

Please e-mail your questions or comments to
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Inside this issue

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Adobe DNG Format..... | 1 |
| Stuffit Deluxe 9.0..... | 1 |
| BAC October Meeting..... | 2 |
| BAC Board of Directors..... | 2 |
| BAC Disk of the Month..... | 2 |
| BAC Message Board..... | 2 |
| October '04 Door Prizes..... | 2 |
| Stuffit Deluxe 9.0 cont'd..... | 2 |
| 15inch PB Display Repair..... | 3 |
| Hints and Tips..... | 4 |
| PC or Mac for Security?..... | 4 |
| iMac G5 Help Site..... | 5 |
| MIT Studies Spinach Power..... | 5 |
| Photoshop Elements 3..... | 5 |
| Display Ads..... | 6 |

Adobe introduces a public, archival format for digital camera raw data

Raw file formats are becoming extremely popular in digital photography workflows because they offer creative professionals greater creative control. However, cameras can use many different raw formats — the specifications for which are not publicly available — which means that not every raw file can be read by a variety of software applications. As a result, the use of these proprietary raw files as a long-term archival solution carries risk, and sharing these files across complex workflows is even more challenging.

The solution to this growing problem? The Digital Negative (DNG), a new, publicly available archival format for the raw files generated by digital cameras. By addressing the lack of an open standard for the raw files created by individual camera models, DNG helps ensure that photographers will be able to access their files in the future.

In addition to announcing the Digital Negative, Adobe announces the availability of the free Adobe DNG Converter (Windows® | Macintosh), which easily translates raw files from many of today's popular cameras. Software developers and manufacturers can download the complete DNG specification (PDF: 276k). DNG is supported by both Adobe® Photoshop® CS and Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0 (Windows® | Macintosh) software.

Key benefits for photographers:

The DNG format helps promote archival confidence, since digital imaging software solutions will be able to open your raw files more easily in the future.

A single raw processing solution enables a more efficient workflow when handling raw files from multiple camera models and manufacturers.

A publicly documented and readily available specification can be easily adopted by camera manufacturers and updated to accommodate future technological changes.

Stuffit Deluxe 9.0

User Group Discount Offered

Aladdin announces the release of NEW Stuffit Deluxe 9.0. The fastest and most reliable compression solution just got better. Stuffit Deluxe is now your complete information management tool! Whether your data needs to be stored securely in space-saving archives or safely sent to friends or coworkers, Stuffit handles it all.

continued on page 2



BAC October Meeting

The October meeting will be held on Saturday October 9, at 10:00am at the Homewood Library in room 116 (lower level). The topic of the meeting will be "The Macintosh iLife '04: featuring iMovie & iDVD" presented via DVD by Jim Heid,

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

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Contains AntiVirus, Utilities, Retrospect Backup and Spring Cleaning. Great for Mac OS 8 thru 9.2.2 but not for OS 10.3. \$20.

Call Jerry Jenkins 425-5141

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.

October 2004 CDOM Descriptions

CapacityMeter X...Freeware

Displays and tracks Power Book battery capacity. Requires a G3 or later and OS 10.1 or later.

DragThing X 5.3.1...Shareware

Make your own dock.

FolderIcon X 1.9.4...Shareware

Create custom folder icons and document icons. Requires OS 10.2.1 or higher, or OS 10.3.x

GraphicConverter 5.2.3...Shareware

Many, many improvements in this updated version. A good app to change graphics formats and to edit and correct digital photos. Requires Mac OS 10.x

MacJournal 2.5.2...Freeware

Comes highly recommended. More than a high performance text editor. Requires OS X

MrArchitect 3D 1.1...Shareware

Parametric CAD tool creates 3D architectural elements.

PopChar X 2.1.2...Shareware

Displays the hidden characters of the font you are using and inserts the one you select. Requires OS10.1.2 or higher.

SnapzPro X 2.0.1...Shareware

Take a snap shot of any thing which appears on your screen.

Tex-Edit Plus X 4.8.1...Shareware

Easy-to-use text editor, but more like a word processor. This new version is scriptable. Requires OS 10.1 or higher.

Typist X 1.2.2...Shareware

Stores and types frequently used text. Requires OS 10.2 or higher.

VueScan X 8.1.1...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

Stuffit Deluxe 9.0cont'd from page 1

Now you can backup, burn to CD/DVD, upload files via FTP, and more, automatically. Compress and send any files that would otherwise be denied due to bandwidth restrictions. Ensure all your documents reach their destinations securely with password protection and strong 512-bit encryption.

