

# NEWS BREAK

Volume 20, Number 3

April 2005

## APRIL 5, 2005 MEETING

### Viruses, Backing Up, and Help Desk Hints

Join us on Tuesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Hodgdon IRC Lecture Hall #1 on the SUNY Oneonta campus for the April MUG ONE meeting.

MUG ONE Program Co-Chair Jesse Hogue will share his knowledge of Mac viruses, advice on backing up your Mac, and help desk hints drawn from his experiences as a student employee for the Academic Computing Services Information Technology Help Desk at SUNY Oneonta. This meeting was originally scheduled for March 1, but was rescheduled due to snow.

Jesse will also demo the Mac maintenance tips that he was not able to show at February's meeting, due to time constraints and the lack of a video adapter for his iBook (the latter problem is now remedied). Questions and answers, door prizes and refreshments will round out the evening. See you then!

For the latest MUG ONE information, be sure to check <http://www.mugone.com>.

For directions to the meeting, see SUNY Oneonta's detailed campus maps:

<http://www.oneonta.edu/navigation/directions.asp>

Or download John Maas's annotated Oneonta map: <http://www.mugone.com/images/OneontaStreetMap.pdf>

### FIRST LOOK: ILIFE '05 BOOKLETS

Jackie Hill of the Peachpit Press user group program has sent a box of "First Look - iLife '05" booklets. The large-format, full-color, 16 page booklets give a sneak preview of Jim Heid's book *The Macintosh iLife '05*, scheduled for release in May. Book excerpts cover iPhoto and digital photography, iMovie HD, iDVD and GarageBand, and there's a 30% discount order code on the back cover.

Pick up your free copy at the April MUG ONE meeting.

### SPECIAL DOOR PRIZES FOR APRIL

To promote [Sybex Press's](#) photo contest and [photo website](#) launch, Rodney Koeneke of Sybex's user group program has contributed the three-book Digital Photographer's Library (\$100 value) to our April raffle.

Marsee Henon of [O'Reilly's](#) user group program has contributed several copies of [Make](#), O'Reilly's fascinating new magazine for building your own technology. Join us in April for your chance to win (members only).

Visit MUG ONE's web site at <http://www.mugone.com>



### MUG ONE'S LIBRARY IS GETTING A NEW HOME - ON WHEELS

For the past several years MUG ONE member Barbara Dauria has generously provided space for the MUG ONE library at her business, Main Street Print Shop in Oneonta. Barbara recently sold the Print Shop, prompting us to seek new quarters.

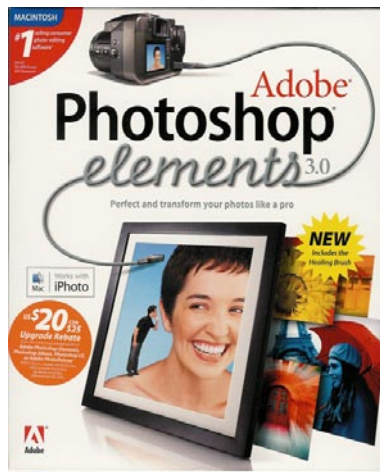
Thanks to the efforts of our SUNY Oneonta liaison Dr. Terry Helser, the library is moving to new digs, and soon will be available to MUG ONE members at our monthly meetings.

Beginning in April, the MUG ONE library will be stored on a book truck in the Hodgdon IRC building where we hold our monthly meetings. The library will be available for circulation (checking out and returning of materials) during each meeting, and will kept in storage between meetings.

If you currently have materials checked out, please return them at the April meeting. Questions or comments? Contact Johanna Koenig or Elsa Travisano or email us at [mugone@mac.com](mailto:mugone@mac.com).

### MUG ONE OFFICERS FOR 2004-2005

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## SOFTWARE REVIEW

### *Adobe Photoshop Elements 3.0*

Adobe Systems <http://www.adobe.com> \$89.99, \$20 upgrade rebate through April 30, 2005; \$79.99 download

The best photo editing software for mere mortals gets even better with Photoshop Elements 3.0, the latest version of Adobe Photoshop Elements. Adobe has once again taken most of the features of the current version of Photoshop (now more firmly identified as a pro application), rolled in some excellent Elements-only additions, and packaged it all in an approachable, instruction-rich interface.

