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## Macintosh poses fewer problems than Windows

By Don Lindich, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Apple Computer's new "Switch" advertising campaign struck a chord with me. Over a third of the correspondence I receive is from users frustrated with Windows. Every time I read an e-mail describing a Windows error message or a computer that acts as if it has a mind of its own, I think, "If they were using a Macintosh, they wouldn't be writing to me with a problem like this."

I know because I myself made the switch from Windows to Macs last year. Though I know how to correct the errors, crashes and conflicts that plague Windows, I got tired of them and was not willing to give Microsoft a pass any longer. By Switching to Macintosh,

### I traded Windows' "Blue Screen of Death" for the Mac OS X "Blue Screen of Life,"

With a Mac, programs and peripherals install without fuss, and there are no more missing .dll files, hardware or software conflicts, system slowdowns or surprise crashes. The last time I was forced to reboot my Macintosh was eight months ago, and it was my fault that it crashed. When I use a Windows machine, I have to reboot two or three times a day. Though Macs are the computer of choice of most creative professionals in the art, advertising, music, movie and publishing worlds, it seems to me that home users need them the most.

Not only do Macs really work, they are effortlessly intuitive and fun to use. Apple's iTunes software makes music mixing and CD burning a snap, and includes a nifty Internet tuner for listening to radio stations from all around the world. iPhoto

is by far the easiest digital photography software I have seen, and Microsoft Office for Mac OS X is superior to the Windows version, by Microsoft's own admission.

In short, if you are looking for a new computer and are open to a superior ownership and computing experience, look at an Apple before you buy. 🍏

## Mac OS X 10.3.3 Update

The 10.3.3 Update offers enhanced functionality and reliability. The key enhancements include:

- network volumes are now available in the Finder sidebar and Desktop for convenient access
- improved file sharing and directory services for Mac (AFP), UNIX (NFS) and PC (SMB/CIFS) networks
- improved PostScript and USB printing
- improved font management
- updated Disk Utility, DVD Player, Image Capture, Mail and Safari applications
- additional support for FireWire and USB devices
- new ATI and NVIDIA graphics drivers
- improved compatibility for third party applications
- FileVault, FireWire 800 and WebDAV improvements from Update 10.3.1
- previous standalone security updates and Bluetooth Update 1.5

## BAC April Meeting

The April meeting will be held on Saturday the 10th at 10:00am at the Homewood Library in room 116 (lower level). The topic of the April meeting will be "iTunes - Rip, Mix & Burn" presented by Tommy Ellison. He will demonstrate the iTunes interface and process required to store your CD library on your computer, or sync with the Apple iPod. Demo of the interface and ease of use of the Apple iTunes Music Store is also presented. Come early and enjoy coffee, doughnuts and cookies, plus.....🍏.

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## For Sale/Wanted

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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 free of charge to current-BAC members.

Send information by the 25th of each month to the editor at: henryw@bellsouth.net.

## 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.

### April 2004 CDOM

#### DejaVu X 2.6...Shareware

Backup your docks and applications either manually or automatic on a schedule. You can make bootable copies of your Mac OS 10 System disk. Requires OS 10. Installs version 2.5 on Jaguar.

#### FolderIcon X 1.8.2...Shareware

Tool to produce your own folder icons.

#### GarageBand 1.0.1..Freeware

Updates your version 1.0 of GarageBand.

#### Graphic Converter X 5.0.1.....Shareware

One of the best applications to convert to different types of graphics and to work with digital photos.

#### iOrganize X 5.3.3...Shareware

Advanced note pad and organization tool.

#### iPhotoUpdate 4.0.1..Freeware

Updates your version 4.0 of iPhoto.

#### Macaroni 2.0.3..Freeware

Similar to Macjanitor for system maintenance but can be set to perform automatically, time and date as well as manually.

#### MacJanitor 1.2.1..Freeware

Designed to be used on a periodic basis by Mac OS X users who don't leave their computer on (and awake) 24 hours a day. Laptops are a prime example. It does the necessary system maintenance using daily, weekly and monthly buttons.

#### TechTool Pro 4.0.2 Updater

Updates your version of TechTool Pro 4.0

#### UnCoverIt X 2.0.3...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. You can also design your own and import pictures. Requires OS 10.2 or higher.

