

Please e-mail your questions or comments to  
**Bill Henry, Editor**  
*(henryw@bellsouth.net)*



## March 2004

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### Impressive Apple Firsts

Microsoft and Intel may well have the upper hand in numbers out there, but Apple continues to be the leader in innovation. The company's ability to turn ideas into "insanely great" products gives it a leadership in the industry that Bill Gates can only wish for.

- Apple was the first personal computer company to use a mouse.
- Apple was the first personal computer company to ship a computer with a color screen.
- Apple was the first personal computer company to make a portable.
- Apple was first to ship a personal computer with a floppy drive.
- Apple was first to ship a personal computer without a floppy drive.
- Apple was first to ship a personal computer with a CD-Rom drive.
- Apple was first to ship a personal computer with a DVD-R drive.
- Apple invented the trackpad (PC users were using a trackball or red nubby).
- Apple invented FireWire.
- Apple was first to offer wireless networking in a personal computer.
- Apple invented True Type fonts (now a PC standard).
- Apple was first to release a PDA (remember the Newton?).
- Apple was first to allow use of multiple monitors.
- Apple was first to use icons or pull-

down folders.

- Apple was first to do away with CRT's and use only flat panel displays.
- Apple was first to release a 64-bit processor in a consumer machine.

### Shake Continues Apple's Oscar Winning Streak

The 76th Annual Academy Awards presentation marked the seventh consecutive year Apple's Shake® compositing software has played a crucial role in the film winning the Academy Award for Best Visual Effects. The 2004 winners in this category from Weta Digital credited Shake as a key element in the creation of "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King."

"We're thrilled that for seven years in a row, movies created with Shake have won the Oscar for best visual effects," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO. "Shake is helping Hollywood film editors communicate their vision and deliver their art at an Academy Award winning level. We couldn't be happier."

### New iPod Mini ships

iPod mini is encased in an ultra-portable, lightweight anodized aluminum body and available in a choice of five colors—silver, gold, pink, blue and green. Apple has received over 100,000 pre-orders for the iPod mini which was introduced last month.

### BAC March Meeting

The March meeting will be held on Saturday the 13th at 10:00am at the Homewood Library in room 116 (lower level).

The topic of the March meeting will be "Mini Movies '04" the basics of movie making and DVD creation, presented by Boris Datnow.

Have any general questions or need help? Just ASK.

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

## 2004 BAC Board of Directors

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Bill Henry

henryw@bellsouth.net

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Jim Hillhouse

jhill@hillhouse.com.

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(Position Open)

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Penelope Fenton

penelopejane@mindspring.com

### MEMBERSHIP

Ted Galloway

tedgallo@charter.net

### INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA LIBRARIAN

Luther Fuller

fullerluther@alltel.net

### DISK LIBRARIAN

Jerry Jenkins

gjenkins1333@charter.net

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## For Sale/Wanted

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For Sale: Microsoft Office for: MAC 2001 includes Entourage, Excel, Word and Powerpoint.

Ordered the wrong one and opened by mistake. They would not take it back. Will sell for \$200.00.

Email: digamble@aol.com or call 205-427-0356.

## BAC Disk of the Month

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

The cost is \$2 per disk and is available at the BAC meetings from Disk Librarian Jerry Jenkins.

### MARCH 2004 CDOM CDOM Descriptions

**Backup Simplicity 1.1.1...**Shareware Trial for backing up to external Firewire hard drives. Requires OS 10.2.3 or higher.

**Budget X 4.3.4...**Shareware Helps set up & live by a budget. Track expenses. Also section on tracking stock & mutual fund shares. Requires OS 10.1 or higher.