At less than \$90, Photoshop Elements 3.0 is a worthy purchase or upgrade for most everyone who works with photos on a Mac and wants to move beyond the basic adjustments possible in iPhoto. Indeed, Photoshop Elements 3 is designed to work with iPhoto, making the photo organizing and sharing components of the Windows version of Elements 3 unnecessary (and shaving \$10 from the cost of the Windows version).

If you're using an earlier version of the Mac operating system, Photoshop Elements 3 may be the motivation you need to upgrade. The program requires Mac OS 10.2.8 or OS 10.3 and 256 MB of RAM, fairly standard minimum requirements for today's software. One assumes that Photoshop Elements 3.0 will work with the upcoming Mac OS 10.4 Tiger without a hitch.

I found the animated demo at Adobe's website <http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshopelmac/main.html> to be a great resource for getting up to speed on Photoshop Elements 3.0's new features. These features include an improved File Browser that allows you to edit file names, assign keywords, flag and search, and view only the photos you want to see. The File Browser also lets you create custom views and favorite folders. It's extremely handy to be able to view thumbnail views of all your photo folders, whether or not they're in iPhoto. As for iPhoto integration, if you set your iPhoto preferences to use

Photoshop Elements 3.0 as its editing application, double-clicking on a photo in iPhoto will open it in Photoshop Elements 3.0. Any changes you make to that photo will update it in iPhoto. But be sure to make a duplicate copy in iPhoto before you start editing! That's good advice for any photo editing, regardless of the application used.

Several new or improved functions take the labor out of photo correction and enhancement. Quick Fix automatically fixes color, brightness, contrast and sharpness. The choice is now a handy button in the top bar, with adjustment sliders that display to the right of the photo. You can also adjust settings with Smart Fix, which changes lighting, contrast and color. The Red Eye Removal tool now works even if you just click near the offensively reflecting eyes. You may need to do a little retouching around the eyes (it gets ALL the red out), but this tool does a much better job than its previous version.

Shadows/Highlights, lifted from Photoshop, is my favorite enhancement tool. Its ability to rescue incorrectly exposed photos is just plain amazing. Perhaps the juiciest plunder from Photoshop is the Healing Brush, which analyzes the area around a flaw or unwanted item and blends it out. Milk mustaches and misplaced telephone poles be warned!

The work area adds Photo Bin, a new window across the bottom of the work area that shows thumbnails of the photos you're currently working on. This is especially useful if you're combining elements of more than one photo or performing similar fixes. Also new is the Filter Gallery, a palette where you can choose and combine filters, and the Cookie Cutter tool, which allows you to crop photos into a huge variety of creative shapes - ideal for art projects and scrapbooking.

Elements 3.0 can now handle the complete data from photos shot in camera raw format. The Camera Raw dialog box lets you correct white balance, change the exposure, or auto fix the settings without changing the original photo data.

Elements 3.0 can now print different photos on the same page, enabling you to save money on expensive photo paper. You can also print photo packages that combine photos in varying sizes and create custom printing layouts.

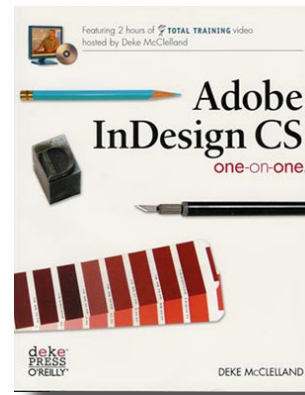
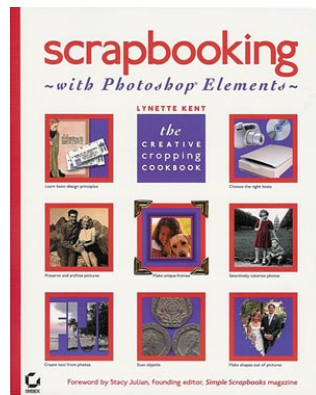
Like iPhoto, Elements 3.0 automatically resizes photos for proper email sending, and allows you to create automatic web galleries of photos. Finally, Elements 3.0 lets you create an emailable slide show that includes transitions.