#### VueScan X 7.6.8...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

## LOWER RENTAL FEES ON INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA!!

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. See page 5 for list of OS X CDs. 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 April

The BAC Message Board is located at [www.applecore.org](http://www.applecore.org) and click on Message Board. The User id for April is: peel and the password is 0404. 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. 🍏

## April Door Prizes

The following list of door prizes will be awarded at the April 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. 🍏

## STICK A FEATHER IN YOUR HAT AND CALL IT 'MACARONI'

Shareware that keeps your OS X running tip top

Macaroni is a tool which handles regular maintenance for Mac OS X's Unix core. Normally these tasks run on a regular schedule as part of the OS X operating system (See Applications>Utilities>Disk Utilities), in the middle of the night. However if you don't leave your Mac on all night, they never run. Your Mac won't wake from sleep to handle this.

Macaroni solves this problem. If a scheduled maintenance task is not run when it's normally scheduled, Macaroni automatically ensures that it's run at the next opportunity, whenever the Mac is on.

- Automatically runs maintenance jobs
- Configurable: Add your own scheduled tasks
- Custom tasks can be scheduled as daily, weekly, monthly, or at regular intervals (such as "every three days").
- Tracks maintenance history
- Displays results of latest maintenance run.
- Tasks may be configured to run only during system idle time.
- Tasks may be configured to wait until your system is plugged in, saving battery power.
- Maintains Mac OS X Unix privileges using the "Repair Privileges" utility

The free trial download can be used for 35 days, if you like having this software the cost of this shareware program is \$8.99 and is available directly from [www.atomicbird.com](http://www.atomicbird.com) or see the April CDOM. Other download sites include such sites as [www.cnet.com](http://www.cnet.com) and [www.versiontracker.com](http://www.versiontracker.com). 🍏

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## Folding Proteins at Home

By Barbara Gibson

In what is rapidly becoming a new world of democratic computing, Noah Johnson's three Power Macs are humming quietly away, helping Stanford University scientists solve a complex problem that, one day, may help them fight disease.

As part of a groundbreaking distributed computing experiment, Johnson and half a million other people are donating their spare computer capacity so Stanford can remotely simulate protein folding, an essential biochemical process that controls vital body functions.

The project, called Folding@home, represents a sort of ad hoc democracy because anyone with an Internet connection can join. Users simply download an application that runs protein-folding simulations on their desktop computers when the systems are idle.

## Processors of the World, Unite!

Folding@home isn't the world's first project that uses the spare capacity of thousands of computers in loosely-linked networks. The same distributed computing concept fueled the discovery of the largest prime numbers and deciphered an RC5-65 encryption algorithm.

The most famous distributed computing project, the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI@Home), uses millions of desktop computers to analyze radio telescope data in an the ongoing search for extraterrestrial life.

Since Folding@home debuted in 2000, more than 500,000 computers across the globe have helped simulate the complete folding behavior, atom by atom, of five important proteins.

Stanford and the Pande research group will not sell the data or make any money off of it.

Moreover, they will make the data available for others to use. In particular, the results from Folding@home will be made available on several levels. Most importantly, analysis of the simulations will be submitted to scientific journals for publication, and these journal articles will be posted on the web page after publication. Next, after publication of these scientific articles which analyze the data, the raw data of the folding runs will be available for everyone, including other researchers. Interested in helping out visit the website below. 🍏

<http://www.stanford.edu/group/pandegroup/folding/>

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## Have You Paid your Dues?

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### "Sticky Spaces" and "Sticky Hyphens" in word processors

"Sticky Spaces" causes the words to stick together on the same line as in a date. If you don't want the month separated from the day and year press "Option Space Bar" to have it appear on the same line.

Likewise for a "Sticky Hyphen." To have a hyphenated word stay together on the same line press "Option Hyphen" which enters an en-dash that keeps two hyphenated words on the same line. You should not do this on a single word that will be hyphenated by the word processor program.

You should use "Sticky Spaces" on all dates to avoid separation when the page is reformatted. Likewise for two hyphenated words. 🍏

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## MacHome TIP OF THE WEEK: MAC OS 10.3's ADDRESS BOOK

Address Book now includes comprehensive printing capabilities. You can print a list of selected contacts with any attributes you wish. More importantly, you can now print address labels using more than 245 Avery label templates. 🍏

## Mac Skeptic

### PC World Senior Editor Rebecca Freed looks at Mac technologies and products and identifies what's hot--and what's just hype.

