

printout

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



iMovie Training

by Linda J. Cober

iMovie Training? Didn't we have this program before? Yes, we did. This is a repeat of a popular program from exactly one year ago. The timing and motive are clear to those of you who remember that our December meeting is a holiday party and iApps Contest. Thus, we thought that KeyMac members might appreciate a review of the iMovie program. As one

of our officers said, "I haven't made an iMovie since I did one for the contest last year. I don't think I remember how to do it anymore."

Whether you are new to iMovie or just want to refresh and/or refine your skills, our October 18 meeting is for you. I will be demonstrating how to make an iMovie from the beginning, so you may want to bring your

iBook and follow along. You can use digital video or still shots or a mixture of the two in iMovieHD, the latest iMovie version. Since you learned about scanning at our September meeting, you can also use scanned photos from your family archives. So don't miss your chance to become a film producer and develop a possibly prize winning entry for our iApps contest! 🍷

Meet us at

Gannett Fleming

Gannett West Building

209 Senate Ave ❖ Camp Hill

Tuesday, October 18, 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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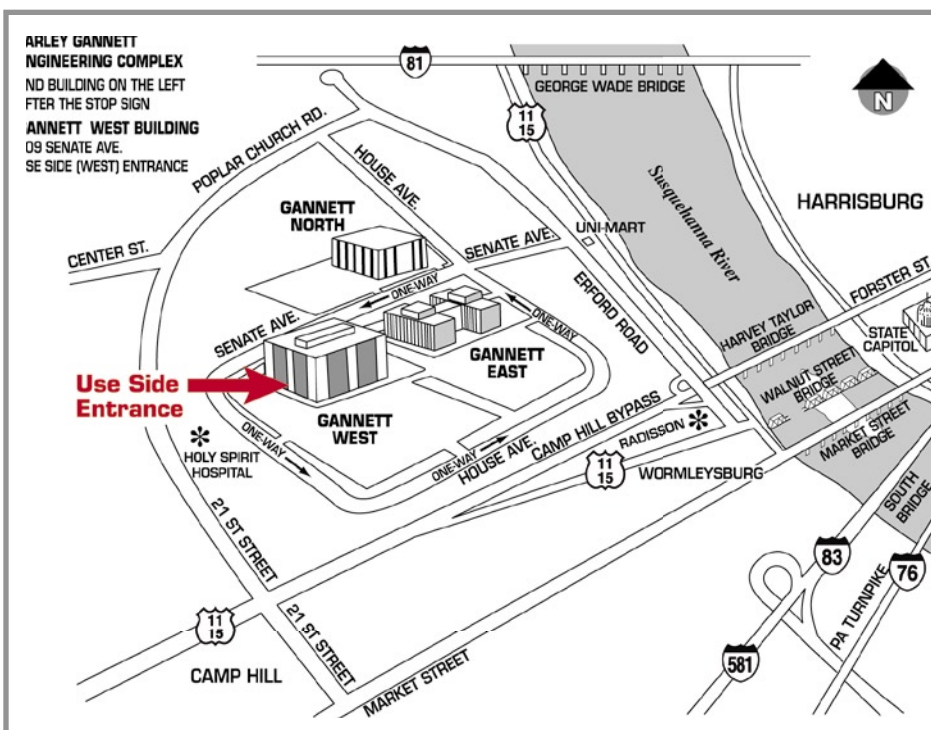
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President's Corner

As you know from reading the lead article, I will be doing a training session of iMovie for this month's meeting. Beginners or those who do not use iMovie very often should find the program useful. If you are already an expert with the application, please attend and share your expertise with the audience and with me. We are once again planning to sponsor an iApps contest at our December meeting and holiday party and hope to see a lot of entries. Making iMovies is fun and sharing them with an appreciative audience is gratifying, so our iApps Contest will give you a chance to do both. The training will include audience participation both for questions and answers, so there will be something for all skill levels.

Looking ahead, in November we will be having my favorite meeting of the year, Keymac's annual auction. We already have promises of great donations from vendors, and while I won't get specific just now, there are some blockbusters that will be on the auction block! In addition, the food was so much fun at last year's auction that we will be doing it again this year. KeyMac will provide beverages, cups, plates, and napkins, and we request that you bring along some food item to share. We are fortunate to have a second room where we can set up the edible goodies while keeping the techie goodies in the auction room. No spilled soft drinks on the Nano!