Photoshop Elements 3 is full of improvements that make it a worthy upgrade for users of Photoshop Elements or Photoshop Elements 2, and a no-brainer purchase for anyone who doesn't yet own Elements and wants to work with photos.

— ELSA TRAVISANO

### **Photoshop Elements 3**

System requirements: PowerPC G3, G4 or G5 processor, Mac OS 10.2.8 or 10.3, 256 MB RAM, 200 MB of hard drive space, 1024x768 16 bit display, CD-ROM drive.



## BOOK REVIEWS:

### SCRAPBOOKING WITH PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS, ADOBE INDESIGN CS ONE-ON-ONE

*Scrapbooking with Photoshop Elements, the creative cropping cookbook* by Lynette Kent. 175 pp. Sybex, 2005. \$29.95.

Digital scrapbooking and Photoshop Elements are a match made in heaven, and Lynette Kent is an effective guide to combining the two in *Scrapbooking with Photoshop Elements*.

Scrapbooking is the enormously popular hobby of creating scrapbooks or “memory books” with photos, memorabilia, narrative and decoration. Traditional scrapbookers work with scissors and glue, but many are embracing the digital tools of scanners, printers, digital cameras and photo editing software.

Adobe Photoshop Elements is the most popular application for editing photos. The current version, Photoshop Elements 3.0 [see review on page 2, Ed.], adds features like the Cookie Cutter tool that might have been custom-made for scrapbookers.

*Scrapbooking with Photoshop Elements* is aimed at scrapbookers looking to make the jump to digital or to improve their digital skills, but anyone looking for a basic grounding in design, digital tools and creative Photoshop Elements techniques will find much to learn here. Kent’s reassuring instruction is just right for beginners who are finding their way around the digital world.

Kent demystifies choosing and using scanners and printers, monitors, pen tablets, archiving files and more with straightforward explanations and shopping lists of features to look for. The book includes a dozen tear-out recipe cards with instructions for tasks like creating photo frames and scanning a 12x12 page with a letter-sized scanner, as well as coupons for saving over \$100 on digital scrapbooking products. For scrapbookers and photo editing beginners everywhere.

— ELSA TRAVISANO

*Adobe InDesign CS One-on-One*, by Deke McClelland. 473 pp. plus CD-ROM. Deke Press/O’Reilly, 2004. \$44.95.

As I’ve upgraded to the various versions of Adobe InDesign (CS is the third iteration), more than a few of the new features

and improvements have blown right past me in the hustle of day to day production. I’ve yearned for a way to take advantage of the power of the latest version without having to slog through a “this is a menu, this is a mouse” beginner’s text. On the other hand, I didn’t want to bog down in the minutiae of advanced design techniques.

Enter *Adobe InDesign CS One-on-One*. This superb book and CD turned out to be just right for getting up to speed on InDesign CS. Along the way I learned some new techniques, got a needed refresher course in others, and picked up plenty of ideas for improving my work.

Author Deke McClelland approaches tasks not with theory but with practicality, teaching, for example, which alert dialog boxes can be ignored and which ones need to be attended to. The book’s lessons cover real world situations such as relinking graphics and substituting fonts to make a Quark document usable. The CD-ROM augments the text with two hours of video lessons, each lesson designed to be viewed when beginning the corresponding book-based lesson. The CD also includes lesson files for each chapter and a very cool set of custom InDesign preferences, color settings and keyboard shortcuts.

McClelland is a first-rate trainer who can convey a wealth of information in a friendly, affable manner, both on video and in print. The book is nicely designed and illustrated, and the text strikes just the right balance between detail and readability. McClelland does a particularly good job of explaining potential sticking points in InDesign – a result, no doubt, of years of training experience.

Total Training’s excellent production values make the videos a pleasure to watch, and the contents are perfect springboards for the projects presented in each chapter.

Whether you’re coming from PageMaker, Quark or InDesign, or are turning your hand to page design for the first time, *Adobe InDesign CS One-on-One* is a terrific resource. Most highly recommended.

— ELSA TRAVISANO

## *Special Offers from the Apple User Group Bulletin*

These User Group discounts are brought to you by the Apple User Group Advisory Board. You must be a current Apple user group member to qualify for these savings.

