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April 2005

Vol. 27, No. 4

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SPECIAL ISSUE: HINTS & TIPS GALORE

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How to Avoid Problems Updating Mac OS X

Most of Apple's system and security updates work as advertised and don't cause problems, but it's a good idea to be prepared in case something does go wrong. Here's the procedure we follow: Wait a few days before downloading the update in case there are any widespread problems. (Check www.macfixit.com for reports.) Back up anything you can't afford to lose. If your system has been performing oddly or crashing, use Alsoft's DiskWarrior to repair directory problems. Disconnect any external disk drives, including iPods, and disconnect from all servers and iDisks. Repair permissions using Disk Utility (in Applications/Utilities/Disk Utility). Run Software Update (Apple Menu > Software Update). Repair permissions again.

*Jeff Garnet www.alsoft.com
 Design Tools Monthly*

iPhoto

Learning from Your Past Want to improve your photography? iPhoto can pull an impressive amount of information out of the pictures you've snapped after the fact, including focal length, aperture, and shutter speed. Very useful if you want to take over some of the automatic functions of your camera to move away from Point & Click. All you have to do to recover this info is type Command/I when the picture you're interested in is highlighted, and then select Exposure on the screen that appears.

*TMUG Insider,
 Pleasanton, CA*

iTunes - Album Artwork

Q: I'm using iTunes v4.5 on an eMac. I have been able to drag album artwork to the square in bottom left corner, but how does one change or delete an unwanted artwork?

A: You can add and remove artwork to any track through Get Info. Click the track you want to change and choose File > Get Info. Now click Artwork. To delete the existing artwork, click it once to highlight and then click Delete.

You can now add new artwork by clicking Add (or by dragging and dropping the artwork into the window). Interestingly, this method of adding artwork allows you to bind a number of images to a single track, including the front, back and even booklet artwork.

macHOME HotTips


Apple Mail

Summarize a Long Message If you don't have time to read an entire message, read a summary. Click in the body of the text and Select All (Command/A). Now select "Summarize" from the Services item of the Mail menu.



BAC April Meeting

The April meeting will be held on Saturday April 9th, at 10:00am at the Home-wood Library in room 116 (lower level).

The topic for the meeting will be "iWork" the new software from Apple containing Keynote 2 (presentation) and Pages (word processor/publisher). Tommie Ellison will be our facilitator. Come early and enjoy coffee, doughnuts and cookies, plus.....

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For Sale/Wanted

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

We will list the item in this space free of charge to currentBAC 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 2005 CDOM Description

Adobe Reader 7.0...Freeware

Among other things, great for reading and printing documentation in pdf form.

Burning Monkey Solitaire 3.1 demo

Game. May be addictive. Requires OS 10.1 or higher.

ChickenRace 1.0.2 ...Shareware

Two player game. Requires OS 10.1 or higher.

Compost 1.5.2...Shareware

Adds a few braines to the trash can operations. Requires OS 10.2 or higher.

FolderIconX 2.0.5...Shareware

Create custom folder icons and document icons. Requires OS 10.2.1 or higher, or OS 10.3.x New version OK for OS 10.3.7

Freecell 2.0.2...Freeware

Solitaire card game - highly rated. Requires OS 10.2 or higher.

Graphic Converter 5.5.2x...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 10.1.3 or higher.

Internet Explorer 5.2.3...Freeware

Updater version. of a good web browser. Requires OS 10.

MacFamilyTree 4.0.12...Shareware Updated genealogy program. Requires OS 10.2.6 or higher

SigmaChess 6.1.1...Freeware Game. Requires OS 10.

VueScan X 8.2.02...Shareware Updated, keeps getting better and covers more scanners. In most cases, it replaces and improves the original scanner driver. This version now requires Mac OS 10.2.8

Break Up Audiobooks

Q: I download audiobooks from iTunes, but the files are too big to burn to a CD. Is there a way to break apart the file?

A: Yup, in iTunes. Let's say you have an audiobook that is 2 hours and 15 minutes long (135 minutes) and a box of 650MB CD-Rs, which hold 74 minutes of audio each.

