

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



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2005 YEAR IN REVIEW

January

- iWork '05, iLife '05, iPod Shuffle, and Mac Mini announced
- Faster, more affordable Powerbooks

February

- 2 for 1 Stock Split
- new iPod Mini

March

- Blu-Ray disc assoc. welcomes Apple to Board of Directors

April

- Tiger OS 10.4 ships
- Soundtrack Pro, Shake 4, Final Cut Studio

May

- iMac G5 faster with built-in wireless

June

- Transition to Intel , new Power Macs

July

- Faster iBooks

August

- Mighty Mouse

September

- iPod Nano, ROKR iTunes cell phone
- iTunes 5 and .Mac enhancements

October

- new iMacG5 with Front Row and Photo Booth
- new iPod video, iTunes 6,
- Power Mac G5 Quad
- Tim Cook named COO
- Enhanced Power Books

November

- NBC videos available for Late Show, classic TV shows

2006 THE YEAR AHEAD

January

- New Intel based products
- Digital HD Home Media Center
- iLife '06 and iWork '06

June

- Faster and more affordable every thing
- Blu-Ray HD disc drives
- More iPods
- ????????



BAC December Meeting

The December meeting will be a group get together to be held on Saturday, December 10th, at 10:00am at Pablos in the Colonnade.

Members and guest are invited, please RSVP

2005 BAC Board of Directors

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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.

CDOM - December 2005

New Stuff

Amazing Slow Downer 2.8.0... Shareware

Reads music from CD, then slows it down 1% to 400%. Require OS 10.2 or higher.

Graphic Converter 5.7.3 x...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.

Luthers Collection Dec05...Freeware

Updated versions.

MacFamilyTree 4.2.2...Shareware

Updated genealogy program. Requires OS 10.3.9 or higher

Sudoku Generator.1.0.2...Freeware

Generates and helps solve sudoku puzzles. (In Design plug-in)

TopXNotes Installer -10.2...Shareware

Advanced not pad and organizer/information manager. Requires OS 10.2.x

TopXNotes-10.3...Shareware

As above but for OS 10.3 or higher.

TopXNotes-Classic...Shareware

As above but for OS Classic.

VueScan 8.3.10...Shareware

Security Update

On Tuesday November 29, 2005 Apple released Security Update 2005-009. This update delivers a number of security enhancements and is recommended for all Macintosh users.

This update includes the following components:

apache_mod_ssl
CoreFoundation
CoreTypes
curl
iodbcadmin
OpenSSL
Safari
sudo
syslog

For detailed information on this Update, please visit this website: <http://www.info.apple.com/kbnum/n61798>

Election of Officers

Anyone interested in being an officer please indicate such interest to a BAC officer and what position you would be interested in.

Your name will be placed in nomination at our December meeting and a vote on officers for year 2006 will be held.

December Door Prizes

The following list of door prizes will be awarded at the BAC December meeting: a copy of the monthly CDOM, and a one-month rental of any of the instructional CDs that are in our Library. 🍏

Power Mac G5 1.8GHz (Late 2004) System Firmware Update for Mac OS X 10.4.3

About this Update

This Power Mac G5 System Firmware Update is only for the 1.8 GHz, (600 MHz bus), single-processor Power Mac G5 (Late 2004) computer. This update improves the reliability of your Power Mac G5, especially after it has been inactive for two hours.

Before you install the Power Mac G5 System Firmware Update:

Use Software Update to make sure you have Mac OS X v10.4.3 or later installed on your Mac. To use Software Update, choose Apple/ Software Update. The Software Update window opens and a list of available updates appears. Select the items you want to install, and then click Install.

Note: Your Power Mac G5 must be connected to the Internet to use Software Update.

To update the firmware on your Power Mac G5, follow the instructions below. You can print these instructions so they are available while you upgrade your firmware.

1. Download the updater that corresponds to the Mac OS version on your Power Mac G5.
2. Save changes to your open files and then quit any open applications.
3. Open the appropriate updater.
4. Type an administrator password when the dialog box appears.
5. Choose Update to begin the firmware update. When the update starts, a progress bar appears onscreen.
6. Click Shut Down when the firmware update is complete.

**Ted Galloway is a past President of the Birmingham Apple Core and currently serves as Secretary. He is a retired high school band director and spends his time typesetting music on his Mac for local and regional customers.*

Book Review: Mac OS X Tiger Killer Tips

by Scott Kelby

Published by New Riders

1st Edition 2005, Copyright 2006 - \$29.00

Review by Ted Galloway*

The best thing about this book is that it is nothing but tips. Many computer books have tips as a sidebar on the subject at hand but this book is all tips with excellent screen shots to demonstrate the tip. These screen shots make a big difference between this book and others that only give you a written tip and sometimes these tips are not too clear without the graphic to demonstrate the subject.

