

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



January 2005

Vol. 28, No. 1

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What User Menu?

by Luther Fuller

Wouldn't it be nice if there were a User Menu in the menu bar — and you could put anything you wanted in this menu, because it belonged to you — and whenever you wanted to do one of your things, you could just choose it from your User Menu. Well, there is such a thing, but it's not called the User Menu (but it ought to be) and if you want it, you have to know the secret place to go to get it. It was intended that this menu would be a place to put scripts, so it's called the Script Menu, but you can get away with putting almost anything into it. The following instructions are for Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger. Earlier versions of OS X also have the Script Menu, but some details differ.

So, here's the secret place ...

1. Launch the AppleScript Utility in the AppleScript folder in the Applications folder;
2. Check the box "Show Script Menu in menu bar";
3. Uncheck the box "Show Library scripts";
4. Quit AppleScript Utility.

You will now see the Script Menu in your menu bar. It looks like this ..



From this menu ...

5. Choose the Open User Scripts Folder sub-item from the Open Scripts Folder item.

6. Choose the Open Finder Scripts Folder sub-item from the Open Scripts Folder item, then immediately close this folder.

The master rule for the Scripts folder is: Never put anything except an alias file or a new folder in the Scripts folder.

....continued on page 4

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MICROSOFT INTERNET EXPLORER FOR MAC USERS

In June 2003, the Microsoft Macintosh Business Unit announced that Internet Explorer for Mac would undergo no further development, and support would cease in 2005. In accordance with published support lifecycle policies, Microsoft will end support for Internet Explorer for Mac on December 31st, 2005, and will provide no further security or performance updates.

Additionally, as of January 31st, 2006, Internet Explorer for the Mac will no longer be available for download from Mactopia. It is recommended that Macintosh users migrate to more recent web browsing technologies such as Apple's Safari.

Other Mac compatible browsers currently supported are Firefox, Netscape and Opera. 🍏



BAC January Meeting

The January meeting will be an Open Forum for questions and discussion to be held on Saturday, January 14th, at 10:00am at the Homewood Library, Room 116 basement.

Come join us for coffee, doughnuts, cookies...

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.

January 2006 CDOM Description

Back Me Up 1.0

Birthday Book x 3.2...Freeware
Keep record of birthdays and has graceful alarms. For Mac OS 10.3 or higher.

DownfallMac 2.5.4...

Shareware

Maintenance 3.1...Freeware
Presents a menu to check off the maintenance items that should be done at the time. For those of us who do not leave our Mac on over night.

MyNotes 1.1...Shareware
Note manager with word search capability and Address Book intergration. For G4 and Mac OS 10.3 or higher.

OK-Writer 1.1...Shareware
Very nice word prossesor written for children about 6 to 8 years old – but don't let that stop you. It's for every one. For Mac OS 10.3 or higher.

Reckless Drivin' 1.52...Shareware
Just a great game for some of us.

SafariPlus 1.1...Freeware
Plug-In for Safari to control cookies. Choose sites for which cookies are allowed. For Mac OS 10.3 or higher.

Simplechord 3.2.3
Reference to chords for musicians. Displays notes, positions on keyboard and can play chord aloud. For Mac OS 10.3 or higher.

SudokuCompanion 1.4...Shareware
For Mac OS 10.4 or higher.

Sudokut 0.1...Freeware
A command line Sudoku solver. For Mac OS 10.2 or higher.

Tex-Edit Plus X 4.9.7...Shareware
Latest version of the best text editor. Now scriptable. For Mac OS 10.3 or higher.

viJournal Lite 1.5.9...Freeware
Like an old fashioned page-a-day bound diary. Has file encryption and password protection. Also, has full-text searching. For Mac OS 10.3.9 or higher.

VueScan 8.3.17...Shareware
Scanner driver. Replaces most drivers and adds more features. For Mac OS 10.2.8 or higher.

Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger Tidbit

To look up a word in the built-in Mac OS X Oxford Dictionary, highlight the word then push these buttons simultaneously control-command(apple)-D . A dictionary window should pop-up.

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 January meeting and a vote on officers for year 2006 will be held.

January Door Prizes

The following list of door prizes will be awarded at the BAC January meeting: a copy of the monthly CDOM, and a one-month rental of any of the instructional CDs that are in our Library and iLife '04 by Jim Heid with CD. 🍏

iPOD BATTERY LIFE TIPS

The battery life on the new 5G iPods is much better than the previous versions. Apple states that you can get up to 20 hours of music playback with the current 5G iPods, under optimal usage.