### **Pressure Drop: PaperHub**

PaperHub is a USB 2.0 and FireWire 400 combo hub cleverly placed within an elegant aluminum paper tray. It features the latest technology for high-speed data transfers and provides the most ports available of any hub on the market today. PaperHub is the first official product of the new Art-Techo movement, Pressure Drop's crusade to replace drab computer accessories with stylish, visionary peripherals that fuse technology with art.

Regularly \$150, PaperHub is available to User Group members for only \$129.99.

*This offer is valid until June 30, 2005.*

### **Rayming Corp: GPS Receivers**

Rayming Corp is proud to support User Groups with a Promotional Discount for the Mac OS X supported TN-200 USB GPS Receiver at price of \$84.74 and the TN-206 Bluetooth GPS Receiver at a price of \$189.74. Regularly \$112.99 and \$252.99, you can receive 25 percent off MSRP on their website orders.

Rayming Corporation encourages Apple User Group members to take advantage of this special offer and then offer feedback about these GPS products at [MacGPS@rayming.com](mailto:MacGPS@rayming.com).

Offer code: \*\*\*\*\*

<http://www.rayming.com>

*This offer is valid until June 30, 2005.*

### **XtraLean Software: Shutterbug**

Introducing ShutterBug, the content creation tool that helps you easily and quickly create digital photo albums and journals, and publish them to your .mac account or other web server. ShutterBug is fully WYSIWYG and can update websites on the fly. Users can choose from more than 50 free customizable templates and easily create sites that render properly across all browsers on multiple platforms -- even if they know nothing about HTML.

Regularly \$29, ShutterBug is available to Apple user group members for only \$20.

*This offer is valid until July 31, 2005.*

### **TechWorks: Quality Memory**

Founded in 1986, TechWorks has emerged as the leader for

Macintosh computer memory (RAM). TechWorks success can be attributed to quality, a money back guarantee, toll-free technical support, lifetime warranty and a commitment to 100 percent customer satisfaction. User group members can receive 30 percent off retail prices on the latest memory products.

Username: \*\*\*\*\*

Password: \*\*\*\*\*

<http://www.techworks.com/partners/mugmembers.html>

*This offer is valid until June 30, 2005.*

### **Matterform Media: Spamfire**

You don't have to put up with unwanted junk email. Spamfire from Matterform Media removes unwanted commercial and pornographic email from your in-box. It works with any POP3 or IMAP email account and any email program. Spamfire uses intelligent, fuzzy-logic filtering to identify spam and protect messages you want to keep. Automatic internet updates ensure you always have the most advanced spam protection available. Fun revenge options let you fight back at spammers. Spamfire works in OS 9 and OS X.

Apple user group members can purchase the CD or download Spamfire for just \$24.95, nearly 40 percent off the regular price of \$39.95. A fifteen-day demo lets you try before you buy.

*This offer is valid until June 30, 2005.*

### **The MUG Store**

The MUG Store is a benefit for you AND your group.

Your user group gets one percent back on everything you purchase from the MUG Store ... which means that if you and your fellow members buy from the MUG Store, your user group can get everything from software to new computers for FREE!

The MUG store has free freight, RAM rebates, aggressive pricing on new and pre-owned Macs and great close-out deals.

The passwords to get into this exclusive User Group site are:

12/1/2004 - 3/30/2005

User ID:\*\*\*\*\*/ Password: \*\*\*\*\*

3/31/2005 - 6/30/2005

User ID:\*\*\*\*\*/ Password: \*\*\*\*\*

<http://www.applemugstore.com>

For information about Apple User Group activities, special offers and more, visit the Apple User Group Advisory Board website:

<http://homepage.mac.com/ugab/>



## MAC 911 – HELP DESK

By Christopher Breen

### Windows Media Conversion

Is there a way to convert Windows Media videos to a QuickTime format so I can import them into iMovie?

– William E. Johnson

It depends on the kind of Windows Media movie files you want to import. A tool such as Ronin no Sakurakai Softronics' \$15 Forty-Two DVD-VX Plus can convert some Windows movies to a form of AVI file acceptable to QuickTime and iMovie, but it won't work with movies generated by Windows Media 9. Discreet's Cleaner 6 can also convert some Windows Media files to QuickTime, but the product's \$549 price tag is a lot to swallow for this seemingly simple operation.