I like a book that I don't have to read cover to cover but can use as a resource and find tips on topics as I need them. This is such a book. The tips are organized by topic so it is easy to find related subjects. If you are working in the Address Book you can go to Chapter 11 and get tips like "Getting vCards out Fast", "Smart Group Ideas", "Send an e-mail to everyone in a group", and many more. There are also many tips on Mail, iLife, Garage Band, The Dock, and others including widgets.

There are 13 chapters covering a range of topics. Each chapter has from 15 to over 87 tips per subject. Chapter 1: "Cool Window Tips." One topic is "How do you want your windows to look?" Chapter 2: "Navigating Essentials" deals with things like printing from windows. Chapter 3: "Docking Miracles Made Easy." This chapter deals with the many aspects of the dock. Chapter 4: "Spotlight Search Tip." There are 31 tips in this section with things like "Where Does That File Live?" Chapter 5: "Mac OS Speed Tips", has topics like "System Preference Super Speed Shortcut." Chapter 6: "Way Cool Tips." There are a variety of subjects in this chapter. They range from widgets to working with style sheets. Chapter 7: "Mac OS X Pranks." has "Unexplained Launch Mysteries." Chapter 8: "How to Stop Annoying Things." One tip is "How to Stop Magnifying Your Dock." Chapter 9: "Tips for using the Safari Web Browser." The 26 tips include "Typing URLs the Fast Way". Chapter 10: "Tips for Using Mail." Mail rates 30 tips including "Customize Mail's Toolbar." Chapter 11: "Business Apps That Come with Mac OS X." There are 20 tips for Address Book, 14 for TextEdit, 11 for Preview, 9 for DVD Player, 7 for Sherlock, 10 for Stickies, 4 for Font Panel and 1 for PDF. Chapter 12: "Tips for Using iLife Applications." Each application in the iLife package has it's own set of tips. Chapter 13: "iChat AV Tips" iChat rates 27 tips like: "Managing Lots of Buddies."

I certainly think this is a book worth having. It has many tips that would be hard to find by reading one of the many Tiger books on the market. While this is not meant to be a substitute for the manual, it is well worth the \$29.00 price.

Hints&Tips

www.mac-hints-tips.com

Save Those Serial Numbers

I recently had to do a complete restore of my laptop hard drive and thank goodness, all of my data files were backed up to DVD. However, trying to go back and reinstall all of the little applications that I had installed over the years proved to be a major chore. Some of the programs were ones that I had purchased and others were freebies. Normally I'm quite good at keeping track of all of my serial numbers and such but I've found that if the program and the serial number are not kept in the same place, odds are they will never get back together again.

There is a very simple way to keep them together under OS X. Cut and paste the serial number into the spotlight comment. But what if the file gets deleted you say?

Well, here's what I do. When I buy a program online I'll download it and it's packed into a single dmg or sitx file. I'll click on it to select it and then press the Command/I to get the properties window to open up and then just type in the serial number into the comment field and close the window. Now back that file up to a CDR. There you have it, an archived program with the serial number ready to be restored whenever you need it.

Bob Hastings

Google The Moon

Most of you have seen Google Earth that allows you to zoom around cities and countries like you were playing on a Xbox. But have you seen Google Moon? It shows the NASA imagery related to the Apollo landings. But to see what the moon is really about, zoom in all the way.

Sterling Ledet

Move from Old to New

If you're upgrading to a new Power Mac G5, you'll discover that one of the first things the new Mac's Setup Assistant does for you is offer to move data from your old Mac via FireWire. If your old Mac has a FireWire port, this is worth considering. Note, however, that the process won't copy over some preferences, and you'll have less trouble if you install your applications from their original discs or installers. To duplicate your old Mac's hard drive exactly, use Mike Bombich's \$5 Carbon Copy Cloner to place a copy of the old drive on the new one. For this to work, you'll also need to connect your Macs via a FireWire cable. If your old Mac doesn't have a FireWire connection, extract the hard drive, place it in a FireWire enclosure, and connect it to your new Mac. You should be able to boot from this drive as well (unless the old Mac's system software is incompat-

ible with the new Mac's). Finally, you can link your new and old Mac together with an Ethernet cable, create a network between the two computers, and copy data from old to new over the network. Note that it is a good idea to repair permissions on the old Mac before copying any data to the new one.

*Chris Breen's Mac 911
via The Finder, Mid-Columbia MUG,
Kennewick WA*

Get an Email Reminder to Change Your Car's Oil

How many people have every intention of changing their oil as recommended (every 3 months), only to find that several extra months have gone by since the prescribed oil change date? If you're one of the many that are now trying to calculate in your head how many months have transpired since you last changed your oil, you may want to sign up for a free service from Castrol that sends you a simple email reminder when the time arrives.