You need two CDs. First, create a new iTunes Playlist and drag the audiobook into it. With the title highlighted, press Command/I (Get Info); in the resulting dialog, click the "Options" tab, check the "Stop Time" box, change "Stop Time" to 1:14:00 (1 hour, 14 minutes), and click "OK." Burn the CD. To create disc two, open Get Info again, check the "Start Time" and "Stop Time" boxes, change "Start Time" to 1:14:00 and "Stop Time" to 2:15:00, and burn again.



Apple was founded on
April 1, 1976

April Door Prizes

The following list of door prizes will be awarded at the BAC April meeting, the **NEW iWork, which features Keynote 2 and the new Pages (word processing/publishing software)**; a copy of the monthly CDOM, and a one-month rental of any of the instructional CDs that are in our Library. 🍏

Blu-ray Disc Association Welcomes Apple to Its Board of Directors

The Blu-ray Disc Association (BDA) today announced that Apple® will become a member of the consortium's Board of Directors. Apple has been a leader in driving consumer adoption of DVD authoring since January 2001, with the introduction of its SuperDrive™, the industry's first high-volume CD- and DVD-burning drive, and its revolutionary iDVD® and DVD Studio Pro® software applications. Apple is also helping bring High Definition (HD) to market with a complete line of HD content creation tools for consumers and professionals alike including iMovie® HD, Final Cut® Express HD and Final Cut Pro® HD editing software.

Additionally the next release of Apple's QuickTime® software, QuickTime 7, will feature the MPEG developed H.264 Advanced Video Codec (AVC) which has been adopted for high definition DVDs. Apple will release QuickTime 7 in conjunction with the release of Mac OS® X version 10.4 "Tiger," the fifth major version of Mac OS X that will ship in the first half of 2005.

Blu-ray Disc Association supports a format for placing high definition content on DVDs. There is a competing format called HD DVD. Can you say Betamax. 🍏

iTUBE REVIEW

by Bill Henry

iTube promises over 1500 channels of TV, live video, webcams and news from around the globe. Indeed many broadcasts are available in varying degrees of resolution, from poor to somewhat good quality. Most of these are in a language not native to this reviewer. However you may find a few tidbits to suite your fancy. For me it was the the Pennsylvania Cable Channel which I enjoy watching on my summer trips to my hometown to visit relatives. Some history, state government or natural resources video content can be found on this channel. Also BBC or other english language content from Ireland and Scotland can be interesting at times if you fancy world affairs or regional news from across the pond. One feature is video search, which can find videos on surgical procedures, entertainers and even some commercials which you will not find on any FCC regulated TV channels. Of course there is also adult content availble for those who seek it. Also alot of pop music of which I have little interest. I would rate iTube about a 1.5 stars out of five, not much money, no subscription (yet). iWire may prove more tempting but it duplicates to some extent iTunes radio broadcast. If anyone gives iWire a try let us know. 🍏

iWire! Broadcast

Version 1.0 for Mac OS X
Powered by CentiSpede!

iWire! Broadcast is an Internet audio browser. Browse over 10,000 live radio stations from all cultures and musical genres.

Find radio shows, educational broadcasts, and enough tunes to make your AM/FM tuner feel sorry.

iWire! Broadcast uses streaming media, so it plays almost instantly and doesn't take up any hard disk space so you won't run out of room.

Main Features:

Station scanner for the ability to preview tens of thousands of stations.

Find what you want: over 10,000 live radio stations in one easy-to-use tool.

No more waiting- streams start playing in seconds.

Supports multiple player formats.

NO subscription fees

iTube!

Version 1.3
Powered by CentiSpede!

iTube! is the largest resource available for viewing Internet Television, with over 1500 channels of TV, Live Video Channels and Webcams, plus an Internet Video Search, with over 2 million videos.

Watch UNCENSORED news, music videos, education and entertainment channels from around the world.

iTube! is also ideal for people interested in alternative programming, learning languages, foreign cultures, entertainment or news!

Main features:

NO Subscription Fees!