Although I tend to be a late adopter of technology, I began to think that Bluetooth might be worth the hassle when I saw my first demonstration of it--on a Mac. And late last year Apple added an elegant wireless mouse and keyboard to the growing number of Bluetooth-capable devices cropping up in the landscape.

So you could say that when I decided to try Bluetooth myself, I harbored a pro-Mac bias. But being the Mac Skeptic, I intended to root out that predisposition and replace it with, er, informed opinion. My hunch starting out was that using Bluetooth on a Mac would be much easier than on a Windows PC since Bluetooth support is built into Mac OS X, whereas on Windows you buy your Bluetooth software along with Bluetooth hardware.

I reasoned that, on the Mac, you could expect to have a Mac-like experience with Bluetooth, whereas with a PC you'd have whatever experience the hardware maker felt like giving you. When Apple's people demonstrated their wireless Bluetooth keyboard and mouse for me on a PowerBook, it did look really simple. So I put my bias to the test by setting up Bluetooth peripherals on my iBook and my Compaq Presario with Windows XP Home.

#### The Windows Version

My experience with Logitech's \$250 DiNovo Media Desktop was mixed, but reasonably painless on the whole. The package consists of a wireless keyboard; a wireless "Media Pad," a numeric keypad that works as a stand-alone calculator and can control your PC music; and a bulky wired base station, which contains the Bluetooth radio and also charges the batteries in the mouse. Once I'd plugged in the base station and pressed a few buttons, the keyboard and mouse were both functional, even before I had installed any drivers. But when I did install drivers and restart, things started to get strange: On three different startups, I had three different experiences. The first time, Windows XP took over to install the hardware drivers, but the Logitech wizard didn't start up. So I used My Bluetooth Places (installed along with the Logitech software) to pair the base station with the keyboard, mouse, and media pad. I thought I'd finished setting up, but I was wrong. The next time I restarted, the Logitech driver popped up and required that I go through the pairing routine all over again. And on the next restart, a mysterious screen popped up, forcing me to press F1 before the system would continue to boot. Everything's been working pretty predictably since then--startup just takes about 20 seconds longer, while Bluetooth services and the Logitech driver load.

#### The Mac Version

My experience with the Mac went more smoothly. I just plugged in the D-Link DBT-120 USB Bluetooth Adapter

(\$40) and opened the Bluetooth dialog box in the Mac's System Preferences. The adapter was already recognized, and there was no software to install. The setup choices were all clearly explained on screen, and the defaults seemed reasonable, so I proceeded to add Apple's wireless keyboard (\$69) and mouse (\$69). The Mac wasn't any faster at recognizing or pairing devices than Windows, but the process was much easier to understand, and just one setup routine did the job. And I haven't noticed that starting up takes any longer.

#### Windows, Phone Home

The differences between the Mac and the PC were most pronounced when I added a wireless phone to my little Bluetooth networks. In both cases, it was a fairly simple process to discover and pair the Sony Ericsson T610 that I borrowed from T-Mobile.

In Windows, I used the "My Bluetooth Places" utility to add the phone, because the "Connect Device" button in Logitech's SetPoint software didn't work on the first try. Then I looked around for a way to sync my Palm Desktop contacts with the phone, and quickly gave up. My Bluetooth Places informed me that the Bluetooth services available for this device included (among others) Serial Port 1 or 2, or IrMC. None of them sounded like synonyms for "Transfer all my contacts to my new phone."

The Mac's Bluetooth setup routine assumes that phones and PDAs are two of the device types you're likely to want to connect to your system, and they're both listed on the setup screen. Once I had paired the phone with my iBook, the Mac OS X informed me that I could use iSync to send my contacts to the phone. Finally, a little help.


When it comes down to it, there are still too many seams showing in Bluetooth on Windows. Sure, if you're a savvy user you can make it work. But unless you're really phobic about a few cables, why spend the time?

And in this case, the Mac mystique has some substance behind it. Setting up my whole Bluetooth network on the Mac was quick and painless from start to finish--and truly wireless, unlike the Logitech DiNovo set.

**ED. NOTE:** I have been using a Logitech Mx900 Bluetooth wireless optical mouse with two buttons and scroll wheel for several weeks now. Even though Logitech said it did not support the Mac OS, Mac OS X supports it. The bluetooth recognized it by name and model number.

A red light blinks on top of the mouse when it is running low on charge so I place it back in the recharge cradle.