Do you know you how to get the best performance out of your iPods battery though? Follow these tips and you will be rocking for up to 20 hours just like Apple says.

iTunes: The world's best digital jukebox, with the #1 music download store inside.

Keep it at room temperature

One of the most important ways to keep your iPod battery functioning is to keep it at a moderate temperature. Cold temperatures slow down the battery's chemical reactions causing the battery to appear to be drained long before it should be. When using you iPod in cold weather, try putting it inside your coat to keep it warmer than the outside air. Hot temperatures speed up the chemical reactions causing the battery to wear-out sooner than it should. Because of this you should not leave your iPod in a hot car in the summer and only use iPod covers that allow the heat that the iPod generates to dissipate.

Use the hold switch

The hold switch can protect your iPod from inevitable button bumps that will cause your iPod to turn its backlight on or to switch songs or volume. Any button presses require the iPod to respond to the associated command which will drain the battery faster. For all models of the iPod and iPod mini hard drive based players, the hold switch is located at the top near the headphone jack. The iPod shuffle does not have a hold switch but provides a similar function by pressing the play/pause button for 3 seconds.

Pause your iPod

One of the great things about high-capacity music players is their ability to keep pumping out tunes seemingly endlessly. However, if you never stop your player you will realize that the music does in fact stop when the battery dies. Fortunately the geniuses of the world long ago invented pause buttons and Apple has graciously included them on the iPod. When you are in situations in which you are forced to stop listening to your music, press the pause button (don't forget to turn off hold first).

Turn off the EQ

While using the iPod's equalizer (EQ) can provide subtle listening enhancements to your music, it also provides not-so-subtle drains on your battery. The EQ forces your iPod's processor to "think" while it changes the frequencies of the music and the thinking processor uses the battery. If you need to get more battery life and can stand listening to the default frequency output of the music you are better off turning off the equalizer altogether. One thing to keep in mind - if you set the EQ on songs in iTunes, the iPod use the set-

ting. To get around this set your EQ to flat on the iPod which will override the per song setting. The equalizer settings can be found on the iPod's "Settings > EQ" menu.

Set the backlight timer

The backlight, while extremely useful when you are searching for songs, causes big performance hits on the battery. Apple provides several settings for the backlight and using a short timer or turning the backlight off completely will use the least power. The backlight settings can be found on the iPod's "Settings > Backlight Timer" menu.

Use small files

The iPod uses sophisticated caching techniques to play songs while using the least amount of power. and the cache works optimally with files less than 9 MB in size. This means that battery life will be best with compressed files (usually MP3 or AAC) rather than full quality AIFF or WAV files. If you can't stand the audio quality of compressed files, consider breaking your large files into smaller chunks to improve the cache performance.

Put it to sleep

Just like you, iPod's use less energy while sleeping. Although the iPod goes to sleep on its own after a few minutes of inactivity, you can speed up the process by pressing the play/pause button until the iPod turns off. To wake your iPod back up from sleeping, press any button and it will turn back on.

Keep your iPod software up-to-date

Apple continues to make improvements to the firmware that runs the iPod. Over time this has led to better battery performance for all iPods including the original iPod. The iPod software updates are included in Mac OS X's Software Update utility and as downloads on the Apple web site for both Windows and OS X users.

Use playlists or limit skipping

Skipping between tracks requires the hard drive to kick in which uses the battery. The easiest way to avoid this is to create playlists of the songs that you would like to hear ahead of time so you aren't constantly searching for your music. You can create playlists easily using iTunes on both Windows and OS X which will be copied to your iPod dur-

USER MENU *cont'd from page 4*

(You may also find a Folder Action Scripts folder in the Scripts folder. This is a subject for another article. For now, just ignore it.)

It would be nice if you could put the Script Menu in the Dock. Actually, you can put the Scripts folder in the Dock, but there is a little problem that ruins the experience: script files no longer run, they open in Script Editor, and are useless. Perhaps Apple will make the Script Menu into a real User Menu and/or Dock item in a future release of OS X — I hope. 🍏

USER MENU *cont'd from page 1*

This keeps you from moving files that probably shouldn't be moved. Here's how you create the Script Menu by modifying the contents of the Scripts folder:

- Folders and aliases to folders create sub-menus. Keep these folders simple. (Be very careful about this, because the contents of the folder become sub-menu items, and sub-sub-menu items & c. This sounds like a good thing at first, but if the folder is large, the response of the Script Menu becomes unusably slow.)

- Anything you put in the Scripts folder, but not in the Applications sub-folder, will always show in the Script Menu.

