm drawn to shiny electronic toys, I focused on hardware from the iBook G4 to cellular phones and handheld organizers. This week, prompted by a few email messages, I want to cover some of the software that should run on all that cool hardware.

<<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.cgi?tbart=08216>>

Before I jump into specific titles, though, I need to follow up on a few points from the last article based on feedback from readers.

I mentioned that getting an inexpensive inkjet printer was a necessity, because you don't want to be waiting in line for a shared printer when a paper is due. But Ted Lomatski pointed out that "inkjets are not the way to go, especially for students who print out a high volume of papers (unless things have changed from my day!). The high cost of ink cartridges does not make sense. I have found that you can buy a new HP LaserJet, and the cartridge will last the year, most probably, and you will save money in the long run. I have also found that HP cartridges do not go up in price as do those of other manufacturers."

David Nicholson noted an essential device that completely slipped my mind: a USB flash drive (also known as a pen drive or keychain drive) "for those times when only sneakernet will do." Flash drives, which have replaced floppy disks as the best form of easy, portable storage, now come in higher capacities for less cost

than when they were introduced: for example, a quick check at dealram.com today finds a 1 GB USB 2.0 flash drive for about \$55. TidBITS sponsor Small Dog Electronics also offers USB flash drives that are better designed than the norm, and of course, an iPod shuffle does double-duty as a flash drive, and the hard drive-based iPods can also be used as external storage devices.

<<http://dealram.com/prices/37/1GB.html>>

<<http://www.smalldog.com/product/33896>>

<<http://www.apple.com/ipodshuffle/>>

I finally bought a flash drive for myself last year after I had to turn in a Macworld article while on a camping trip (I was writing about laptop batteries, and testing them away from power sources). There was no phone or Internet access at the campsite, of course, but the local ranger station surprisingly had two PCs – connected via a T1 line! If I had owned the flash drive at the time, I could have copied the Word file to it, then inserted it into a PC's USB port. Instead, I ended up disconnecting one PC from the network, copying the Internet settings to my PowerBook, and connecting my machine to their connection via Ethernet. It wasn't quite the great outdoors experience I was hoping for.

<<http://www.macworld.com/2004/10/secrets/novmobilemac/>>

<<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/B0001FV3AK/tidbitselectro00/ref=nosim>>

Finally, Forrest Snyder mentioned that as an alternative (or supplement) to buying AppleCare for a computer,

some credit card companies include extended warranties on purchases you make with their cards. Check the fine print on your card's terms of service to see if you can take advantage of this type of deal.

Now, on to the software!

Word Processing — There's no getting around it: students write papers, lots of them. Although it's often overkill for simple papers, the king of this particular category remains Microsoft Word. Microsoft sells a \$150 Student and Teacher edition of Microsoft Office 2004, which also includes Excel, PowerPoint, and Entourage and is cheaper than buying Word on its own at the normal retail price of \$240 (unless you're upgrading a previous version of Word, which costs \$110). (See "Word Up! Word 2004, That Is" in TidBITS-734.)

<<http://www.microsoft.com/mac/products/office2004/office2004.aspx?pid=office2004>>

<<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.cgi?tbart=07715>>

If you've recently bought a new consumer-level Mac (iMac, iBook, or eMac), you can use the included AppleWorks 6 software, the suite that includes a page layout, graphics, database, and presentation capabilities, as well as compatibility with Microsoft Office file formats. To be honest, I haven't used AppleWorks in years, so I can't comment on how well it functions, but the basic tools are there for students.

<<http://www.apple.com/appleworks/>>

Apple's more modern offering, iWork '05, includes the visually friendly Pages, a combination word processor

and page-layout application (see “iWork and iLife Together at Last” in TidBITS-762). I’ve not had an opportunity to use Pages much, certainly not for long documents such as term papers, but it does seem capable and it interfaces nicely with the iLife ‘05 suite, which can be advantageous when you need to add visual supporting information such as photos and illustrations. You can also export documents to Microsoft Word format, which is important since I imagine most professors use Word, and with Internet access prevalent on most campuses, papers can be submitted electronically.

<<http://www.apple.com/iwork/pages/>>

<<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.cgi?tbart=07955>>

iWork ‘05 also includes Keynote 2.0 for creating presentations, which I find more enjoyable and less frustrating to use than PowerPoint. iWork ‘05 costs \$80 retail, or \$50 for Apple’s academic discount price.

<<http://www.apple.com/iwork/keynote/>>

<<http://www.apple.com/education/store/>>

Not everyone needs the bells and whistles of Word or Pages, however. If you’re looking for a simple text editor, you can’t go wrong with Bare Bones Software’s free TextWrangler. If you need more text-munging power (if you’re learning Web design or programming, for example), you can move up to BBEdit, which Bare Bones offers at a student discount of \$50.