Speaking of the Nano, the popularity of the iPod is soaring. Last year, a few students at Red Land had iPods, mostly minis, but iPods belonging to students were scarce enough to be notable. This year I am seeing iPods everywhere. Every day there are more students with the distinctive white earbuds. Naturally, I have to

check out the device and admire it while also ascertaining whether the cheaper MP3 players have started using white earbuds to capitalize on the iPod's upscale image. Nope. Thus far, all the white earbuds were connected to the real thing. There are still a lot of minis out there, but the Nano is fast becoming the iPod of choice despite the Shuffle's lower price tag. The first Nano I saw belonged to a student sitting in the office for early morning detention (minor offense punishment), and he willingly showed it to me while apologetically saying that the screen was already cracked because he had dropped his new Nano. I said that was too bad while still admiring the Nano's compact size and slick appearance. He said that there had been a lot of complaints about the

screen scratching easily and that if he sent his damaged Nano to Apple, they would send him a new one. I said that sounded like a good deal and he agreed, then said he had been swinging the Nano around like a key on a long lanyard when it flew away from him. Oh. Not just a drop, a fling. He's a nice kid, so I suggested that he may not want to share that particular detail with Apple if he requests a replacement and he agreed. Made we wonder, though, if the ultra compact size of the Nano might make it seem more like a toy than a high tech device to the kids. No matter how they see it, I am seeing it a lot more often this year than last and that can only be good for Apple's bottom line. Hope to see you more often too, starting on October 18! 🍬



Happy Halloween

Keystone MacCentral Minutes

September 20, 2005

Business Meeting

Vice President Tom Owad, standing in for President Linda Cober, opened the September meeting with the officers reports. Newsletter editor, Tim Sullivan, reported that Special Offers for members only are announced online about once a month. To enable MUG members exclusive access to those Specials he has e-mailed all the membership to give them the required codes and passwords.

Linda Smith pointed out some new links on our website, and invited us to submit any links we find interesting. Abigail Schearer reported that she had reviewed Chessmaster 9000, highly recommended it to gamers. The write up appears in the September newsletter. Treasurer Jim Carey...“We have money.”

Q&A & Comments

Dennis Mumma announced that he has made copies of Microsoft's NeoOffice to give free to anyone in the club. As was mentioned at last months meeting, this is an open source program that should open MS Word documents. Tim Sullivan shared that you can get high speed DSL through Earthlink.net. The good news is that when traveling you can have high speed access to the web. The bad news is that it costs more because you are paying twice since Earthlink uses Verizon. Other options were mentioned, such as NetZero which offers free Dial Up Internet Service if you don't go over 40 hours per month. Their standard service is half the standard price of AOL, MSN and Earthlink. Tom Owad was having

a problem with Illustrator 10. It seems it will not support fonts that are not in the applications support system. His system crashes. Linda Smith suggested that he may have too many Illustrator applications installed. He should have only one at a time. And Dennis Mumma recommended the “Illustrator Goof Proof”.

Ron Rankin has a friend who needs help transferring a text file stored on a floppy 800k disk to his newer computer, which doesn't take floppy disks. Abigail Schearer offered to help by installing the floppy disk on her working IIVX with internal floppy disk drive, transfer to her external ZIP drive, install the ZIP disk on her G4, and burn a CD. Jim Carey was looking for a tutor for hire for someone. Dennis Mumma volunteered that that is what he does. Liz Reinecker gave us a heads up re: Apple Store's high prices. She had bought a game from the Apple Store for \$19.99. When she opened the box she found an advertisement for more games by the same company. The price they listed for the game she bought from the Apple Store was listed at \$9.99. She got no satisfaction when she called the Apple Store and complained. Tom Bank Sr. was given a new/old Mac 450. He suspects that the HD is bad. He can load the OS CD, but it won't install on the HD. His question was will it destroy the new/old HD? Jim Carey gave several suggestions and observations which had to do with “Disk utilities”, “step it down”, and “what OS 10 ATI graphics cards will recognize”. The most practical solution came from Tom Bank Jr., who, after a lengthy alphabet soup discussion between the two Banks, it was concluded that Tom Jr. could help his Dad by booting from his external firewire. Lynn Bortner asked “Who takes the

money?” ALL HANDS WENT UP. When she held up her membership application our treasurer, Jim Carey won the toss.

Program Notes

The September meeting began with a 15 minute lesson on Preview, from the CD “Inside Mac OS X Tiger.” Buttons, Files and Drawers were explained and demonstrated. Very impressive, with all kinds of popup, popout and popins going on. The plan is to show a 15 minute lesson from this CD at the beginning of each month's Keystone Mac program segment.

PROGRAM: SCANNING: with Tom Bank Jr. and Linda Smith.

Tom Bank began the program by comparing two key software programs from which you can scan, “Image Capture” and “VueScan”.

Image Capture is good for scanning pictures to be sent via e-mail, while VueScan will produce a more professional replication of your photos. Image Capture is like a Xerox machine without all the bells and whistles to make adjustments to the picture. It does what it's name implies...it captures images. If you need more detailed editing create the scanned picture as a TIFF file and transfer it to PhotoShop.

VueScan is a utility for obtaining high-quality images and supports more than 400 different scanners, for Windows, Mac OS, and Linux. It has more photo settings than Image Capture and a lot more options. There is, obviously, a steep learning curve to this software. If you are a professional photographer this is

definitely the way to go. There are two versions of VueScan. the Standard version at \$49.95 and the Professional Version at \$89.95. The difference is that with the Standard version you get one year of upgrades. With the Professional version you have unlimited upgrades. VueScan is a work in progress, developed by Ed Hamrick, who has been adding, improving and honing this program for 14 years.