- Anything you put in a /Scripts/Applications/ApplicationName/ folder will be visible only when the application ApplicationName is open and frontmost. This keeps the Script Menu simple. Sub-folders of /Scripts/Applications/ should be created by first launching the application, then choosing the Open ApplicationName Scripts Folder sub-menu item from the Open Scripts Folder menu item in the Script Menu. (Anything you put in the /Scripts/Applications/ folder that's not a properly named sub-folder will be invisible, so don't do that.)

So, what happens when you choose an item from the Script Menu? If the item is a folder, it will open; if its a script, the script will run; and if it's anything else, it will behave as if you had double-clicked it. Applications will

launch; documents will open in their default application; and webloc files will open a web page, provided you're connected to the internet.

I've written a script, called Add New Menu Item, that allows you to add a new menu item to the user's Script Menu without having to manually open folders and move alias files. I've also written the application Make SystemPrefs-Menu, which installs a System Preferences menu item in your Script Menu. You will find these in Luthers Collection on the BAC Disk of the Month.

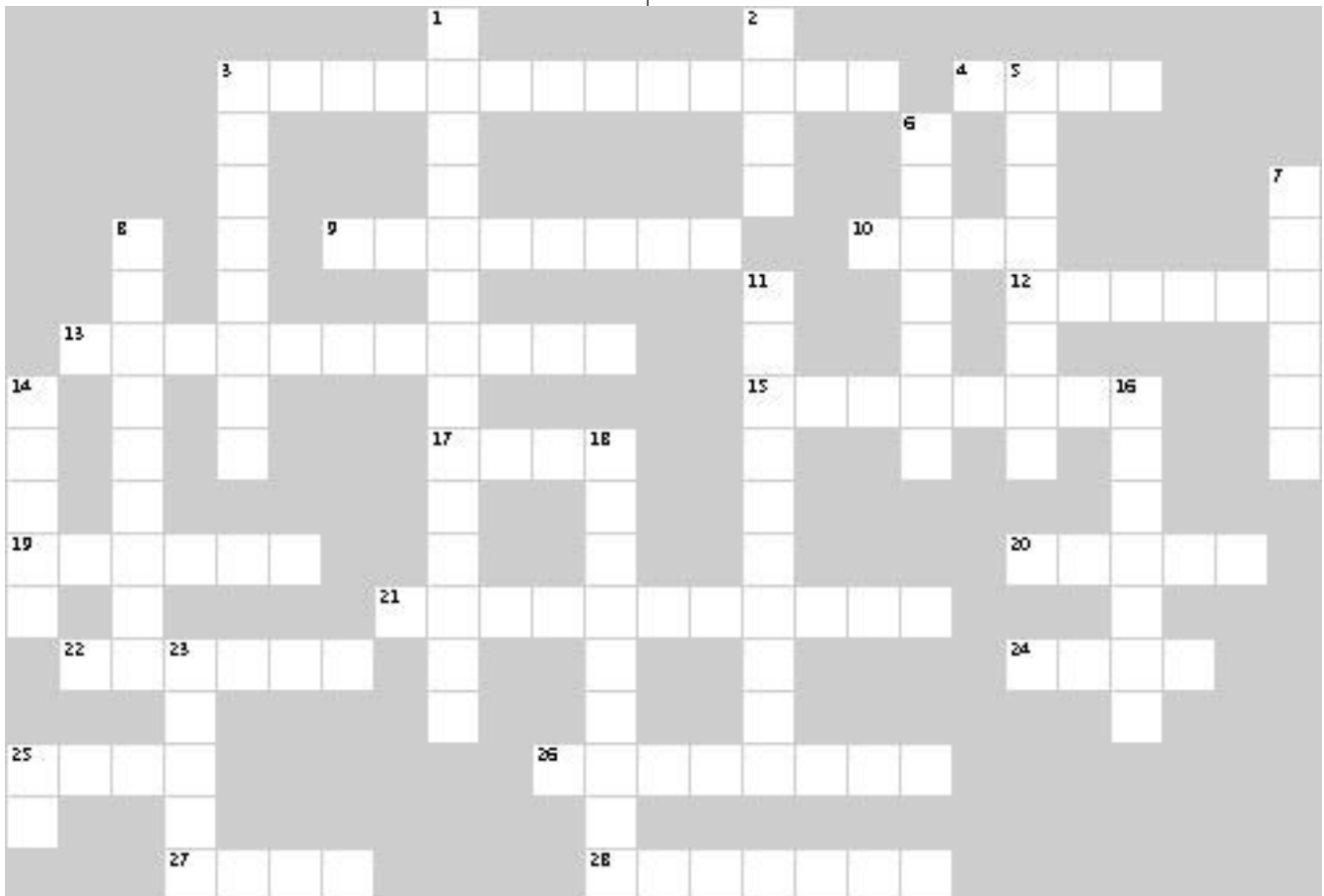
There is also a Scripts folder in the startupdisk/Library/ folder. This Scripts folder works much like the user's Scripts folder I've just described, except:

- It has no Applications sub-folder.
- Anything you put in this folder is available to all users.
- It contains a collection of scripts installed with the system.