Because Aladdin values our User Groups we would like to extend a Special Offer.

Order Stuffit Deluxe today and start compressing all your information for only \$29.99 – that's a savings of over 60% off the regular price!

www.stuffit.com/ugd1x9

In addition, if you purchase before October 11th we will donate \$1 from your purchase to charity. P.S. This offer expires on October 31st, 2004, so act now! 🍏

Message Board ID and password for October

The BAC Message Board is located at www.applecore.org and click on Message Board. The User id for October is: *peel* and the password is *1004*. Some browsers ask for the Name in the top box. This is the place for the user ID. 🍏

October Door Prizes

The following list of door prizes will be awarded at the October BAC meeting,

- 1) a copy of the monthly CDOM.
- 2) a one-month rental of any of the instructional CDs that are in our Library
- 3) a book "iMovie 3 & iDVD The Missing Manual" by David Pogue. 🍏

15-inch PowerBook G4 Display Repair Extension Program

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 15-inch PowerBook G4 Display Repair Extension Program?

A limited number of 15-inch PowerBook G4 computers exhibit a display issue which may cause faint white spots to appear on the screen over time. The 15-inch PowerBook G4 Repair Extension Program is a worldwide program covering replacement of LCDs that exhibit these white spots. Your PowerBook G4 serial number must fall between one of two serial number ranges:

V7334xxxxxx to V7345xxxxxx

QT331xxxxxx to QT339xxxxxx

These computers were manufactured from July 2003 through November 2003. PowerBooks with the serial numbers listed above may be referred to as:

PowerBook G4 15-inch Aluminum (1GHz G4 or 1.25GHz G4)

PowerBook G4 Titanium (867MHz G4 or 1GHz G4)

How can I tell if my computer exhibits “white spots”?

To determine whether your 15-inch PowerBook G4 exhibits “white spots”, follow these easy instructions. If your computer exhibits white spots, please call your local Apple contact center, or drop by your local Apple retail store or Apple Authorized Service Provider (“AASP”).

If you’re not sure whether your 15-inch PowerBook G4 exhibits “white spots”, please call your local Apple contact center, or drop by your local Apple retail store or AASP.

Where do I find the serial number for my PowerBook?

The PowerBook serial number is located on the side of the battery well in the top left corner.

1. After you have saved your documents and quit open applications, shut down your PowerBook.
2. Remove your battery from the PowerBook.
3. The serial number sticker can be found inside the battery well in the top left-hand corner.

Is the 15-inch PowerBook G4 Display Repair Extension Program available for other Apple computers?

No. The program only applies to 15-inch PowerBook G4 computers with serial numbers in the above-mentioned ranges that exhibit faint white spots on the LCD display.

When does the expansion to the 15-inch PowerBook G4 Display Repair Extension Program begin?

The 15-inch PowerBook G4 Display Repair Extension Program begins immediately. This notice was posted on Friday, September 24, 2004.

How long is the 15-inch PowerBook G4 Display Repair Extension Program available?

The program covers affected PowerBooks for two (2) years after the first retail sale of the unit. Apple will continue to evaluate the repair data and will provide further repair extensions as needed.

Is there a cost to customers who participate in the 15-inch PowerBook G4 Display Repair Extension Program?

The repairs outlined in this program, including shipping charges, will be covered by Apple.

I paid for an eligible repair before the 15-inch PowerBook G4 Display Repair Extension Program began. Will Apple reimburse me for the cost of the repair?

If you paid for an eligible repair, Apple will reimburse you for the cost of the repair. To be reimbursed, please call the Apple contact center in your country.

What if my 15-inch PowerBook G4 exhibits symptoms other than that covered by the 15-inch PowerBook G4 Display Repair Extension Program?

This program only covers 15-inch PowerBooks with serial numbers falling in the above-mentioned ranges and that exhibit faint white spots on the display. For any other display issue, please call your local Apple contact center, or drop by your local Apple retail store or AASP.

I have a remanufactured PowerBook that fits the description noted, however, the serial number does not follow the format indicated. How can I determine whether my PowerBook qualifies for the program?

If your remanufactured PowerBook G4 15-inch display shows white spots, please call your local Apple contact center, or drop by your local Apple retail store or AASP.

How do I call Apple?


The toll-free U.S. Apple contact center number is 1-800-275-2273. If you do not live in the U.S., please see Apple’s international contact list for your local Apple technical support phone number.

Is there an Apple retail store near me?

To find an Apple retail store near you, please visit our Apple retail store website.