And as much as I hate to suggest such a thing in a magazine called Macworld, if you can get to a Windows PC, try Mystik Media's \$50 Blaze Media Pro. It can convert Windows Media Video (WMV) files to MPEG-1 format, which you can play with QuickTime (as well as export to QuickTime's native format using Apple's \$29 QuickTime Player Pro, and then import into iMovie).

### Pinker Links

I've converted to Safari from Microsoft Internet Explorer. I like Safari's speed but miss being able to set the color for recently visited links. I'd also prefer to have more control over the information Safari automatically fills in on forms. Are there ways to customize these features in Safari?

– L. D. "Jake" Jacobson

To customize Safari's look, use Cascading Style Sheets--text documents that determine how Safari displays Web pages. To make Safari display links in different colors, create a new plain-text document that includes this formula for changing colors:

```
a:link { color: #9933CC !important; }
a:visited { color: #993300 !important; }
a:hover { color: #FF66FF !important; }
a:active { color: #9999FF !important; }
```

The a:link entry is the color of an unvisited link; a:visited is the color of a link you've clicked on; a:hover is the color a link turns when you place your cursor over it; and a:active is the color the link turns when you click on it. The color: #hexcode entries are the hexadecimal codes for colors displayed on the Web. (For a list of color codes, see this Webmonkey table.)

Finally, the !important entry overrides a style sheet imposed by a Web site.

To finish the job, save the plain-text document with a .css extension, open Safari's Preferences menu, click on the Advanced tab, and choose your new CSS document from the Style Sheet pop-up menu.

If this sounds like too much bother, you can use Lord of the Cows' free Safari Enhancer to change your Safari links.

As for Safari's autofill feature, you can tell Safari what and what not to autofill by configuring your address card in Apple's Address Book. If Safari isn't filling in certain fields, choose AutoFill from Safari's Preferences menu, click on the Edit button next to the Using Info From My Address Book Card, and configure your card in the resulting Address Book window to include the information you desire--your fax number, for example.

### Sleepy Mouse

When my computer falls asleep, my Apple Wireless Mouse disconnects. Do you know how to fix this problem?

– Andre Bonk

Have patience. No, I'm not being facetious. After a period of inactivity, the mouse goes to sleep to save the battery's charge. After you click on a sleeping mouse, it can take 30 seconds or more to reestablish contact with the Mac. Many people assume that the mouse isn't working properly because Apple's wireless keyboard connects far more quickly. If the mouse refuses to rouse, install the latest Bluetooth software. If that doesn't wake the rodent, give Apple a call. You may have a defective input device.

### Avoiding the Browser Two-Step

Lately, Safari has been displaying this message: "Safari can't open the page 'www.example.com/' because it can't find the server 'www.example.com/'." I know this is a bad error message because when I press return, the site always loads the second time.

– Mike Schell

This problem appears to have been introduced by an Apple security update. Although there's no surefire fix, many people have been able to eliminate the glitch by opening the Network preference pane, clicking on the TCP/IP tab, and entering their ISP's DNS server address in the appropriately named DNSServers field.

Regrettably, not all ISPs like to share their DNS server addresses. If yours won't cough it up, launch Network Utility (found inside the Utilities folder), click on the Lookup tab, enter your ISP's domain name in the Lookup field, choose Name Server from the window's pop-up menu, and click on Lookup. The DNS server address should appear after the SERVER entry.

*continued on page 6*

– *Mac 911, continued from page 5*

If you use a router, be sure that the DNS information on your Mac and router match.

Other people have found that installing Java Update 1.4.2 Update 2 fixes the problem.

### Send Print Preview Packing

When I try to print my Microsoft Entourage v. X e-mail, I have to go through two dialog boxes--Entourage's Print Preview and, once I click on OK, the regular Print dialog box. Is there some way to keep Entourage from displaying the preview?

– *Jack Stephens*

Peer into Entourage's File menu, and you'll see the Print One Copy command (Command-option-P). This is the key to avoiding both the program's Print Preview and the Mac OS Print dialog box. The command does exactly what it suggests--prints one copy of the chosen message without further interruption. Entourage 2004 kindly does away with the extra step by placing Print Preview within Mac OS's Print dialog box.