You enable this folder by checking the box "Show Library scripts" in the AppleScript Utility application. I recommend that you not enable this unless you really need it. If you do enable it, I recommend that you move the pre-installed scripts to another location.

The pre-installed scripts collection contains some interesting scripts you may find useful. If you want to use one of these scripts, make an alias to it, then put the alias in a desirable location in your user Scripts folder.

continued on page 3



A crossword celebrating Twenty Mac Years.

Across

3. Power Mac G4 enclosure with ability to have two internal optical drives (two words)
4. What device was digitally inserted into the 2004 version of the 1984 Ad?
9. Apple invented this high speed connection system for hard drives, video cameras and now networking
10. Small box like machine
12. Person credited with creating the Macintosh
13. Original name of Apple's office package
15. Name of "Defunct" Mac OS 8
17. Macintosh introduced in 1986, and had code name of Mr T
19. iMac was the first Mac produced with out one of these drives
20. Australia's Leading Apple Macintosh User Group
21. Director of first Macintosh Advertisement (first & last name)
22. Apple Server Solution
24. Macintosh originally created for the Education market
25. First Macintosh to introduce USB
26. Company who manufactured the 68000 chips used in original Macintosh?
27. Name of Steve Job's daughter (a computer was named after her)
28. What did LC stand for?

Down

1. Most popular Mac clone manufacturer (two words)
2. Year the Macintosh was released. Nineteen-Eighty-xxxx
3. Popular Macintosh Magazine
5. The 6100, 7100 and 8100 were the first generation
6. Apple CEO who signed "the worst contract Apple ever has made" that agrees that Microsoft may use some Mac GUI technologies
7. Apple branded LCD display
8. Publisher of Crossword Forge (two words)
11. Application detailing information on all Macintosh systems
14. Suite of productivity applications "for the rest of our lives"
16. First Macintosh Clone License holder
18. Which major sporting event was the 1984 Ad originally shown?
23. First Spreadsheet for the Macintosh
25. First Macintosh to include Nubus slots

Solution

The solution to the above puzzle can be viewed by clicking on the link below;

Credits

Thanks to Sol Robots for providing a fully licensed version of the Mac OS X version of Crossword Forge to generate this puzzle.

A copy of this puzzle, along with the solution, is also available from the website, www.nicholaspyers.com. 🍏

First WiMax Products To Get Certification in January

Product certifications due from the WiMax Forum will soon see the light of day.

The group expects to announce the first certifications of WiMax products in mid-January at a conference in San Jose, California, said Mo Shakouri, board member and vice president of the WiMax Forum and chairman of its marketing working group. Testing may be completed by the end of the year or the early part of January, he said.

Great Expectations

WiMax is designed to deliver speeds comparable to DSL and cable modem services over a wireless network that reaches at least a few miles. With Wi-Fi networks already available in many locations and third-generation cellular data systems being rolled out across metropolitan areas in the U.S., Europe, and Asia, some industry observers think it may be too late for another emerging technology to stake a claim.

The certifications due next month are strictly for fixed WiMax products based on the IEEE 802.16-2004 specification, which isn't intended for use while in motion. The standard that will bring mobility, IEEE 802.16e, was approved less than a month ago, and certified products aren't expected until at least 2007.

Product certification is important to ensure interoperability among vendors' products, according to vendors and service providers. Mix-and-match products should fuel competition and drive down prices, in addition to allowing carriers to invest in WiMax knowing that they won't be tied to one vendor's products, they said.

First Certifications Due

All the products being considered now would use radio spectrum in the 3.5GHz range, which can be licensed for commercial services in much of the world but not in the U.S., Shakouri said. Testing of products that use the 5.8GHz band, which is available as unlicensed spectrum and now used for IEEE 802.11a wireless LANs, will come later, he said.

Aperto Networks, which is putting its products up for certification in the first wave, is confident its products will comply with the standard and interoperate among at least two other products, said Dean Chang, director of product management at Aperto and chairman of the WiMax Forum's Service Provider Working Group. 🍏



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