This needs done about every third day. Cordless bliss.

Oh by the way, Mac OS X also supports the use of the second mouse button and the scroll wheel. The mouse retails for around \$99. 

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Bluetooth is a short range (30 feet) wireless technology which enables a wide variety of devices to communicate with each other. For more information on bluetooth technology and products visit [www.bluetooth.com](http://www.bluetooth.com)



*Apple Workgroup Cluster for Bioinformatics*

## Apple wins Best of Show at Bio-IT World

By Jim Dalrymple, MacCentral

Apple Computer Inc. on Wednesday won a Best of Show award at Bio-IT World Conference + Expo, taking place this week in Boston, Mass. Apple won the award for its recently announced Apple Workgroup Cluster for Bioinformatics.

"It's such a nice validation of our efforts," Liz Kerr, Director of Sci-Tech Markets at Apple, told MacCentral. "People at the show are really interested in what we have to offer."

The Apple Workgroup Cluster for Bioinformatics is a high-performance computing (HPC) cluster based on the Xserve G5, aimed at providing a turnkey solution for scientists who have little or no IT support.

With Mac OS X (news - web sites) Server, scientists can feel comfortable using a Graphical User Interface (GUI) or the command line if that's what they are used to using. Kerr feels that flexibility in conjunction with Apple's ease of use and pricing is making people take a second look.

"Money often stops people from getting a cluster -- if you give them something they can manage themselves at the price we do, you take that away for them," said Kerr. "It's also Apple's ease of use. Scientists that don't have an IT background just want to know what's included and we give that to them."

Starting at US\$28,000, each cluster ships with two to 16 Xserve G5 servers, 750GB of storage in the head node, an Asanté gigabit Ethernet switch and APC Smart-UPS power supply, all in an XtremeMac Xrack Pro enclosure. Third-party bioinformatics software comes pre-installed -- the BioTeam's INquiry package, with 200 applications. Apple also provides a spare parts kit to help the cluster stay running, along with premium support for three years. 🍏

For more information on the workgroup cluster visit <http://www.apple.com/xserve/cluster/wgcluster.html>

## BAC INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA LIBRARY

### Mac OS X Jaguar, Vol 1

Installation, Menus & Cursor, Icons, Windows, Using The Dock, Trash Can, Finder Preferences, Organize Files & Folders, Toolbar, The Go Menu, Saving A Document, Accessing Help.

### Mac OS X Jaguar, Vol 2

Personal Preferences, Login Options, Hardware Preferences, iTools Account, Internet Preferences, Network Preferences, Dial-Up Networking, System Preferences, Sherlock-Hard Drive, Sherlock-Internet, File Privileges, Aliases.

### Mac OS X Jaguar, Vol 3

Native OS X Applications, Mail, TextEdit, Font Panel, Spell Check, Application Services, Change Default Application, Adding Printers, Installing Applications, Working With Classic, Burn Backup CD, Burn Music CD.Mac

### OS X Jaguar, Vol 4

Access With AppleTalk, Access By TCP/IP, Windows Servers, iDisk, Starting File Sharing, Web Sharing, Keychain, Key Caps, Add New User, Delete User, Working With Disks, Introducing Terminal.

### Mac OS X Troubleshooting

Backups, Firmware Update, Install & Upgrade OS, Gathering System Info, Understanding Mac OS 9, Understanding Mac OS X, Understanding Darwin, Advanced Topics, Basic Troubleshoot, Miscellaneous Tips, Web TS Resources (This title can also run in OS 9)

### Photoshop Elements 2.0

The Work Area, Bring in Images, Selection Tools, Crop & Rotate, Correcting Images, Retouching Photos, Transform & Distort Photos, Working With Text, Working With Layers, Print Web & E-mail, Add Color To Line Art, Web Gallery & Picture Package

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## APPLE FOLKLORE

Folklore.org is a web site devoted to collective historical storytelling. It captures and presents sets of related stories that describe interesting events from multiple perspectives, allowing groups of people to recount their shared history in the form of interlinked anecdotes.

The site is structured as a series of projects containing related, interlinked stories. The stories are indexed by their characters and the topics they cover, and may be sorted by various criteria. Readers can rate the stories, and add comments, or other stories. Anyone interested in the history and nuances of the history of Apple Computer, as told by the individuals actually involved, can look no farther than the website <http://folklore.org> 🍏



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