### There and Back Again

I bought Mac OS X 10.3 to upgrade from Mac OS X 10.2.8 on my PowerBook. I want to remove unwanted partitions, so it must be a clean installation. But I want to preserve my Mail files, account settings, and junk-mail filters; archive old Entourage messages; and maintain my Network preference settings. I can store this data on an expansion hard drive attached to my Pismo PowerBook. What's the best way to proceed?

– *Clark Peddicord*

This kind of installation cries out for Archive And Install, but you'll have to find another option because you need to wipe the drive to remove the partitions. Rather than try to back up and restore these files (and likely run into permission problems later), do this:

Download Mike Bombich's \$5 Carbon Copy Cloner and clone your current system to the Pismo's expansion drive. Open the Startup Disk preference pane and choose that expansion drive as the startup disk. Once you've booted from the expansion drive, run Disk Utility and format the internal drive (thus wiping out its data). Install Panther on the expansion drive and use the Archive And Install option. Once you've configured things the way you want them, use Carbon Copy Cloner to clone the expansion drive to the PowerBook's freshly scrubbed internal drive.

### Unsolicited Advice: Remove Line Breaks Fast

I don't mean to bore you with the tedious aspects of my job, but it irks me to no end when I copy e-mail messages from Microsoft Entourage into Word and each line of those messages appears as a separate paragraph. Were I working with Bare Bones Software's BBEdit, I could easily pull my text together by choosing Remove Line Breaks from the Text menu. Regret-

ably, Word doesn't offer such a convenient command.

Therefore, I created a macro to do the job for me. Here's the process:

Select the text from which you want to remove the line breaks, choose Macro: Record New Macro from Word's Tools menu, and click on the Keyboard button. In the resulting Customize Keyboard window, enter a shortcut key combination (I chose Command-shift-option-V), click on the Assign button, and then click on OK to begin the recording process.

Choose Replace from the Edit menu and enter ^p in the Find What field. Click on Replace All and then click on Close. A dialog box will appear, asking if you'd like to search the remainder of your text. Click on No and then choose Macro: Stop Recording from the Tools menu. When you next paste a hunk of text that appears as a series of paragraphs, select the text and invoke this macro to strip out the paragraph breaks.

### Tip of the Month: Quiet Down, iPod!

I've read descriptions of the mysterious noise anomalies in some of the new iPods. The only mystery to me is why Apple claims that it has no clue as to the cause of the problem. The noise is the result of a simple ground loop that occurs when the exposed base of some earphones' 1/8-inch stereo jacks makes contact with the metal chassis surrounding the headphone receptacle on the top of the iPod.

You can easily--and completely--remedy the problem by insulating the base of the earphone jack (that is, wrapping a small amount of Teflon tape around the base of the jack) or by purchasing an inexpensive Radio Shack headphone-volume controller (its 1/8-inch phono jack is fully insulated at the base).

– *Peter E. Simson*

*Macworld Contributing Editor Christopher Breen is also [Playlistmag.com](http://www.playlistmag.com)'s editor in chief, author of Macworld's tips and troubleshooting column, "Mac 911," as well as Secrets of the iPod: Fifth Edition and Mac 911 (Peachpit Press). Find Chris' books at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.peachpit.com](http://www.peachpit.com). Get special user group pricing on Macworld Magazine! Subscribe today at <http://www.macworld.com/useroffer>.*

### SEARCHING ON YOUR MAC - SHERLOCK

As internet searching alternatives proliferate, don't forget about the one that comes free with every Macintosh - Sherlock.

Sherlock organizes web content into channels, including movies, stocks, translations and eBay. The OS 10.3 version further organizes channels into collections: Toolbar, Channels Menu, Apple Channels, Other Channels (a wealth of third-party options ranging from wedding services to NASA's photo of the day) My own favorite? The Sherlock channel for AppleCare.

If you haven't taken a look at Sherlock recently, open up your Applications folder and give it a whirl.