**EasyCard X 2.2.3...**Shareware Make greeting cards for emailing. Requires OS 10.2 or higher.

**FolderIcon X 1.7.9...**Shareware Create custom folder icons and document icons. Requires OS 10.2.1 or higher, or OS 10.3.x

**MacFamilyTree 3.6.6...**Shareware Keeper of the family tree. Requires OS 9.1 to 9.2.2 or OS 10.1.5 or higher.

**Moonweight 1.3...**Freeware Check your weight on several different planets. Requires OS 10.3.x

**Photologist 1.6...**Shareware An easy to use, versatile image-management, manipulation, and presentation solution for working with digital photos. Requires OS 10.1 or higher.

**tex edit plus X 4.6.2...**Shareware Excelent text editor. More features than you can count. Better than many word processors and is scriptable. Requires OS 10.1 or higher.

**UnCoverIt X 2.0.2...**Shareware Reads contents of removable media (CD, DVD, Zip, etc.), then prints contents on a layout to be cut out - fits it's jewel case. Requires OS 10.2 or higher.

**VueScan X 7.6.79...**Shareware Updated, keeps getting better and covers more scanners. In most cases, it replaces and improves the original

scanner driver. Requires Mac OS 10.x

## Have You Paid your Dues?

### Humor

When I worked at Apple, we had a saying: 'Apple Computer: Where quality is job 1.1.1' according to an email to MacFixIt sent by a former Apple employee

### FLASH: LOWER PRICES!!

The Birmingham Apple Core board has lowered the price of renting instructional media from our library to \$2.00 per week from the previous \$5.00 to encourage members to take advantage of the instructional media library.

Luther Fuller is the instructional media librarian and he is available at every general meeting (2nd Staurday) and at the informal Saturday meetings at the Brookwood Village Mall food court. 🍏

## Message Board id and password for March

The BAC Message Board is located at [www.applecore.org](http://www.applecore.org) and click on Message Board. The User id for March is: peel and the password is 0304. Some browsers ask for the Name in the top box. This is the place for the user ID.

We hope that the BAC membership will take advantage of this Message Board. Feel free to ask questions or make comments and hopefully someone in BAC will respond. 🍏

## March Door Prizes

The following list of door prizes will be awarded at the March BAC meeting, 1) a copy of the monthly CDOM. Disk Librarian Jerry Jenkins will have the disk at the meeting, 2) a one-week rental of any of the instructional CDs that are in our Library. Instructional Media Librarian Luther Fuller will have the library at the meeting. 🍏

## COST CONSCIOUS SUPERCOMPUTING AT VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

### The Hokies are no longer slow pokies

Blacksburg, VA — Dr. Srinidhi Varadarajan knew that he wanted to build a world-class supercomputer. Also, he wanted to solidify the position of Virginia Tech's world-class computer science program. But with only a fraction of most supercomputing budgets to spend, it seemed like a hopeless dream. He crunched numbers, solicited every likely vendor, examined and ultimately discarded all possible options using other platforms and chips. Then in June of 2003, news of Apple's Power Mac G5 hit the airwaves. At last, Varadarajan realized, he'd have as much 64-bit processing as he needed to power his dream, without over-taxing his budget.

Soon after the announcement, Varadarajan took delivery of his very first PowerBook laptop running Mac OS X. Within days, he placed an order for the 1100 dual processor, 2.0 GHz Power Mac G5 computers that now drive Virginia Tech's new supercomputer. Smart choice: In November of 2003 the giant system — named System X — became the third fastest supercomputer in the world.

System X is radically different from traditional, high-performance supercomputers. Unlike most, it is based on a "supercluster" of Power Mac G5 computers, each of which has 4GB of main memory, and 160GB of serial ATA storage. Not only is System X the world's fastest, most powerful "home-built" supercomputer, it quite possibly has the cheapest price/performance of any supercomputer on the TOP500 list. See the website [www.top500.org](http://www.top500.org)

Virginia Tech recently announced they are upgrading their supercomputer to the new Xserve G5. This upgrade will provide a more compact setting for the supercomputer and take advantage of the latest chip technology from IBM.

