



**BIRMINGHAM APPLE CORE
MACINTOSH USER GROUP**

The Peel

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<http://www.applecore.org>

Please e-mail your questions or comments to
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Apple introduces 20” iMac and 1.8 GHz dual processor G5

Apple Introduces 20-inch iMac

Just in time for the holiday shopping season, Apple has released a new version of the flat-panel iMac that offers a 20-inch LCD screen with a resolution of 1680 by 1050 pixels. The screen is also brighter than the smaller models and offers a higher contrast ratio.

As far as other functional specs go, the 20-inch iMac is identical to the 17-inch iMac, with a 1.25 GHz PowerPC G4 processor, 256 MB of RAM, 80 GB hard drive, SuperDrive, and all the usual ports.

The 20-inch iMac is priced at \$2,199 while the 15-inch iMac remains priced at \$1,299 and the 17-inch iMac still costs \$1,799.

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

Apple Releases 1.8 GHz Dual Processor G5 --

Apple has released a new model of the Power Mac G5, its 64-bit minitower computer aimed at professional and high-end Macintosh users. The new model offers dual 1.8 GHz PowerPC G5 processors (each with a 900 MHz frontside bus) with prices starting at \$2,500.

The new systems slip into the middle of Apple's G5 lineup, replacing a \$2,400 configuration with a single 1.8 GHz processor; otherwise, the specifications for the Power Mac G5s remain unchanged, save that they all now ship with Mac OS X 10.3 Panther.

Apple has reduced the starting price of the 1.6 GHz single processor system by \$200 to \$1,800. The new dual-processor

model serves to highlight benefits of Mac OS X's multiprocessor capabilities, particularly in computationally intensive areas like video and media production.

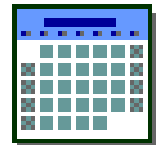
<http://www.apple.com/powermac/>

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To insure your continued subscription to The PEEL, renew your BAC membership today!

Check the mailing label for your membership expiration date.

Mail your check for \$30 to the address listed on page 6.



BAC December Meeting

The December 13, 2003 BAC Monthly Meeting will be held at the Homewood Public Library at 10:00 a.m.

BAC member Luther Fuller will discuss Mac OS 10.3 (Panther). The program will consist of:

- 1) Preparing to install Panther
- 2) Installing Panther
- 3) Reviewing the features of Panther and customizing Panther
- 4) Questions and Answers

See page 2 of the PEEL for a list of the door prizes to be awarded.

Come early and enjoy coffee and cookies plus...🍏.

2003 BAC Board of Directors

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FOR SALE/WANTED

Wanted

Do you have computer related items for sale or is there an item that you would like to purchase?

We will list the item in this space. Send information by the 25th of each month to: tedgallo@charter.net

This space is free to current BAC members.

BAC Disk of the Month

The BAC DOM (Disk of the Month) is available at each BAC meeting. These CDs contain updates, shareware, and freeware.

The cost has been lowered to \$2 and is available at the BAC meetings from Disk Librarian Jerry Jenkins.

CDOM December 2003

Boom X 1.4.5...Shareware
Arcade game. Needs OS 10.1.2 or higher.

Final Excuse Pro 1.2...Freeware
Creates upscale excuses for most anything.

FileMaker Calendar...Shareware
Requires FileMaker.

JunkBroom...Freeware
A junk filter for Entourage.

Lightnings Shadow 1.2...Freeware
Multi player monk trajectory game.

MacOSX Update 10.3.1...Freeware
Latest version of OS X from Apple.

MathFlash 3.0...Shareware
Elementary addition and subtraction flash card program. Needs OS 8.1 or higher.

MathFlash X 3.2...Shareware
Same as above but needs OS 10.1 or higher including 10.3.

Same-X 2.1.1...Freeware
Easy to play puzzle game with sounds.

Toast Titanium 5.2.3 Updater
Requires version 5.2.x.

UnCoverIt X 2.0.1...Shareware
Creates covers for the different sized Jewel cases - either automatic or customized. 🍏

Need Help!

Come early or stay late after the program at the "General Meeting" and ask questions. Someone will always be available.