– ELSA TRAVISANO



*EyeHome lets you watch and listen to digital content from your Mac – photos, video, music and movies – on your television.*

## HARDWARE REVIEW

### *EyeHome*

*Elgato Systems* <http://www.elgato.com> \$199

Last month I reviewed Elgato's EyeTV 200, the versatile hardware box that lets your Mac work as a digital video recorder, a TV tuner and a video encoder. The EyeHome provides the other half of the television to Mac equation: it lets you view and listen to digital content from your Mac on your television. Why crowd around a Mac when your family and friends can enjoy your movies, slide shows and music in the comfort of your living room?

The EyeHome works as a stand-alone, remote control device for viewing and listening to your iPhotos, iTunes, and videos in certain formats, and even for surfing the web on your TV. When you use EyeHome in conjunction with the EyeTV, you can navigate and view the videos you've recorded from your television, camcorder, VHS or DVD player on your TV at full quality. It's a sweet combination that offers significant advantages over regular digital video recorders.

If you have more than one Mac, it gets even better. The EyeHome can access digital content from any Mac on your network, as long as it meets the system requirements.

EyeHome is a brushed silver hardware box with a diminutive form factor (8¼ x 6 x 1½") virtually identical to the EyeTV. The EyeHome connects to your Mac through a wired or wireless network connection, and connects to your television via stereo or optical digital audio and S-Video, component or composite video ports. An ethernet cable and power adapter are provided, but you'll have to provide your own audio and video connector cables. On the television end, connect the audio and video cables to the AV 1 or AV 2 ports found on most newer televisions.

The EyeHome works as a network device. If your Mac uses an ethernet cable to connect to the internet (most cable modems use this connection), you'll either need to connect to an empty port on your router or add a router if you don't already have one. I had to add a four port switch (less than \$30) to my network gain an empty port, but most folks with routers will find that they have ports to spare.

To connect wirelessly, you'll need to add an Airport Express or other wireless bridge (Elgato recommends D-Link models) to

an existing Airport Extreme or other 802.11g wireless network. This method is not totally wireless, as the Airport Express plugs into an electrical outlet and connects to the EyeHome by an ethernet cable, but at least this way you don't have to run a cable all the way from the EyeHome to your router or Mac. If you're not using the ethernet port on your Mac (the port looks like an oversized phone jack and has the <-> symbol), you can connect the EyeHome directly to your Mac with an ethernet crossover cable.

When planning your setup, be sure to locate the EyeHome box close to your television so you can use the included hand-held remote control to navigate the on-screen menus. The EyeTV, in contrast, should be close to your computer so you can control and edit recording on your Mac's display. This doesn't matter much if your Mac and television are nearby, but is something to bear in mind if they're located in different rooms.

Still with me? Don't worry, making the connection is the hardest part. Once you've done the setup, turn on the television and switch to AV 1 or 2 to see the EyeHome menu. Select the Mac whose content you want to access from the on-screen menu with the remote control, then choose EyeTV, Movies, Music, Pictures or Web. Now you're ready to enjoy digital content from your Mac.

Movies, Music and Pictures access the entire contents of those folders, so if you have folders and sub-folders of photos in your Pictures folder along with an iPhoto library or few, you can view them all.

Movies lets you view MPEG-1, 2 and 4 and DivX files from your Movies folder. Music gives access to iTunes songs and playlists, as well as other audio files in your Music folder. If you want visuals with your music, you can create an album of photos in iPhoto to add eye candy.

Pictures displays a thumbnail of the first photo in each roll or folder along with the folder name, making it easier to find what you're looking for, especially if you have a massive iPhoto library or lots of picture folders. Navigating the Mac-like menus and submenus is straightforward using the arrow and number buttons on the remote.