Over 1500 Channels

Internet Video Search

New channels added each month

Most Popular Stations Channel

Simple, Easy-to-use Interface

*Requires Mac OS X 10.2, 10.3 or greater with Safari browser, QuickTime™, RealPlayer™ and Windows Media Player™

Both are available for download, for \$24.00 each, from www.eastbaytech.com

Hints&Tips

www.mac-hints-tips.com

Get a Map

Get a map of the address of any contact in your Address Book. Click and hold on the gray “home:” beside the address. You get three choices: draw a map, copy the address to the clipboard, or copy the URL for the map for the contact. When “Map Of” is selected, MapQuest opens and displays a map to that address.

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis, OR

Letter Small vs. US Letter

In the Page Setup dialog, sometimes you’ll see a “Letter (Small)” choice as well as a “US Letter” choice. The difference is that the US Letter choice allows the application to print to the limit of the printer’s imageable area, while

the Letter (Small) choice always leaves a half-inch margin around the edge of the paper.

*MacAddict Magazine
via Design Tools Monthly*

OS X Startup Shortcuts

As your computer starts up, there are key combinations you can press. Among them are the following:

- Press X: Force OS X to startup instead of OS 9
- Press C: Startup from a CD or DVD
- Press Option/Command/Shift/Delete: Bypass your primary startup volume and startup from a CD or external disk.
- Press T: Startup the computer in FireWire Target Disk mode
- Press Shift: Startup in Safe Boot mode, which disables nonessential extensions.
- Press Option: Calls up the Startup Manager, allowing you to choose a different startup disk.

macHOME HotTips

Sharing Your Printer

In many households, you’ll find two (or more) computers and a single inkjet printer. Users will often copy a document to the computer connected to the printer in order to print it. This is unnecessary. So long as the computers are networked, either through Ethernet or AirPort, the printer can be shared among all computers. Go to the computer connected to the printer and choose Apple Menu > System Preferences.

Click “Sharing,” then “Services.” At the bottom of the services list, you’ll see Printer Sharing. Highlight it and click “Start.” Now open a document on one of the other comput-

ers and choose File > Print. Under the Printer pop-up menu, you’ll see a new option for Shared Printers. Simply choose the printer and click “Print.” In a few moments, your print will pop-out of the printer without any need to transfer your document to the host computer. (You may need to install the necessary print drivers on the other computers.)

macHOME Journal

Having ‘Wake from Sleep’ Grief?

Since the release of X.3.8

Update, large numbers of users have reported “wake from sleep” problems on desktop and portable Macs. It doesn’t seem to matter whether the affected machine is physically,—i.e. closing the screen of a portable—or automatically put to sleep via software, users report that the only way to return the Mac to a useable state is to force a shutdown (i.e. hold down the power button until the machine shuts down) or restart (pressing the Power/Command/Control keys).

Thankfully, there’s a relatively pain-free way to overcome this problem:

- Download and install CacheOutX;
- Start the program, click the System tab;
- Click the “lock” (bottom left), enter your password;
- Tick all the boxes and click “Proceed;” and
- Click “Restart” when prompted.

Of course, repairing permissions after the restart for good measure won’t hurt.

*ron carlson
Insanely-Great.com*

Where’s the Shareware?

Q: I’m a new Mac user. Where’s the best place to find shareware on the Web?

A: Our favorite sites are VersionTracker (www.version-tracker.com) and MacUpdate (www.macupdate.com) — both have huge software archives.

MacAddict Magazine

Navigate with Your Keyboard

You probably know you can jump to any file in a folder by typing its first letter (or first two or three letters if there are several starting with the same letter). We can do you one better. If you reach the wrong file, just click the Tab key and you move to the next file alphabetically. You can see how this means you only have to type the first letter, then use the Tab key to quickly move through other files starting with the same letter.

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis, OR

More HINTS & TIPS on the next page.....

Search for Hidden Easter Eggs in your DVDs

Easter eggs are hidden clips and features included on DVDs that aren't listed on the main menu, thus causing diligent viewers to hunt for them. Deleted scenes, games, additional interviews, and things the general audience wasn't meant to see may all be hidden within your innocent DVD. Lucky for us there are a number of great sites devoted to DVD Easter eggs like www.eeggs.com, www.dvdeastereggs.com, and www.dvdtown.com/eastereggs. Give them a visit and see what may be lurking in your collection.