There are many help sites on the Web. Go to the BAC Web site at www.applecore.org and click on "Help Resources." 🍏

BAC message board adds password

The message board on the BAC web site - www.applecore.org - was intended to be a place where members could ask questions and other members would answer. It has turned out to be something quite different in that individuals who are not members are using it for other purposes.

Therefore, the Board of Directors has decided to add a user id and password and make it available only to BAC members. The user id and password will change each month and will be available at any of the BAC meetings. Members may also call one of the board members to get the user id and password. 🍏

2004 Officer nominations

The following members have been nominated as an officer for 2004.

President: Bill Henry

Vice-Pres. - Jim Hillhouse

Secretary - TBA

Treasurer - Penelope Fenton

Web Master - Penelope Fenton

Media Librarian - Luther Fuller

Disk Librarian - Jerry Jenkins

PEEL Editor - Bill Henry

Membership Chmn: Ted Galloway

The position of Secretary is open.

We need someone to volunteer for this position. 🍏

December Door Prizes

The following list of door prizes will be awarded at the December BAC meeting, 1) a copy of "Mac OS X Conversion Kit." See page 3 for a review of the book, 2) a copy of the monthly CDOM. Disk Librarian Jerry Jenkins will have the disk at the meeting. See the list on this page of the new software for December, 3) a one-week rental of any of the instructional CDs that is in our Library. Instructional Media Librarian Luther Fuller will have the library at the meeting. 🍏

Book Review

**"The Mac OS X Conversion Kit:
9 to 10 Side by Side, Jaguar Edition"
by Scott Kelby
Peachpit Press
\$29.99, 271 pages**

By Bill Henry, BAC President

For those late bloomers or flat-earthers who haven't had the inclination to make the switch from Mac OS 9 to OS X yet, this may be the book that helps with your crossing over to the light.

On the left side of the open book you will see beautifully rendered screen shots which show what the OS 9 function looked like and on the right side how the similar OS X function which takes its place would look.

No doubt the graphics have added to the price of this book because otherwise it lacks the depth of subject available in other books at the same price. This book does communicate quickly and efficiently through the use of these graphics with a few lines of text below each graphic.

The book is broken into various chapters—some with familiar titles such as "Apple Menu" and "Windows, Icons & Stuff", others have interesting titles such as "Dont Freak Out" and "20 Little Things Apple Changed Just to Mess with your Head".

The Panther Edition of this book will be available in January if you are making the leap from OS 9 to Panther (OS 10.3). In fact Peachpit Press plans a plethora of Panther publications in the coming months. This book will be one of the door prizes at the December "General Meeting." 🍏

Bill Henry to become Peel Editor

BAC President Bill Henry will assume the duties as Editor of The Peel. He has been the club Secretary, Vice-President, and has served three terms as President.

Bill is a structural engineer at Southern Company Services where he has to work on a "gasp" Windows machine. He "gets" to work on a Mac at home. Please send articles and reviews to him at: henryw@bellsouth.net. 🍏

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Apple Posts Mac OS X Panther Version 10.3.1 Update

By: Charles W. Moore

Apple has posted a Mac OS X 10.3.1 update, a modest 1.3 MB patch that can be downloaded with OS X's Software Update Preferences panel feature. This update is included on the December 2003 BAC CDOM.

The 10.3.1 Update includes enhanced functionality and improved reliability for the following applications, services and technologies: FileVault, Printing, WebDav and FireWire 800 drives.

This update also includes the latest Security Updates.

Also note: Apple has identified an issue with external FireWire hard drives using the Oxford 922 bridge chip-set with firmware version 1.02 that can result in the loss of data stored on the disk drive. Even with the improvements available in this update, Apple recommends you update the firmware on your FireWire drive. Contact your drive manufacturer for more information.

System requirements:

G3, G4 or G5-based system with built-in USB ports.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.apple.com/macosx/> 🍏

Security update offers Safari cookies fix

Apple has released Security Update 2003-12-05. The new update is available for download through the Software Update system preferences pane.

Download for Jaguar 10.2.8 at: <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=120282>.