The new Xserve G5 runs cooler and consumes less electricity providing additional cost savings to the operation of the world's third fastest super computer. 🍏



## LOST? THEN LET YOUR MAC DO GPS

Mac users who are also interested in GPS can have their own interface-mapping software. Just announced is MacGPS Pro 5.0.

James Associates has created MacGPS Pro software that works with Garmin and Magellan GPS receivers for transferring Waypoints, Routes, and Tracklogs. It also works with many brands of GPS receivers for a real-time display of GPS information on a moving map displayed on the Macintosh screen.

MacGPS Pro 5.0 is OS X native as well as available in a Classic version for Mac OS 6 through OS 9.

MacGPS Pro 5.0 offers many new features:

For the Boating Enthusiast: Import and automatically calibrate your nautical charts for NOS/GEO and BSB versions 1, 2, and 3.

For the Geocacher: Import your favorite GPX files from sites like Geocaching.com as waypoints for transfer into Garmin or Magellan GPS receivers.

For the Traveler: Import your driving directions from the "Maps on US" web site as a route for transfer into Garmin or Magellan receivers.

For Digital Map Users: Enjoy automatic calibration when you import:

Etopo Canadian maps,

.MAP georeferenced files from Oziexplorer

.JPR georeferenced files from Fugawi.

More User-friendly features include:

Display higher quality images when zoomed-in closer than 1:1 on a raster map.

Display the name of the USGS topo map for your current location or any entered location.

Display the recorded date, time, and elevation of a clicked-on tracklog point.

MacGPS Pro 5.0 is \$39.95 via email. (\$10 more for CD-ROM).

James Associates is a Macintosh software company located in the Rocky Mountains just west of Boulder, Colorado.

James Associates

PO Box 601

Nederland, CO 80466

[www.macgpspro.com](http://www.macgpspro.com)

### WANTED: BAC Secretary

Any member interested in becoming the Birmingham Apple Core secretary please let one of the board members know.

## Book Review

### Mac OS X: The Missing Manual Panther Edition

by David Pogue

Published by Pogue Press/O'Reilly

\$29.95 (763 pages)

Review by Ted Galloway, BAC member, inductee of Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame, and Alabama Music Hall of Fame Acheiver

I cannot imagine trying to work with the new Mac OS 10.3 (Panther) without some type of detailed manual. It is very difficult for me to read the limited online Help provided by the OS. Panther has 150 new features and I haven't conquered the old ones in OS 10.2 yet. I, along with many other Mac OS users have spent years learning and honing our skills on the pre-OS 10 operating system. I need a lot of help finding and understanding the completely new Mac OS 10. As David Pogue says in the introduction of Mac OS X: The Missing Manual, Panther Edition: "If you're coming to Mac OS X from Mac OS 9, you don't just have to learn about new features, you also have to unlearn a good deal of what you worked so hard to master in the older system."

I have been reading selected sections of the book Mac OS X: The Missing Manual, Panther Edition searching for help on several topics. This is the way I suggest you approach the book as a research tool and not a book to be read from cover to cover. After all, the book has 763 pages and I can't keep my attention on the subject unless I am researching a particular topic.

One of the topics on which I needed help was the Address Book and how to import addresses from another web browser. I found what I was looking for in Chapter 19: Mail and Address Book. The book is full of "Tips" and I found one that solved my problem of creating groups from the imported addresses. One of the best things about this book and all the Missing Manual books are the "Tips:" and many "Power User Clinic" sidebars. Also there are many screen shots that really help in understanding the concept of the topic being discussed.

The book is divided into Six Parts plus an Introduction and Appendices with each part having several related chapters.

**Part 1:** The Mac OS X Desktop, includes chapters on Folders and Windows; Organizing Your Stuff, Dock, Desktop; and Toolbar.

**Part 2:** Applications in Mac OS X, has chapters on Programs and Documents; Back to OS 9 (Classic); Moving Data, and Applescript.