To sign up, point your browser to <http://www.castrolusa.com>, and click on the "Oil Change Reminder" link on the home page. Then, fill out the simple Web form and click the Submit Form button. If you're wondering how in the world a website can know if you've passed the 3,000 mile recommendation ...well, it can't. But at least you'll be reminded when 90 days have passed!

TMUG Insider, Pleasanton CA

Printing Windows

Q: Help!!! I just switched over from 9.2.2 to OS 10.3.9. How do I print a folder (a disk directory, that is)? The Finder seems to lack a print menu. It wasn't like this in OS 9.

~Barbra Harding

A: Interestingly enough, that's one feature Apple dropped with OS X and has not yet reintroduced. Thankfully, you can use a shareware applications called Print Window 3.1 (\$15; <http://www.searchwaresolutions.com>). It will print the disk directories just like before, but it'll also give you a whole new set of options for organizing the dates in those print outs.

macHOME HotTips

Phony Contacts

Q: I have a new Motorola V600 Bluetooth-enabled phone. My PowerBook G4 can see the phone and pair to it using a Bluetooth adapter, but iSync won't recognize it. If Bluetooth can see the phone, isn't there some tweak to get iSync to see it as well?

~Ricky P. Clay

A: Currently, no. But there are a couple of ways to move contacts to phones that don't have iSync support. The first is to use Antonio Ferraioli's \$10 OnSync.

continued on page 5

HINTS & TIPS *cont'd from page 4*

OnSync allows you to move contacts from OS X's Address Book, Microsoft Entourage, Qualcomm Eudora, and Now Contact (part of Now Up-to- Date & Contact) to the V600 and other phones. (However, OnSync doesn't support calendar events of any kind.) Your other option is to use Address Book's "Send These Cards" command. Just pair your phone to your PowerBook; then, in Address Book, select the contacts you want to transfer to the phone, and choose "Send These Cards" from Address Book's Card menu. In short order, your phone will ask you to accept the transfer. Do so and store your contacts.

*Chris Breen's Mac 911
via Fat Bits, Ventura CA*

A New Way to Fax

Q: I've discontinued using a longdistance service on my telephone line, since I now use calling cards for all long distance service. Unfortunately, I can no longer use the Mac to send faxes unless it's a local call. Is there any way to use the Internet as a substitute for the long distance service I've given up, for the purposes of sending a fax?

~ Art Arrowsmith

A: Actually, there are a number of online fax services that you can use to send faxes through the Internet, including eFax (home.efax.com) and jConnect (www.j2.com). You can even combine these services with Smile Software's PageSender 3.1 (\$30; www.smileonmymac.com) for a complete faxing solution.

macHOME HotTips

A Mac OS Update Caution

The fact that any system update may include updates for several of Apple's bundled applications (such as Safari, Mail, and so on) reminds me to point out once again that if you move these applications out of the Applications folder, or into a new folder within it, you run the risk that they will not be updated as they should be. To avoid such a problem, make sure that you leave Apple's own applications where they were originally installed; that is, in the Applications folder proper. In general, you can reorganize most third party (i.e. non-Apple) applications to suit yourself, but you may still find a few that insist on being located "as installed" in order to receive updates. If an application refuses to be updated, try moving it to the original installation location (usually the Applications folder) and running the updater again.

*~ Steve Cooper
AUSOM News,
Melbourne, Australia*

Desktop Backgrounds

The images found at the website for the NASA Earth Observatory make attractive desktop backgrounds, and some can even be found in sizes as large as 3,600 by 3,600 pixels, large enough for even a 30-inch Cinema Display. Browse the index of all images and you'll see some amazing images!

Check it out here:

http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Newsroom/NewImages/images_index.php3

*Charlotte MacWorkshop,
Charlotte NC*

Rotate in QuickTime

Q: I just bought a Canon A80 camcorder. When I rotate the camera into portrait mode to shoot, the movie appears sideways when I download it to my Mac. How do I rotate the movie so it displays properly? *~ Tim Waag*

A: This is easily fixed with QuickTime Pro (\$30; <http://www.apple.com>). Open the movie in QuickTime Pro and press Command/J. Select Video Track from the Movie pop-up window, and then select Size from the Annotations pop-up menu. You'll see controls for flipping the video horizontally and vertically, as well as controls for rotating the movie in 90-degree increments (both clockwise and counterclockwise). Rotate the movie to your satisfaction and save it.

*Chris Breen's Mac 911
via Apple Barrel, Ridgecrest CA*

Slide Shows using Fotomagico

Wouldn't it be great if you could create professional slide shows like magic? That's precisely what Boinx Software promises with FotoMagico.

The 2004 winner of the O'Reilly Mac OS X Innovators Contest, FotoMagico works flawlessly with iPhoto and iTunes, helping you create live interactive slideshows certain to impress your audience. If you're a photographer, you'll want to read more about FotoMagico—and download a free demo.

<http://www.fotomagico.com>

LIMac Forum, Long Island, NY





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Monthly Meeting

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