Download for Panther 10.3.1 at: <http://docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=120283>

Both version update Safari to prevent unauthorized access to a user's cookies," said Apple. However, one update is for Jaguar and one is for Panther. 🍏

Apple Guide: New Arrivals

In Apple's latest issue of New Arrivals, 40 brand new products for Mac OS X are covered including QuickBooks Pro 6.0, Indiana Jones and the Emperor's Tomb, Windows Media Player 9 for Mac OS X, 2004 World Book, SplashPhoto, LawStream, Score Writer 2, and many more.

In addition, you'll find convenient downloads for demos and trial versions of great products for your Mac, including CrystalMaker, IntelliMerge, iView Media Pro, MacFamily Tree, MacJournal, NetNewsWire, QuickBooks Pro 6.0 for Mac, and many more.

Check out the latest issue of New Arrivals at the following URL: <http://guide.apple.com/newarrivals/>. 🍏

Helpful Hints for the Hopeless

by Penelope Fenton, BAC Webmaster and Treasurer

You sign up with an ISP. They tell you that you have 10 MegaBytes of space on their server, all for \$19.95 a month.

This is great. You don't need the space. You are only going to send and receive e-mail. This space is for web pages and doesn't apply to you, all's right with the world. And, it is, until...

After two years, one day, you receive an e-mail from your service provider, informing you that you have used 99.9% of your available space and, if you don't do something (they never specify what), the world's coming to an end and all your stuff will crash or, be lost in cyberspace.

What to do?

Actually, more correctly, what has happened?

Well, for most of us, it's a simple matter of not having configured our e-mail application to delete our mail, from the server, after downloading. This means that all the attached files that we have received and deleted are actually still on the server, taking up space. All those pictures of some acquaintance's holiday, to Little Rock, are still being stored on our server. Well, we didn't like those people too much anyway and the pictures were out of focus, so how come, when we deleted them from our computer, they didn't go away?

That's where configurations come in. There are so many different e-mail programs floating around that it's impossible for me to be specific as to how to control this but, there are commonalities to all e-mail programs: some call them "settings", others call them "preferences", still others call them "configurations". Whichever is applicable to your program, select one of these and go through it, step by step. At some point, you will have a window available to you which uses check boxes. One of the boxes to check (or uncheck) is the one that says: "Leave on server for xxx days", or "delete from server when trash is emptied", or words to that effect.

This way, you can minimize your MB allocation consumption AND help keep your server clean. Something that helps it run more efficiently.

Next time: How to send mail to multiple addresses, without them being visible or subject to "capture". 🍏

Attend the Saturday morning

“Get Together”

held in the Food Court at

Brookwood Mall

9:30 a.m. (except the 2nd Saturday)

Apple Holiday Gift Guide



Are you looking for that “perfect” gift for Christmas? Take a look at the Apple Holiday Gift Guide at: www.apple.com/giftguide. On the page there are four areas:

Someone you know loves Macs includes: iMacs, iBook or PowerBook. iMac or Power Mac.

There's a perfect Mac for everyone.

Someone you know loves music includes: iPod for Mac or PC. Great audio gear for your Mac, PC or iPod. Fill their hearts with song.

Someone you know loves movies includes: Camcorders, software, and accessories to help them bring their visions to life.

Someone you know loves photos includes: Digital cameras, photo accessories, and software. Give the gift of capturing memories. 🍏

Maintenance Tips for Mac OS X

MacJanitor 1.2.1 is a utility that is designed to be used on a periodic basis by Mac OS X users who don't leave their computers on 24 hours a day. MacJanitor is provided as free-ware as a service to laptop and energy-conscious home users. The Unix subsystems on Mac OS X were originally written for machines that were typically never shut off. Mac OS X inherits this assumption in version 1.0, and has many system-maintenance tasks scheduled to run between 3 and 5 a.m. In addition, scripts are designed to run weekly on weekends and once a month in the middle of the night.

If these maintenance tasks are never run (such as on a laptop that is always shut off at night), many log files and system databases will grow extremely large or fail to get backed up. MacJanitor provides a way to run these system tasks at the click of a button. Laptop users could click the Daily button every morning (or every few days), and office workers could click the Weekly button on Mondays. Download MacJanitor 1.2.1 at: www.download.com and search for MacJanitor.

Repairing the privileges of a file or folder is one of the most non-intrusive Mac OS X maintenance tasks: you can launch a utility and let it run in the background while you continue to work.