Web lets you access the internet, and accesses your Safari Bookmarks bar for navigation. It's a bit cumbersome, but it

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**Newsbreak** is the monthly newsletter of MUG ONE  
– the Macintosh User Group of Oneonta, NY

Editor: Elsa Travisano

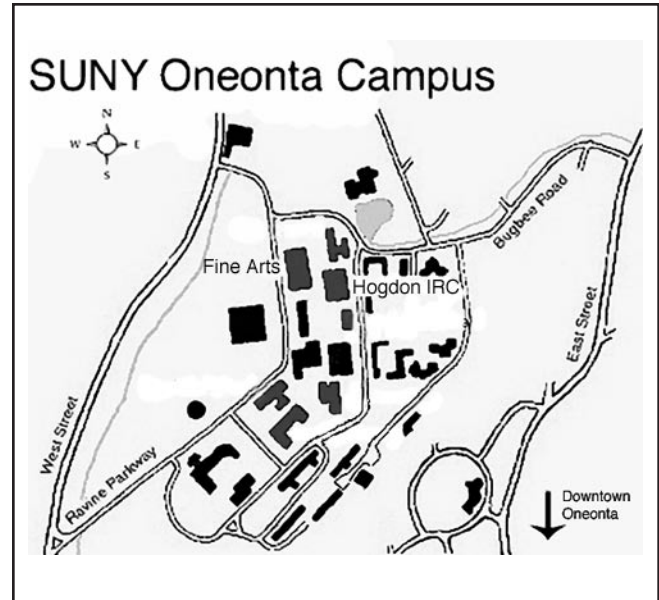
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works, which is amazing in itself.

If you have an EyeTV, you'll be in glory. The EyeHome can play, pause, rewind and fast-forward any recording you've made at gorgeous broadcast quality. I've been happily recording Nero Wolf mysteries from the Biography channel using EyeTV, editing out the commercials, and watching them when my schedule permits. Even though we have a digital video recorder from Time Warner, EyeTV's editing and naming capabilities put it ahead in my book.

Now for the gotchas, most of which have to do with formats. EyeHome does not currently support all audio and video file formats. This means that music added from CDs and anything in AIFF, MP3, WAV or (unprotected) AAC format can be played just fine, but music purchased from the iTunes Music Store is encoded in a format that EyeHome can't handle. Also unreadable, alas, are recordings from my beloved Audible.com. Blame it on copy protection. Guess I'll need to stick with my iPod for Audible and iTMS listening until Elgato can work out agreements to access these two formats.

I also discovered that the EyeHome software can be sensitive to otherwise undetectable problems in an iTunes library. iTunes music from three of our four family computers played fine with the EyeHome, but my iTunes library balked. Elgato's tech support suggested that I back up my iTunes library, then delete and re-import its contents to fix the problem. Unfortunately, for reasons that had nothing to do with the EyeHome, the re-imported iTunes library was missing about three-quarters of its contents. Ouch. Since the previous library worked fine with my Mac and iPod, I decided to bring back the backed-up version, sacrifice EyeHome compatibility for the time being, and leave the iTunes troubleshooting for another day.

Video formats turned out to be more problematic. When I

tried to play the dozen or so QuickTime videos in my Movies folder, I got "unknown audio video codec" or "unknown video codec" error messages. An informative call to Elgato tech support revealed that there's a bewildering array of video encoding formats out there, and EyeHome only supports some of them.

To find out what codec a particular QuickTime video uses, I was instructed to launch the video on my Mac, then choose Movie > Get Movie Properties > Video Track > Format where all would be revealed. Sure enough, my QuickTime videos from Apple use Sorenson compression and my iMovies and slide shows use Photo JPEG, neither of which are supported. QuickTime videos can be converted to a codec that EyeHome supports, but that seemed like too much bother for casual viewing. None of these gotchas were deal-breakers for me, but they were annoying.

The EyeHome lets you bring the best of your Mac's multimedia – your photos, EyeTV recordings and, with some limitations, music and QuickTime videos – to your television. It's powerful and appealing in its own right; combined with an EyeTV, the EyeHome simply can't be beat.

– ELSA TRAVISANO

### **EyeHome**

System requirements: PowerPC G4 or G5 processor; Mac OS 10.3 or higher or OS 10.2.8 with QuickTime 6.4 and QuickTime for Java 1.4.1 (available via Software Update)

Network requirements: One 10.100 RJ-45 port on a router, hub or switch; or AirPort Extreme Network via a 802.11g Ethernet adaptor (not included); or connection between EyeHome and a Macintosh computer via a crossover Ethernet cable (not included).

Inputs/Outputs: 10/100 BASE-T (Fast Ethernet), composite video out, stereo audio out, S-Video out, component video out, optical digital audio out.