How do I find my local Apple Authorized Service Provider (AASP)?

To find an AASP near you, please use our AASP locator.

The 15-inch PowerBook G4 Display Repair Extension Program on its website at www.apple.com/support/powerbook/displayprogram. 

Mac or PC? Windows' security issues help some users choose **Get a Mac!**

by Kevin maney, USA Today

Last week, I wrote about a virus giving a lobotomy to my Windows XP home computer. I got more e-mail about that column than any other, ever. The comments generally split into two camps:

- People who have Windows PCs and wanted to commiserate.

- Mac zealots who swarmed over my sad story like ants on a dropped Popsicle, all on a mission to “save” this allegedly misguided Microsoft captive. Now I know what it would feel like to wander into a Branch Davidian convention. Or to be a Democrat trapped in a room with Zell Miller.

Taken together, though, the two kinds of responses raise a point: This virus and security problem might be the biggest challenge to Microsoft in years.

The message I get is that people are fed up with the vulnerability of Windows. They are increasingly willing to consider other options. And, for whatever reasons, Apple Computer's Macintosh and Linux-based computers hardly get infected or invaded at all.

My in-box is proof that hackers and virus writers know no bounds. They are filling Windows computers worldwide with pop-up ads and spyware, which can steal information from your hard drive. They're sending out viruses that outright destroy PCs, often taking out valuable digital files with it.

It's not like you have to be stupid or negligent to have this happen. Jeff Hawkins — the guy who invented the Palm computer and wrote a just-out book about the brain — e-mailed to say that a virus killed his home PC. I got a similar note from Felix Sanchez, CEO of government services company TerraCom. “My brand-new Sony went kaput,” he writes. “I hope our small office has not been further compromised.”

The viruses have hit doctors and lawyers and all kinds of regular folks. Jacqueline Beckley, owner of small business The Understanding & Insight Group, says the viruses are costing her big bucks, and, “They should just hang each of the people who do the virus.”

Computer security is even a problem at St. Mary's Catholic School in Temple, Texas, writes Bernadette Hickman, whose title at the school is “Webmeister.” As you might imagine, she stops short of calling for hangings. But the school has been switching to Macs.

Which brings us back to the Mac crowd.

“There is a computing world where viruses and spyware are unheard of, and the promise of technology making life better is actually a realistic goal,” e-mails Michael Bino of New Jersey, using evangelical language that would make Oral Roberts proud. “Try a Mac.”

“I was in the same position until I saw the light,” writes Wilson Gill of Australia. “I am a very, very happy Mac user.

Take the plunge, and I guarantee you will never look back.”

Am I missing something? Do the mushrooms come packaged right in the Mac box?

Cultishness aside, though, people are switching because of the security issue. In Austin, computer consultant Brad Hudelson was once a high-level manager at Dell, the leading maker of Windows PCs. Hudelson says he “gave up after Sasser (virus attacks) last year and replaced all my machines with Apples and Mac OS X.”

Physician Thomas Essman switched for the same reason. So did Bryan Crawford, a biology professor at the University of Alberta in Canada. “I've been in computer heaven ever since,” Crawford says.

Here's a particularly good one: Daryl Forrest is a developer of software for Windows. “I have moved all non-work-related computing to a new Apple Power Mac G5,” he writes. “I like Windows XP, but the risks are too high these days. It's sad that it has gotten to this.”

On and on it goes, one e-mail after another.

And the threats are only going to get worse. Monday, security software maker Symantec reported it found 5,000 new viruses aimed at Windows in the first half of 2004 — a dramatic increase over 2003.

Microsoft is not oblivious. “The environment has changed, clearly,” says Gytis Barzdukas, an executive in Microsoft's security unit. “We are stepping up, trying to take more responsibility. We want to be partners with our customers in maintaining their PCs' health.”

The company is frantically writing software patches to plug the Windows vulnerabilities. It is offering big-money bounties for the arrests of virus writers. It is trying to educate its users about computer safety — the equivalent, Barzdukas says, of telling car owners they should wear seat belts.

So far, Microsoft has had no luck staying ahead of the threats. The company plugs one hole or advises customers to take a certain measure, and the hackers find four ways around it. It's the software equivalent of trying to get rid of cockroaches.

Industry analysts don't think this is going to have a significant impact on buying decisions. Businesses, especially, are too heavily invested in Microsoft-based software. The costs to switch to the Mac “are huge and potentially career-threatening for most CIOs,” says Peter Kastner, analyst at consulting firm Vericours. “No one has lost their job for keeping Windows.”