To do so, open the Disk Utility located in your Utilities folder and click on the First Aid tab. Then, select the Mac OS X partition; not the whole hard drive; and click on Repair Permissions. You do not need to Verify first.

Every month, restart your computer from its Mac OS X CD by holding down the C key on startup, choose Disk Utility under File, click the First Aid tab, click your hard drive icon, and click your Repair Disk. For other maintenance tips go to: <http://www.info.apple.com/usen/macosx/>. 🍏

Hints&Tips

www.mac-hints-tips.com

Hints and Tips is a monthly newsletter available (in PDF format) from Paul Taylor at: www.mac-hints-tips.com.

Avoiding Noisy Digital Images

If you've played around with your digital camera for a while, you might have found some of your photos are noisy - there are extra pixels of various colors that don't belong in the image. While avoiding noise might be impossible, there are a few other suspects to consider when trying to quiet down your noisy images.

Underexposed images. If an image sensor can't get enough light to capture an accurate reading, it's likely to misinterpret the signal and produce noise. This can be fixed by increasing your exposure compensation or your shutter speed.

Blue skies. For very technical reasons, digital cameras and blue skies don't get along. First, the subtle color shifts and large areas of uniform color can cause noise to develop as the sensor tries to reproduce the gentle gradient. Another factor is the infrared filter on most CCD sensors, which tends to increase the sensitivity to the blue end of the spectrum. There isn't much you can do to fix this outside of an image-editing program.

Automatic sharpening. Some cameras let you apply a sharpening filter to your images during capture, which can emphasize noise. Try reducing the amount of sharpening or simply turning this feature off.

Shadows. When a digital camera evaluates a scene, it adjusts the exposure to get the best overall image quality. However, shadows often become noisy, especially when a majority of the scene is bright. Consider using your camera's manual settings or slightly underexposing the shot. You can lighten up the remainder of the image later in your image-editing software.

Image compression. When an image is compressed into a JPEG, there's always a loss of detail. At higher compression rates (lower JPEG quality settings), more noise will develop as the image is broken down into simpler elements, reducing the amount of detail in your image. If this is a concern, shoot with the best possible JPEG quality setting or choose the higher quality TIFF or RAW format if available.

Night shots. Digital cameras don't do very well at night. Low light means higher ISO settings, lower shutter speeds, and wider apertures. The more time the image sensor is exposed to light, the greater the possibility that noise will develop. Try to manage your exposure settings wisely and experiment with different configurations to see what works best for you.

Changes in temperature.

Your camera will work best when it's the same temperature as its surroundings. For instance, if you bring your camera outside from a warm room on a snowy day, you should wait for the camera to adjust to that temperature before taking any photos.

LiMac Forum, Long Island, NY

Scanners

Avoid Show-Through in Scans

To avoid having your scanner pick up text from the back side of the paper you're scanning (called ghosting, or show-through), place a sheet of black paper behind the paper you're scanning. The black paper absorbs the light that would otherwise shine through the paper.

Design Tools Monthly

OS X Driver for Old Scanners

VueScan (\$40) is a popular alternative driver for many scanners. It often provides better results than the scanner's original driver, and works with scanners that are no longer supported by their original manufacturers for use on newer Macintoshes or in Mac OS X. Get it at www.hamrick.com.

Design Tools Monthly

Become a Power User

If you own a Mac and want to be a power user so that you can do things like install your own RAM, add hard drives, add an Airport card, etc., Apple has a page for you to explore: www.info.apple.com/usen/cip/index.html.

On this page you will find a pull down menu. Locate your computer in the list and you will be taken to a page with a list of user installable parts! There are PDF files you can read and "Quicktime Movies" that show you exactly how to do it! WOW! The Mac is still user friendly!

Charlotte MacWorkshop, Charlotte NC

Key Caps Replacement in Panther

Mac OS X Panther includes Keyboard Viewer, which is functionally equivalent to Key Caps.

To use Keyboard Viewer, you need to enable it in International preferences. Follow these steps:

1. From the Apple menu, choose System Preferences.
2. From the View menu, choose International.
3. Click Input Menu.
4. Enable the Keyboard Viewer palette.
5. Enable Show input menu in menu bar.

Apple Computer



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Monthly Meeting*

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