TIPS AND TRICKS: from Linda Smith's experience as a Graphics Specialist.

1. When positioning material to be scanned be sure to place it in the center of the glass. This helps eliminate distorted and chopped off edges. You will be using the selection tool anyway, so the extra margins will be eliminated.

2. There are two ways to straighten a crooked photo, with Photoshop's Measure Tool or with the Crop Tool. (For detailed instructions for accomplishing both go to...

<<http://graphicssoft.about.com/cs/photoshop/qt/straighten.htm>>.

3. Give your scanned image white space. Do the trimming with the crop tool in Photoshop.

4. Install Photoshop in the "Automatic Task" area so that you can send the image directly to Photoshop with one click.

5. To avoid bleed through when you scan newspapers or a black and white graphic that is two sided, place a piece of black paper behind the page to be scanned. Your scan may still appear a little gray, but you can adjust the gray scale in Photoshop.

6. How to choose between saving your graphic on JPEG or TIFF depends on what you want to use it for. The advantage of saving as a JPEG is that the file size is smaller and can be directly read by many programs or even sent directly to a printer. The disadvantage is that there is a quality loss, the amount of loss depends on

how much compression is used. The more compression, the smaller the file but the lower the image quality. This makes it useful for sending in an e-mail. TIFF files are not as much compressed as JPEG, but you can do more with it. It is not as desired for e-mail, because it takes a long time to download.

(For a comprehensive comparison of five graphic formats GIF, JPEG, PNG, TIFF & BMP go to...

<<http://www.uwm.edu/~elsmith/GraphicFormatResearch.html>>.

Jim Carey gave us information from the photographer's perspective.

1. Jim recommends that you save in RAW. RAW image takes every bit of information capable of capturing. RAW isn't an acronym, it doesn't stand for anything, it just means raw, unprocessed, data which can then be processed to yield a JPEG image. If you save the RAW data, you can then convert it to a viewable JPEG or TIFF file at a later time. VueScan can capture RAW.

2. A second advantage of shooting a RAW file is that you can also perform the conversion to an 8-bit or 16-bit TIFF file. TIFF files are larger than JPEG files, but they retain the full quality of the image. They can be compressed or uncompressed, but the compression scheme is lossless, which means that although the file gets a little smaller, no information is lost.

3. The main reason to shoot JPEG is that you get more shots on a memory card and it's faster, both in camera and afterwards.

4. For scanning from 35 mm slides and negatives, a slide scanner does a much better job than a flat bed scanner with a transparency adapter. The slide scanner projects light through the slide, while a transparency adapter is a scanner cover that diffuses light down through the transparent media.

5. When scanning from the old sepia color photos, scan into PhotoShop at the highest resolution and make no adjustments in the image capture. Save as TIFF, then make the desired adjustments in PhotoShop or Elements.

6. For adjusting image brightness Jim suggests you should learn to use the Histogram tool. (For a good tutorial go to... <<http://www.cambridgein-colour.com/tutorials/levels.htm>>

7. DIGITAL ICE is software which automatically removes surface defects, such as dust and scratches, from a scanned image. DIGITAL ICE is different from software-only solutions because it does not soften, blur or otherwise alter any underlying details or composition of the original image. Instead, it works from within the scanner, during the scanning process, to provide users with a clear, authentic base image that improves the original image.

8. BUYING A SCANNER: Jim recommends when buying a flatbed scanner it "MUST HAVE the dynamic range of 4.0, because how much dynamic range of your image you can capture depends on the ability of the scanner to register tonal values ranging from pure white to pure black. If the scanner doesn't have enough tonal range, details will be lost in shadow areas, highlights, or both.

9. BEST SCANNERS. Jim Carey recommended the EPSON Perfection 2450 as the "Best Scanner for the price." Canon is very good, also Microtech and HP.

Jim noted that color film and film developing is retreating into history. Money is going to developing processing chips within the digital camera right now. If you want to see the incredible advances being made in Digital photography go to the Photo Plus Expo at the Javits Center in N.Y.C., Thursday., Friday, and Saturday, October 20, 21 and 22, 2005. 🗑

Game Review: Commandos Battle Pack

It has been a number of years since I've spent any serious time gaming. Years ago, the place that I worked was a small office and they allowed us to install a couple games on the computers so that we could play during our lunch hour. With the network (a luxury in that day), we gravitated towards first person shooter games and had a lot of fun running around blowing each other up during lunch. It was actually a pretty good way to blow off steam in the middle of the day.

Since the days of the initial Doom and Quake, the first person shooters have gotten a lot more complex and realistic and I have to admit that I just have not had the time to allot to acquire any decent skills playing them. Generally, my spare time available for mindless entertainment has been somewhat limited altogether.

The other style of games we'd play back in the day was the strategy games such as Myth or Age of Empires. Although these games would last longer, possibly taking days or weeks of lunchtime play to complete a campaign, they did not require the fine honing of skills and reflexes that meant the difference between life and death in the lunchtime battlefield. Recently, I had the chance to catch up with one of these strategy games and play Commandos Battle Pack from Feral Interactive - packaging Commandos 2: Men of Courage together with Commandos 3: Destination Berlin.