Individuals, though, might be tempted for reasons that didn't exist a couple of years ago. This time, Microsoft hasn't done anything particularly wrong; the hackers are the bad guys. Blaming Microsoft for not building in safety measures is a little like blaming Florida for being in the path of a hurricane. Still, Microsoft should be worried. It apparently has a lot of frustrated users out there. 🍏

Kevin Maney has covered technology for USA TODAY since 1985. His column appears Wednesdays.

iMac G5 Troubleshooting Assistant

www.apple.com/support/imac/assistant/

The iMac G5 Troubleshooting Assistant covers the most common questions iMac owners ask us. We'll walk you through a series of time-tested instructions to help you resolve your issue. 🍏

MIT Works to Power Computers With Spinach

By MARK PRATT, Associated Press Writer

BOSTON - "Eat your spinach," Mom used to say. "It will make your muscles grow, power your laptop and recharge your cell phone..." "OK. So nobody's Mom said those last two things. But researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (news - web sites) say they have used spinach to harness a plant's ability to convert sunlight into energy for the first time, creating a device that may one day power laptops, mobile phones and more.

Photosynthesis, the process by which plants use light beams for energy rather than eating food like animals, has been known to scientists for decades.

But attempts to combine the organic with the electronic had always failed: Isolate the photosynthetic proteins that capture the energy from sunlight, and they die. Inject the water and salt needed to keep the proteins alive, and the electronic equipment is destroyed.

That was until Shuguang Zhang, associate director of MIT's Center for Biomedical Engineering, discovered that protein building blocks called detergent peptides could be manipulated to keep the proteins alive up to three weeks while in contact with electronics.

"Stabilizing the protein is crucial," said Zhang, who collaborated with researchers from MIT, the University of Tennessee and the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, including electrical engineers, nanotechnology experts and biologists. "Detergent peptide turned out to be a wonderful material to keep proteins intact."

The scientists, whose findings were first reported by in NanoLetters, a publication of the American Chemical Society, then created a "spinach sandwich."

Why spinach?

In reality, any number of plants could have been used. But the researchers chose spinach because "it is cheap and is easily available from the grocery store," Zhang said.

The spinach was ground up and purified to isolate a protein deep within the spinach cells.

A top layer of glass was coated underneath with a conductive material and a thin layer of gold to aid the chemical reaction. In the middle, the spinach-peptide mixture sits on a soft, organic semiconductor that prevents electrical shorts and protects the protein complexes from a bottom layer of

metal.

By shining laser light on the "sandwich," researchers were able to generate a tiny current. While one device by itself can't generate much energy, billions of them together could produce enough electricity to power a device.

"It's like a penny," Zhang said. "One penny is not much use, but 1 billion pennies is a lot of money."

Practical applications are still a decade or so away, but the advantages include the technology's lightweight qualities, portability and environmental friendliness. "There is no waste," Zhang said.

The researchers suggest the technology could be used as a backup energy supply for battery-powered portable devices.

"We have crossed the first hurdle of successfully integrating a photosynthetic protein molecular complex with a solid-state electronic device," said Marc Baldo, an assistant professor of electrical engineering and computer science at MIT. 🍏

Adobe announces Photoshop Elements 3.0

Adobe Systems Inc. Photoshop Elements 3.0, a major upgrade to its consumer-level photo editing application. The update adds several new features and enhancements that allow the amateur and pro alike to edit photos with a few mouse clicks. **The upgrade will be released later this fall.**

While many Mac users currently use iPhoto to brighten a picture or reduce red-eye, Adobe says the two products don't compete and can easily be used in conjunction with one another.

"People wanted an integrated solution and iPhoto already had a lot of the functionality, so we chose to build a product to complement iPhoto," Tapan Bhat, Director of Product Management, Digital Imaging at Adobe, told MacCentral.

In addition to the Quick Fix, which allows you to correct some of the most common types of flaws in photos,

Adobe has added Smart Fix to Elements 3.0. Smart Fix automatically detects and fixes lighting, color and contrast of an image for you. Both Smart Fix and Quick Fix have an advanced option that will allow you to control the enhancement levels manually using slider bars.

Elements 3.0 will also include many other feature improvements such as editable and searchable metadata, Spot Healing, Brush & Healing Brush, the ability to use Camera Raw files, PDF slideshows, and Web Photo Galleries to name just a few.

Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0 requires Mac OS X v10.2.8 or higher and costs US\$89.99. It will ship later this fall and is available for pre-order today. The Windows version will be available for \$99.99. 🍏



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