**Part 3:** The Components of Mac OS X, includes System Preferences; The Free Programs; CDs, DVDs, and iTunes.

**Part 4:** The Technologies of Mac OS X, includes Security and Accounts; Printing, Faxing, Fonts, and Graphics;


Sound, Movies, Speech, and Handwriting; Terminal: Doorway to Unix, Fun with Unix, and Hacking Mac OS X.

**Part 5:** Mac OS X Online, includes Internet Setup, Firewall, and .Mac; Mail and Address Book; Panther's Internet Software Suite; and SSH, FTP, VPN, and Web Sharing.

**Part 6:** Appendices, includes Troubleshooting; "Where'd it Go?" Dictionary (Mac Version); "Where'd it Go?" Dictionary (Windows Version); Where to Go From Here; and The Master OS X Secret Keystroke List.

An added bonus for all the Missing Manual books, including this one, is the availability of "The Missing CD." This is all the shareware listed in the book and is available for download at [www.missingmanual.com](http://www.missingmanual.com) and click on "Missing CD" then find the CD that is for this book.

I have found this book to be a valuable resource tool in working my way through Mac OS 10.3 and I highly recommend it.

[Ed. note: Current members of the Birmingham Apple Core can receive a 20% discount off the \$29.95 price by obtaining a coupon at the BAC meetings. Orders can be placed by calling 1-800-998-9938 or by e-mail at: [order@oreilly.com](mailto:order@oreilly.com). Online orders can be placed at [www.oreilly.com](http://www.oreilly.com). 

### Mobile High Speed updated with EDGE, new phone support

By Brad Cook - MacCentral (March 5, 2004)

German developer nova media announced on Friday that Mobile High Speed 3.23 is now available. The software enables your Mac to use a cell phone network using the GRPS or GSM protocols. The update adds support for the Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution (EDGE) protocol, as well as the Nokia 6620, Motorola T725E and Sony Ericsson GC82 PC Card Modem.

Mobile High Speed 3.23 takes the hassle out of connecting to the Internet through a cell phone by automatically configuring Mac OS X to use the protocol that your wireless carrier supports. The software is currently compatible with over 80 phones and PC Card modems as well as more than 200 wireless network settings. North American users can employ it with BellSouth, Cingular, AT&T, and T-Mobile in the United States or Microcell FIDO and Roger AT&T in Canada.

Nova media recommends using the demo version of Mobile High Speed if you just want to connect and download e-mail. For Web surfing and large file transfers, the company suggests the full version, which is available for download from their Web site for US\$49.94 plus the European Value Added Tax (VAT), which is 16 percent. You can also purchase packages from the nova media online store that include the paid edition of the software with a Bluetooth dongle or a USB cable, depending on your connectivity needs. System requirements Mac OS X v10.2.x "Jaguar" or higher or OS 9.2.x, although the latter is no longer supported by nova media.

# Hints&Tips

[www.mac-hints-tips.com](http://www.mac-hints-tips.com)

## Dont Be A Slasher

If you share files with Windows users and now OS X users, it might be a good idea not to include a slash / in the name of the file or folder (such as dates). While Macs running OS 9 and earlier can have file names with a slash in them, other OSes cannot. (Mac users like the slash because they often place dates in file names.) OS X deals with slashes a bit differently. It will accept a slash in a name in the Finder, but looking at the file with the Terminal changes the slash to a colon, something older Macs cannot use in a file name. Even stranger is that you cannot place a slash in the name of a file when saving that file but you can place it in the name after the file has been saved (from the Finder). To avoid confusion, just dont place a slash in the file name to begin with.

## Burn More, Waste Less

If you are in the habit of needing to transport smaller amounts of data on a disc (to and from work for example) and you are using CD-R media, burn in Sessions. It does add a new CD icon for each session, making it look like you have several CDs mounted, but you usually have about 700MBs on a disc, so why not use it up. You can burn in Sessions using Toast. Apples DiscBurner doesnt recognize Sessions.