The first thing that hit me with Commandos was the leap that such games have taken since I was last involved with them. Mind you, when we were doing our lunchtime gaming processor speeds were just breaking the three digit megahertz milestone. The increases in processor speed since

then have made for a cinematic experience in gaming. With Commandos, this is even somewhat literal since the soundtrack evokes various war movies of years past. The soundtrack and graphics are incredible compared to the games of only a few years ago.


If strategy games do not require quite the same level of dexterity and quick responses of that of a first person shooter game, they do require an definite aptitude for planning. There is a certain learning curve to Commandos as you learn the strengths and weaknesses of your team so that you can use them to your advantage as you maneuver them through the series of missions. This is not a game of bloodlust and indiscriminate shooting. Planning and stealth will get you further than mere firepower alone. Granted, one could incorrectly make the assumption that this game is cartoonish from the names of your squad -- Jerry "Tiny" McHale, James "Fins" Blackwood, or Natasha "Lips" Nikochevski. Don't let some humorous names fool you into thinking that this is a lighthearted game that won't test your skills.

Depending on the mission, you'll have two to a half dozen of these characters. This alone can test your skills as you maneuver them simultaneously using multiple cameras to track each one. It can take some practice to get the hang of this and I almost wondered at times whether I'd be better off going back to honing my skills with the controls for one of the current crop of first person shooters. The tutorial helps to get you going, presenting you with simple tasks to complete to allow you to get the hang of the controls, but they don't exactly prepare you for the actual levels. Expect to take some time familiarizing yourself with things on the real levels

before you start playing with the intent of completing them.

Whereas the first person shooters have almost gotten frightening with their artificial intelligence, Commandos at times brings back memories of Castle Wolfenstein where the enemy continues through their orchestrated rounds repeatedly until you have it down pat and plan your attack. I preferred the missions that gave you control of only a few characters as the multiple character missions had me identifying with pre-school soccer coaches as I tried to herd all the characters along at once without anyone going off in their own direction. Again, the simple nature of the enemy's patterns may lead you to believe that there is not much of a challenge. Rest assured that the execution of your strategy and getting your timing perfect can provide quite a thrill!

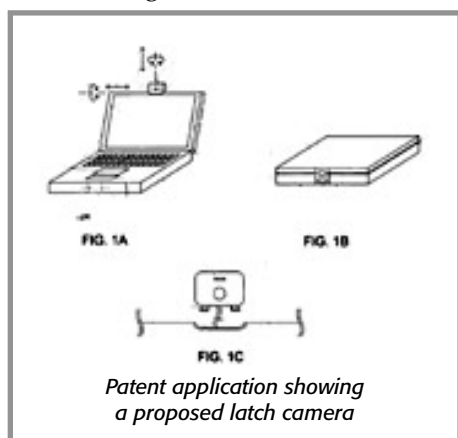
This is not a game where you can expect to conquer each mission on the first try. At times your timing is off and a good strategy unravels on you. Other times you have to drop back and completely rethink what seemed to be a strategy that could not fail. But these setbacks do not make the gameplay repetitive. First, because I found each level to be a visual treat and enjoyed just looking things over. But also because you find yourself approaching each mission as a puzzle to be worked out and solved. As Col. "Hannibal" Smith would say, "I love it when a plan comes together!"

I feel that Commandos Battle Pack is well worth the money. You will definitely get enough gameplay to last you awhile. And once you finish the single player version, there is a multiplayer component available to keep you going. Although Commandos 2 has lower minimum requirements, recommended system requirements for Commandos 3 are a 1Ghz G4 machine running OS X 3 with 512Mb of RAM. Both games come on DVDs, so a DVD drive is also required. A 2.1 speaker system will definitely add to the experience as you are wrapped in the soundtrack and sounds of gameplay. Retail price is \$50. 

Rumors and Reality

Around Apple

- Patent watch: Apple has published a patent application for a video camera integrated into the latch of a laptop. Presumably the design would appeal to road warriors or any others who want to use the iChat audio-video conferencing software.



- More OS X 5 Leopard anticipated features:

- We expect a new appearance, although which look Apple goes with is still a little ambiguous. It may be a solid metal look or perhaps a more translucent look.

- iPod will be able to download music from multiple computers rather than a single computer.

- Users will be able to chat with multiple people in one window by using tabs. Another anticipated feature is a whiteboard. A common window, shared between users live that will allow images, sketches and documents to be transferred live and stored for later use and access. Users will be able to save video chats as mpegs for play back at a later date.

- Apple has incorporated a Trusted Platform Module (TPM) in their latest Intel Transition Kit. The kit is used by developers to build Mac programs that will run on the new Macintels. The TPM is built-in antipiracy software designed to prevent any applications

built with the kit from running on non-Apple machines.

With a bulletproof TPM in place, Apple should be able to prevent OS X from being used on standard Intel PCs when the company releases future versions of OS X.