<<http://www.barebones.com/products/textwrangler/>>

<<http://www.barebones.com/products/bbedit/>>

<<http://www.barebones.com/store/academic.shtml>>

Lastly, I should point out OpenOffice.org, a free suite of Office-type applications that run in the X11 windowing system under Mac OS X. I’ve

not used them, so I can’t judge how well they work.

<<http://www.openoffice.org/>>

Research and Organization — Most typical schoolwork involves accumulating lots of information, and more importantly, being able to pull it all together when you need to. Several programs for the Mac attempt to do this, with varying degrees of success. Fortunately, Matt Neuburg’s vigilant quest for the ultimate snippet-keeper has resulted in TidBITS having perhaps the best collection of reviews in this field. See the series “Conquer Your Text” as a starter, which includes such worthy programs such as Tinderbox, DEVONthink, and NoteTaker. Also make a point of checking out “Best Footnote Forward: Papyrus 8.0.7” in TidBITS-514 for a look at the bibliographic program.

<<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.cgi?tbser=1196>>

<<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.cgi?tbart=05781>>

For my own work, I started using Circus Ponies NoteBook after reading Adam’s review “The Well-Worn NoteBook” in TidBITS-745. I use it as a good central repository for notes and deadlines related to my ongoing projects.

<<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.cgi?tbart=07739>>

<<http://www.circusponies.com/>>

Of course, a Web browser is likely to be the most-used tool in your collection, whether it’s accessing Wikipedia or current events. Adam is partial to OmniWeb (see “OmniWeb: The Powerful Web Browser” in TidBITS-742), while I still prefer the simplicity of Safari. To store Web page information for later, consider the page-downloading utility Webstractor (see “The Simple Brilliance of Webstractor” in TidBITS-737).

<<http://www.wikipedia.org/>>

<<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.cgi?tbart=07775>>

<<http://www.apple.com/macosx/features/safari/>>

<<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.cgi?tbart=07739>>

Financial Software – Although college students often subsist on minimal incomes, having a program such as Quicken or Moneydance will help keep track of where the money is going (see “Moneydance Eases a Tax Burden” in TidBITS-775). For many students, college marks the beginning of their financial independence, especially now that so many arrive at school with credit cards – trust me, you do not want to miss a few credit card payments accidentally.

<<http://www.quicken.com/>>

<<http://www.moneydance.com/>>

<<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.cgi?tbart=08059>>

Once you start earning money as a student, the tax man will be wanting his cut as well. In the U.S., at least, Intuit’s TurboTax is the main option for the Mac, though Intuit also offers an online version of TurboTax that you can use through a Web browser.

<<http://www.turbotax.com/>>

The Virtual Halls of Academia – I realize that my list above just scratches the general-purpose surface, but it hopefully provides a good jumping-off point. I’m deliberately not getting into specific disciplines such as the sciences, broadcast video, and others, since they probably have specific software needs that are assigned by the professors. Apple’s higher-education Web pages include many programs (including third-party software) broken down into general categories.

<<http://www.apple.com/education/hed/>>

You can also use the TidBITS archives to discover other utilities, big and small, that we’ve found useful over the years.

<<http://www.tidbits.com/search/>> 

September Software Review

NeoOffice/J 1.1

<http://www.planamesa.com/neojava/en/index.php>

Requires OS X 10.2 or higher

NeoOffice/J is a fully-featured set of office applications (including word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and drawing programs) for Mac OS X. Based on the OpenOffice.org office suite, NeoOffice/J has integrated dozens of native Mac features and can import, edit, and exchange files with other popular office programs such as Microsoft Office.

Released as free, open-source software under the GNU General Public License (GPL), NeoOffice/J is fully functional and stable enough for everyday use. The software is actively developed, so improvements and small updates are made available on a regular basis.

NeoOffice/J 1.1 is a new release that adds several new features and fixes many bugs that were in the previous release.

Due to the way that the underlying OpenOffice.org and Java 1.3.1 code handle images, printing of high resolution images is limited to a maximum of 300 dots per inch. This limitation only affects high resolution images and does not affect printing of text, lines, or shapes.

There is no plug-in or applet support at this time.

If you would like to volunteer time or donate funds to NeoOffice/J, please read our Donations page:

<<http://www.planamesa.com/neojava/en/donate.php>>

New Feature	Description
Closing the last document window will not cause NeoOffice/J to quit	In previous versions, NeoOffice/J behaved like OpenOffice.org in that closing the last window would cause NeoOffice/J to quit. In this release, NeoOffice/J behaves like other Mac OS X applications and will continue running when there are no documents open.
Improved text layout	Many small text layout enhancements have been included in this release including proper handling of ligatures in hyphenated words, support for kashida justification in Arabic text, and proper handling of reordered characters in Indic language scripts.