However to burn sessions in OS X (not available for OS 9), open Disk Utility, and create or select a normal disk image. Choose burn, and then click the blue expansion triangle button in the Insert Disc... dialog. Now click Leave Disc Appendable and pop a blank (or with other sessions) CD in, and click the burn button. Do the same next time, but pop your CD with a session in when prompted for a new one!

## Connect Two Macs Via Firewire

If you have two Firewire Macs, you can hook them up so one Mac looks like a Firewire hard drive on the other Mac. To do this, link the two Macs with a Firewire cable. Now restart the Mac that will serve the other Mac holding down the T key so it starts in Firewire Target Disk Mode. Reboot the receiving Mac and you will see the serving Mac appear on the desktop as a Firewire hard drive. You can now drag files to the receiving Mac, stick a DVD or CD in the drive and copy files residing on the serving Mac

## Give Yourself More Room

When searching for a particular email, you may want to use the entire window to display messages instead of just the top pane. To hide the preview window, just doubleclick on the dividing bar. It will drop down to the bottom, giving you a complete look at your mail messages. To split the

screen once again, double-click on the bar at the bottom of the screen and it will display the message and preview panes once again.

## Tabbed Browsing in Safari

Have you investigated tabbed browsing in Safari? Here is a great implementation. I like to open several Macintosh sites daily, including MacFixIt, MacInTouch, MacSurfer, etc. So I open all Bookmarks in Safari. I establish a folder name for this group (I call mine MacDaily). I populate this folder with the URLs of the sites. Now I drag this folder into Bookmarks Bar. Now this collection of sites appears as MacDaily in my Bookmark Bar. One item is "Open in Tabs." Select this and all your sites open in Tabs in seconds.

Ed. note- I use this and love it, mine is called Daily Dose, a mix of world & local news, Mac news and financial news.

## Quickly Find an Address and Get Directions from Safari

Chances are your web browser is running just about anytime your computer is on. Therefore, it's a good idea to use the application for everything possible.

For instance, when you need to get an address for a friend or business, simply enter the telephone number (in XXX-XXX-XXXX format) into the Google field of Safari and press the Return key. The resulting Google Found Records page will have the address listed at the top of the page, along with handy links to automatically map it in either Yahoo Maps or MapQuest. As an added bonus, any links for that business will be listed in the found records, if applicable. Obviously, this trick also works from the Google web page. Google also has a built-in calculator so you don't have to bother opening another utility just to do some minor calculations. For instance, if you want to find out how many liters are in 43 gallons just enter 43 gallons in liters into the search field and press Return. Google will then let you know that there are 162.772707 liters in 43 gallons. Of course, you can also enter simple arithmetic equations as well. 🍏

## APPLE IS DEBT FREE

According to a letter from Steve Jobs to company employees: "Today is a historic day of sorts for our company.

When I arrived back at Apple in mid-1997, the company was burdened with \$1 billion of debt. Through everyone's hard work we turned Apple around, paid off the majority of our debt and began to amass a war chest of cash in the bank which has grown to about \$4.8 billion! But there was still \$300 million of remaining debt, which we decided to hold to maturity. Today we used \$300 million of our cash to pay off this remaining debt. Apple is now a debt-free company – for the first time in over a decade! It sure feels good." 🍏



**McKinney Technologies, Inc.**  
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1923 29th Ave., So.  
Homewood, AL 35209  
Ph: 205-802-7886 Fax: 205-802-7898  
e-mail: info@mckinneytech.com

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3230 Galleria Circle  
Birmingham, AL 35242  
(205) 444-0001



**Art Vires**

Apple Solutions Consultant (Birmingham)  
Cell Phone (205)335-4779  
e-mail: avires@apple.com



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**Chris Perry**

1722-B 28th Ave. So., Homewood, AL 35209  
Phone (205) 870-7044 Fax (205)780-1944  
e-mail: chris@perrycomputer.com  
www.perrycomputer.com



Bill Henry, Editor  
2438 Mahaska Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35244

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