Macworld Expo Boston we hardly knew you. And now the IDG World Expo has cancelled you.

The good news is that the 2005 Macworld in San Francisco showed growth from the previous year with an 11 percent overall attendance increase. The attendance certification audit performed by Exhibit Surveys, Inc. found that there were nearly 36,000 overall visitors at Macworld San Francisco 2005.

There was also a 13 percent increase in the number of paid conference delegates; a 10 percent increase in the number of exhibitors; and a 31 percent increase in the average number of hours spent on the exhibit hall floor by attendees.

The Apple Expo Paris was held last month. Steve Jobs was in attendance but did not deliver a keynote presentation. Instead he and Senior Vice President of Worldwide Product Marketing Phil Schiller met with media to discuss many things relating to Apple.

Apple introduced the ROKR phone which is capable of downloading music from Apple's iTunes application. The phone has received a luke warm reception from critics. Jobs said that overall the work with Motorola was a learning experience for his engineers. "We wrote the iTunes software for that phone," said Jobs. "We see it as something we can learn from. It was a way to put our toe in the water and learn something," he said.

Jobs isn't sure that downloading music from network providers would work for consumers. "The network providers will charge a lot to download music to a mobile." And a computer would still be required even if a mobile user downloaded music directly onto their mobile phone. "You will have to backup the music on your phone up using your PC," said Jobs. "If you lose a phone then you lose all your music. If you get a new phone you have to transfer it all. It's not clear that buying music over the air makes economic sense."

Commenting on the much-rumored Video iPod, Steve noted that while some companies are making moves in the video market, the market isn't yet right for personal video devices. [Apple's media event on October 12 should be interesting. Web rumors have Apple introducing a Video iPod. Maybe the market is right this month.]

And the launch of the iPod Nano before the Apple Expo Paris was brought up. "We launched the iPod Nano two weeks ago rather than at the Apple Expo because in the run-up to Christmas every week counts," said Jobs. "The launch had been planned for over a year."

As for incorporating a radio in the iPod, Apple's senior vice president of worldwide product marketing Phil Schiller pointed out that iPods now offer radio on demand. "Thanks to podcasting you can listen to radio shows whenever you want to," he said.

Apple has been in the news this last month about the price of tracks. Some of the recording companies want to raise the price from 99¢. So far Jobs is resisting the change. "The problem is we are still competing with piracy," said Jobs. "The labels make more money from selling tracks on iTunes

Continued on page 8

Rumors and Reality

than when they sell a CD. There are no marketing costs for them. We are competing with piracy, so it needs to be a fair price — if the price goes up people will go back to piracy,” he warned.

And finally, Apple has long held that the best thing about a Macintosh is its modern operating system. That, says Apple, will not change when the company moves to Intel.

Matsushita has developed a new chip that will allow your electric socket to serve as your home’s connection to broadband, doing away with all the Ethernet cables or the hassle of hooking up to a wireless network device.

The technology has been around for some time — including in the United States — but Matsushita’s system is unique in that it delivers fast-speed broadband information at up to 170 megabits per second, which is faster than Ethernet.

Attach a special device made by Matsushita into a socket and all you

have to do is plug your computer or your TV or other gadgets into a socket for instant connection to broadband, which allows for faster transmission of online information than dial-up telephone connections.

Matsushita hopes to eventually sell refrigerators, TVs and other products with the chip already installed. A network-connected refrigerator may allow users to connect from a mobile phone or laptop to check whether you’re low on eggs, for example. Or you may want to turn gadgets off or on, such as your washing machine or air-conditioner, from outside the home. ☑

by TidBITS Staff <editors@tidbits.com>

Apple Updates .Mac with More Storage and Features

Ever since Apple switched its free iTools Web-based service to the subscription-based .Mac, many users have asked themselves: is .Mac worth \$100 a year? Last week, the company attempted to sweeten the deal by improving .Mac’s storage and bandwidth capacities, introducing new .Mac groups, releasing the Backup 3 backup software, and adding French and German localization to the existing English and Japanese versions.

<<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.cgi?tbart=06883>>

<<http://www.apple.com/dotmac/features.html>>

Storage Catches up to 2003 Levels — \$100 now gets you 1 GB of storage, up from 250 MB; you can allocate how much of that space is used by email and iDisk. This matches similar pricing from online storage services of a couple of years ago, and matches the email storage that Gmail, Yahoo, Spymac, and others began offering last year - sometimes for free.

The new \$180 Family Pack offers a total of five accounts and 2 GB of

storage; the master account has 1 GB of mail and disk storage, while the other four accounts are assigned 250 MB each.

Along with the increase in storage, monthly throughput has also been increased, according to Jonathan Seff at Macworld. Apple came clean in July that .Mac had a 3 GB limit of file transfers per month for standard account holders, a change from their previous “we’re not telling you quite what the limit is” policy (see “Apple Discloses Limits .Mac Bandwidth Transfers” in TidBITS-789). Popular downloads of Apple-friendly software, for instance, weren’t subjected to limits. Now, with 1 GB of storage in a standard account, users are allowed 10 GB of file transfers; if you spend \$50 per year for an additional 1 GB of storage, you’re entitled to 25 GB of file transfers per month.