Feature	Description
No X11 software required	NeoOffice/J uses the Java™ technology that is built into Mac OS X. By using Java, there is no need to download and install the X11 software that OpenOffice.org requires.
Aqua menus	Unlike OpenOffice.org, NeoOffice/J has native Aqua menus.
Integrated with Finder and Mail	The Mac OS X Finder will automatically launch NeoOffice/J and open OpenOffice.org and Microsoft Office documents that you double-click on. Also the Mac OS X Mail application will open OpenOffice.org and Microsoft Office attachments in NeoOffice/J.
Uses Mac OS X fonts	Unlike OpenOffice.org, NeoOffice/J uses the same fonts that all of your other Mac OS X applications use. This means that NeoOffice/J will handle reading and writing of Western European characters (e.g. characters with accents, umlauts, circumflexes, cedillas, etc.) and some fonts will even handle Japanese, Chinese, and Korean ideographs. Also, NeoOffice/J is able to use any fonts that you install in your Library/Fonts subfolder or the /Library/Fonts folder.
Handles international keyboards	Unlike OpenOffice.org, NeoOffice/J will use any keyboard layout that you use. Also, if you switch your keyboard layout while NeoOffice/J is running, NeoOffice/J will automatically switch as well.
Native printing support	NeoOffice/J supports printing using Mac OS X's native printing functionality. Like other Mac OS X applications, you can use NeoOffice/J to print, preview, or save a document to a PDF file.
Native copy and paste support	NeoOffice/J supports copying and pasting using Mac OS X's native clipboard so you can copy and paste text and images between NeoOffice/J and other Mac OS X applications.
Native drag-and-drop support	NeoOffice/J supports native drag-and-drop so you can drag and drop text and images between NeoOffice/J and other Mac OS X applications.

Apple Updates

Safari Update 1.3.1 08/29/05

System Requirements
– OS X 10.3.9

Safari version 1.3.1 for Mac OS X Panther improves website compatibility, application stability and support for 3rd party web applications.

Safari Update 2.0.1 08/29/05

System Requirements
– OS X 10.4.2

Safari version 2.0.1 for Mac OS X Tiger improves website compatibility, application stability and support for 3rd party web applications.

Security Update 2005-007 v1.1 (OS X 10.4.2) 08/17/05

System Requirements
– OS X 10.4.2

Delivers a number of security enhancements and is recommended for all Macintosh users.

Security Update 2005-007 v1.1 replaces Security Update 2005-007 v1.0 for Tiger systems Mac OS X v10.4.2. Users who have already installed v1.0 on Tiger systems should install v1.1.

Security Update 2005-007 v1.1 provides a combined 32- and 64-bit

version of LibSystem to replace the 32-bit version that was delivered in v1.0. No other changes have been made in version 1.1.

Security Update 2005-007 (OS X 10.3.9) 08/15/05

System Requirements
– OS X 10.3.9

Security Update 2005-007 delivers a number of security enhancements and is recommended for all Macintosh users.

PowerBook G4 Graphics Update 1.0 08/11/05

System Requirements
– OS X 10.4.2
– PowerBook G4 (15-inch, 1.67 GHz)
– PowerBook G4 (17-inch, 1.67 GHz)

The PowerBook G4 Graphics Update 1.0 improves graphics stability for some 1.67-GHz PowerBook G4 computers.

Recent Upgrades Worth Checking

PithHelmet 2.6.1 <http://culater.net/software/PithHelmet/PithHelmet.php>

Requires OS X 10.3 or higher, Safari 1.2.x, and BSD subsystem (included in OS X by default.) PithHelmet is an extended site preferences and ad blocking plugin for Apple's Safari browser.

Business Card Composer 3.1.1 <http://www.belightsoft.com/products/composer/>

Requires Mac OS X 10.2 or later. Business Card Composer is a tool to create and print business cards.

ChronoSync 3.1 http://www.econtechologies.com/site/Pages/ChronoSync/chrono_overview.html

Requires Mac OS 10.2 or later. Automatically synchronize files and folders between your laptop and desktop volumes, or schedule backups.

GyazMail 1.3.2 <http://www.gyazsquare.com/gyazmail/download.php>

Requires OS X 10.1 or later. GyazMail allows you to filter out spam before it downloads to your machine.

iKey 2.1 <http://scriptsoftware.com/ikey/>

Requires OS X 10.2 or above. iKey allows creation of shortcuts that perform an action or sequence of actions each of which can be launched by key combinations or menu or event.

OnyX 1.6.2 <http://www.titanium.free.fr/pgs/english.html>

Requires OS X 10.4.2 minimum. OnyX is a utility of maintenance, of optimization and personalization.



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