TMUG Insider, Pleasanton, CA

Mac OS X Problem Solving

Here is a list of the things you can do to fix a problem in OS X:

1. Repair Permissions (DiskUtility, located in Utilities Folder within Applications Folder; select the indented icon for the hard drive you wish to repair, click Repair Disk Permissions)

2. Throw away the Preferences for the application giving you a problem. (Preferences are located in Users > username > Library > Preferences.) Trash the preferences in question, but do not Empty Trash until you are sure the newly created preferences work. To do this, quit the application in question and restart it.

3. Perform a File System Check (fsck) (Restart your computer, when the chime sound, hold down the Command and "S" keys. Hold them down until white typing scrolls down a black screen. When the screen settles down, type:

```
/sbin/fsck -y (notice the space before y).
```

Your Mac will check all files. Some say you can just /fsck -y, without the /sbin. If the fsck cannot be performed, you will be asked to type in /sbin/fsck -f. In either case repeat this fsck until no errors are corrected. Now type in exit followed by a Return keystroke. Your Mac will start normally.

4. Run DiskWarrior. Run repeatedly until no errors are being corrected. Use Disk Warrior from its own CD. To run it, insert the Disk Warrior CD. Now Restart and hold down the "C" key when the chime sounds.

5. Zap the PRAM. There is a bit of RAM that you can reset. This often solves problems. Restart your Mac, holding down the Command/ Option/P/R keys. Keep them held down until you get the startup tone at least three times. Now let go of the keys and the Mac starts normally.

6. Search the Apple Knowledge Base for a possible answer. Go to Sherlock, select the AppleCare tab.

Type in a keyword for your problem. Apple's best technical support articles will appear. In many cases there will be scores of articles on a topic.

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis OR

Recall Forgotten Passwords

Using the Keychain Access utility in Mac OS X (in Ap-

plications/Utilities), you can retrieve any password you've used on a Web form, email account, online banking service, AirPort base station or network, or any other place. Just launch Keychain Access to see a list of the locations of passwords you've created. Select one of the items and enable the "Show Password" checkbox in the lower left corner of the Keychain Access window. It will prompt you for your administrator's password, and when you provide it, the password you selected will appear at the bottom of the window.

Chris Breen Macworld Magazine via Design Tools Monthly

Yellow Button Alternative

Is the yellow button (sitting between green and red) a little hard to hit? Click "Appearance" under System Preferences, and check the check box for "Minimize" when double-clicking a window title bar. From now on you can double-click anywhere in the title bar and it shoots off to the Dock.

Mouse Droppings, Corvallis OR

Blank Spaces

in Wireless Network NamesIn yet another example of Apple regressing to the ancient file-naming limitations of Windows and Unix, the networking framework of Mac OS X has problems if your wireless network contains blank spaces. The result is that sometimes networked Macs can't find each other, Retrospect may lose contact during backups, etc. To fix this potential problem, open the AirPort pane of AirPort Admin Utility and change the network's name so that it doesn't contain a blank space.

MacAddict Magazine via Design Tools Monthly

QuickTime

Full-Screen QuickTime The free version of QuickTime Player will not play full-screen movies, unless you know this trick. Launch AppleScript's Script Editor (Applications > AppleScript) and enter the following script: tell application "QuickTime Player" activate present end tell

Then save the script as an application. Open a movie file in QuickTime Player and run the script by double-clicking on it. Your movie will fill the screen.

*Nathaniel Black-Chris Breen's Mac
911 via Mouse Droppings, Corvallis OR*

iChat - I Said What?

Did you know that iChat automatically keeps a log of all your conversations? You can look up what you said or what was said to you months or years later — very useful for finding addresses, phone numbers, and old stories. Chat transcripts are kept in your Documents > iChat folder.

To disable this feature, go to iChat > Preferences > Messages (or Command/Comma to save some clicking) and unclick that option.

TMUG Insider, Pleasanton, CA



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Monthly Meeting*

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