<<http://www.macworld.com/weblogs/editors/2005/09/dotmac/index.php>>

<<http://db.tidbits.com/getbits.cgi?tbart=08183>>

Seff notes that Apple, unlike most other service providers, offers no way to know how much bandwidth you’ve used in a given month and no way to pay for just additional bandwidth.

.Mac Groups — New to the .Mac lineup is the Groups feature, which provides a virtual location for you and friends or family to keep in contact. Members of a group can share a single email address to send messages to everyone within the group, share files using iDisks (the contents of the group’s folder within the new Groups folder is shared among all members of the group), maintain a group calendar via iCal, and post Web pages containing photos and movies.

Apple’s Groups FAQ points out that membership in groups isn’t limited to .Mac members, though non-members must sign up for at least a free trial membership. However, after the trial period ends, they can keep their .Mac ID and continue to access the group. People with expired .Mac accounts and trial accounts can similarly join groups using their IDs.

Be aware that creating a new group consumes 100 MB of your shared storage for use on the iDisk, and joining one or more groups also consumes a total of 100 MB. If you create or join groups, you'll end up with less storage space available for your personal use.

Backup 3 — Apple's Backup application has so far been a fairly weak tool that some people found helpful for backing up small amounts of data, but it didn't compare to more full-featured backup applications

such as Retrospect. However, version 3.0 is a significant improvement, making the program worthy of consideration.

Backup 3 has been given a new interface focused around "plans," which are essentially backup scripts. A number of plan templates are included, such as options for backing up iLife data to CD or DVD on a regular basis and a plan for backing up music purchased from the iTunes Music Store (because if you lose your only copy of an iTunes track, it's gone;

you can't request a new copy without paying for it). Better yet, Backup now supports incremental backups, which can copy only files that have changed since the last backup.

You still need a full .Mac account to use Backup. However, trial accounts can back up as much as 100 MB of data to test the software. Backup 3 requires Mac OS X 10.3.9 or Mac OS X 10.4.2 or later, and is a 4.3 MB download (look for the link on the .Mac home page). ☞

by Adam C. Engst <ace@tidbits.com>

StuffIt Deluxe 10 Plays with Tiger

Allume Systems, now owned by Smith Micro, Inc., has released the latest version of their venerable compression and archiving utility, StuffIt Deluxe. Improvements in StuffIt Deluxe 10 fall largely into two categories: low-level improvements in its compression engine and support for new technologies in Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger.

<<http://www.stuffit.com/mac/deluxe/>>

StuffIt Deluxe 10 costs \$80, with upgrades from previous versions of either StuffIt Deluxe or StuffIt Standard Edition priced at \$30. It requires Mac OS 10.3 or later.

Under the Hood — Most notable of the low-level improvements is StuffIt Deluxe 10's new capability to compress JPEG photos by an additional 30 percent. As you likely know, JPEG files are compressed using a lossy compression approach that throws away data that's not essential to the image. In contrast, compression software like StuffIt Deluxe or Mac OS X's built-in Zip archiving tool uses only lossless approaches from which an original file can be expanded perfectly. Generally, compression software doesn't even try to work on already-compressed files like JPEG images because there's little, if any,

size reduction to be achieved. That's why the fact that StuffIt Deluxe can further reduce the size of JPEG images by up to 30 percent is so astonishing (I saw compression amounts ranging from 24 percent to 31 percent in my tests). Keep in mind that this 30 percent extra compression is lossless, which means that the images are not further degraded in any way, but they also aren't available for use until you expand them.

StuffIt Deluxe 10 also stores a preview thumbnail for such images now, making it possible to browse the images in an archive without expanding it first. The preview is available only in one of the panes of the Get Info window, though, so it's clumsy to scan through numerous compressed images in an archive. Ideally, a future version of StuffIt Deluxe would offer an icon view with the thumbnails as icons, or even a way of hooking into Tiger's slideshow capabilities.

The final low-level improvement is faster performance when using the StuffIt X archive format. Allume claims that the "Better" compression method (as opposed to "Faster") can now perform the same compression about 20 percent faster than in previous incarnations.

And into the Tiger Cage — The three marquee features of Tiger are,

of course, Spotlight, Automator, and Dashboard. StuffIt Deluxe 10 adds support for the first two, and when I chatted with Jon Kahn of Allume about the release, he said they really tried to come up with some sort of a Dashboard widget that would be helpful, but they just couldn't think of one that was more than a gratuitous nod to the technology.

Most notably, StuffIt Deluxe 10 now features a Spotlight Importer, which enables Spotlight to index the file names of items inside StuffIt, Zip, and Tar archives. It worked perfectly in my testing - immediately after creating an archive Spotlight could find files inside it based on name. StuffIt's Spotlight Importer does not enable Spotlight to search the full text or other metadata of archived files; perhaps we'll see that in a future version of StuffIt Deluxe.

For Automator, Allume created four actions that enable Automator workflows to create StuffIt, Zip, and Tar archives, and to expand archives of any sort. I'm already contemplating how I might be able to use these actions to help automate the process of creating and uploading new Take Control ebooks, since there are a fair number of steps in the process. I may also look into StuffIt Express PE, which ships

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StuffIt Deluxe 10 Plays with Tiger

with StuffIt Deluxe and enables users to create drop box applications that can also automate a whole slew of file compression and transfer tasks. The version of StuffIt Express PE that ships with StuffIt Deluxe 10 adds support for direct uploading to and downloading from .Mac iDisks.

While we're on the subject of automating tasks, StuffIt Deluxe 10 also includes a new utility called StuffIt SEA Maker for creating self-extracting archives (applications that, when double-clicked, expand the archive inside them) that border on mini-installers. StuffIt SEA Maker actually creates Mac OS X packages that contain the expansion code, the archive to be expanded, and any splash-screen graphics or text files you want to display during the expansion process. You can allow the recipient to choose a location for the expanded files or you can specify a particular location while creating the archive. And, if you plan to be posting the self-extracting archive on the Internet, StuffIt SEA Maker can optionally put it on a disk image so code that protects users from downloading applications doesn't trip over the self-extracting archive application.

StuffIt Standard and StuffIt Expander — As always, for people who don't need all of StuffIt Deluxe's power, Allume makes two other packages available. StuffIt Standard Edition 10 costs \$50 (\$15 for upgrades from previous versions, and the demo download is 9.3 MB) and includes DropStuff for creating a wide variety of archives (complete with the low-level improvements in StuffIt Deluxe 10) and StuffIt Expander for expanding them. StuffIt Expander 10 remains free, and it's worth noting that Apple no longer bundles StuffIt Expander with new Macs or copies of Mac OS X, so downloading a new version manually may become more important than it was in the past.

<<http://www.stuffit.com/mac/standard/>> 

by Tim Sullivan

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**Amnesty Widget Browser
1.0.3**
<http://www.mesadynamics.com/amnesty.htm>

Recommended Requirements:

Mac OS X 10.4 or later

Minimum Requirements:

Mac OS X 10.3.9

Amnesty Screen Saver 1.0.1



http://www.mesadynamics.com/amnesty_saver.htm

Recommended Requirements:

Mac OS X 10.4 or later

Minimum Requirements:

Mac OS X 10.3.9

Got Widget envy? Or maybe you want a widget to stay on your desktop while you work? Have we got an application for you. Amnesty Widget Browser is a utility for Mac OS X Tiger and Panther (10.3.9) that allows Dashboard widgets to live directly on your desktop via a convenient icon in your system menu bar.

Did you notice that? Widgets in Panther. And they said it couldn't be done.

Widgets loaded in Amnesty Widget Browser run completely outside of Apple's Dashboard environment, maintain their own preferences and feature expanded capabilities such as adjustable window level (desktop, standard or floating), opacity and auto-update timers. Widgets can also be arranged into multiple virtual workspaces that can be called up — by menu or hot key — to the screen at any time.

Let's face it, some widgets can be huge. If your screen is running out of room, constantly moving widgets in and out of a scrolling shelf can try your patience. In Amnesty Widget

Browser, you can set up multiple widget workspaces called layouts that each hold a collection of widgets. And with hot key support, switching from one layout to another is utter simplicity. Keep your widgets arranged however you like, on your screen or out of your way, and give your screen some breathing room.

Not ready to make the leap to Tiger? Amnesty Widget Browser gives you the power to run many third-party Dashboard widgets in Mac OS X 10.3.9. Yes, that's right. No, it's not a typo. Dashboard widgets in Panther 10.3.9. Download Amnesty Widget Browser today and see for yourself.

Amnesty Screen Saver is a screen saver module that allows Dashboard widgets to animate around your screen while going about their business, such as getting information from the web or keeping you updated on the status of your computer's various settings.

And even though you can't interact with widgets in a screen saver, many Dashboard widgets look great just moving around your screen.

Amnesty Screen Saver is free for your enjoyment — and a great way to showcase your widget collection.

Apple Updates

**Security Update 2005-008
(OS X 10.3.9)
09/22/05**

System Requirements

— OS X 10.3.9 or later

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

**Security Update 2005-008
(OS X 10.4.2)**

09/22/05

System Requirements
– OS X 10.4.2 or later

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

**iPod Updater 2005-09-23
09/22/05**

System Requirements
– OS X

iPod Updater 2005-09-23 includes new iPod Software 1.1.2 for iPod shuffle. iPod Updater 2005-09-23 contains the same software versions as iPod Updater 2005-09-06 for all other iPod models.

iPod Updater 2005-09-23 delivers bug fixes for iPod shuffle

**Backup 3.0
09/20/05**

System Requirements
– OS X 10.3.9 or later
– Active .Mac account

Backup 3 has been redesigned from the ground up resulting in easier setup, quicker backups and the ability to seamlessly automate the process so users don't have to remember to run a backup. New features include the ability to automatically back up iLife content, Home folder, iTunes purchased music, and other Mac essentials. Built-in Mac OS X "Tiger"

Spotlight search capabilities make it easy to select specific files to backup, while incremental backups help to save time and media costs.

**iTunes 5.0.1
09/20/05**

System Requirements
– OS X 10.2.8 or later
– OS X version 10.4.2 or later is recommended

Features a new even more powerful instant search, including the new Search Bar which helps you find exactly what you are looking for in iTunes or from among 2 million songs on the Music Store, folders for organizing playlists, and new Parental Controls for music, music sharing and podcasts. Features several stability improvements over iTunes 5.

**Java 1.3.1 and 1.4.2 Release 2
09/13/05**

System Requirements
– OS X 10.4 or later

Java 2 Platform Standard Edition (J2SE) 1.3.1 and 1.4.2 Release 2 improves functionality of J2SE 1.4.2 on Mac OS X v. 10.4 Tiger and updates

J2SE 1.3.1 for better interaction with J2SE 1.4.2.

**Java Security Update
09/13/05**

System Requirements
– OS X 10.3.9 or later

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

**WaveBurner 1.1.1
09/12/05**

System Requirements
– OS X 10.3 or later
– WaveBurner 1.1

This update addresses reliability and performance issues that may be encountered with WaveBurner 1.1. It also improves compatibility with Mac OS X version 10.4 (Tiger).

Furthermore, the update corrects the following issues:

- Selecting an output other than 1/2 in the Audio Driver preferences no longer produces silent CDs.
- The default values in the Burn preferences of WaveBurner have been changed (Write SCMS option and Write PreEmphasis options are now off by default). This addresses a problem that may be encountered with WaveBurner 1.1 when burning ISRC code with the Pioneer DVD Burner.
- Use of plug-in settings created in Logic now works as expected.
- Dragging audio files onto the WaveBurner icon in the Finder or Dock now works as expected: A new project is created and the audio files are added. If a WaveBurner project is

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active, the files are inserted at the end of the project.

- Dragging files directly from the Finder into the Wave View area now works.

- Editing values in the Region and Track list now works as expected.

- Editing values in the Region Info, CD Track Info and Index Point Info window is now operational.

- The time format values chosen in the Wave View area, Track and Region list are now saved in the WaveBurner project.

- The Disc Length field now displays in the time format selected in the Track list.

- In some extremely rare situations, the Undo function of WaveBurner did not work as expected. These issues are addressed in this update.

QuickTime 7.0.1 Reinstaller for QuickTime 7.0.2 09/12/05

System Requirements

- OS X 10.3.9, Mac OS X 10.4

The QuickTime 7.0.1 Reinstaller will remove QuickTime 7.0.2 and restore your system to QuickTime 7.0.1.

[Don't you just hate Reinstallers?]

QuickTime 7.0.2 09/07/05

System Requirements

- OS X 10.3.9 or later
- 400MHz PowerPC G3 processor or higher

QuickTime 7 Pro users enjoy not only all the great features in QuickTime

Player, but also the following new QuickTime Pro capabilities: vRecord audio and video. With an iSight or other FireWire camera connected to your computer, you can quickly create movies to share with family and friends.

- Share movies. Easily create a movie file for sending via email or posting to a website.

- Floating controls. Easily access functions like pause, play, fast-forward, and rewind while watching full-screen movies.

- Create H.264 video. Create incredible looking video for any use, from 3G (for mobile devices) to HD (high definition) and everything in between.

- Many more features. 🗑️

by Tim Sullivan

How I Resuscitated My G3 Laptop

In August we ran an article about PB FixIt <<http://www.pbfixit.com/cart/catalog/>>. This company claims that they make repairing and upgrading your PowerBook or iBook easy as 1, 2, 3. I would like to say that if you have 10 thumbs like I do, it might be more like 1, 2, 3, 4.

This summer my Lombard died. No warning. It just refused to read or write to the disk. This was a disaster of biblical proportions. My wife used it to balance her checkbook and keep her financial records. I used it for my SCSI scanner and CD-RW.

I wrestled with the problem of no scanner for weeks. Buy an adapter? Buy a new scanner?

When I read the article, I wondered if only the disk had gone bad. So I purchased Tech Tools 4 and ran a hardware check. Everything, except the disk, checked out okay.

PB Fixit has a great (and I might add, free) 9 page PDF explaining how to replace the hard disk on a Lombard. Big pictures, big type. Very easy to follow for us in the bifocal generation. And they had a really great selection of replacement drives.

I decided "What the heck." I ordered up a 30 GB hard drive for \$98 with shipping.

After looking at the new hard drive and my Lombard for about a week, I finally starting tearing the innards out of the G3. I replaced the hard drive, put everything back, took a deep breath, and pushed on the on button. Nothing.

Another week went by before I could face the task again. Seating the processor was a bit dicey and seemed like the most likely source of my aggravation. So I tried reseating it.

I've been happily scanning 40 year old negatives for the last month. 🗑️